

# National Current Affairs

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## **Odisha Government launches Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas programme**

Odisha Government has launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' (Our Village, our development) programme to reach out to people in rural areas and involve themselves in developmental activities.

- As part of it, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagged off mobile video vans that will move across the state to highlight various welfare schemes at villages in the state.
- It will enable people to connect with the government.
- Under this programme, people can directly send their grievances to Chief Minister's Office (CMO) at Secretariat in Bhubaneswar through Wi-Fi enabled latest technology video wall vans.
- This initiative administration will help people in solving their grievances instantly.
- In the first phase of programme, these vans will reach Koraput, Jajpur, Ganjam and Sambalpur districts of state.

## **Union Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurates FICCI Frames 2018**

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, Smriti Irani inaugurated 2018 edition of FICCI Frames in Mumbai.

- 2018 edition of FICCI Frames, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI's) annual convention on the film and entertainment market is a three-day global convention covering the entire gamut of Media and Entertainment Industry viz. films, broadcasts (TV & Radio), Print Media etc.
- Nearly 2000 Indian and 800 foreign delegates from Media and Entertainment sector will be attending this event.
- 35 knowledge sessions will be conducted during the course of this event and 200 high profile speakers from across the world will share their views.

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# International Current Affairs

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## **India 12<sup>th</sup> largest overseas holder of US securities in 2017**

According to recent figures compiled by US Treasury Department, India is 12<sup>th</sup> largest overseas holder of US government securities. India's exposure to it has risen sharply to high of US \$144.7 billion at end of 2017.

- The preliminary data from June 2017 benchmark survey of foreign portfolio holdings of US securities showed that total value of such holding was \$18.44 trillion. Out of the total, \$7.19 trillion was in equities, \$10.29 trillion in long-term debt securities and \$954 billion in short-term debt securities.
- India holdings in US government securities in 2017 have raised except for few months when total exposure had declined.
- India's holding of India went up to US \$144.7 billion in December 2017, which was increase of little over \$26 billion compared to year-ago period.
- In 2017, China was largest holder of US government securities with holdings to tune of \$1.18 trillion, followed by Japan at \$1.06 trillion.

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## Awards & Recognition

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### 90th Academy Awards (Oscars 2018)

The 90th Academy Awards commonly referred to as Oscars was held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California (US).

- The award presented in 24 categories by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honouring best films of year 2017.
- The Shape of Water won the most number of awards totaling to four at the ceremony after it was nominated into highest 13 categories.
- It was followed by Dunkirk, nominated for eight categories and Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, nominated for seven categories.
  - Best Picture: The Shape of Water.
  - Best Actress: Frances McDormand (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri as Mildred Hayes).
  - Best Actor: Gary Oldman (Darkest Hour as Winston Churchill)
  - Best Director: Guillermo del Toro (The Shape of Water).

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## Appointments & Resigns

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### **Krishna Kumari Kohli: Pakistan elects first Hindu woman to Senate**

Krishna Kumari Kolhi (39) from Sindh province in Pakistan became first-ever Dalit Hindu woman to get elected as Senator, member of upper house (Senate) of Muslim-majority country. She won the election for the reserved seat for women from Sindh province.

- She is a member of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari-led Pakistan People's Party (PPP).
- Her election represents major milestone for women and minority rights in Pakistan.
- Earlier, PPP had elected first Hindu woman named Ratna Bhagwandas Chawla as senator.
- Krishna Kumari has actively participated and worked for rights of downtrodden people of marginalised communities living in Thar and other areas.

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## **Sports**

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### **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.
- The event is a 10-player single round-robin competition where players have 25 minutes to make all of their moves, and receive a 10-second increment from move 1.

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## **Obituary**

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### **Noted Disability rights activist Javed Abidi passes away**

Javed Abidi, a disability rights activist, died on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

- Javed Abidi was the Director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP).
- He also held the position of Global Chair of Disabled People International (DPI).
- He had worked for the welfare for disabled people. He had lead protests that urged the passing of the Persons with Disabilities Act in 1992.