

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF APRIL 2018

Awards

Gujarati poet and playwright who has been chosen to be conferred the 2017 Saraswati Samman by KK Birla Foundation – **Sitanshu Yashaschandra**

The Egyptian press photographer who has been chosen for the UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize 2018 – **Mahmoud Abu Zeid**

The veteran Bollywood actor (passed away on 27 Apr 17) who has been conferred the 49th Dadasaheb Phalke Award posthumously – **Vinod Khanna**

Defence

The two-day coastal security exercise conducted by the Indian Navy off the coast of Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands to enhance and assess the threat from the sea was named – **Sagar Kavach**

The biggest ever country wide war exercise being conducted by the Indian Air Force from 08 to 22 April 2018 is named – **Gagan Shakti**

The joint anti-piracy exercise conducted by the Coast Guards of India and South Korea off Chennai coast is named – **SAHYOG-HYEOLYEOG 2018**

Persons

The Supreme Court counsel who has become the first woman lawyer to be directly elevated as a Supreme Court judge – **Indu Malhotra**

The 13-member task force set up by the Govt to prepare a road map for the implementation of unmanned aerial vehicle technology is headed by – **Shri Jayant Sinha**

The committee formed by Govt of India (HRD Ministry) to examine the process by which the CBSE conducts examinations is headed by – **V S Oberoi**

Places

The north-eastern State from where the Central Govt has withdrawn the AFSPA after 27 years – **Meghalaya**

The place in Madhya Pradesh from where the Indian PM Shri Narendra Modi has launched Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan – **Ram Nagar in Mandla**

The country which has opened its first cinema after a gap of 35 years on April 18 – **Saudi Arabia**

The place in Chhattisgarh from where the PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a Health and Wellness Centre, to mark the launch of the Union Government's Health Assurance Programme – Ayushman Bharat – **Bijapur**

The venue of 4-day biennial exhibition of weapons and military hardware DefExpo India-2018 held from 11 to 14 April 18 – **Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu)**

The Indian State which has decided to provide free chemotherapy to cancer patients from June 2018 in 10 districts in the first phase – **Maharashtra**

The city which has become the first in the country to start selling BS-VI fuel (at present the cleanest fuel in the world) – **Delhi**

The place in Tamil Nadu where India's first insect museum was inaugurated by its Chief Minister EK Palaniswami – **Coimbatore (TNAU)**

Companies

The company which has signed a memorandum of understanding with Ministry of Tourism to adopt Red Fort and Gandikota Fort for a period of 5 years at a cost of Rs. 25 crores – **Dalmia Bharat**

The Indian company which has become the first to achieve 100 billion dollar market capitalisation – **TCS**

The board member of Wipro Ltd who has been appointed the Chairman of NASSCOM for the year 2018-19 – **Rishad Premji**

The former Managing Director of Intel South Asia who has been appointed the new President of NASSCOM (the first woman President of NASSCOM) – **Ms Debjani Ghosh**

Space

The space telescope launched by NASA to search for exoplanets on April 18, 2018 atop a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral is named – **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)**

The satellite launched by NASA on April 16 from Kwajalein Atoll in Marshall Islands to study the interstellar medium is named – **CHESS 4 (Colorado High-resolution Echelle Stellar Spectrograph)**

The name given to the most distant star discovered by NASA at a distance of nine billion light years – **Icarus**

The out of control space station of China which burnt up on re-entry into earth's atmosphere and crashed into the Pacific Ocean was named – **Tiangong-1**

Sports

The team which has won the inaugural edition of India Super Cup 2018 football tournament defeating East Bengal in the finals at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar – **Bengaluru FC**

The sporting event which has been excluded from the Commonwealth Games of 2022 to be held in Birmingham – **Shooting**

The Indian badminton player who has been ranked at No. 1 position by the World Badminton Federation (becoming the second Indian after Saina Nehwal to achieve the feat) – **Kidambi Srikanth**

The Indian tennis player who has become the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup (he recorded his 43rd win with Rohan Bopanna against China) – **Leander Paes**

The team which has won the 2017-18 Santosh Trophy defeating Bengal in the finals at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata – **Kerala**

Indices and Ranks

The rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2018 which has Norway, Sweden and Netherlands at the top 3 positions – **138**

The rank of India in the 2018 Index of Economic Freedom released by US based Heritage Foundation (the list is topped by Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand) – **130**

Projects

The project launched by Dept of Posts for total digitisation of postal operations in the country is named – **DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India)**

The project launched by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to spread awareness about availing Vitamin D through natural sunlight (the project urges schools to shift their morning assembly to noon time, mainly between 11 am and 1 pm) – **Project Dhoop**

Miscellaneous

The mobile app launched by the Minister of Coal Shri Piyush Goyal for coal quality monitoring is named – **UTTAM (Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal)**

The social media based remittance service launched by ICICI Bank for NRIs to transfer money using social media platforms is named – **Social Pay**

The two endangered languages spoken in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha discovered by University of Hyderabad linguist Panchanan Mohanty – **Walmiki and Malhar**

The theme of National Maritime Day being observed on 05 April 2018 – **Indian Shipping - An Ocean of Opportunity**

The scheme introduced by West Bengal for providing marriage assistance to girls from economically weaker families is named – **Rupashree**

Important Days of April

World Autism Awareness Day: 02 April 2018

Theme: Empowering Women and Girls with Autism

Designated by: UN General Assembly

First Observed in: 2008

<p>International Mine Awareness Day: 04 April 2018 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly Theme: Advancing Protection, Peace and Development First Observed in: 2006</p>
<p>International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: 06 April 2018 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2014</p>
<p>World Health Day: 07 April 2018 Designated by: World Health Organisation Theme: Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere First Observed in: 1950</p>
<p>International Day of Human Space Flight: 12 April 2018 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2011</p>
<p>World Haemophilia Day: 17 April 2018 Designated by: World Federation of Haemophilia Theme: Sharing Knowledge Makes us Stronger First Observed in: 1989</p>
<p>International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day): 18 April 2018 Designated by: UNESCO Theme: Cultural Heritage for Generations First Observed in: 1983</p>
<p>International Mother Earth Day: 22 April 2018 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2010 Note: Earth Day was first observed in 1970 in the United States and it went global in 1990. The same day was adopted by the UN in 2009 as the International Mother Earth Day.</p>
<p>UN English Language Day: 23 April 2018 Designated by: UN Dept of Public Information First Observed in: 2010 Significance: Birthday of William Shakespeare</p>
<p>World Malaria Day: 25 April 2018 Designated by: World Health Organisation First Observed in: 2007 Theme: Malaria Prevention: Ready to beat malaria</p>
<p>World Intellectual Property Day: 26 April 2018 Designated by: World Intellectual Property Organisation First Observed in: 2000 Theme: Powering change: Women in innovation and creativity</p>
<p>World Day for Safety and Health: 28 April 2018 Designated by: International Labour Organisation First Observed in: 2003 Theme: Occupational safety health - Vulnerability of young workers</p>

65th National Film Awards 2017

#	Name of the Award	Name of the Film	Awardees
1.	Best Feature Film	Village Rockstars (Assamese)	Producer and Director: Rima Das
2.	Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director	Sinjar (Jasari)	Producer: Shibu G Suseelan Director: Pampally
3.	Best Popular Film	Baahubali - The Conclusion (Telugu)	Producer: Prasad Devineni Director: SS Rajamouli
4.	Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration	Dhappa (Marathi)	Producer: Sumatilal Popatlal Director: Nipun Dharmadhikari
5.	Best Film on Social Issues	Aalorukkam (Malayalam)	Producer: Jolly Lonappan Director: VC Abhilash
6.	Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation	Irada (Hindi)	Director: Aparnaa Singh Producer: Irada Entertainment
7.	Best Children's Film	Mhorkya (Marathi)	Producer: Kalyan Rajmogli Padal Director: Amar Bharat Deokar
8.	Best Hindi Film	Newton	Producer: Manish Mundra Director: Amit V Masurkar
9.	Best Direction	Bhayanakam (Malayalam)	Director: Jayaraj
10.	Best Actor	Nagarkirtan (Bengali)	Riddhi Sen
11.	Best Actress	Mom (Hindi)	Sridevi
12.	Best Supporting Actor	Thondimuthalum Driksakshiyum (Malayalam)	Fahad Fazil
13.	Best Supporting Actress	Irada (Hindi)	Divya Dutta
14.	Best Child Artist	Village Rockstars (Assamese)	Bhanita Das
15.	Best Male Playback Singer	Film : Viswasapoorvam Mansoor (Malayalam); Song: Poy Maranja Kalam	KJ Yesudas
16.	Best Female Playback Singer	Film: Kaatru Veliyidai (Tamil); Song: Vaan	Shashaa Tirupati
17.	Best Book on Cinema	Matmagi Manipur - The first Manipuri feature film	Author: Bobby Wahengbam
18.	Most Film Friendly State	Madhya Pradesh	-

Film Awards by Maharashtra Govt

Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award: **Dharmendra**

Raj Kapoor Special Contribution Award: **Raj Kumar Hirani**

V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award: **Vijay Chauhan**

V Shantaram Special Contribution Award: **Mrinal Kulkarni**

Launch of IRNSS-1I

Launched on: 12 April 2018

Launched from: Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota

Launch vehicle: PSLV-C41

Weighing 1425 kg, IRNSS-1I is the latest member of the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)' system. NavIC, also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.

India's most powerful locomotive

Indian PM Shri Narendra Modi flagged off India's most powerful electric locomotive from Madhepura loco factory in Bihar.

The engine has been built in collaboration with French firm Alstom under 'Make in India' initiative.

This is India's first 12,000 horsepower (HP) electric locomotive. Prior to this, 6,000 HP locomotive was India's most powerful electric engine.

Only Russia, China, Germany and Sweden have 12,000 HP locomotives.

The locomotive with a maximum speed of 110 km per hour, will be mostly used for transportation of coal and iron ore.

The foundation stone for the factory was laid in 2007 by the then Railway Minister Lalu Prasad.

Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 for better protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

Salient Features:

It proposes to include "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights" as deemed Member of the Commission;

It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission;

It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission;

It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.

It proposes to amend the term of office of Chairperson and Members of National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission to make it in consonance with the terms of Chairperson and Members of other Commissions.

The amendment to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 will make National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) more compliant with the Paris Principle concerning its autonomy, independence, pluralism and wide-ranging functions in order to effectively protect and promote human rights.

Commonwealth Games 2018

Venue: **Gold Coast**, Queensland, Australia

From 04 April to 15 April 2018

Motto: **Share the Dream**

Mascot : **Borobi** (Blue Koala)

Medals Tally

#	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	80	59	59	198
2	England	45	45	46	136
3	India	26	20	20	66
4	Canada	15	40	27	82
5	New Zealand	15	16	15	46

Venue of next Commonwealth Games: **Birmingham** (U.K.)

India's medals by – sport

Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Shooting	7	4	5	16
Wrestling	5	3	4	12
Weightlifting	5	2	2	9
Boxing	3	3	3	9
Table Tennis	3	2	3	8
Badminton	2	3	1	6
Athletics	1	1	1	3
Squash	0	2	0	2
Powerlifting	0	0	1	1
Total	26	20	20	66

Flag bearer of the Indian contingent at the Opening Ceremony: **PV Sindhu**

Flag bearer of the Indian contingent at the Closing Ceremony: **Mary Kom**

NIRF India Rankings 2018

Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar released 'NIRF India Rankings 2018' for Higher Education Institutions

In this third edition of India Rankings, a total of 2809 institutions participated in 9 categories. Collectively they have submitted 3954 distinct profiles, some in multiple disciplines/categories. This includes 301 Universities, 906 Engineering Institutions, 487 Management Institutions, 286 Pharmacy Institutions, 71 Law Institutions, 101 Medical Institutions, 59 Architecture Institutions and 1087 General Degree Colleges.

List of top ranking institute in each category is as follows:

Overall: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Management: Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

University: Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

College: Miranda House, Delhi

Pharmacy: National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali

Medical: All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Architecture: Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Law: National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

Engineering: Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Abbreviations in News

UTTAM: Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal

Books in News

Less by Andrew Sean Greer (Pulitzer Prize 2018 for fiction)

Cost of Living by Martyna Majok (Pulitzer Prize 2018 for Drama)

LIST OF MEDAL WINNERS AT 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Gold Medallist	Sport
1. Neeraj Chopra	Men's Javelin Throw
2. Saina, Sindhu, Srikanth, Prannoy, Ruthvika, Ashwini, Sikki, Satwik, Pranaav, Chirag	Badminton
3. Saina Nehwal	Badminton
4. Mary Kom	Boxing
5. Vikas Krishan	Boxing
6. Gaurav Solanki	Boxing
7. Anish Bhanwala	Shooting

8. Manu Bhaker	Shooting
9. Shreyasi Singh	Shooting
10. Jitu Rai	Shooting
11. Sanjeev Rajput	Shooting
12. Tejaswini Sawant	Shooting
13. Heena Sidhu	Shooting
14. Manika, Mouma, Madhurika, Pooja, Sutirta	Table Tennis
15. Sathiyar, Sharath, Harmeet, Sanil, Amalraj	Table Tennis
16. Manika Batra	Table Tennis
17. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
18. Sanjita Chanu	Weightlifting
19. Saitsh Kimar Sivalingam	Weightlifting
20. Venkat Ragul Ragala	Weightlifting
21. Punam Yadav	Weightlifting
22. Sushil Kumar	Wrestling
23. Rahul Aware	Wrestling
24. Bajrang Punia	Wrestling
25. Sumit	Wrestling
26. Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling

Silver Medallist	Sport
1. Seema Punia	Women's Discus Throw
2. PV Sindhu	Badminton
3. Kidambi Srikanth	Badminton
4. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty	Badminton
5. Satish Kumar	Boxing
6. Amit Phangal	Boxing
7. Manish Kaushik	Boxing
8. Mehuli Ghosh	Shooting
9. Heena Sidhu	Shooting
10. Anjum Moudgil	Shooting
11. Tejaswini Sawant	Shooting
12. Dipika Pallikal / Saurav Ghosal	Squash
13. Dipika Pallikal / Joshna Chinappa	Squash
14. Achanta Sharath Kama / Sathiyar G	Table Tennis
15. Manika Batra / Mouma Das	Table Tennis
16. Pardeep Singh	Weightlifting
17. Gururaja P	Weightlifting
18. Mausam Khatri	Wrestling
19. Babita Phogat	Wrestling
20. Pooja Dhanda	Wrestling

Bronze Medallist	Sport
1. Navjeet Dhillon	Women's Discus Throw
2. Ashwini Ponnappa / Sikki Reddy	Badminton
3. Naman Tanwar	Boxing

4. Manoj Kumar	Boxing
5. Hussamuddin Muhammad	Boxing
6. Sachin Chaudhary	Para Powerlifting
7. Om Mitharval	Shooting
8. Om Mitharval	Shooting
9. Ravi Kumar	Shooting
10. Ankur Mittal	Shooting
11. Apurvi Chandela	Shooting
12. Harmeet Desai / Sanil Shetty	Table Tennis
13. Achanta Sharath Kamal	Table Tennis
14. Manika Batra / Sathiyam G	Table Tennis
15. Deepak Lather	Weightlifting
16. Vikas Thakur	Weightlifting
17. Somveer	Wrestling
18. Sakshi Malik	Wrestling
19. Divya Kakran	Wrestling
20. Kiran	Wrestling

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