

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAR 05TH – MAR 11TH

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Centre sets up committee to study issues in Fintech space

The government has set up a steering committee headed by Economic Affairs Secretary, Subhash Chandra Garg to consider various issues relating to the development of Fintech space in India with a view to make Fintech related regulations more flexible and generate enhanced entrepreneurship.

The move is a follow up to the announcement made by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his Budget speech of 2018-19.

The committee will also focus on how Fintech can be leveraged to enhance financial inclusion of MSMEs.

2. I&B Minister Smiriti Irani inaugurates FICCI Frame in Mumbai

Information and Broadcasting Minister Smiriti Irani has inaugurated **2018 edition of FICCI Frame in Mumbai.**

The three-day global convention covering the entire gamut of Media and Entertainment Industry will attract not only the industry stakeholders from across the world but also the government policy makers from India and abroad.

3. Himachal to set up medicinal plant board centre

The Himachal Pradesh government on Monday approved the setting up of a regional-cum-facilitation centre of the National Medicinal Plants Board of the Ministry of Ayush in the state at an outlay of Rs 748.30 lakh. The centre will be set up in **Jogindernagar town in Mandi district.**

The aim of the centre is to provide inputs for conservation, cultivation, technology upgradation, sale of medicinal plants, training and research, and development of region-specific planting material.

4. Week-long International Yoga festival held in Rishikesh

The week-long 29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF) international yoga festival was inaugurated in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

The IYF offers daily classes in meditation, mudras, Sanskrit chanting, reiki, Indian philosophy and spiritual discourses to be held by revered spiritual leaders from India and abroad.

5. Shigmotsav 2018 Celebrated In Goa

Shigmotsav has been organized enthusiastically in Goa. Shigmotsav or Shigmo is one of the several cultural festivals of the coastal state and is celebrated through colours, costumes, music, dance and parades. Shigmo parades offer glimpses of Goan life depicted through folk dance and music performances by locals.

6. "Namaste Shalom"- Magazine on India-Israel Relations Launched

The Union Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh, launched the social media of "Namaste Shalom", a magazine on India-Israel relations.

The magazine 'Namaste Shalom' is edited by Tarun Vijay, former MP.

7. Aamir Khan launches Manjeet Hirani's book 'How to be a Human'

Aamir Khan launched the book '**How to be a Human**', which is penned by Rajkumar Hirani's wife **Manjeet Hiraniwas**. The book is based on the dog which the Hirani's adopted from 'PK' sets.

In her book, Manjeet has written about attachment, parenting, and karma, among other things. She shows how having a dog in the house can alter your perspective and change the way you experience life.

.8.Centre approves Rs 2900 crore to make cities safer for women

Women and Child Development Ministry has approved projects worth over **Rs 2,900 crore under the Nirbhaya fund for eight major cities to make them safer for women.**

- These cities are Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow.

9.Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang arrives in Delhi on three-day India visit

Vietnam President Tran Dai Quang arrived on a three-day visit to India at the invitation of his Indian counterpart Ram Nath Kovind. Vietnam is an important partner in southeast Asia and is currently the country coordinator for India with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) regional bloc, a role that will be handed over to Thailand later this year.

10.Over Rs. 5600 crore sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme by Tourism Ministry

A total amount of Rs. 5638.87 crore was sanctioned with release of Rs. 2148.17 crore since 2014-15 till date under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism. Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been identified, for development namely: North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

- Meanwhile, under the PRASHAD scheme, 23 projects have been sanctioned to 15 States for a total amount of Rs.687.92 crore with release of Rs.241.28 crore since 2015-16 till date. The objective of the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' is of holistic development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destination.

11. India's first helicopter taxi service launched in Bengaluru

India's first helicopter taxi service was launched in Bengaluru to fly passengers from **Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City**. The service is expected to reduce the time taken to cover the distance from 2 hours to 15 minutes. The helicopter will seat up to six people apart from the pilot and the service will cost ₹3,500 plus GST.

12. Itanagar celebrates Silver Jubilee of Losar festival

The Buddhist Community of Itanagar celebrated the silver jubilee of the Losar Festival at the Nyokum Lapang Ground here.

The three-day festival, organized by the Itanagar Buddhist Cultural Society (IBCS) was celebrated from March 2 to March 4 with a lot of enthusiasm and traditional zeal.

13. Centre sanctions Rs 1,000 crore for research and innovation

In a major boost for research and innovation in the country, the Central Government has sanctioned a sum of **Rs. 1000 crore for the phase two of the Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) India programme.**

Under the IMPRINT-I Programme, 142 projects at a cost of Rs. 318.71 crore are already under implementation.

These projects will cover crucial domains like security and defence, information technology, energy, sustainable habitat, advance materials, health care, nano technology, climate change, etc.

14. Nitin Gadkari launches Sukhad Yatra App and Toll-free Emergency number for Highway users

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation **Shri Nitin Gadkari launched a mobile App and Toll-free Emergency number for Highway users tomorrow in New Delhi.**

Sukhad Yatra mobile application has been prepared by National Highways Authority of India, NHAI, to empower the Highway user. The key feature of the app includes provision for the user to enter road quality-related information or to report any accident or pothole on the highway. It also provides users with real-time data related to waiting time expected at Plazas and various facilities like points of interest, highway nest/nest mini, etc., available across the highway.

A toll-free number, 1033, will enable users to report an emergency condition, or highway-related feedback, across the highway. The service has also integrated with various ambulance/tow away services along the road to ensure rapid response time in emergency.

15. Animal Welfare Board of India headquarters shifted from Chennai to Haryana

The headquarters of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has been shifted from **Chennai to Haryana's Ballabhgarh** for "better coordination" between the environment ministry and the the board.

16. Mumbai and Delhi Airports named world's best for quality service

Airports Council International (ACI), a trade association of 1,953 airports in 176 countries, announced its annual airport service quality (ASQ) awards and **Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport) tied with Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport) for the top position among airports handling over 40 million passengers annually**. Beijing and Shanghai Pudong have been ranked second.

17. Centre approves 2% DA for government employees

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved **2% Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners**.

This will benefit about 48.41 lakh Central Government employees and 61.17 lakh, pensioners.

18. Government announces launch of 'SUVIDHA', 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin

Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar announced the launch of **'Suvidha', the 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.

The affordable sanitary napkin will be available for Rs. 2.50 per pad at over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India and would ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for the underprivileged Women of India.

SUVIDHA napkins would be physically available at all Janaushadhi Kendras in the country by May 28, 2018 – World Menstrual Hygiene Day.

19. Udyam Sakhi Portal Launched for Women Entrepreneurs

On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched a **portal for women entrepreneurs of India: www.udyamsakhi.org**.

The portal is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models for low cost products and services in order to empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient.

The portal provides assistance through its platform for entrepreneurship learning tools, incubation facility, training programs for fund raising, providing mentors, one-on-one investor meet, provide market survey facility and technical assistance.

20. PM launches National Nutrition Mission, and pan India expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

On the occasion of International Women's Day, PM Narendra Modi launched the **National Nutrition Mission and Pan India Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** covering all 640 districts of the Country at a mega event held at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

The Prime Minister also awarded ten districts for showing outstanding performance in the areas of effective community engagement, enforcement of PC&PNDT Act and enabling education of the girl child.

21. Deadline for Ayushman Bharat logo competition extended

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare extended till **March 18 the deadline for the competition to design a logo and tagline for the Ayushman Bharat programme.**

The Ayushman Bharat programme is the world's largest government-funded health programme that includes the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), under which 10 crore poor families will be provided medical coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.

22. Karnataka Govt. unveils new Karnataka flag

The Karnataka government has unveiled a state flag. The flag design will now be sent to the Central Government for approval, following which it will be announced as the state flag.

The unveiled flag consists of three colors- red, white and yellow and has state emblem "Ganda Bherunda", a two-headed mythical bird in the middle.

Karnataka previously had an unofficial yellow and red flag. But after repeated demands for a separate flag, the state government formed a nine-member committee to work upon a design for the official state flag in July 2017.

23. Mumbai ranks 47th on global 'city wealth index': Report

According to the **independent global property consultancy Knight Frank's Wealth Report 2018, Mumbai ranked 47th on the "city wealth index"** among 314 cities in the world. The "city wealth index" is drawn from four major indicators — wealth, investments, lifestyle and future.

Guangzhou, a city in China, tops the list with property prices appreciating by 27.4% in the last one year.

24. India ranks 52 in Mastercard women entrepreneurs index

India ranked 52 among 57 countries studied for the Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE), according to the findings of its second edition.

Ghana (46.4 percent) ranks first in the world with the highest number of women business owners, followed by Russia (34.6 percent), Uganda (33.8 percent), New Zealand (33 percent) and Australia (32.1 percent).

25. French President on a 4-day visit to India

French President Emmanuel Macron has arrived for a four-day-visit (March 9 to 12) to India, on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The visit of President Macron is aimed at strengthening the bilateral economic, political and strategic dimension of our engagement.

26. Sanitary pad dispenser installed in Rajdhani Express

On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, **for the first time in the country a sanitary pad dispensing machine was installed in a coach of Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express.**

It has been installed on a trial basis and the move would be extended to other trains as well.

27. **Bengaluru gets first all-women-run rail station**

From March 8 (on the occasion of International Women's Day), **Banaswadi railway station in Bengaluru, Karnataka will be run entirely by women.**

All the employees at the Banaswadi station, including the station master, booking clerk, and reservation clerk, among others, will be women.

Apart from this, other all-women-run railway stations are located in Matunga in Mumbai, Gandhinagar in Jaipur, Chandragiri in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district and Ajni in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

28. **Rajasthan passes bill awarding death for rape of girls aged 12 or less**

The Rajasthan assembly unanimously passed a bill that will see rapists of girls 12 years or below being hanged till death. **Rajasthan has become second state after Madhya Pradesh to pass such a bill.**

Now the bill will be sent to the Centre and will need the assent of the President to become a law.

29. **Madhya Pradesh Announces Pension For Single Women**

On International Women's day on 8th March, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh' scheme. Under this scheme, **the women who aren't married and are above the age of 50 will be given pension.**

30. **Diu Becomes First UT to be 100% Powered by Solar Energy**

Diu has become the first Union Territory in India to run 100 percent on solar power generated energy. Diu has managed to generate surplus solar power for its residents, reducing their electricity costs, in a span of just three years.

31. **Swachh Shakti 2018 celebrated in Lucknow under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in association with Uttar Pradesh Government had organized Swachh Shakti 2018, a Women's Convention on occasion of International Women's Day in Lucknow. This year, Uttar Pradesh had hosted Swachh Shakti 2018, being largest state in country (in terms of population) with massive rural populace.

32. **PM Inaugurates National Legislators Conference on 'We For Development'**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **National Legislators Conference on the theme 'We For Development' in New Delhi.** The motive of the conference is to bring MPs and MLAs on a single platform where ideas and plans for development can be exchanged.

33. **Telangana govt launches start-up incubator for women**

The Telangana government has launched a start-up incubator to exclusively promote entrepreneurship among women. The facility was launched on the occasion of International Womens Day.

The incubator, named **We-Hub, is the countrys first state-led incubator exclusively for women entrepreneurs.**

34. **India's Biggest M&E Services Market, enTTech 2018 inaugurated in Mumbai**

India's biggest Media & Entertainment Services Market – enTTech 2018 was inaugurated in Mumbai. The market, spread over two days (March 7 – 8, 2018) will see fast matchmaking between 100 international delegates and their Indian counterparts.

35. **'Wings India 2018' Event Inaugurated in Hyderabad**

Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao inaugurated the biennial event on Civil Aviation and Aerospace titled 'Wings India 2018' at the Begumpet Airport. The four-day event was Jointly organised by the Civil Aviation Ministry, Airports Authority of India and the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

36. Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi

Founding Conference of International Solar Alliance (ISA), which is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana, was held in New Delhi. PM Narendra Modi held bilateral level talks with several heads of states on the sidelines of the International Solar Alliance Founding Conference in New Delhi. He met leaders from Abu Dhabi, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Seychelles, Comoros and several other countries.

37. Passport details must for loans of Rs 50 cr and above

Passport details of borrowers taking loans of Rs 50 crore and more have been made mandatory to ensure a swift action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country. Passport details will help banks to take timely action and inform the relevant authorities to prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.

38. 1st Ever Multi-Nation Naval Exercise At Sea Begins In Andaman

The first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea, **MILES-18, began at the Andaman sea**. 11 naval ships of 8 countries and nine Indian ships are participating in the three-day exercise.

Apart from enhancing inter-operability, the exercise aims to hone search and rescue procedures, maritime interdiction operations, core operational skills and exercise a variety of maritime security scenarios.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. China sets GDP growth target of 6.5 percent for 2018

China has set its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth target at around 6.5 percent for the year 2018-19. The figures are, however, slightly lower than previous figures of 6.7 percent in 2016 and 6.8 percent in 2017 respectively. China will still remain as one of the world's fastest-growing economies in the world.

2. Marshall Islands 1st country to launch own cryptocurrency as legal tender

The Marshall Islands is creating its own digital currency in a bid to raise money. In doing so it **becomes the first country in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency as legal tender**.

The small Pacific Island nation passed the Sovereign Currency Act to create the '**sovereign**', or **SOV**. The cryptocurrency will have equal status with the US dollar and, unlike many cryptocurrencies, users will have to reveal their identity in order to use SOV.

3. Global Firepower ranks India's military as fourth strongest, Pakistan on 13th

Out of 133 countries, **India is ranked fourth on a global index for its military strength**, only the United States, Russia and China are ranked above India on the list. Meanwhile, neighbouring Pakistan is ranked 13th on the Global Firepower index 2017.

Other global powers – United Kingdom, Japan, Turkey, Germany and Egypt make the top ten list.

4. Washington becomes 1st state to approve net-neutrality rules

Setting up a likely legal fight with the Trump administration, Washington has become the first state to enact its own net-neutrality requirements after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules designed to keep the internet an even playing field.

5. AAI participates in World ATM Congress in Spain

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The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is participating in **World ATM Congress (WATMC) 2018 being held at IFEMA, Feria de Madrid, Spain** from March 6 to 8.

Now entering its sixth year, World ATM Congress is the world's largest international air traffic management (ATM) exhibition and conference attracting thousands of delegates each year.

6. India seals agreement with UN to build homes for Nepal quake victims

In a reconstruction bid for earthquake-ravaged Nepal, the Government of India has sealed an agreement with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to build 50, 000 homes for quake victims.

The agreement signed will provide socio- technical facilitation to the earthquake victims of Gorkha, the epicenter of 2015's earthquake and the Nuwakot district of Nepal.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. RBI slaps Rs 3 cr penalty on Axis Bank

The Reserve Bank of India imposed penalty of **Rs 3 crore on private lender Axis Bank for non-compliance of income recognition** and asset classification (IRAC) norms. The regulator said it found discrepancies in the lenders assessment of non-performing assets which warranted a monetary penalty.

2. RBI charges fine on IOB over non-compliance with KYC norms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a **monetary penalty of Rs.20 million on Indian Overseas Bank** for non-compliance with the directions issued by the former regarding Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

3. Citi India launches home loans linked to T-Bill

Citi India has launched **India's first home loan linked to the 3-month Government of India Treasury Bill benchmark rate.**

This will give home buyers the opportunity to take part in a floating rate benchmarked to a publicly available external reference rate, which is driven by market forces, and in line with international markets such as the US, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

4. European development bank approves India's membership

India is all set to become the 69th member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) after shareholders of the international financial institution gave their nod to the country's candidature.

The formal membership process will now get underway, which includes the purchase of shares by India at an estimated cost of around €1 million.

The bank is headquartered in London, with the biggest shareholder being the United States and Current President named Suma Chakrabarti.

5. RBI slaps Rs 5 crore penalty on Airtel Payments Bank for violation of norms

The Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of **Rs 5 crore on Airtel Payments Bank** for violating operating guidelines and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

The fine was imposed after RBI scrutinised the bank's documents relating to opening of accounts without any specific or clear consent from the customers.

6. RBI imposes Rs 10 lakh penalty on Equitas Small Finance Bank

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The RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 10 lakh on Equitas Small Finance Bank** for failing to comply with a licensing condition of obtaining prior approval from the central bank for certain actions. The company was selling mutual fund, pension and insurance products without taking approval from the regulator.

7. Banks' gross NPAs at Rs 8.41 lakh crore in Dec

The government announced that the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of all the banks in the country amounted to Rs 8,40,958 crore in December, led by industry loans followed by services and agriculture sectors.

The gross NPAs or bad loans of scheduled commercial banks as on December 31, 2017 due to loans to industry were at Rs 6,09,222 crore, accounting for 20.41 per cent of the gross advances.

The highest amount of gross NPAs was for country's largest lender SBI at Rs 2,01,560 crore.

8. KVGB rolls out loan scheme for women entrepreneurs

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched 'Vikas She Plus', a loan scheme for women to take up new ventures or for expanding/modifying the existing enterprises. This scheme provides loan up to a maximum of ₹2 lakh with a repayment period of 60 months.

9. Digital transactions could reach Rs 1 lakh crore by value by 2025: Report

According to a report Transactions 2025 released by digital payments company AGS Transact in collaboration with ACI Worldwide, by 2025 India could witness around Rs 1 lakh crore worth of digital transactions every year with more than 80% of the transactions happening digitally, mainly being driven by higher adoption of Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

BUSINESS

1. Mukesh Ambani richest Indian, Jeff Bezos tops Forbes world's rich list

According to Forbes' 2018 'World's Billionaires' list, Mukesh Ambani's net worth has soared to \$40.1 billion, making him the richest Indian for the 11th year in a row, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos toppled Bill Gates as the world's wealthiest person.

2. Paytm founder Vijay Sharma youngest Indian billionaire

According to Forbes, Paytm founder **Vijay Shekhar Sharma, 39, is the youngest Indian billionaire**, while 92-year-old Samprada Singh, chairman emeritus of Alkem Laboratories, is the oldest. Sharma, ranked 1,394th on the list with a fortune of USD 1.7 billion, is the only Indian billionaire in the under-40 league.

3. NERL, BoB in tie-up for pledge finance

The **National E-Repository**, a subsidiary of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, has tied up with Bank of Baroda to facilitate pledge finance on its electronic negotiable receipt issued against goods stored in the accredited warehouses.

4. Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance partners Can Fin Homes to sell policies

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has joined hands with Can Fin Homes for a three-year corporate agency tie up to sell its policies to potential home buyers. All the life insurance products of the company would be made available to customers of Can Fin Homes.

5. Ficci, NITI Aayog tie-up for 'women entrepreneurship platform'

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) has tied-up with NITI Aayog for the **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) initiative**.

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Through a joint programme, Ficci and NITI Aayog shall provide hand-holding, mentorship, capacity building, scaling up and networking support to 100 technology led women enterprises over a period of five years.

6. RBI slaps SBI with monetary penalty

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 40 lakh on State Bank of India (SBI) for non-compliance of its directions on detection and impounding of counterfeit notes.

7. ISA-ADB, NDB, GCF, AfDB and AIIB joint declarations of Financial partnership

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the African Development Bank (AfDb), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Green climate fund (GCF), and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed Joint financial partnership Declarations. The International Energy Agency (IEA) also signed a Joint partnership Declaration with the ISA.

ISA is working for deployment of over 1000 GW of solar energy and mobilising more than US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by the year 2030.

8. Paytm Money Receives Sebi Nod as Registered Investment Adviser

Financial services platform Paytm has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, **Paytm Money, has received approval of market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to become a registered investment advisor.**

The nod from Sebi will allow the company to roll out investment and wealth management products to consumers across the country.

ECONOMY

1. Indian economy to recover gradually to 7.1% in FY2019

According to a report by Kotak Economic Research, the Indian economy is likely to recover gradually to 7.1 per cent in 2018-19 financial year as GST related disruptions have smoothed and consumption levels have improved.

2. Crisil pegs GDP growth at 7.5% this fiscal

The GDP growth is seen rising to a respectable 7.5 per cent next fiscal from 6.5 per cent expected this fiscal, propelled by domestic consumption, policy push, and synchronised global growth, **according to Crisil.**

3. Paytm unveils 'Paytm for Business' mobile app for TN

Mobile wallet company Paytm has come out with an business application aimed at serving merchants in Tamil Nadu who can track payments, navigate past collections and can also make settlements instantly.

The 'Paytm for Business' app, available on Android Play Store, for merchants and business partners who accept Paytm at their offline stores in the state.

TECHNOLOGY

1. TCS ranked as the fastest growing IT services brand in 2018

Leading global IT services organisation, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world in an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance.

This puts TCS in a unique group of businesses with a brand valuation over USD 10 billion mark.

SPORTS

1. Viswanathan Anand wins Rapid event at Tal Memorial

Viswanathan Anand won the rapid event at the **11th Tal Memorial chess in Moscow**. The World rapid champion finished the event with 6 points while Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (with 5 points) came second.

2. Manu Bhaker shoots gold in Women's 10m Air Pistol, ISSF World Cup

Manu Bhaker, who recently earned a quota place for the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games scheduled for October, won a sensational gold in the Women's 10m Air Pistol, to put India firmly on top of the medals tally in the year's first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup stage in Mexico's Guadalajara.

3. Tejaswin Shankar Smashes National Record in High Jump

Delhi youngster Tejaswin Shankar smashed his own national record to claim the high jump gold as three athletes booked their Commonwealth Games berths on the third and penultimate day of the 22nd Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships.

4. Australia beat England to lift Sultan Azlan Shah cup in Malaysia

World champions **Australia have lifted the coveted Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey title**. In the final at Ipoh, Malaysia, they beat defending champions England by a narrow 2-1 margin.

Australia have now won the prestigious tournament for the 10th time.

5. Wrestler Navjot ranked world No.2 in women's 65kg rankings

Navjot Kaur, who clinched a gold medal at the recently concluded Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, has jumped to the **second spot in the world women's 65kg weight category rankings released by United World Wrestling**.

In the same category, Finland's Petra Oly, the 2016 European Champion, has secured the first place in the UWW rankings.

Vinesh Phogat who represented UP Dangal in the third season of PWL and is the Asian Championship 2018 silver medallist has also bagged second position in the ranking list under the 50kg weight category.

6. Anindith named National Motorsports Person of 2017

Hyderabad's Anindith Reddy was crowned **'FMSCI National MotorSports Person of the Year 2017'**. The country's outstanding performers during the year were felicitated at the FMSCI Awards Nite, including Arjun Maini, Jehan Daruvala, Aditya Patel, Armaan Ebrahim, Gaurav Gill and Abhilash PG.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Conrad Sangma set to become next Meghalaya CM

National People's Party (NPP) President **Conrad Sangma will be the new chief minister of Meghalaya**. He will replace Mukul Sangma.

2. Merkel gets fourth term as Germany's Chancellor

Germany's Angela Merkel secured her fourth term as the Chancellor after the Social Democratic party voted in favour of a grand coalition with Merkel's Christian Democratic Union.

3. Neiphiu Rio appointed Nagaland CM

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Nagaland Governor PB Acharya has appointed **Neiphiu Rio** as the Chief Minister of the state. He will replace TR Zeliang.

4. Biplab Deb to be new Chief Minister of Tripura

Biplab Kumar Deb will be the new Chief Minister of Tripura. He will replace Manik Sarkar.

5. Sandeep Bakhshi gets 2-yr extension as MD of ICICI Prudential Life

Sandeep Bakhshi managing director and chief executive officer ICICI Prudential Life Insurance was re-appointed with effect from June 1, 2018 for a term of two years till May 31, 2020.

6. Armen Sarkisian elected next Armenian president

Armenia's parliament on March 2 elected **Armen Sarkisian** as the country's next president. Sarkisian succeeds Serzh Sarkisian, who opposition leaders say could now become prime minister and continue to wield power.

7. Virat Kohli named Uber India's first brand ambassador

Popular ridesharing app Uber announced the appointment of Indian skipper **Virat Kohli as its first brand ambassador in India**, thus embarking on a first-of-its-kind initiative across the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.

8. First Woman Inducted As Combat Officer In ITBP

In another first for women, 25-year-old **Prakriti has been inducted as the first direct-entry combat officer in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.**

The ITBP is the last of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to induct women officers in combat roles after the government first allowed it to enrol them in 2016.

9. TDP Ministers Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Y.S. Chowdary resign from Union Cabinet

Civil aviation minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju and junior science and technology minister YS Chowdhary have submitted their resignation letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This follows Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's observation that the Centre cannot offer special status to Andhra Pradesh.

10. Suresh Prabhu given additional charge of Civil Aviation Ministry

The President of India Ramnath Kovind has on the advise of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, directed **Commerce and Industry minister Suresh Prabhu to take up the additional charge of the Civil Aviation Ministry.**

This move has been necessitated due to the resignation of incumbent Ashok Gajapati Raju of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), whose party quit the NDA government.

11. Sitanshu Kar to be next head of PIB

All India Radio's News Services Division (NSD) director general **Sitanshu Kar will be the next head of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)** after superannuation of Frank Noronha on April 30.

BOOK LAUNCH

1. Book Fulfilling Bapu's Dreams – Prime Minister Modi's Tribute to Gandhiji launched

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book '**Fulfilling Bapu's Dreams – Prime Minister Modi's Tribute to Gandhiji**' from Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who formally released it at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The book underscores an important aspect of India's developmental process – linking sanitation with broad mass participation, making it a mass movement, giving central importance to the practical needs of ordinary citizens in policy, and establishing ethical ideals firmly in public life.

AWARDS

1. Oscar Awards 2018

The 90th Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honored the best films of 2017 and took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California.

Here is the full list of winners:

- Best Picture – “The Shape of Water”
- Best Director – Guillermo del Toro, “The Shape of Water”
- Best Actor – Gary Oldman, “Darkest Hour”
- Best Actress – Frances McDormand, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”
- Best Supporting Actor – Sam Rockwell, “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”
- Best Supporting Actress – Allison Janney, “I, Tonya”
- Best Original Screenplay – “Get Out”
- Best Adapted Screenplay – “Call Me by Your Name”
- Best Foreign Language Film – “A Fantastic Woman” (Chile)
- Best Animated Feature – “Coco”
- Best Visual Effects – “Blade Runner 2049”
- Best Film Editing – “Dunkirk”
- Best Animated Short – “Dear Basketball”
- Best Live Action Short – “The Silent Child”
- Best Documentary Short – “Heaven Is a Traffic Jam on the 405”
- Best Score – “The Shape of Water”
- Best Song – “Remember Me” from “Coco”
- Best Production Design – “The Shape of Water”
- Best Cinematography – “Blade Runner 2049”
- Best Costume Design – “Phantom Thread”
- Best Makeup and Hairstyling – “Darkest Hour”
- Best Documentary Feature – “Icarus”
- Best Sound Editing – “Dunkirk”

- Best Sound Mixing – “Dunkirk”
- Iconic Bollywood actors Shashi Kapoor and Sridevi were honoured at the 90th Academy Awards ceremony during the ‘In Memoriam’ montage which pays tribute to those the film industry has lost in the past year.
- **Filmmaker James Ivory**, who once worked closely with late Indian star Shashi Kapoor, **became the oldest Oscar winner at 89 for his adapted screenplay for “Call Me By Your Name”**.

2. Justice Gita Mittal conferred ‘Nari Shakti’ award

Delhi High Court acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal has been conferred with “Nari Shakti Puraskar”. Justice Mittal is one of the 30 individual awardees who have been selected for the Puraskar.

This year, 30 individual awardees and nine institutional awardees are selected for these Puraskars. The Ministry of Women and Child Development announces these national level awards for eminent women, organisations and institutions.

3. Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi wins 2018 Pritzker Prize

Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi was awarded this year’s **Pritzker Prize** for being able to interpret architecture and transform it into buildings that respect Eastern culture, at the same time that he has improved the quality of life in his homeland. **He is the first Indian to win the award.**

The Pritzker Prize is regarded as architecture’s equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Women’s Day: 8 March

International Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8 every year. Before the UN adopted it in 1977, the day was mostly celebrated in socialist and Communist countries.

The Day is dedicated to celebrating womanhood, their social, political, cultural, economic achievements and their significant contributions to society. The day also emphasises the importance of gender equality.

The International Women’s Day 2018 theme is “Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women’s lives”.

2. World Kidney Day 2018: 8 March

World Kidney Day, which is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness on the importance of kidneys, was celebrated on March 8 this year. Ever since its inception in 2006, it has been observed on the **second Thursday of March** with a special theme for the year.

The theme of World Kidney Day 2018 is “Kidneys and Women’s Health”.

OBITUARIES

- **Veteran Bollywood actor Shammi passes away**
- **Veteran Bollywood actor Shammi** has passed away after prolonged illness. She was 89. Fondly addressed as ‘Shammi aunty’ by Bollywood celebrities, Shammi, whose real name is **Nargis Rabadi**, started her film career with Malhar as a leading lady and later on moved to the comic genre.
- **Odia actor Sarat Mohanty passes away**

○ Veteran Odia film actor Sarat Mohanty has passed away following prolonged illness. The comedian, a native of Khirkona, had acted in a number of Odia films.

○ **Veteran broadcaster Shivaji Dasgupta passes away**

○ Shivaji Dasgupta, a doyen of Indian broadcasting has passed away after prolonged illness. He was 71.

Sufi singer Pyare Lal Wadali passes away

Pyare Lal Wadali, the younger brother of Sufi singer Puran Chand Wadali of the Wadali brothers, died of cardiac arrest.

· The Wadali brothers some years ago had taken the country by storm by their hit album featuring Sufi songs such as ‘Tu mane ya na mane dildara, aasan te tenu rab manya’.

· **Congress leader Patangrao Kadam passes away**

· Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra minister Patangrao Kadam has passed away.

PM Modi’s rakhi sister passes away

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s rakhi sister **Sharbati Devi** has passed away at the age of 103.

· Sharbati Devi had hit the headlines last year when she met Prime Minister Modi at his official residence in Lok Kalyan Marg on Raksha Bandhan. She was invited by the Prime Minister himself to tie a rakhi on his wrist.

Senior Editor Ranjan Roy passes away

Senior journalist Ranjan Roy has passed away after battling cancer for several years. Roy, chief of the Times News Network (TNN) and a member of the paper’s national editorial board, was 57.

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