

The Most Important Current Affairs of January 2018

Padma Awards 2018 Announced: Full List of Recipients

- The President of India has approved the awards for 85 individuals, which includes 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan & 73 Padma Shri.
- Fourteen of the awardees are women & 3 persons have been awarded posthumously.
- In sports personalities, former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni & multiple world champion cueist Pankaj Advani have been conferred with the third-highest civilian award, Padma Bhushan.
- The 2017 World Weightlifting Champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu & former Asian Games gold medallist tennis player Somdev Devvarman have been conferred with the Padma Shri. The awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day every year.

Padma Vibhushan Awards (2nd highest civilian award)

Winner	Category
Ilayaraja	Art (Music)
Ghulam Mustafa Khan	Art (Music)
Parameswaran Parameswaran	Literature & Education

Padma Bhushan Awards (3rd highest civilian award)

Winner	Category
Pankaj Advani	Sport (Billiards/Snooker)
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Sports (Cricket)
Alexander Kadakin (Foreigner/Posthumous)	Public Affairs
Ved Prakash Nanda	Literature & Education
Laxman Pai	Art (Painting)
Arvind Parikh	Art (Music)
Sharda Sinha	Art (Music)
Philipose Mar Chrysostom	Others (Spiritualism)
Ramachandran Nagaswamy	Others (Archaeology)

And the Grammy 2018 award goes to...

The 60th Annual Grammy Awards were held at Madison Square Garden in New York City, the USA. James Corden was the host of the ceremony for the second year in a row.

It was Bruno Mars' night at the Grammy Awards held in New York, with the three biggest wins - Album of The Year & Record of The Year for 24K Magic & Song of The Year for 'That's What I Like'.

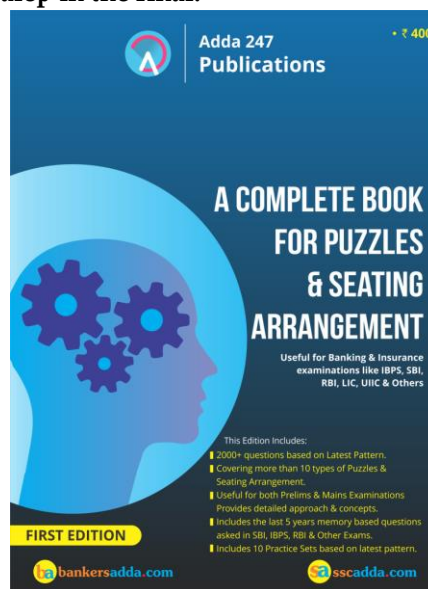
The list of winners is given below:

- Album of The Year: Bruno Mars
- Song of the Year: Bruno Mars, 'That's What I Like'

- Record of The Year: Bruno Mars, 24K Magic
- Best Pop Solo Performance: Ed Sheeran, Shape of You
- Best Pop Vocal Album: Ed Sheeran, Divide
- Best Dance Recording: LCD Soundsystem, Tonite
- Best Music Film: The Defiant Ones
- Best Children's Album: Feel What U Feel, Lisa Loeb
- Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media: La La Land
- Producer of the Year, Classical: David Frost

Roger Federer won the Australian Open 2018

The 2018 Australian Open was the 106th edition of the tournament. Roger Federer was the defending champion & successfully defended his title, defeating Marin Cilic in the final. It was Federer's 20th Grand Slam title. In women's' single, Caroline Wozniacki became the first Danish player to win a Grand Slam singles title, defeating Simona Halep in the final.



Complete list of Winners of Australian Open

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	Marin Cilic (Croatia)
Women's Singles	Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)	Simona Halep (Romania)
Men's Doubles	Oliver Marach (Austria) & Mate Pavic (Croatia)	Robert Farah & J. Cabal (Colombia)
Women's Doubles	Kristina Mladenovic (France) & Tímea Babos (Hungary)	Elena Vesnina (Russia) & Ekaterina Makarova (Russia)

Mixed Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada)& Mate Pavic (Croatia)	Timea Babos (Hungary)& Rohan Bopanna (India)
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World Economic Forum Summit in Switzerland Concludes

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned home after concluding his visit to **Davos, Switzerland**. During the visit, he delivered a keynote address at the plenary session of the **48th annual meeting of World Economic Forum**. He became the **first Indian prime minister in two decades** to join the world's top business leaders in the Swiss resort town of Davos.
- Mr Modi outlined climate change, terrorism & protectionism as three global threats. He also met his **Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau**. Both leaders discussed issues of mutual interest & reiterated their commitment to stand firm in combating terrorism.
- He also held a **meeting with Queen Maxima of the Netherlands** & discussed steps to deepen the bilateral relationship. He also interacted with top global CEOs at the International Business Council event.

Note: Capital of Switzerland- Bern, Currency- Swiss franc
| Founder & Chairman of WEF- Klaus Schwab.

Cabinet Approves Amendments in FDI Policy, Policies Further Liberalized

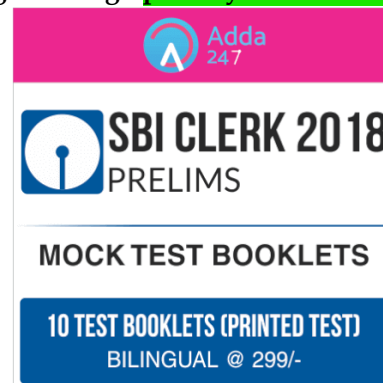
The Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved amendments in **FDI Policy** & further liberalized few of the policies of FDI.

Highlights of the Amendments-

- ✓ **100% FDI** under automatic route for **Single Brand Retail Trading**.
 - ✓ **100% FDI** under automatic route in **Construction Development**.
 - ✓ Foreign airlines allowed to invest up to **49%** under **approval route in Air India**.
 - ✓ FIIs/FPIs allowed to invest in **Power Exchanges through primary market**.
 - ✓ Definition of **'medical devices'** amended in the FDI Policy.
- Government approval no longer required for FDI in Single Brand Retail Trading (SBRT):** Extant FDI policy on SBRT allows 49% FDI under automatic route, & FDI beyond 49% & up to 100% through Government approval route. It has now been decided to permit 100% FDI under automatic route for SBRT.
 - Civil Aviation:** As per the extant policy, foreign airlines are allowed to invest under Government approval route in the capital of Indian companies operating scheduled & non-scheduled air transport

services, up to the limit of 49% of their paid-up capital. However, this provision was presently not applicable to Air India, thereby implying that foreign airlines could not invest in Air India. **It has now been decided to do away with this restriction & allow foreign airlines to invest up to 49% under approval route in Air India.**

- Construction Development: Townships, Housing, Built-up Infrastructure & Real Estate Broking Services:** It has been decided to clarify that **real-estate broking service** does not amount to real estate business & is therefore, **eligible for 100% FDI under automatic route**.
- Power Exchanges:** Extant policy provides for **49% FDI** under automatic route in Power Exchanges registered under the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Market) Regulations, 2010. It has now been decided to do away with this provision, thereby **allowing FIIs/FPIs to invest in Power Exchanges through primary market as well.**



All You Need to Know About New Rs10 Banknote in Mahatma Gandhi Series

- Reserve Bank of India** has announced to issue **Rs10 denomination banknotes** in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of Dr. Urjit R. Patel, Governor, RBI.
- The new denomination has **motif of Sun Temple, Konark** on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
- The **base colour of the note is Chocolate Brown**. The dimension of the banknote will be **63 mm x 123 mm**.

Obverse (Front)



Obverse (Front): See through register with denominational numeral 10, Denominational numeral 'Bharat' in Devnagari, Portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at the centre, Guarantee Clause, Governor's signature with Promise Clause & RBI emblem towards right of Mahatma Gandhi portrait, Ashoka Pillar emblem on the right, Mahatma Gandhi portrait & electrotype (10)

watermarks, & Number panel with numerals growing from small to big on the top left side & bottom right side.

Reverse (Back)



Reverse (Back): Year of printing of the note on the left, Swachh Bharat logo with slogan, Language panel, Motif of Sun Temple, Konark, & Denominational numeral in Devnagari.

ISRO' successfully launched its 42nd PSLV named PSLV-C40

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its **42nd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The **PSLV-C40** is to place **31 satellites**, originating from **seven countries, across two orbits**.
- Its primary payload was the fourth satellite in the advanced remote sensing Cartosat-2 series. The satellite's design life is five years. ISRO successfully sent up a rocket carrying **India's 100th** satellite along with 30 others.

Important Facts About the Launched Satellite-

- The 30 other satellites include two other satellites from India & 28 satellites from six countries -Canada, Finland, France, Korea, the United Kingdom & the United States.
- This was done through what scientists call the **"multiple burn technology"** under which the rocket's engine is switched off & then switched on to control its height.
- The **710-kg earth observation satellite** the PSLV is carrying the third in the **Cartosat 2 series**. The last satellite of the series had been launched successfully in June 2016.
- ISRO's workhorse PSLV rocket weighs nearly **320 tonnes & stands up to 44.4 meters**, equivalent to a 15-storey building.

And the 63rd Filmfare Awards 2018 goes to...

- Bollywood came together to celebrate the industry's talent at **63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018**, held in Mumbai. Superstar Shah Rukh Khan & filmmaker Karan Johar hosted the show.
- '**Hindi Medium**' bagged honours in the categories of Best Film & Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) for **Irrfan Khan's** impeccable performance.
- Vidya Balan** won her career's sixth Filmfare award for her passionate portrayal of a middle-aged homemaker

who turns into a radio jockey in 'Tumhari Sulu' as she claimed the Black Lady for the Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female).

Complete list of winners of 63rd Filmfare Awards 2018

Category	Winner
Best Film	'Hindi Medium'
Critics' Award for Best Film	'Newton'
Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female)	Vidya Balan for 'Tumhari Sulu'
Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male)	Irrfan Khan for 'Hindi Medium'
Critics' Award for Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Trapped'
Critics' Award for Best Actor (Female)	Zaira Wasim for 'Secret Superstar'
Best Director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
Best Debut Director	Konkona Sensharma for 'A Death in the Gunj'
Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Meher Vij for 'Secret Superstar'
Best Dialogue	Hitesh Kewalya for 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan'
Best Screenplay	Shubhashish Bhutiani for 'Mukti Bhavan'
Best Original Story	Amit Masurkar for 'Newton'
Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film	Jackie Shroff for 'Khuji'
Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film	Shefali Shah for 'Juice'
People's Choice Award for Best Short Film	'Anahut'
Best Short Film (Fiction)	'Juice'
Best Short Film (Non Fiction)	'Invisible Wings'
Best Music Album	Pritam for 'Jagga Jasoos'
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Arijit Singh for 'Roke na ruke naina' - 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania'

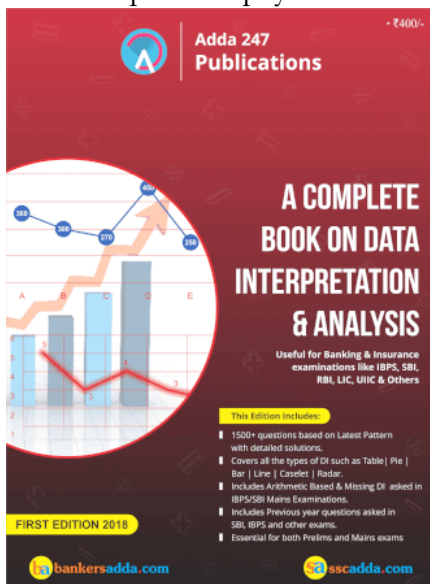
ICC Award 2017- Complete List of Winners

Australia captain Steve Smith has been crowned the International Cricket Council's Test Player of the Year for a second time, while Indian captain Virat Kohli has been honoured twice in the ICC's annual awards. It's the first time since 2011 that the winner of the Test Player of the Year Award was not also crowned the Cricketer of

the Year. Kohli was the fourth-highest run-scorer's in Tests in 2017.

The Complete list of Winners of ICC Award 2017-

1. Sir **Garfield Sobers Trophy** for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
2. ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - Steve Smith (Australia)
3. ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
4. ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
5. ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
6. ICC Men's T20I Performance of the Year - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England) (India)
7. **David Shepherd Trophy** for ICC Umpire of the Year - Marais Erasmus
8. ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)
9. ICC Fans Moment of the Year - Pakistan stuns India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.



Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

- ✚ **Axis Bank** launched the fourth edition of '**Evolve**' in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**. It is an annual multi-city knowledge series for Bank's **small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)** customers. The current edition of 'evolve' is titled as "**Transform your Family Business into your dream company**".
- ✚ Rating agency **CRISIL** revised its outlook on **18 public sector banks (PSBs)** from "**negative**" to "**stable**" after the Govt. announced bank-wise capital infusion & reform plans.
- ✚ **Paytm & Alibaba Group-owned AGTech Holdings Ltd** formed a joint venture to launch '**Gamepind**' a gaming platform aimed at mobile users in India.

AGTech Media currently holds 45% in the joint venture, & Paytm owns the rest.

- ✚ **Indian Overseas Bank** signed an MoU with **National Housing Bank** for Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHIS) of the Ministry of Rural Development. The aim of RHIS is to provide subsidy for housing loans taken by those living in rural areas for construction & modifications of their dwelling units. The interest subsidy under the scheme is 3% for a loan amount of Rs2 lakh for 20-year tenure. Indian Overseas Bank has become one of the first public sector banks to implement the scheme.
- ✚ **Reliance Industries (RIL)** become the first Indian company to cross the Rs6-lakh crore mark in market capitalization. RIL is owned 40% by its chairman Mukesh Ambani, making him the richest Indian as per Bloomberg's billionaire index.
- ✚ **Vodafone India** has partnered with e-commerce marketplace Flipkart to provide a range of entry-level smartphones at an effective price of Rs999.
- ✚ **Google** has introduced a **new app** named "**Bulletin**" that allows anybody to **submit stories for and about their communities**.
- ✚ Ministry of Finance announced that "**Payments Banks & Small Finance Banks**" will offer social security scheme **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** to their subscribers. As per the Ministry, currently, there are 11 Payments Banks & 10 Small Finance Banks that received the license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✚ Govt. has announced 88,139 crore rupees capital infusion in 20 public sector banks, PSBs, during the current fiscal ending 31st March to boost lending & revive growth. IDBI Bank will get the most- Rs10,610 crore followed by State Bank of India 8,800 crore rupees.
- ✚ India emerged as the fifth most attractive market for investments & the optimism over global economic growth is at a record level, as per the survey of CEOs by global consultancy PwC. US remains the top spot.
- ✚ **Oil & Natural Gas Corporation** got the consent for acquiring controlling stake in fellow PSU Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (**HPCL**). The transaction will be for Rs36,915 crore. As per ONGC, it has acquired 51.11% stake of HPCL.
- ✚ As per IMF, India is projected to grow at 7.4% in 2018 as against China's 6.8%, making it the fastest growing country among the emerging economies. In 2017, India's growth rate dropped to 6.7%. It has also projected a 7.8% growth rate for India in 2019.
- ✚ India contributed USD 50,000 to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals.
- ✚ World Economic Forum (WEF) ranked India at **30th** position on a **global manufacturing index** - below

China's 5th place but above other BRICS peers, Brazil, Russia & South Africa. Japan topped the Geneva-based WEF's first 'Readiness for the future of production report'.

- ✦ Digital invoice discounting marketplace - Invoicemart tied up with Bank of Baroda to discount invoices for MSMEs. Buyers & sellers registered in the marketplace will now be able to access funding from Bank of Baroda. Invoicemart is a joint venture between Axis Bank Ltd & junction services ltd. Bank of Baroda had recently announced that it was stepping up its focus on supply chain financing.
- ✦ Facebook-owned instant messaging platform WhatsApp has rolled out a feature that connects small businesses with customers.
- ✦ Amplus Energy Solutions entered into a pact with Yes Bank for strategic tie-up to co-finance projects in the solar energy space in India.
- ✦ India Ratings & Research has projected the country's economic growth to improve to 7.1 percent in 2018-19 from 6.5 percent in 2017-18.
- ✦ Mauritius was the largest source of foreign investment in India (21.8 per cent share at market value), followed by the US & the UK, according to a census by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✦ Banking finance company **AU Small Finance Bank** has signed an MoU with LIC to offer **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**. Under the MoU, LIC will give a life cover of Rs2 lakh in case of death to the customer at a nominal premium of Rs330 per annum.
- ✦ Indian Oil Corporation signed Letters of Intent (LoI) with Phinergy, an Israeli start-up company, & YEDA, a technology spin-off company from Israel. The agreement with Phinergy will allow Indian Oil to work on adoption of advanced energy systems for the Indian market both for mobility & stationary industrial applications.
- ✦ India's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed an over GBP 500 million (USD 690 million) deal with M&G Prudential, the UK & European savings & investments business of Prudential plc.
- ✦ India's most-valued lender HDFC Bank Ltd crossed Rs.5 trillion market capitalisation for the first time, making it only the third Indian company to achieve this milestone.
- ✦ **Retail inflation crossed the RBI's comfort level & rose to 5.21 percent in December** on rise in prices of food items, egg & vegetables, dashing hopes of interest rate cut in the near future.
- ✦ **Federal Bank** entered into a strategic partnership with **Hedge Equities Ltd** for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.
- ✦ **IDFC Bank & Capital First** approved merger of **Capital First with IDFC Bank.**

- ✦ **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)'s India International Exchange** listed the first bond on its **Global Securities Market**. The bonds issued by **Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC)** are one of the highest credit rated bonds issued by an Indian corporate & has been IRFC's first foray into the **Green Bond market**.
- ✦ **India emerged as a top borrower from AIIB with USD 1.5 billion** worth of loans last year & USD three billion more in the pipeline. **Indonesia has emerged as the second largest borrower** with about USD 600 million loans.
- ✦ **IndusInd Bank & Dynamics Inc.** at 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) announced plans to introduce the **first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.**
- ✦ **Paytm set up a new entity called Paytm Money Ltd** that will offer investment & wealth management products & will invest close to \$10 million upfront in the new entity. Paytm Money is the fourth product from One97's stable after **Paytm Mall, Paytm Payments Bank & Paytm wallet.**
- ✦ **Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe** partnered with **FreeCharge** to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- ✦ **Punjab National Bank & National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)** have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).
- ✦ **World Bank** projected **India's growth rate at 7.3 percent in 2018 & 7.5 for the next two years.** India's economy is estimated to have grown at 6.7 percent in 2017.



- ✦ The provisional figures of **Direct Tax collections** up to December 2017 show that **net collections are at Rs. 6.56 lakh crore which is 18.2% higher** than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year. The net Direct Tax collections represent 67% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for Financial Year 2017-18 (Rs. 9.8 lakh crore).
- ✦ **Gujarat** has topped the **logistics index chart**, according to a Report released by Union

Minister for **Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu** in New Delhi. **Gujarat** is followed by **Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Maharashtra**. Among the UT's, **Daman & Diu** occupied the top slot. From the hilly states, **Tripura** was on top.

✦ As per the **HSBC report**, India's growth rate is expected to accelerate at around **6.5 percent** in 2017-18 & is likely to improve further to **7.6 percent** by 2019-20.

✦ Customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments through debit card, BHIM app & other payment made for up to **Rs 2,000**.

✦ **HDFC Bank** has announced a partnership with **Rajasthan Govt.** to promote & nurture startups in the state.

✦ **State Bank of India & NABARD** have signed an agreement with five **NGOs in Bengal** for the promotion of 2,500 **joint liability groups (JLGs)** in select districts of the State. JLGs are informal groups of **4-10 members** engaged in similar economic activities & willing to jointly undertake the responsibility to repay loans taken by the group from a bank.

✓ As per Finance Ministry, **RBI Bonds Scheme** has not been closed but the **interest rate on such papers lowered to 7.75%**. The 8 percent Savings Bonds Scheme, also known as RBI Bonds Scheme, is not being closed but is being replaced by **7.75% Savings Bonds Scheme**.

✦ **Reserve Bank of India** has initiated 'prompt corrective action' (PCA) against **Allahabad Bank** over its high bad loans. There are total **11 banks** on which RBI has initiated PCA till date.

✦ **NABARD** sanctioned **Rs 372.51 crore** loan assistance under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** to **Odisha** towards irrigation & rural bridge projects for the last quarter of this fiscal.

✦ **Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)** operationalised its first desktop ATM in **Telangana**. The mini-ATM within the branch premises will facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts. With these ATMs, there will be no need for separate ATM rooms, so there is no security issue.

✦ **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) & India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** signed an agreement for the training of employees of the latter in the area of **payment banking**.

✦ **Indian economy** will expand by **6.5% in 2017-18**, as per the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**. The economy had grown by **6.3%** in the September quarter. The Indian economy grew at **7.1%** in 2016-17.

✦ **Reserve Bank of India** will shortly issue **Rs10 denomination banknotes** in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has the motif of **Sun Temple, Konark** on the reverse. The base

colour of the note is **Chocolate Brown**. The dimension of the banknote will be **63 mm x 123 mm**.

✦ **Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd (TIHCL)**, a State Govt. initiative, has got **RBI clearance** to register & function as a **non-banking finance company (NBFC)**. It will be the first State promoted & co-financing NBFC.

✦ **Paytm Payments Bank** has partnered **IndusInd Bank** to introduce a facility to create a **fixed deposit (FD)** when the customer balance exceeds **Rs. 1 lakh at the end of the day**.

Static Awareness Related to Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

✦ Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group- Jack Yun MA, Headquarters- Hangzhou, China.

✦ Axis Bank CEO and MD- Shikha Sharma, Head Office- Mumbai.

✦ Google CEO- Sundar Pichai, Parent organization- Alphabet Inc., Headquarters- The USA.

✦ Paytm Founder- Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Headquarters- Noida.

✦ MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank- R Subramaniakumar, Headquarters- Chennai.

✦ MD & CEO of the National Housing Bank- Sriram Kalyanaraman, Headquarters- New Delhi.

✦ **HDFC Bank** is the first lender to cross **Rs5-lakh crore** mark in market capitalisation.

✦ **Ashu Suyash** is the MD & CEO of **CRISIL**. Gurpreet Chhatwal President of **CRISIL**. It Headquarters in Mumbai.

✦ **CRISIL**- Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited.

✦ **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**: It was launched by PM Modi in **2015**. It is the first ever guaranteed pension product, open to all citizens between the ages of 18 & 40 years. It provides a minimum guaranteed pension of **Rs1,000 to Rs5,000 per month**, after the age of 60 years, depending on the monthly contribution made by a subscriber.

✦ Managing Director of IMF- Christine Lagarde, Headquarters in- Washington DC, USA.

✦ Chairman & Managing Director of **ONGC**- **Shashi Shanker**, Headquarters- Uttarakhand.

✦ Chairman & Managing Director **HPCL**- M.K.Surana, Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra.

✦ Headquarters of UN- New York

✦ The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of **193 Member States**.

✦ **WEF** was established in **1971**. President of the World Economic Forum- **Borge Brende**.

✦ Chairman & MD of Capital First- V Vaidyanathan
✦ Headquarters of IDFC Bank- Mumbai | Founder, MD & CEO of IDFC Bank- Rajiv Lall

- ✦ Indian Railways Finance Corporation: IRFC is a finance arm of the Indian Railway. **S K Pattanayak** is Managing Director of IRFC. IRFC was set up on 12th December 1986.
- ✦ Invoicemart CEO & MD- Kalyan Basu.
- ✦ Bank of Baroda Chairman- Ravi Venkatesan, Managing Director & CEO- P.S.Jayakumar.
- ✦ **TReDS** stands for Trade Receivables Discounting System.
- ✦ HDFC Bank- India's largest private bank by market capitalization | HDFC Bank Chairman- Aditya Puri.
- ✦ India Ratings is a subsidiary of **Fitch Ratings**. **Brett Hemsley** is Global Analytical Head for Fitch Ratings.
- ✦ YES Bank MD & Chief Executive- Rana Kapoor, Headquarters- Mumbai.
- ✦ Mauritius Capital- Port Louis, Currency- Mauritian rupee.
- ✦ MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank- Sanjay Agarwal, Headquarters- Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✦ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank | AIIB Headquarter- Beijing, China, Commenced operations in- January 2016.
- ✦ AIIB President- **Mr Jin Lique**.
- ✦ IndusInd Bank Chairman- R. Seshasayee, Headquarter- Mumbai, Owner- Hinduja Group.
- ✦ Paytm is run by One97 Communications Ltd. Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder of One97 Communications.
- ✦ Phone Pe Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- **Sameer Nigam**.
- ✦ CEO of Freecharge- Sangram Singh, Owner- Axis bank.
- ✦ PNB Chairman- **Sunil Mehta**, Headquarters- New Delhi.
- ✦ World Bank's Prospects Group Director- Ayhan Kose.
- ✦ Jim Yong Kim is the **12th** President of the World Bank Group.
- ✦ World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC, USA.
- ✦ HSBC Headquarters in London, United Kingdom. | Present CEO of HSBC- **Stuart Gulliver**.
- ✦ HDFC Bank- India's largest private bank by market capitalization | HDFC Bank Chairman- Aditya Puri.
- ✦ NABARD-National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development. NABARD Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Headquarters- Mumbai.
- ✦ Allahabad Bank MD & CEO- Usha Ananthasubramanian, Headquarters- Kolkata.
- ✦ NABARD- National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development. NABARD was established on 12 July 1982.
- ✦ Headquarters- Mumbai, Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.
- ✦ Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank Chairman- **Narasi Reddy**.

- ✦ MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank- **Suresh Sethi**. | DG & CEO of IICA- **Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh**.
- ✦ TIHCL's Advisor & Director- B Yerram Raju
- ✦ Paytm Payments Bank MD & CEO- **Renu Satti**.
- ✦ IndusInd Bank Chairman- R. Seshasayee, Headquarter- Mumbai, Owner- Hinduja Group.

Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

- ✦ Environment Minister Harshvardhan launched a **2.8 PetaFlop capacity high-performance computer system 'Mihir'** in Noida. The system will help the department in predicting severe **climate-related calamities and warnings for fishermen**.
- ✦ CM of Himachal Pradesh, **Jai Ram Thakur** launched the **'Shakti' app** for women's safety in the state. It is developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of HP govt. The main objective is to fight crimes against women in the state.
- ✦ Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD), Mr Rakesh Srivastava launched the Phase -1 i.e. the beneficiary module of Rapid Reporting System (RSS) for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) on the occasion of **National Girl Child Day** which was observed on **24th January**. It is a web-based online monitoring for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls in New Delhi.
- ✦ **Punjab CM Amarinder Singh** launched the release of benefits under **'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana'** (MGSVY) aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.
- ✦ **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**, announced the **'Cyber Surakshit Bharat'** initiative in association with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** & industry partners. It is the first public-private partnership of its kind & will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cybersecurity.
- ✦ **Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav)** is an annual flagship event of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** under the aegis of **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**. It focuses the active involvement of the Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Govt.s, for creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people-centric activities.
- ✦ Centre sanctioned projects over 10,000 crore rupees in the North East for better network connectivity. 2 MoUs have been signed to cover the uncovered areas in the North East including Assam & Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✦ **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik** launched the **'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana' (MMKS)** - an assistance scheme for Artists in the state. Around **50,000 artists** will be benefited from this. The Govt. has decided to give Rs 1,200 per month as artist assistance. Under the new scheme, a male artist can avail

assistance after attaining the age of 50 years instead of the existing 60 years. The age criteria for female artists have been reduced to **40 years from 50 years.**

✚ Union Housing & Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the list of nine new Smart Cities, which have emerged winners in Round 4. These nine cities are, Silvassa in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Erode in Tamil Nadu, Diu in Daman & Diu, Bihar Sharif in Bihar, Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh & Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.

✚ Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched the National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal in Delhi. This initiative is a significant step towards driving accountability & transparency for corporate India. The portals' easy accessibility to the general public will ensure a high level of compliance & will also help in institutionalising & consolidating the CSR activities.

✚ Ministry of Railways launched **Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App** for Freight Managers which provides features for monitoring & managing freight business using **Geographic Information System (GIS) Views & Dashboard**. It will help them plan the traffic flows & optimize freight operations.

Salient features of SFOORTI Application

- With this application, movement of freight trains on **Geographic Information System (GIS)** view can be tracked.
- Both **passenger & freight trains can be tracked** over Zones/Divisions/ Sections in single GIS View.
- Comparative Analysis of Zonal/Divisional Traffic.
- This app provides a Bird's eye view of all Freight Assets in a single window.

✚ Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's fastest & first multi-petaflops supercomputer named **'Pratyush'** to the nation in Pune. It is established at the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune**. It will be a national facility for improving **weather & climate forecasts & services** under the umbrella of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

✚ What is the 'Electoral Bonds' Scheme?

- Centre unveiled the 'Electoral Bonds' scheme, which seeks to ensure the flow of clean money to political parties, without revealing the donors' names.
- As per Jaitley, the electoral bonds will be a bearer instrument in the nature of a **Promissory Note & an interest-free banking instrument**.
- A citizen of India or a body incorporated in India will be eligible to purchase the bond from specified branches of the State Bank of India.

d) The bonds can be purchased for any value in multiples of **Rs1,000; Rs10,000; Rs1 lakh; Rs10 lakh; & Rs1 crore.**

✚ The **Namami Gange Projects Worth Rs. 295 crores** approved by NMCG i.e. **National Mission for Clean Ganga**. Three projects pertain to sewage management in **West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs 278.6 crore**, one relates to sewage management in **Uttarakhand at an estimated cost of Rs 4.68 crore** & one project worth **Rs 11.73 crore** is related to **ghat improvement works in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**

✚ **Haryana become the first state** in the country to launch **High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal**. This portal not only helps in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases up to the grass-roots level but also ensures their timely referral to the civil hospitals for further management & delivery by specialists.

✚ **Women & Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi** inaugurated an online portal **NARI** in New Delhi for the empowerment of women. It stands for **National Repository of Information for Women**. The portal will provide women with easy access to information on Govt. schemes & initiatives for women. The portal summarises over **350 Govt. schemes** & other important information.

✚ **Assamese & Manipuri language** versions of PM's Official website- www.pmindia.gov.in were launched. Now the PM INDIA website is available in **11 regional languages.**



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Static Awareness Related to Schemes & Portals Launched recently

- ✚ SAG aims at empowering out of school adolescent girls of 11 to 14 years by improving their nutritional & health status, upgrading their skills. | Minister of Women & Child Development- Maneka Gandhi.
- ✚ Himachal Pradesh Governor- Acharya Dev Vrat.
- ✚ SC Jamir is the present Governor of Odisha.
- ✚ John Mathai was the first Railway Minister of Independent India.
- ✚ Piyush Goyal is the present Railway Minister of India.

- ✦ Water Resources & Ganga Rejuvenation Minister- Nitin Gadkari.
- ✦ Drinking Water & Sanitation Minister- Uma Bharti.
- ✦ Haryana CM- Manohar Lal Khattar, Governor- Kaptan Singh Solanki.

National & State Related Current Affairs

- ✦ Marking the 69th Republic Day celebrations, **Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) & New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** have launched the first ever **'Khadi Haat'** in the country.
- ✦ On the eve of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to celebrate 25 years of India-ASEAN partnership, PM Narendra Modi had separate bilateral meetings with leaders of three ASEAN nations - Myanmar, Vietnam & Philippines in New Delhi. PM first met his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc & held talks with on issues of mutual interest. Next, he met the Philipino President Rodrigo Duterte & covered a wide range of subjects. Myanmar's State Councillor Aung San Suu Kyi also met the PM later in the evening.
- ✦ The Country celebrated its 69th Republic Day on 26th January in Rajpath, New Delhi to be resplendently displaying the country's pride & glory. Heads of ten ASEAN countries are chief guests at Republic Day. The family members of Corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala (Posthumous) of the Indian Air Force (IAF), who died fighting militants in Kashmir valley, received India's highest peacetime gallantry award, Ashok Chakra.
- ✦ Kolkata has become the first Indian Metro to get a Floating Market. The market will be located on a water-body with boats doubling up as shops.
- ✦ India & Vietnam released first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to mark the long-term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries.
- ✦ **PM Modi left for Davos, Switzerland to attend the 48th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum.** He will lead the largest-ever Indian delegation comprising Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu among others. The theme of the meet is 'Creating a shared future in a fractured world'.
- ✦ **The first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) of Puducherry** was inaugurated by Smt. **Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs at Karaikal.** The POPSK at Karaikal is the 60th POPSK to have become functional since the launch of the scheme in January 2017. It is the first POPSK to become operational in the UT of Puducherry.
- ✦ India-ASEAN business & investment conference held in New Delhi ahead of the landmark commemorative summit meeting on the 25th of January.
- ✦ Andhra Pradesh Govt. & the Canton of Zurich signed a letter of intent, to promote mutual prosperity & development.
- ✦ Minister of State (IC), for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone for Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur, Rajasthan. This will be the third CRI under the aegis of Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH).
- ✦ India & Israel signed nine documents to further the cooperation. It includes cooperation in; Cybersecurity, Petroleum & natural gas, film co-production, homoeopathy medicines, space science, boosting investment, metal-air batteries & solar thermal technology & document for the amendment to the air transport agreement.
- ✦ Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore during the launch of the official anthem & mascot of Khelo India School Games announced that, "Now when an athlete wins a medal at Commonwealth Games, Asian Games & Olympics, the coach gets incentive.
- ✦ The **'I4Fund Call for Proposal'** was announced with the joint launch of the website & the unveiling of brochure by the two PMs (Narendra Modi & Benjamin Netanyahu). The **'India-Israel Industrial R&D & Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)'** was announced in July, 2017. Under this, Department of Science & Technology, India & National Innovation Authority of Israel established a 40 million US dollar Fund.
- ✦ Bangladesh, India & Nepal given nod to operating procedures for movement of passenger vehicles in the sub-region under Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) motor vehicles agreement. For seamless flow of passenger & cargo traffic in the region, BBIN motor vehicles agreement (MVA) was signed by BBIN countries in Thimphu, Bhutan (2015).
- ✦ Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu visited Mumbai during the final leg of his visit to India. He addressed the India-Israel Business Summit & attended the **'Shalom Bollywood'**. A monthly magazine titled **'Namaste Shalom'** also launched to mark Israeli PM Netanyahu's Mumbai visit.
- ✦ PM Modi & PM Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the **'iCreate Centre'** at **Deo Dholera in Ahmedabad.** iCreate paves way for the two nations to jointly script new stories of success through innovation.
- ✦ Election Commission of India announced dates for elections to the Assemblies of Meghalaya, Tripura & Nagaland. The CEC announced the polling for legislative assembly elections in Tripura on 18 February, while Meghalaya & Nagaland will go to vote on 27 February. All the three states have 60 seats each in their assembly.
- ✦ **Maharashtra** become the first state in the country that has come out with a **public cloud policy**, virtually mandating its departments to shift their data storage onto the cloud.

- As per the Power Minister RK Singh, India will set up a \$350-million fund to finance solar projects as the country steps up efforts to achieve its ambitious target of adding 175 gigawatts (GW) in renewable energy by 2022.
- India has joined the Australia Group export control regime & has become the 43rd Member of that Group. It is an informal forum which seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced a concept of 'Virtual ID' to further strengthen privacy & security of Aadhaar number holders. The Aadhaar number holder can use 'Virtual ID' in place of an Aadhaar number whenever authentication or KYC services are performed.
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched a common card for rides on public buses & the metro. Delhi is the first city in the country to have a common mobility card.
- Cabinet approved agreement between India & Myanmar on Land Border Crossing. This will facilitate movement of people on the basis of valid passports & visas which will enhance economic & social interaction between the two countries.
- India excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of-the-art National Knowledge Network (NKN) for sharing scientific databases & remote access to advanced research facilities. NKN is a multi-gigabit pan-India network which facilitates the development of India's communications infrastructure, stimulates research & creates next-generation applications & services.
- PM Modi inaugurated the project commencement of Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra in Barmer district. This is the first oil refinery in the state. The 43,000 crore rupee project is a joint venture between HPCL & the Rajasthan Govt..
- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee unveiled the official emblem which highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of "Biswa Bangla" at the centre.
- Arunachal Pradesh declared open defecation free ahead of the national deadline of October 2, 2019. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, & Haryana were declared open defecation free states in October 2017.
- As per the Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Saudi Arabia has given the green signal for India's decision to revive the option of sending Haj pilgrims through sea route also. For the first time, Muslim women from India will go to Haj without "Mehram" (male companion).
- Minister of State (I/C) of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh announced

- that Arunachal Pradesh would get its first Film & Television Institute, being set up by the Union Govt.. This would be the second one after Pune.
- The citizen of Assam witnessed the release of the first draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) containing the first batch of 19 million names of genuine Indian citizens in compliance with the Supreme Court's orders. Registrar General of India Sailesh released the document. Assam is the only state in the state that has an NRC.

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Static Awareness Related to National & State Related Current Affairs

- KVIC Chairman- V K Saxena. NDMC Chairman- Naresh Kumar.
- Myanmar Capital- Naypyidaw | Vietnam Capital- Hanoi | Philippines Capital- Manila.
- Vietnam Currency- Vietnamese dong.
- AYUSH- Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy.
- Andhra Pradesh Governor- ESL Narasimhan.
- Zurich is the capital of Canton of Zurich
- ASEAN Secretariat- Jakarta, Indonesia | Secretary-General of ASEAN 2018 -2022 is H.E. Lim Jock Hoi.
- PM of Israel- Benjamin Netanyahu | President of Israel- Reuven Rivlin. Israeli Shekel is the currency of Israel.
- The founder & Chairman of WEF- Klaus Schwab.
- Ravi Shankar Prasad is the present Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology.
- Puducherry CM- V. Narayanasamy, Governor- Kiran Bedi
- Telangana CM- K Chandrasekhar Rao, Governor- ESL Narasimhan.
- Tokyo is the capital city of Japan.
- Chhattisgarh CM- Raman Singh, Governor- Balramji Dass Tandon.
- Govt. of India has approved Rs 1,756 crore for a period of three years for the revamping of 'Khelo India'.
- Constituency of Rajyavardhan Rathore- Jaipur (Rural), Rajasthan.
- 1st Chief Election Commissioner of Independent India- Sukumar Sen.

- ✦ **UIDAI** Chief Executive Officer(CEO)- **Ajay Bhushan** Pandey, Headquarters- New Delhi.
- ✦ Transport Minister of Delhi- Kailash Gahlot | Lieutenant Governor of Delhi- Anil Baijal.
- ✦ Myanmar State Counsellor- Aung San Suu Kyi, Capital- Naypyidaw.
- ✦ SAARC- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. SAARC Secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ✦ Arunachal Pradesh CM- Pema Khandu, Governor- Brigadier BD Mishra.
- ✦ Saudi Arabia Capital- Riyadh, Currency- Saudi riyal.
- ✦ FTII Pune Established in - 1960, Current Chairman - Anupam Kher.
- ✦ Governor of Rajasthan- Kalyan Singh.
- ✦ Chairman of Indian Oil- Sanjiv Singh.

New Appointments (National & International)

- ✦ **Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen** has been elected as the **Vice Chairman of the US-India Strategic & Partnership Forum**.
- ✦ ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) director S Somanath has taken charge as the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). He has replaced K Sivan who has joined ISRO as Chairman.
- ✦ Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD & CEO, Allahabad Bank, has been elected the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association. IBA Chairman's position fell vacant following the superannuation of Jatinder Bir Singh. Rajnish Kumar, Chairman, State Bank of India, was elected Deputy Chairman of IBA for the year 2017-18.
- ✦ Industry Chamber Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has appointed Dilip Chenoy as its Director General.
- ✦ **Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat** was appointed as the **next chief election commissioner (CEC)** of India. Mr Rawat is the **22nd** CEC of India. He succeeded **Achal Kumar Joti**. **Ashok Lawasa** was appointed as an Election Commissioner. **Sunil Arora** is the other Election Commissioner.
- ✦ **Former Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel** has been named as the **new governor of Madhya Pradesh**. She will replace Gujarat governor Om Prakash Kohli.
- ✦ Senior IPS officer **Sudeep Lakhtakia** has been appointed as the **new Director General (DG)** of the 'black cats' commando force NSG. He will take over from incumbent **S P Singh**.
- ✦ Market regulator SEBI approved the appointment of **Vijay Kumar as MD & CEO** of country's largest agri-commodity bourse **NCDEX**.
- ✦ Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, took over as Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command from Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh.

- ✦ Facebook appointed outgoing **American Express CEO Kenneth Chenault** to its board, making him the first African-American to be on the board.
- ✦ The Govt. appointed senior IAS officer **S Selvakumar** as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL). He has replaced Anurag Agarwal.
- ✦ **Senior sports administrator Anil Khanna** was named **Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association**.
- ✦ Supreme Court collegium recommended the name of **senior advocate Indu Malhotra as the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of India**. She will be the **seventh woman judge since independence** to make it to the SC. At present, Justice R Banumathi is the lone woman judge in the apex court.
- ✦ **V J Mathew** was appointed **Maritime Board Chairman**.
- ✦ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed **Harjinder Singh** as the **Chef De Mission** for the **23rd Winter Olympic Games** to be held in **Pyeongchang, South Korea** in February 2018. Harjinder Singh is at present the General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.
- ✦ **Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**. He succeeded **Paul Polman**.
- ✦ **Noted rocket scientist Sivan K** was appointed as the **9th chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. He has replaced **A.S. Kiran Kumar**.
- ✦ **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has appointed **Dilip Asbe** as **Managing Director & CEO** of the organisation. He had come in place of **AP Hota**.
- ✦ **Music composer A R Rahman** became the **brand ambassador of Sikkim**. The declaration was made by Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling.
- ✦ **Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale** has been appointed the **foreign secretary of India**. He has succeeded **S Jaishankar**.
- ✦ **Pankaj Jain**, Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS), has assumed charge as the **Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)**.
- ✦ **Rajinder Khanna** was appointed the **deputy National Security Adviser (NSA)**.
- ✦ **National vice-president of the BJP, Vinay Sahasrabudhe**, who is also the member of Rajya Sabha has been appointed the **President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations**. He will replace **Lokesh Chandra**.

Static Awareness Related to New Appointments

- ✦ VSSC had a small beginning in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on the south-west coast of India, in 1962.
- ✦ Sanjaya Baru is the Secretary General of FICCI.
- ✦ Facebook CEO- Mark Zuckerberg.
- ✦ The four mints operationalized in India are located in Kolkata, Noida, Hyderabad, & Mumbai.
- ✦ The first woman to be appointed as a judge of the apex court since independence was Justice M Fathima Beevi in 1989.
- ✦ IOA President- Narinder Dhruv Batra.
- ✦ WBCSD CEO & President- Peter Bakker.
- ✦ ISRO was established in 1969. Founder & 1st Chairman of ISRO- **Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, Headquarters in- Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- ✦ NPCI is an umbrella organisation for retail payment systems in India. NPCI's Registered Office is in Mumbai.
- ✦ Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira.
- ✦ Capital of Switzerland is Bern.
- ✦ Meghalaya CM- Mukul Sangma, Governor- Ganga Prasad.
- ✦ Sikkim Governor- Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil.
- ✦ National Security Council is headed by the PM. It is the apex body on all internal & external security-related matters.
- ✦ Riva Ganguly Das is the Director General of ICCR.

Sports

- ✦ Melbourne Cricket Ground will host the final of both the men's and women's World Twenty20 when the tournaments come to Australia in 2020.
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first Khelo India School Games at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- ✦ Sharath Kamal defeated Anthony Amalraj to win the men singles title for the eighth time, equalling the feat of Kamlesh Mehta in the 79th edition of 11Even Sports Senior Nationals in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Suthirta Mukherjee from West Bengal emerged the new women champion, beating Hyderabad Nationals winner Manika Batra.
- ✦ **Sandeep Lamichhane** became the first **cricketer** from **Nepal** to land a deal an IPL contract. He was picked by Delhi Daredevils in the player's auction.
- ✦ The world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan has defeated Saina Nehwal in the finals of the Indonesia Masters in Jakarta.
- ✦ Lifter Rakhi Halder created a new national record in clean & jerk to a gold medal in the 63kg women's category in the 33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships, in Mangaluru, Karnataka.

- ✦ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced, the 2018 edition of the Women's World T20 will be hosted by West Indies in November 2018.
- ✦ Young Indian shuttler Siddharth Pratap Singh secured his maiden international title, bagging the Swedish Open Junior International Series by defeating Denmark's Mads Christophersen in the finals in Uppsala in Sweden.
- ✦ Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho has formally confirmed his retirement from football, more than two years since his last appearance as a professional player in Brazil.
- ✦ North & South Korea have agreed to march together under a single unified Korea flag at Winter Olympics in the South. The Games will take place in February 2018 in Pyeongchang in South Korea.
- ✦ **India beat Pakistan by two wickets to win the Blind Cricket World Cup 2018** for the second time. **Sunil Ramesh was declared the man of the match.**
- ✦ **Professional player Aditya Mehta won Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship.** He defeated **Englishman Professional Player Alfie Burden.**
- ✦ **Aanchal Thakur** made history as she won **India's first ever international medal in skiing.** She clinched **bronze in the coveted Alpine Eder 3200 Cup.** It was organised by the **Federation Internationale de Ski (skiing's international governing body)** in Erzurum, Turkey.
- ✦ **Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million).** With this, transfer of Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History.
- ✦ **Indian golfer Shiv Kapur** won the **Royal Cup at Pattaya**, which is his third Asian Tour title of 2017.
- ✦ **Gilles Simon of France** lifted the **inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy.**
- ✦ **Switzerland won their third Hopman Cup** as **Roger Federer & Belinda Bencic** beat Germany's **Alexander Zverev & Angelique Kerber** in the finals.
- ✦ **Elina Svitolina** secured her first WTA title in Australia with a straight-sets victory in the **Brisbane International final.**
- ✦ **G Sathiyan** become **India's highest-ranked player** in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. He surpasses his compatriot the legendary Sharath Kamal. The current ranking of Sathiyan is 49.
- ✦ **Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract** with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.
- ✦ **Vidarbha** created history by winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history with a thumping nine-wicket win over Delhi at the Holkar stadium in Indore. Rajneesh Gurbani was declared player of the Match.

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International Current Affairs

- ✦ Romania's left-wing PM Mihai Tudose resigned after losing the backing of his party due to internal power struggles.
- ✦ India & Sri Lanka signed four agreements for collaboration in the Information & communication technology (ICT) sector, setting up of an e-office system & connecting of National Knowledge Network (NKN) for collaboration among universities & academics. With the move, Sri Lanka become the first country to be connected to India's NKN through a Gigabyte optical fibre network.
- ✦ India, for the first time, took part in a two-day meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Beijing, China.
- ✦ Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.
- ✦ India signed an MoU with the United Kingdom to enable the return of illegal Indian migrants within a month of their detection by authorities abroad.
- ✦ China became Nepal's second internet service provider, breaking India's monopoly in providing internet access to Nepal.
- ✦ UN Environment & the World Health Organization agreed a new, wide-ranging collaboration to accelerate action to curb environmental health risks that cause an estimated 12.6 million deaths a year.
- ✦ World's largest Ice Festival 'International Ice & Snow Festival' was held in Harbin, China. It is the 34th annual Ice Festival in Harbin, north-east China.
- ✦ Nepal has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in a bid to reduce accidents.
- ✦ Israel filed notice to withdraw from the UNESCO alongside the United States. Israel was the member of UNESCO since 1949. Both Israel & the US have filed its own withdrawal notice in October 2017.
- ✦ Saudi Arabia & the United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced value-added tax (VAT). These are the first two countries in the Gulf which have

introduced the VAT system. The 5% levy is being applied to the majority of goods & services.

- ✦ Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland & the Netherlands formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to make a difference. The five permanent seats who have the power to veto resolutions - Britain, China, France, Russia & the United States.
- ✦ The unusual & very efficient whistle language commonly called "bird language" used as a means of communication by villagers in remote northern Turkey entered the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- ✦ Pakistan allowed Chinese currency Yuan for exports & financing transactions.
- ✦ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the fifth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Commission with her Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi.
- ✦ Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 kicked off at Kathmandu, the capital Nepal. President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari inaugurated the exhibition.
- ✦ Iceland become the first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men & women. Under the new rules, companies & Govt. agencies employing at least 25 people will have to obtain Govt. certification of their equal-pay policies.

Static Awareness Related to International Current Affairs

- ✦ Valletta is the smallest capital in the European Union. It is located in a fortress & is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ✦ Capital of Romania- Bucharest. Romanian leu is the currency of Romania. President of Romania- Klaus Iohannis.
- ✦ Sri Lankan PM- Ranil Wickremesinghe, President- Maithripala Sirisena. Currency of Sri Lanka- Sri Lankan rupee.
- ✦ SCO comprises of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan. India & Pakistan were admitted in 2017 into the grouping in which China plays an influential role.
- ✦ Abu Dhabi is the capital city of the UAE. Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is the President of the UAE.
- ✦ South Korea President- Moon Jae-in, North Korea Supreme Leader- Kim Jong-un.
- ✦ UK PM- Theresa May, Capital- London.
- ✦ Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, PM- Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- ✦ China Capital- Beijing, President- Xi Jinping. China's Hong Kong Data Center is one of Asia's largest global data centres.
- ✦ Avtar Singh Cheema was the first Indian to climb Mount Everest successfully.

- ✦ Mount Everest is the tallest Mountain (by Elevation) in the world.
- ✦ UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization. France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.
- ✦ UAE Capital- Abu Dhabi, Currency- Dirham.
- ✦ Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira, President- Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
- ✦ Pakistan Capital- Islamabad, Currency- Pakistani rupee.
- ✦ Chinese Capital- Beijing, President- Xi Jinping.
- ✦ Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah, President- Joko Widodo.
- ✦ Iceland Capital- Reykjavik, President- Guoni Th. Johannsson.
- ✦ Australia Capital- Canberra, Currency- Australian dollar.

Defence Current Affairs

- ✦ Indian Navy launched 'INS Karanj', the third of the six indigenous Scorpene-class submarines. The submarine, equipped with superior stealth features and precision-guided weapons, has been built at Mumbai's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited. The submarine has an overall length of 67.5 meters and a height of about 12.3 metres.
- ✦ **Armies of India & Vietnam** have begun a **six-day-long military exercise in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh**. The exercise named **'VINBAX'** is the first military exercise between the two countries.
- ✦ India test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-V inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM), which has a strike range of over 5,000km. It was test fired successfully from Abdul Kalam island off the coast of the eastern state of Odisha.
- ✦ Indian Naval Ship Vikramaditya, the Indian Navy's largest ship & its sole aircraft carrier was formally affiliated to the Indian Army's highly-decorated & battle-hardened Bihar Regiment & the Indian Air Force's No 6 Squadron.
- ✦ **American & Japanese military forces launched joint exercise named Iron Fist**. 13th annual Iron Fist exercises kicked off in the U.S. western state of California.
- ✦ **Defence Ministry cleared contracts worth 2,420 crore rupees for Navy & Army** which includes the procurement of **P-8I Training Solution & Low-Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS)**.
- ✦ **Indian Navy has inked an MoU with the Cochin Port Trust (CPT), Kerala** towards leasing of 228 metres of berths at Mattancherry Wharf for a period of five years. This is the first time such an agreement has been signed between the Navy & CPT.

Static Awareness related to Defence

- Cochin Port Trust Chairman- P.Raveendran.**
- Admiral Sunil Lanba** is the present Chairman of Indian Navy.
- Vietnam Capital- Hanoi, Currency- Vietnamese dong.**

Ranks/ Indexes Released

- ✦ India has overtaken the US to become the world's third-largest steel producer and the country is now looking to bag the second spot from Japan. Mr Birender Singh is Union Minister of Steel of India.
- ✦ India has been ranked sixth in the list of wealthiest countries with the total wealth of 8,230 billion US dollars. The list was topped by the United States of America, according to a report by New World Wealth.
- ✦ **India is ranked second only to South Africa as the cheapest country to live or retire**, as per the survey of 112 countries by **GoBankingRates**. The **top three most expensive countries** in the survey are **Bermuda (ranked 112), Bahamas (111), & Hong Kong (110)**.
- ✦ **India ranked at the 62nd place** among emerging economies on an **Inclusive Development Index of World Economic Forum (WEF)**. In the report, China is on 26th position & Pakistan is on 47th. **Norway remains the world's most inclusive advanced economy, while Lithuania again tops the list of emerging economies**, according to the report.
- ✦ India ranks 177 among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018, according to a biennial report by Yale & Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum. Switzerland leads the list, followed by France, Denmark & Malta.
- ✦ India has moved up on a global index of talent competitiveness to the 81st position in the report that was released in the first day the 48th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Switzerland has topped the list. Among the countries, Switzerland is followed by Singapore & the US.
- ✦ **India's domestic air passenger traffic grew by 16.4% in November 2017**, topping the growth chart worldwide, according to the global aviation body, the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**. The available seat kilometres (ASKs) for India was at 10.4%, second only to China where capacity grew by 12.9 percent, as per IATA's monthly data.
- ✦ **Jeff Bezos, founder & CEO of Amazon** has become the richest man in the history, overtaking the wealth Bill Gates ever had to his name, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ✦ **Karnataka topped all states with investment intentions of Rs. 1.49 lakh crore** till October 2017, as per R V Deshpande, Karnataka Minister for Large, Medium Industries & Infrastructure Development.

- ✦ The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway (CR) found its way into the **Limca Book of Records** for having an all-woman staff. **Matunga** station is situated in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- ✦ The world's biggest cleanliness survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan Survey 2018' was launched in India by PM Narendra Modi. It will be conducted from the 4th of January to 10th of March. The main objective of Swachh Sarvekshan is to encourage large-scale citizen participation & create awareness towards making towns & cities a cleaner & better place to live in.
- ✦ **India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education registered an increase from **24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.2% in 2016-17**, as per the All India Higher Education Survey (AIHES) launched by **Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar**. As per AIHES of 2016-17, **Tamil Nadu has the highest GER in the country at 46.9%**. Bihar has the least GER of 14.9%.

Static Awareness Related to Rank & Reports

Capital of Switzerland- Bern, Currency- Swiss franc.
The founder & Chairman of WEF- Klaus Schwab.
IATA's Director General & CEO- Alexandre de Juniac, Headquarters- Montreal, Canada.
Karnataka CM- Siddaramaiah, Governor- Vajubhai Vala.
In Swachh Sarvekshan-2017, 434 cities & all the state capitals were ranked. Indore had emerged as the cleanest city.

Important Days

- ✦ Election Commission of India celebrated the 8th National Voters' Day across the country on 25th January for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process.
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Diwas is observed on 24th of January.
- ✦ 70th Army Day celebrated on 15th January 2018. Every year, it is celebrated to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) K.M Cariappa took over the command of Army from General Sir F.R.R Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 & became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence.
- ✦ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated its 13th Raising Day in New Delhi on 20th Jan.
- ✦ **National Youth Day** has been celebrated every year on **12 January**. This is the day when **Swami Vivekananda**, one of the greatest social reformers, thinkers, & philosophers of India, was born.

- ✦ Om Prakash Rawat has been appointed as the next (22nd) chief election commissioner (CEC) of India.
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh CM- Yogi Adityanath, Governor- Ram Naik.

- ✦ Chief of the Army Staff- General Bipin Rawat. Indian Army is the land-based branch & the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces. President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army.
- ✦ Sanjay Kumar is the Director General of NDRF. NDRF came into existence on 19th January 2006.

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Agreement Signed

- ✦ Asian Development Bank and the Indian Government have signed a 250 million dollar loan to finance the construction of over 6 thousand 2 hundred kilometres all-weather rural roads in 5 states viz Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- ✦ India & Cambodia signed four agreements in the field of cultural exchange, an exchange line of credit of \$26.9 million, memorandum of understanding to cooperate in legal matter & an agreement on prevention of human trafficking. The documents were exchanged in presence of PM Narendra Modi & visiting Cambodian PM Hun Sen.
- ✦ National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed an MoU with SME Corporation Malaysia for exchange of information & cooperation in areas such as policies to aid development of small & medium businesses (SMBs) in the two countries.
- ✦ An MoU was signed between National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, & M/S IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd for construction of the 14.150 km long, 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir. This would be India's longest road tunnel & the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia.
- ✦ Govt. of India, the Govt. of Uttarakhand & the World Bank Board signed a \$120 million Loan Agreement which will help increase access to improved water supply services in peri-urban areas in the State of Uttarakhand.
- ✦ National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has made its First investment. NIIF has partnered with DP

World to create an investment platform for ports, terminals, transportation & logistics businesses in India.

- ✦ **Telangana Govt.** had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Clean Authority of Tokyo** in connection with municipal solid waste incineration in Hyderabad.
- ✦ India & Israel agreed to enhance co-operation in the areas of agriculture, science & technology & security. Note: Benjamin Netanyahu is the second Israeli PM to visit India after Ariel Sharon.
- ✦ Maharashtra's mine workers who face an increased risk of tuberculosis will be part of awareness programmes on the illness, as part of a partnership that the Maharashtra Govt. recently formalized with Johnson & Johnson. Other interventions under the ambit of the agreement include hospital acquired infections & maternal & infant mortality.
- ✦ Punjab Govt. signed MoU with Indian Oil Corporation to set up bio-gas & bio-CNG plants in the state.
- ✦ MoU was signed between Govt. of India & Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in the presence of Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu to enhance import & export performance.
- ✦ Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved:
 - a) **MoU between India & Canada** for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology. The MoU will provide a mechanism & help to foster scientific cooperation between R&D & academic institutions of India & Canada.
 - b) Implementation of **CCEA decision on the closure of Tumbghadra Steel Products Limited.**
- ✦ An official delegation from **South Korea & the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI)** signed a MoU for co-operation between industries in Gujarat & the East Asian country, with a focus on automobile, defence & textiles sectors. The main objective is to help Gujarat-based small & medium enterprises (SMEs) to explore opportunities through joint ventures with South Korean firms, especially in areas of automobile, defence & textiles.
- ✦ Cabinet approved the signing & implementation of the MoU between **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways & 'Transport for London'** to improve public transport in the country. It aimed at improving the overall public transport system, improve passenger services & promote the use of high capacity buses in India.


Static GK based on the Agreements Signed

- ✦ Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister- Giriraj Singh.
- ✦ Founded on 19 December 1966 ADB has its Headquarter in Manila, Philippines. President of ADB is Takehiko Nakao.


- ✦ **Cambodian Capital- Phnom Penh, Currency- Cambodian riel.**
- ✦ Jim Yong Kim is the 12th President of the World Bank Group. World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC, USA.
- ✦ Governor of Maharashtra- Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao. CM of Maharashtra- Devendra Fadnavis.
- ✦ Johnson & Johnson is US based company.
- ✦ V.P. Singh Badnore is the present Governor of Punjab.

Awards & Recognition

- ✦ **Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG)** headed by **Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan** announced that five members of parliament (MPs) selected for the **Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards**. This includes, Congress leader **Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015)**, Trinamool Congress' **Dinesh Trivedi (2016)**, Manipur's governor **Najma A Heptulla (2013)**, BJP's Lok Sabha member **Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (2014)** & five-time Rajya Sabha member **Bhartruhari Mahatab** of the Lok Biju Janata Dal (BJD) (2017).
- ✦ **Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle** will be given the **'Yash Chopra Memorial Award'**. She will be the **fifth winner of the award**.
- ✦ Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** was honoured with the **24th Crystal Award** at the World Economic Forum in **Davos, Switzerland**. He received Award for "his leadership in championing children's & women's rights in India".
- ✦ President has approved the awards for 85 individuals, which includes 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan & 73 Padma Shri. In sports personalities, former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni & multiple world champion cueist Pankaj Advani have been conferred with the third-highest civilian award, Padma Bhushan. The 2017 World Weightlifting Champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu & former Asian Games gold medallist tennis player Somdev Devvarman have been conferred with the Padma Shri.
- ✦ Actor Sudhir Dalvi honoured with Janakavi P Sawlaram award at a function held in Mumbai.
- ✦ In the **63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018**, **Vidya Balan** won her career's sixth Filmfare award for her performance in 'Tumhari Sulu'.
- ✦ MD of the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)**, **Ravi Menon**, named the **best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018** by **UK-based magazine, The Banker**.



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Summits/Events Held

- ✦ **International bird festival** will be held at the **Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh** in February 2018.
- ✦ Trade ministers from various countries including Australia, Japan & Switzerland met for an informal WTO ministerial gathering in **Davos, Switzerland**. India was represented by Deepak Jagdish Saxena, ambassador & permanent representative to the WTO.
- ✦ 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting will be held in New Delhi in April 2018.
- ✦ 7th Asia Steel International Conference will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in February 2018.
- ✦ PM Modi returned home after concluding his visit to Davos, Switzerland. During the visit, the PM delivered a keynote address at the plenary session of the 48th annual meeting of World Economic Forum. He also met his Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau. He also held a meeting with **Queen Maxima of the Netherlands**.
- ✦ **Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh** organised the three-day **'Kachra Mahotsav 2018'**. It is **India's first Garbage Festival**.
- ✦ Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the 3rd edition of geo-political conference, **'Raisina Dialogue'**. This year's topic was 'Managing Disruptive Transitions - Ideas, Institutions & Idioms.'
- ✦ 65th meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) was held under the chairmanship of Union HRD Minister Javadekar. It focused on issues related to school education & literacy.
- ✦ International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR) successfully concluded in New Delhi. It was organised by **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** jointly with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).
- ✦ The fourth edition of the India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ **Agriculture ministers of ASEAN countries** met for the **fourth sitting** in New Delhi. The topic of discussion was based on food & agricultural future developments.

- ✦ **5th Bilateral Technical Meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine** between Govt. of India & Malaysia was held in New Delhi.
- ✦ **President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated **International Dharma-Dhamma conference** at Rajgir in Bihar. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr Kovind. The conference was attended by **Sri Lanka's foreign Minister Tilak Marapana**.
- ✦ **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurates the first **Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in Delhi** on the occasion of **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9th Jan 2018**. The day is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India. **In the Conference, the biggest delegation was from Guyana**.

Static GK based on Summits

- ✦ Capital of Switzerland- Bern, Currency- Swiss franc.
- ✦ The founder & Chairman of WEF- Klaus Schwab.
- ✦ Capital of Israel- Jerusalem | Currency of Israel- Israeli new shekel.
- ✦ National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman- India's fifteenth PM, Narendra Modi.

Miscellaneous

- ✦ Sanjay Manjrekar launched his autobiography named **'Imperfect', in Mumbai**. The book 'Imperfect' was released by Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar's first international captain.
- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled a book on heartfulness techniques & principles titled **'The Heartfulness Way'**. **Kamlesh D. Patel** is the author of this book. It is the fourth Global Guide of Heartfulness. Joshua Pollock is the second author of this book.
- ✦ **Oxford Dictionaries** has chosen **'Aadhaar'** as the **Hindi word of 2017**. The word gained popularity due to Aadhaar card, which was in news in 2017.
- ✦ Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), the research arm of Ministry of Railways, has launched **"New Online Vendor Registration System"**.



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Obituaries

- ✦ Ursula K. Le Guin, the award-winning science fiction & fantasy writer who explored feminist themes & was best known for her Earthsea books, has passed away at the age of 88.
- ✦ Veteran Bengali film actress & Padmashri awardee, Supriya Devi, passed away in Kolkata, following a severe cardiac arrest. She was 83.
- ✦ Trumpeter, composer & singer Hugh Masekela, affectionately known as the 'father of South African jazz', has died after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 78.
- ✦ TV actress Charu Rohatgi, known for her roles in serials like 'Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon?' & 'Uttaran', passed away.
- ✦ Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader & former Union Minister Raghunath Jha passed away in Delhi.
- ✦ Basketball Hall of Famer **Jo Jo White**, a two-time NBA champion with the Boston Celtics & an Olympic gold medalist, has passed away.
- ✦ Famous Cartoonist **Chandi Lahiri** passed away after a brief period of illness, marking the end of a chapter in Bengal's history of the cartoon. Lahiri was 86.
- ✦ **Baldev Raj**, the director of the **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)**, Bengaluru, & a renowned **administrator of nuclear power technologies** in the country has passed away. He was 70 years old.
- ✦ **Powerlifting world champion Saksham Yadav** died of his injuries after the road accident near Delhi. Yadav had won a gold medal for the country in the 2017 powerlifting championship in Moscow, Russia.
- ✦ **Peter Sutherland**, the **first Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**, has passed away in **Dublin, Ireland**. He was 71.
- ✦ Legendary astronaut **John Young**, who walked on the Moon & later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died at 87.
- ✦ **Noted Urdu poet Anwar Jalalpuri** passed away at the age of 71 in Lucknow. He suffered a brain stroke.

Static Awareness Related to Agreements Signed, Summits Held & Other Miscellaneous Current Affairs

Gujarat CM- Vijay Rupani, Governor- Om Prakash Kohli.
 'Transport for London' is a statutory body established under Greater London Authority Act, 1999 (UK) to improve public transport in India.
 AYUSH- Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy.
 AYUSH Minister- Shripad Yesso Naik.
 Bihar Governor- Satya Pal Malik, CM- Nitish Kumar.
 This year a special regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to commemorate 25 years of partnership between India & the Association of South East Asian Nations Submit (ASEAN) is being held in **Singapore**.

Established in 2003, & sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Govt. of India, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is held from 7-9 January every year.
 Research Designs & Standards Organisation headquartered in Lucknow.

Minister of Railways & Coal- Shri Piyush Goyal

Dublin is the capital city of **Ireland**.

Present DG of WTO- Roberto Azevedo.

ICC Chief Executive- David Richardson, Headquarters- Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Sweden Capital- Stockholm, Currency- Swedish krona.

Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah.

Sushma Swaraj Embarked on Tour of 3 Southeast Asian Nations

- ✦ **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** left on a 5-day visit to **three South East Asian countries - Thailand, Indonesia & Singapore**.
- ✦ On the first leg of the visit, Ms Swaraj will reach **Thailand** & will hold an official meeting with Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Don Pramudwinai.
- ✦ During the **visit to Indonesia**, Ms Swaraj will co-chair the 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.
- ✦ **In Singapore**, the External Affairs Minister will inaugurate the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries. She will have bilateral meetings with the leaders in Singapore.
- ✦ **Thailand** Capital- Bangkok, Currency- Thai baht.
Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah.

Static GK

Tamil Nadu CM- Edappadi K. Palaniswami, **Governor**- Banwarilal Purohit.

Karnataka CM- Siddaramaiah, **Governor**- Vajubhai Vala.

Israel President- Reuven Rivlin, **PM**- Benjamin Netanyahu, **Currency**- Israeli new shekel.

Goa CM- Manohar Parrikar, **Governor**- Mridula Sinha.

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