



Current Affairs & GK Power Capsule for Syndicate Bank PO Exam 2018

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IMPORTANT DAYS

OCTOBER

Date	Day	Theme
01 October	International Day of Older Persons	2017 Theme: Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.
02 October	Gandhi Jayanti, International Day of Non-Violence	-
	World Habitat Day (First Monday of October)	2017 Theme: Housing Policies: Affordable Homes.
	World Architecture Day (First Monday of every October)	2017 Theme: Climate Change Action!
04 October	World Animal Day	-
05 October	World Teachers Day	2017 Theme: Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers
08 October	85th Indian Air Force Day	
09 October	World Post Day	
10 October	World Mental Health Day	2017 Theme: Mental health in the workplace
	Indian National Postal Day	
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child	2017 Theme: Empower girls: Before, during and after conflict"
12 October	World Arthritis Day	2017 Theme: It's in your hands, take action
	World Sight Day: (Second Thursday of October)	2017 Theme: Universal Eye Health
13 October	International Day for Disaster Reduction	
14 October	International Standards Day	
15 October	International Day of Rural Women	
16 October	World Food Day	2017 Theme: Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development.
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	2017 Theme: Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies
20 October	World Statistics Day	
24 October	United Nations Day	
	World Polio Day	2017 Theme: A Celebration of the Unsung



		Heroes of Polio Eradication
28 October	International Animation Day	
31 October	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas(National Unity Day)	
	World Savings Day	
4 th to 10th October	World Space Week	2017 Theme: Exploring New Worlds in Space
9th to 14th October	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week	2017 Theme: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India

NOVEMBER

Date	Day	Theme
1 November	World Vegan Day	
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day	
7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day	
8 November	International Day Of Radiology or World Radiography Day	2017 Theme: 'Emergency Radiology'
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development	2017 Theme: 'Science for Global Understanding'
11 November	National Education Day	
12 November	World Pneumonia Day	
	Public Service Broadcasting Day	
13 November	World Kindness Day	
14 November	Children's Day	2017 Theme: 'Women and diabetes – our right to a healthy future'
	World Diabetes Day	
16 November	International Day for Tolerance,	
	National Press Day	
	World Philosophy Day (Third Thursday of November)	
17 November	International Students Day	
19 November	World Toilet Day	2017 Theme: 'Why Waste Water?'
	International Men's Day	2017 Theme: 'Celebrate Men and Boys'
	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (Third Sunday of November)	2017 Theme: '2020 Target: reduce road fatalities AND serious injuries by 50%'
20 November	Universal Children's Day	



21 November	World Fisheries Day	2017 Theme: '2022 Ka Hai Sapna ... Kisan Ki Aay Ho Dugna – Sankalp Se Siddhi'
	World Television Day	
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	2017 Theme: 'Leave no one behind: end violence against women and girls'
26 November	Constitution Day or National Law Day	

DECEMBER

Date	Day	Theme
1 December	World AIDS Day	2017 Theme: Right to health
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	
	World Computer Literacy Day	
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	2017 Theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all
4 December	Indian Navy Day	
5 December	World Soil Day	2017 Theme: Caring for the planet starts from the ground
	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	2017 Theme: Volunteers Act First. Here. Everywhere.
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	2017 Theme: Working Together to Ensure No country is Left Behind
	Indian Armed Force Flag Day	
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	2017 Theme: United against corruption for development, peace and security
10 December	Human Rights Day	
11 December	International Mountain Day	2017 Theme: Mountain Under Pressure: climate, hunger, migration
14 December	National Energy Conversation Day	
16 December	Vijay Diwas	
18 December	International Migrants Day	2017 Theme: Safe Migration in a World on the Move
	National Minority Rights Day	
19 December	Goa Liberation Day	
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	
22 December	National Mathematics Day	Birth anniversary of famed Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.



23 December	Kisan Diwas/Farmers Day	
24 December	National Consumer Day	
25 December	Good Governance Day	Birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee

JANUARY

Date	Important Days	Theme
Jan 1	Global Family Day	2018 Theme: Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in search of peace
Jan 4	Braille Day	
Jan 6	World Day of War Orphans	
Jan 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas(NRI Day)	2018 Theme : Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN INDIA Partnership
Jan 10	World Laughter Day	
	World Hindi Day	
Jan 12	National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas or Swami Vivekananda Birthday)	
Jan 15	Indian Army Day	
Jan 19	National Disaster Response Force Raising Day	
Jan 23	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary	
Jan 24	National girl child day	2018 Theme: A girl is flower, not a thorn
	Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day	
Jan 25	National Tourism Day	
	National Voters Day	2018 Theme: Accessible Elections
	Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day	
Jan 26	Republic Day	
	International Customs Day	2018 Theme: A secure business environment for economic development



Jan 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	
Jan 28	Birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai	
	Data Privacy Day	
	World Leprosy Eradication Day	
	National immunization days (NIDs)	
Jan 30	National Martyrs' Day	
	National Cleanliness Day	

Important State Wise National News

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Amaravati; CM – N. Chandrababu Naidu; Governor – E S L Narasimhan

Chandrababu Naidu Launches 'Swachh Andhra Mission'

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched Swachh Andhra Mission on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Ace shuttler PV Sindhu has been chosen as the brand ambassador of Swachh Andhra.

Andhra Pradesh Araku Valley to host Hot Air Balloon Festival:

- The Araku valley near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh is all set to host the first edition of its Hot Air Balloon Festival.

International air cargo complex opened in Visakhapatnam airport:

- Union Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapati Raju inaugurated the new international air cargo complex at the Visakhapatnam airport.

N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurates Real Time Governance centre in Andhra Pradesh:

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated Asia's Number One command control room, Real Time Governance (RTG) in the Secretariat complex.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flags off Hyderabad Metro Rail and Mobile App Metro Sawari:

- The first phase of the metro stretches 30-km in distance, and covers a total of 24 stations, including town hubs like Secunderabad. The Prime Minister also witnessed an audio visual presentation on metro and release a mobile app named Metro Sawari on the occasion. This will be the longest stretch for any metro in our country

Andhra Cabinet approves pension, house plot for transgender:

- This scheme is to provide a pension of Rs 1,500 to transgender above 18 years of age in the state. Under this scheme, the transgender will also be provided skill development for financial stability. The transgender will also be provided ration cards, plots and scholarships. Andhra Pradesh has become only the next state after Kerala and Odisha to sanction a pension scheme for the transgender.

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority ties up with Ford:



- Ford and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to assess the feasibility of a common digital mobility solution for city commuters. Aimed 800 vehicles are added to the city's streets each day.

Andra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu dedicates first digital village:

- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu dedicated the first 'digital village', facilitated by the Karur Vysya Bank (KVB), at Bandarupalli in Guntur district, remotely from the city.

University of Singapore, Andhra govt collaborate for improving governance in state:

- The National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on various aspects of governance.

Ola partners Hyderabad Metro Rail to offer last-mile linkage:

- Ola has announced its partnership with L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd to offer metro consumers last-mile connectivity. Under the partnership, 'TSavaari', the official Hyderabad Metro Rail app has integrated Ola's services, including Ola Money.

Andhra Pradesh-Zurich sign sister state agreement:

- The Andhra Pradesh Government and the Canton of Zurich signed a letter of intent, to promote mutual prosperity and development.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Naidu by Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu and Government Counselor Minister Carmen Walker Spah for sister state relation.

Hyderabad gets its own 'Art District':

- At the entrance of MS Maqtha is the sign in black and white about the Art District.
- It is a colourful makeover for one of the most neglected parts of the city. It is Blue Chowk, Yellow Gully, Pink Gully at the MS Maqtha abutting Necklace Road station.

India's 1st park for differently abled inaugurated in Hyderabad:

- India's first park for people with special needs was inaugurated by Telangana Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad.
- The park has a speech therapist, a physiotherapist, and vocational training instructors for differently-abled children.

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital – Itanagar; CM – PremaKhandu; Governor - B D Mishra

Arunachal Assembly approves Kamle as 23rd district

- Arunachal Pradesh State Assembly passed Arunachal Pradesh Amendment Bill 2017 to create a new district named 'Kamle'.

Arunachal Pradesh government honors singer BhupenHazarika with a 10-foot statue:

- The Arunachal Pradesh government has erected a statue of legendary music composer and singer BhupenHazarika at Bolung village in Dibang Valley district of the State.



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Inaugurates World War II Memorial Museum at Jairampur:

- In Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the **World War II Memorial Museum in Jairampur in Changlang District**.
- The war memorial has the collection of the remnants of World War 2, personal belongings of the soldiers and other persons involved.

Arunachal Pradesh declared Open Defecation Free:

- **Arunachal Pradesh emerged as the second state in the Northeast, after Sikkim, to be declared Open Defecation Free.**
- The three remaining districts – Upper Subansiri, Siang and Changlang — were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) officially.

Assam

Capital: Dishpur; **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal; **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi

Country's First ITI for Divyagans in Assam

- Foundation stone for the **first ever Industrial Training Institute for the Divyagans** exclusively was laid at **Dibrugarh ITI Complex at Borboruah, Dibrugarh** by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. The ITI will have sixty seats for three different trades with 20 seats per trade.

ISRO to Set up Research Centre in Guwahati

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up a research centre in **Guwahati**, Assam for start ups, academicians, environmentalists and entrepreneurs. Which includes data generated through global positioning system (GPS), geographical information systems (GIS) and satellite remote sensing for expediting the development of Assam?

Assam CM rolled 647 schemes for development of the world's largest river island Majuli

- **Assam Chief Minister rolled out 647 schemes with an investment of Rs 24.57 crore for development of the world's largest river island Majuli.** Out of these, 448 schemes under **MGNREGA involved Rs 21.90 crore** and 199 schemes under 14th Finance Commission have an outlay of Rs 2.67 crore.

6th International Tourism Mart 2017 begins in Assam:

- In **Assam, the 6th International Tourism Mart 2017 began in Guwahati.** The three day program has been organized by Ministry of Tourism in association with all North Eastern states.

Namami Barak festival begins in Silchar:

- In Assam, the **first ever Namami Barak festival begins at Police Parade ground in Silchar.**

Postage stamp released in honour of footballer T Ao:

- Assam Governor Prof **Jagdish Mukhi released a postage stamp on former India football captain Dr Talimeren Ao** on his birth centenary year.



Ola may tie up with Assam government for river taxi service:

- Homegrown taxi aggregator **Ola** may sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Assam government for a river taxi service in the state**.
- They will conduct experiments to ascertain the water behavior of Brahmaputra before beginning the service. There will also be a night navigation system in place.

Assam recognises 19 million as citizens in first NRC draft:

- The **Assam government** published its **first draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC)** that includes the **names of 1.9 crore people out of the 3.29 crore** total applicants, recognising them as legal citizens of India.

Bihar

Capital – Patna; CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor – Satya Pal Malik

Bihar Cabinet Approves Reservation for 'Divyangs' in Govt Jobs

- The **Bihar Cabinet has approved reservations for persons with disabilities in government jobs and educational institutions**. The provision has been brought in accordance with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

President of India to launches Bihar Krishi road map 2017-2022:

- The President launched the new '**Agricultural Road Map**' in the interests of farmers.

Bihar Government bans electronic cigarettes

- Bihar State Government has imposed a **ban on manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, display and advertisement of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes)** across the state.
- E-cigarettes are handheld battery-run devices which are smoked just like a conventional cigarette. However the ingredient (in liquid form) may differ.

Chandigarh

Capital : Chandigarh; Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore

Chandigarh launches smart city cards:

- Chandigarh Administrator VP Singh Badnore has launched **smart city cards** for facilitating payments for various government and commercial utilities in the Union Territory. **The card, which can be availed by Aadhaar card holders, costs Rs.500 of which Rs.150 is non-refundable while users can transfer up to Rs.50,000 to the card**, one-time passwords will be sent for transactions worth over Rs. 2,000.

Chhattisgarh

Capital: Raipur; Chief Minister: Raman Singh; Governor: Balram Dass Tandon



Two-day Adivasi Mahotsav starts in Raipur:

- The two-day **Adivasi Mahotsav** held in **Chhattisgarh capital Raipur**. The festival aimed at display the rich and diverse tribal traditions of the central state.

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali signs Rs.671-crore pact for Chhattisgarh food unit:

- Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved will invest Rs.671 crore in **Chhattisgarh for setting up food and herbal processing unit**. The unit will be spread over an area of 500 acres which will benefit around 2 lakh farmers.

India's 1st Garbage Festival organised in Chhattisgarh:

- The Raipur Municipal Corporation in **Chhattisgarh** organised the **three-day Kachra Mahotsav 2018, India's first Garbage Festival**.
- The festival aimed to increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively, and to showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labelled as garbage.

Gujarat

Capital: Gandhinagar; **CM:** Vijay Rupani; **Governor:** Om Prakash Kohli

PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Bridge in Dwarka, Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of a **four-lane cable-stayed bridge between Okha and Beyt Dwarka**. The **bridge is a link between old and new Dwarka**. Solar panels installed on the roof of footpath will produce 1 MW power for street lights on the bridge.

PM Modi lays foundation stone for Bhadbhut Barrage over Narmada River

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **Bhabbhut Barrage to be built over Narmada River** in Bharuch Gujarat.

Prime Minister Launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat**. This programme results **every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation program**. IMI is supported by 11 other ministries and departments.

Hirasar Greenfield Airport Project in Gujarat gets Green Clearance

- The **Centre has given green clearance for a greenfield airport project at Hirasar**, about 28 km from Rajkot in Gujarat, at a cost of over Rs. 1,400 crores.

BJP wins Gujarat Assembly elections for 6th consecutive term:

- The **Bharatiya Janata Party has won** the 2017 **Gujarat Assembly elections** with a majority of **99 seats and 49.1% vote share**, whereas the Congress secured 77 seats with a 41.4% vote share.

Gujarat tops logistics performance index chart

- Report related to this index was released by **Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Suresh Prabhu** at the third meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion on January 8, 2018.



Haryana

Capital: Chandigarh; Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor: Kaptan Singh Solanki

Haryana Government and Miss World announces free sanitary napkins in all schools:

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Miss World Manushi Chhillar announced that the state government will provide free sanitary napkins for all girls in government schools. Chhillar, who hails from Haryana, is spreading awareness about menstrual hygiene through her project 'Shakti'.

Haryana gets ready for mega mock drill for earthquake:

- The exercise will be carried out in the eventuality of a hypothetical earthquake occurring "West of Gurugram along Jaipur Ridge and the Sohna Fault Line".

Door-to-door waste collection in Gurugram wards start by March:

- The door-to-door waste collection service which is in force in parts of Gurugram is likely to be extended to all wards by March 31.
- The scheme was started in December, is currently in force in 11 wards.

Haryana makes solar power plants mandatory for new buildings:

- All new residential buildings built on a plot size of 500 square yards and above falling within limit of municipalities, including Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) sectors, would have to install Solar Photovoltaic Power plant with a capacity of minimum 1 kilo watt in the houses which have sanctioned load up to 20 KW.
- The owners would have to install a plant with a capacity of five per cent of the sanctioned electricity load, if the building has higher power consumption than of 20 KW.

Haryana government gives power subsidy to micro, small industries:

- Haryana government announced power tariff subsidy of Rs 2 per unit for micro and small enterprises.
- The relief will be given to the industries situated in C and D category blocks in terms of industrialisation for three years from the date of release of power connection.

Haryana records its highest sex ratio at birth in 2017:

- Haryana has recorded its highest sex ratio at birth with 914 girls per 1,000 boys in 2017.
- Of the 5.09 lakh children born last year in the state, 2.6 lakh were boys and 2.4 lakh were girls.
- Haryana had recorded the worst sex ratio at birth in the 2011 Census with 834 girls per 1,000 boys.

Himachal Pradesh

Capital – Shimla; Chief Minister – Virbhadr Singh; Governor - Acharya Dev Vrat

Himachal Pradesh, First State to Launch Electric Bus Service in India

- The Himachal Pradesh government on launched first-of-its-kind electric bus service in the 51km-long stretch road between Manali and Rohtang Pass.

Himachal Pradesh Implements Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme



- The scheme would provide top-up coverage of **Rs 30,000 per senior citizen** to all existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) smart card holders.

Jai Ram Thakur Sworn as the CM of HP:

- **BJP** leader **Jai Ram Thakur** Sworn as the **CM of Himachal Pradesh**.

Himachal Pradesh 48th Statehood Day:

- **Himachal Pradesh** is celebrating its **48th Statehood day on January 25 2018**.
- The State Level Function has been organized at Anni in Kullu District, where Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur unfurled the Tricolour and took the salute from Police, Homeguards, NCC Cadets and Students.

Himachal Launches 'Shakti' App For Women:

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the '**Shakti**' app for the **safety of women in the state**.
- The application has a panic button which was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Himachal Pradesh government.

Union Government Plans to open AIIMS in Himachal Pradesh:

- The **Union Cabinet approved for AIIMS in Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh** with an outlay of Rs. 1,350 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY).
- The new AIIMS which will have 20 specialty and super specialty departments including 15 operation theatres will be completed in 48 months.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister announces 'Gudiya' helpline to fight crime against women:

- Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** announced setting up of **24x7 'Guddia' helpline for safety of women**.
- The helpline will work directly under the supervision of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and action will have to follow mandatorily within 48 hours.

Jammu and Kashmir

Capital: Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter); Chief Minister: Mehbooba Mufti; Governor: N N Vohra

Jammu and Kashmir launches high-speed broadband internet service in state:

- **Jammu and Kashmir** Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh launched a **high-speed broadband internet service** in the state as part of initiatives under the Digital India programme of the Central government.

Jammu & Kashmir government launches SAUBHAGYA to provide free electricity:

- The **Jammu and Kashmir government** has launched **SAUBHAGYA (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna)** with an aim to **provide free electricity connections to poor people** in the state by December 2018.

Losar Festival being celebrated in Ladakh:

- **Ladakh region** of Jammu and Kashmir is celebrating **Losar Festival**. The festival is celebrated to mark the New Year and the celebrations continue for three days to nine days in different parts of Ladakh.



Indian Railways Launches Main Arch on World's Highest Bridge on The river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district

- The Indian Railways has launched the main arch of the world's highest bridge on the River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district which will provide direct connectivity to the Kashmir Valley.

Karnataka

Capital – Bengaluru; Chief Minister – Siddaramaiah; Governor – Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

Karnataka, 1st Indian State to Approve e-vehicle Policy

- Karnataka is the first state to roll out an Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy that looks not only at boosting sales of Electrical Vehicles, but also setting up charging infrastructure and special manufacturing zones.

Karnataka Launches mid-day Meals Scheme for Pregnant Women

- The Karnataka government launched the Rs. 302-crore Mathru Poorna scheme, aimed at providing free mid-day meals to pregnant and lactating women in rural areas. The meals, which will be provided in Anganwadi centres, will include an egg, rice, pulses, vegetables, and milk. This is aimed at reducing child malnutrition and in turn curbs infant mortality.

SAP Launches Asia Pacific Japan Region's First Leonardo Centre in Bengaluru

- Tech major SAP announced the launch of Asia Pacific Japan (APJ) region's first SAP Leonardo Center in Bengaluru. The fourth SAP Leonardo Center globally, the facility is a go-to place for SAP's ecosystem for digital inspiration and co-innovation.

Karnataka second safest state in South India:

- Karnataka is the second safest state in South India, after Andhra Pradesh, and has one of the lowest crime rates in the country, according to 'Crime In India - 2016' report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Bengaluru becomes first city to get its own logo:

- Karnataka's capital city Bangalore has become the first Indian city to have its own logo, after the state government launched it. Brand Bangalore got its own logo – the tagline 'Bangalore – Be U' (be you).

Hospitals in Karnataka will soon e-register deaths medically:

- In the next two to three months, all hospitals in Karnataka are likely to have e-mortality (e-mor) software to help medically register deaths. The software developed by the National Centre for Disease Informatics (NCDI), which is headquartered in Bengaluru, will help identify the underlying cause of death. A pilot test was done in Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology and Vydehi Hospital recently.

Indian Chef VikasKhanna to open India's first culinary museum in Karnataka:

- Indian Chef VikasKhanna will launch India's first living culinary museum at his alma mater, Karnataka's Manipal University.

Bangalore to soon have helipads for medical emergencies:



- **Bangalore city will soon have helipads to help common people during medical emergencies.** The state government considering to make helipads across the eight zones of the city for medical emergencies of common people. It's in a primary stage and will take opinion of all then decide.

Bangalore to get a single helpline for all civic issues:

- The **Karnataka government** is planning to **launch a single complaint cell for all civic and transport agencies** including Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation. As part of this, a common portal, as well as a four-digit complaint number, are proposed to be in place by January

Karnataka government clears bill for CCTV installation across Bangalore:

- The **Karnataka government** has **cleared the Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Bill**, which makes it mandatory to install surveillance systems at places with large gathering in Bengaluru within 3 months.

IIM launches Centre for Teaching and Learning:

- With an aim to improve the learning abilities of students and improve the teaching effectiveness of faculty members, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore has established the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

Centre sanctions setting up of second IIIT in Karnataka:

- The Centre sanctioned the setting up of a **second Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Karnataka at Raichur** and it was likely to become operational in the current academic year.
- It will be the **second such institute in Karnataka, after the one in Dharwad**.

Karnataka to buy 640 electric vehicles under central govt's FAME India scheme:

- The Karnataka state government will purchase 640 electric vehicles under the Central government's FAME India subsidised scheme.
- A subsidy of up to 60% will be provided with funds to set up infrastructure to charge the vehicles across Bengaluru.
- The electric vehicles will include 40 buses, 100 cars and 500 three-wheelers.

Karnataka host largest B2B travel event KITE

- The **Karnataka government** announced the **country's largest B2B travel event 'Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE)** on February 28.
- In the three-day event there are 400 delegates participating from 25 countries.

Karnataka Chief Minister launches Mysuru's Indira Canteens:

- **Mysuru's first Indira Canteen was launched** on the premises of Command Area Development Authority (CADA) office **near the Mysuru Palace**.
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the canteen and also savoured the inaugural breakfast – Upma and Kesaribath.
- 11 canteens will be operated across Mysuru city, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner at subsidised costs.

Kerala

Capital – Tiruvananthapuram; **Chief Minister** – Pinarayi Vijayan; **Governor** - P Sathasivam



President launches Mata Amritanandamayi Math Project Jeevamritham in Kerala

- President launched **100 crore rupees Mata Amritanandamayi Math Project "Jeevamritham"** to provide filtration system for cleaning **drinking water to 5000 villages across India**, in kollam district in kerala.

Kerala launches India's largest floating solar power plant:

- Kerala Electricity Minister MM Mani inaugurated **India's largest floating solar power plant** at the Banasura Sagar dam in **Wayanad district**.

Ramayana-themed Jatayu Adventure Centre opens in Kerala:

- The **Jatayu Adventure Centre** has recently opened on a 1,000-foot-tall hill in **Kerala's Chadayamangalam**, which is where Jatayu is believed to have died.

Kerala launched "She Pad" scheme for school girls:

- **Kerala government** has launched **"SHE PAD"** a scheme to distribute free sanitary napkins to female students from classes VI to XII in government as well as aided private schools.

Marriage Registration can be done via video conferencing:

- The **Kerala High Court** has announced that **Marriage Registration can be done via video conferencing**
- It waived off the requirement for the couple to be physically present for the process. The court ruled that the couple can appear via video conferencing as well.

Kerala Literature Festival from February 8:

- The **third edition of Kerala Literature Festival (KLF)** will get under way in **Kozhikode** on February 8.
- The KLF has emerged as the second biggest after the Jaipur Literature Festival, and is being organised by the DC Kizhakemuri Foundation.

MGR Memorial Home in Vadavannur, Kerala:

- The childhood home of **late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran** will be **renovated and converted it into a memorial house** which is located in **Vadavannur village**, near Palakad in **Kerala**.
- MGR's father Maruthur Gopala Menons native is Nalleppilly village. Though he was born in Sri Lanka, he and his family shifted to Vadavannur after his father retired as the Magistrate of Kandy.

Supreme court issues notice to Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan:

- The Supreme Court issued a notice to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the corruption case involving three hydel power projects in the state.
- The Case is for the corruption made while he was a Power minister of kerala.

LAKSHADWEEP

Capital – Kavaratti; Lt. Governor & Administrator – Farooq Khan

Lakshadweep get new airport:



- The Island Development Agency (IDA) decided to develop an **airport at Minicoy Island** in an effort to unlock the potential of tourism and the tuna fishing industry in **Lakshadweep**.

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Maharashtra

Capital – Mumbai; Chief Minister – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Vidyasagar Rao

President Ramnath Kovind inaugurates Shirdi airport in Maharashtra

- President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the **Shirdi airport in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra**

Maharashtra Launched Web Portal with Information on New Government Schemes

- Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis launched '**MahaLabharthi**' web portal that will help people get **information about all the government schemes** that they are eligible for. The web portal, <https://www.mahalabharthi.in>

Maharashtra Government releases Rs 4000 crore in phase 1 of Loan Waiver Scheme

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis has released a sum of **Rs 4,000 crore under the first phase of the over Rs 34,000 crore farm loan waiver scheme**. The State Government has released Rs 4,000 crore of which Rs 3,200 crore will be for writing off the loans of 4.62 lakh farmers. The remaining Rs 800 crore will be in the form of incentive for 3.78 lakh farmers who are paying their loans on time.

Maharashtra most-corrupt state for 3 years in a row:

- **Maharashtra** has been the **most corrupt state in India for three years in a row**, as per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. **Odisha was placed second** with 569 recorded corruption cases, while **Kerala** (430) was **placed third**.

Maharashtra government grants approval to Versova-Bandra sea link:

- The Maharashtra government accorded administrative approval to the Versova-Bandra sea link (VBSL) project, eight years after the state cabinet committee on Infrastructure (SCCI) cleared it.

Maharashtra signs 34 MoUs to 'transform' villages:

- The **Maharashtra government** signed **34 MoUs** with leading corporate houses to take ahead its ambitious project of **social transformation of 1,000 villages** across Maharashtra.

Maharashtra Government increases non-creamy layer limit for backward classes to Rs 8 lakh:

- **Maharashtra Government** has followed in the footsteps of Central Government and enhanced **non-creamy layer limit for backward classes** in State to **Rs eight lakh per annum**. **Earlier**, the cut off limit for getting reservation for forward among the backward classes was **Rs 6 lakh**.

Shops, hotels & malls can now remain open round-the-clock in Maharashtra:

- Maharashtra Labour Minister Sambhaji Nilangekar-Patil has informed that **shops, hotels and malls can now remain open round-the-clock throughout the week in Maharashtra**. However, the law is not applied to for bars, pubs, liquor shops and discotheques.
- At the same time, in 24 hrs shop employees will be coming in shifts. And if they will work more than 9 hrs then, it's compulsory to pay extra salary on hourly basis as per the act.



Maharashtra government launches crime portal for citizens

- Maharashtra government launched **Maharashtra Police Citizen Portal**, a digital platform for registration and tracking of crimes and complaints.

Mumbai Metro launches 'SecuCare' app for safer commuting:

- The **Reliance Infrastructure-promoted Mumbai Metro One** launched the first mobile security product, "SecuCare" app to make commuters more secure.

Mumbai gets 1st AC local train:

- The **first ever Air Conditioned local train** was flagged off from **Borivali station in Mumbai**. The AC local will initially run only in the Churchgate-Borivili section. From January 1, it will run from Churchgate to Virar having 12 services per day. The train will not operate on Saturdays and Sundays as it requires maintenance

Maharashtra Govt Adds 18m to Shivaji statue, to be World's Tallest at 210m

- The **210-metre-high statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** has received **environmental clearance**, making it the world's tallest statue, once built.

Supreme Court directs Maharashtra government to pay Rs.100 crore to restore two rivers:

- The Supreme Court in a landmark order asked the **Maharashtra government to pay Rs 100 crore for protection and restoration of two rivers** in the Thane district of the state, namely **Ulhas and Waldhuni**

Maharashtra bans plastic water bottles at government offices, hotels:

- The **Maharashtra government**, in a bid to become plastic-free state from March 2018, **has banned packaged water bottles in Mantralaya and other government offices.**

Mumbai metro launches QR-based mobile ticketing facility:

- **Mumbai Metro** has launched a mobile ticketing facility called **Skiip Q** in association with digital payments player **Paytm**, that will help commuters book their tickets even from outside the metro stations.

Maharashtra government to launch portal for information on medical tourism:

- The **Maharashtra government** is planning to **launch a website on medical tourism** in the state and provide necessary information about treatments and costs to foreign patients.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Fadnavis, Tendulkar lay foundation stone of healthcare centre for children:

- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** and cricket icon **Sachin Tendulkar** laid the foundation stone of **a healthcare centre for children in Mumbai**. The **Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Health Care and Training in Paediatric Heart Care Skill** would be operational in a year's time in Kharghar.

Walmart India launched its first fulfillment centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra

- **Walmart India** launched its first fulfillment centre in **Mumbai**. The company has also planned another fulfillment centre in Lucknow.

Sachin Tendulkar Launches Mission 24

- Former Indian cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** launched **-Mission 24 for Mumbai's M east ward** which is known to have one of highest slum population's in the city. The project by NGO **Apnalaya** and Mumbai first plans to work along with the **BMC** -as the principal stakeholder over the next 24 months to improve the quality of lives of people living in **M east ward** of Mumbai.



Aadhaar and public distribution system to be linked across Maharashtra:

- The **Maharashtra government** is planning to link the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** with Aadhaar across all the **52,000 ration shops in the state** by March end.
- This comes after the pilot project implemented in Nagpur helped the government save around Rs.14 crore.
- The government has estimated that the move will help save around Rs.800 crore.

Maharashtra cabinet approves 1% reservation for orphans in government jobs:

- The **Maharashtra cabinet has approved one per cent reservation for orphans in government jobs under general category.**
- The provision will help in the rehabilitation of these kids and help secure their future.
- The state cabinet has also approved the Maharashtra State Innovation and Startup policy, which aims to attract investment of 5,000 crore rupees.

Maharashtra government approves Rs 4,000-crore project to promote climate-resilient agriculture:

- Maharashtra Government has approved a 4,000-crore rupee project aimed at promoting climate-resilient agriculture.
- A government resolution issued recently informs that the project, named Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna, will be implemented in 5,142 villages across 15 districts.

Maharashtra government launches 'Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed Sanmaan' scheme:

- The **Maharashtra government launched 'Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed Sanmaan' scheme**, under which family members of martyrs would be provided jobs with the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC).

Maharashtra plans housing scheme for construction workers:

- The Maharashtra labour department is coming out with a housing scheme for construction workers with a target of 1 lakh houses in the next one year.
- The scheme was part of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) with the housing department as its nodal agency.

Maharashtra bans sale of tobacco at shops selling FMCG items:

- **Maharashtra government has banned the sale of tobacco in shops selling FMCG items** in the state.
- State government announced a ban on the sale of tobacco at shops that sell chocolates, chips and other edible items in the state.

Pune launches free WiFi hotspots across the city:

- The **Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)** introduced **150 Wi-Fi hotspots in Pune city** on 26 January 2018, the day India celebrated 69 years of being a Republic.
- PMC plans to make Pune an entirely digital city by 2020 and wants its citizens to be 100 percent digitally literate.



Open defecation in Maharashtra to invite Rs 500 fine now:

- Open defecation in Maharashtra will now invite a spot fine of Rs 500, according to rules framed by the state government.
- The government has also fixed 'spot fine rates for littering, spitting and urinating in public places.

Maharashtra to form its own international school board:

- The Maharashtra government has announced it will form its own international school board in the state.
- The Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB) will be an autonomous body which will design curriculum for schools and conduct examinations.

Maharashtra may ban plastic banners, containers:

- After banning certain types of plastic bags, the Maharashtra government is now planning to ban plastic banners, containers and hoardings, among others, by March 2018.
- Plastic used for packing and packaging will be exempted from the ban.
- The state environment department has directed the authorities to ensure strict implementation of the proposed ban.

Madhya Pradesh

Capital – Bhopal; CM - Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor – Om Prakash Kohli

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Launches 'BhavantarBhugtanYojana'

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the ambitious 'BhavantarBhugtanYojna' for the farmers of the state. Madhya Pradesh is the first state to lend money to farmers at zero percent interest. The government has approved a web of irrigation projects across the Sagar District which will cover 96-hectare fields.

Madhya Pradesh Tops in Digital Initiatives: Survey

- Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of digital initiatives undertaken, with a maximum score of 100.1 on performance index; the report is based on a comparative assessment of digital initiatives by 36 states and Union Territories.

Madhya Pradesh government to provide pulses at concessional rate in tribal areas:

- The Madhya Pradesh government announced that pulses would be provided at Rs 10 per kg to the members of scheduled tribes in tribal areas of the state to tackle malnutrition.

Madhya Pradesh assembly approves death for raping girls aged below 12 years:

- The Madhya Pradesh Assembly has unanimously passed a bill that imposes death penalty for convicts in rape and gang rape cases involving girls aged 12 years or below.

Madhya Pradesh government announces to plant 8 crore saplings on July 2 next year:

- The Madhya Pradesh government has announced that eight crore more saplings will be planted on July 2, 2018. "Eight crore saplings will be planted in the districts located in the catchment areas of the Narmada



river in a single day on July 2 next year,” Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced while addressing a programme organized to mark one year of ‘Namami Devi Narmada Sewa Yatra’, at Jabalpur.

Capital – Bhopal; CM - Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor – Om Prakash Kohli

Bhopal railway station 1st to get sanitary napkin dispenser:

- Bhopal railway station in Madhya Pradesh has become India's first railway station to have a sanitary napkin vending machine.
- The machine named 'Happy Nari', installed by the Railway Women Welfare Association of Bhopal, dispenses two sanitary napkins for Rs. 5.

Meghalaya

Capital: Shillong; Chief Minister: Mukul Sangma; Governor: Ganga Prasad

Meghalaya launches India's first social audit law:

- Meghalaya became the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmers and schemes a part of government practice.

Meghalaya to get its first LPG bottling facility:

- The Centre has sanctioned Rs 75 crore for setting up a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) bottling plant in Meghalaya which will help increase the clean fuel's penetration, especially in the rural areas of the state.

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister – Arvind Kejriwal; Governor - Anil Bajjal

Delhi to Host 9th Global Green Film Fest

- The ninth edition of Global Green Film Fest CMS Vatavaran - an international film festival on environment and wildlife - has begun in New Delhi. It will showcase the theme of the fest is "Conservation 4 Water".

Second island development agency meeting:

- The second meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA) was held in New Delhi. It was chaired by Rajnath Singh. It reviewed concept development plans and detailed master plans for holistic development of 9 islands. These 9 islands include four in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Smith, Ross, Long, Avis) and five in Lakshadweep (Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriya, Suheli)

Govt forms 7-member panel to reduce pollution in Delhi-NCR:

- The Environment Ministry formed a seven-member committee, in order to proceed short and long-term plans to solve the problem of air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region. The Committee will be headed by Environment Secretary C.K. Mishra

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata to get more airports:



- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata are set to get second airports soon to accommodate the growing passenger traffic. While the Centre's plans for the New Delhi and Mumbai airports are on in full swing, the Civil Aviation Ministry has written to the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal governments to suggest plots where the alternate airports can be built.

Bike ambulances to be introduced in Delhi from January:

- Starting January, bike ambulance facilities would be introduced on a pilot basis in three of Delhi's 11 districts—East, North-east, and Shahdara.

Delhi government announced Free coaching scheme for SC, ST students:

- Free coaching for competitive exams and an app to apply for loans for students of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Castes and minority communities are two initiatives likely to be launched by the Delhi government on December 6.

PM Modi Inaugurates 1st ever All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, on the occasion of the 2nd Ayurveda Day. It is the first institute under the Ministry of AYUSH with a National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare

Uber to remove increase pricing in Delhi during odd-even scheme:

- Taxi-hailing firm Uber will remove increasing pricing during the odd-even car rule implementation in Delhi.

First ever 'Khaadi Haat' inaugurated in Delhi:

- Marking the 69th Republic Day celebrations, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) have launched the first ever 'Khadi Haat' in the country.

Delhi to get its first ever Haj house in 2019:

- The Delhi government has prepared the building layout for the city's first ever Haj house which will be open to public from mid-2019.
- Located in Dwarka Sector 22, the centrally air-conditioned Haj house will have state-of-the-art facilities, including prayer halls and VIP suites.

Odisha

Capital : Bhubaneswar; Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: S.C. Jamir

Union Textiles Minister Smritilrani Inaugurates 'VASTRA' Fair in Jaipur

- Union Textiles Minister Smritilrani and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the 6th edition of the four-day international textile and apparel fair, 'VASTRA' in Jaipur.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Eastern India's first CNG stations:

- Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated eastern India's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations for scooters in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Centre will invest Rs 5000 crore for pipeline project. From these Rs 5000 crore, Rs 2000 crore is estimated to be invested for development of human resources. In the first



phase Rs 1,700 crore will be invested for Compressed Gas Distribution (CGD) 100-100 km Pipeline in Cuttack- Bhubaneswar.

Odisha recognized as 'Champion State' for exports:

- The Centre has recognized **Odisha as a 'Champion State' for recording the highest growth** in exports during 2016-17.

Odisha government to split tourism, culture dept to promote Odia language:

- The Odisha government decided to split the tourism and culture department and take a slew of measures including setting up of an Odia Language Commission to spread and popularise the state language.

Annual Konark festival begins in Odisha:

- The annual **Konark festival held in Odisha**. The five-day dance festival opened near the world famous Sun Temple of Konark.

Annual 'Balijatra' festival begins in Odisha on the banks of river Mahanadi

- **The annual 'Balijatra' festival** was inaugurated by Health and Law Minister Pratap Jena at Gadagadiaghat in **Odisha** on the banks of river Mahanadi.

Centre suggests Odisha to enhance PMGSY target to 10,000 kms:

- The Centre has suggested the **Odisha government to enhance its rural road** construction target under the **PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana**, to 10 thousand km from 7 thousand kilometres during the current fiscal.

Odisha announces scheme to boost fresh water aquaculture:

- **Odisha government** launched a **scheme to boost fish production in the state with a budgetary provision of 96 crore rupees**. The **'Fish Pond Yojana' scheme** was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Odisha e-Hospital Management system launched:

- The state government launched Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS) in which paperwork would be reduced and diagnostic reports, prescription details and doctor's advices would be found at the click of a mouse.
- The pilot project, launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, will get technical support of the Centre for the Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).

Punjab

Capital – Chandigarh; Chief Minister – Amarinder Singh; Governor - V. P. Singh Badnore

Punjab CM restores special family pension for widows of govt employees killed by terrorists:

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh restored the Special Family Pension for widows of government employees killed by extremists.

Punjab Chief Minister launches app to check illegal construction:

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched a mobile app to check unauthorised construction, and also unveiled a new web portal of the housing department for online issuance of change of land use.



- The android-based App, known as PUDA-UCIC (Unauthorised constructions and illegal colonies), opened for public use in Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) region.

Puducherry

Chief Minister - V. Narayanasamy ; Lt. Governor - Kiran Bedi

Puducherry Becomes an Associate Member of BCCI

- The **Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP)** was chosen by the **Committee of Administrators (CoA)** as an **associate member of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**. This means Puducherry will be allowed to play the Ranji Trophy in 2018.

Rajasthan

Capital – Jaipur; Chief Minister – Vasundhara Raje Scindia; Governor - Kalyan Singh

Rajasthan Assembly First in India to Call Motions Online

- Going digital, the **Rajasthan assembly** has become the **first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators** to send them to the state government. **Speaker Kailash Meghwal** has inaugurated the new system by sending a call for an attention motion to the state government with a click of the mouse.

Rajasthan limits probes against public servants

- Rajasthan State Government under Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has passed Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance; 2017. Violators of the clauses of this ordinance could face two years of imprisonment.

Rajasthan CM Launches Rajiv Mehrishi's 'India 2017 Yearbook'

- Rajasthan Chief Minister **Vasundhara Raje** launched an e-book titled **'India 2017 Yearbook'**, compiled by the present **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi**.

Jaipur to get Sculpture Park at Nahargarh Fort:

- The **Madhavendra Palace at Nahargarh Fort in Jaipur** open a **sculpture park** with artworks by leading artists in December.

Rajasthan becomes first in country to offer e-mail IDs in Hindi:

- **Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to offer free e-mail address in Hindi** to its residents. The facility —name@rajasthan.bharat (in Devanagari script) — will lead to millions of new users who are not comfortable with English e-mail ids.

Rajasthan government increase age limit for applying government jobs from 35 to 40 years:

- Rajasthan government made several announcements, which included the increase in age limit while applying for government jobs from 35 to 40 years.

Rajasthan government approves 1% reservation for Gujjars, 4 other castes:



- The **Rajasthan Government** approved one percent reservation for members of the Gujjar community and four other backward castes.

NHRC to hold Open Hearing and Camp Sitting in Jaipur:

- The **National Human Rights Commission** holds two-day Open Hearing and Camp Sitting in Jaipur to address the grievances of the people.

Jaipur Literature Festival begins:

- **Jaipur Literature Festival**, popularly known as Kumbh of literature held in Jaipur.
- The **11th edition** of the Festival feature over 200 sessions on a multitude of topics, trends, ideas and genres, ranging from fiction, poetry, nonfiction, gender equality, environmental protection, science, history, liberal arts, journalism, economics, travel and cinema.

Rajasthan to digitise all historical records:

- The **Rajasthan government** is digitising 10,000 pages daily to preserve administrative and historical records of Rajputana's princely states.
- The move will further boost the state government's effort to use technology to improve the lives of people.

Tamil Nadu

Capital – Chennai; Chief Minister – Edappadi K. Palaniswami; Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple has been adjudged best 'Swachh Iconic Place' in India

- The **Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple** has been adjudged best 'Swachh Iconic Place' in India...

Banwarilal Purohit Sworn-in as Governor of Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit** was sworn-in by Madras High Court Chief Justice Indira Banerjee at the Raj Bhavan in Chennai.

World's Largest Combustion Research Centre Inaugurated at IIT Madras

- The world's largest combustion research center was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) in Tamil Nadu

Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple of Srirangam in Tamil Nadu won UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017

- **The Sri Ranganatha swamy Temple of Srirangam in Tamil Nadu** won UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017 for the cultural heritage conservation program.

India's first wave-powered navigational buoy launched in Chennai:

- A wave-powered navigational buoy, developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), to guide ships in and out of ports, was launched in Chennai. The buoy, deployed at EnnoreKamarajar Port

Union Minister NitinGadkari announced Rs 1-lakh-crore worth new projects for Tamil Nadu:

- Union Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister NitinGadkari have announced one-lakh-crore rupees worth new projects for Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu tops in organ donation:



- National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation presents award in New Delhi for the third time in a row, the **Tamil Nadu state had bagged the first place in organ transplantation in the country.**

Tamil Nadu education body offers videos of classes on YouTube:

- The **Tamil Nadu State Council of Educational and Research Training (TNSCERT)** have a YouTube channel with videos on several school subjects such as mathematics, English, and science.

Defence Expo to be held in Mahabalipuram near Chennai from April 11 to 14:

- The **first-ever Defence Industry Meet held in Chennai.**
- The newly introduced Make-2 initiative in Defence procurement will greatly help small Industries to involve themselves in Defence equipment Manufacturing
- The globally acclaimed Defence Expo this year will be held in Mahabalipuram near Chennai from 11th to 14th of April with the participation of 80 countries.

Telangana

Capital – Hyderabad; Chief Minister – K. Chandrashekar Rao; Governor – Ekkadu Srinivasan Lakshmi Narasimhan

Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 to be Held in Hyderabad

- A high-level delegation from the Government of India and the United States met NITI Aayog to plan the 2017 **Global Entrepreneurship Summit**. The summit held on November 28-30 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, India. This year's theme is "Women First, Prosperity for All"

Telangana government declares Urdu as second official language:

- **Telangana** Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao declared Urdu as the state's second official language.

Telangana to have 24*7 power supply for all consumers by January 2018:

- **Telangana** CM K Chandrashekar Rao announced that electricity will be supplied 24*7 to all sectors across the state from January 1, 2018, "as a new year gift".

Patanjali to set up food processing unit in Lakkampally SEZ:

- The **Patanjali Group** headed by Acharya Balakrishna entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Telangana to set up its own food processing unit at the Special Economic Zone, Lakkampally in Nandipetmandal in the district

Telangana government to send 1000 officers on junket trip to Israel:

- The **Telangana state government** has decided to send 1000 Telangana officers to visit Israel for a junket trip. The officers will go to Israel for training in various farming techniques that can be replicated in the state.

India's First Centre for Animal Law Set up at NALSAR

- India's first Centre for Animal Law has been established at the city-based NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Telangana government rolls out 24-hour free-electricity supply for farming sector:

- Telangana government rolled out 24-hour free-electricity supply for farming sector.



- About 23 lakh agricultural pumpsets across 31 districts of the state began getting uninterrupted electricity supply from zero hours on January 1 2018.
- With this, one of the assurances, to provide round the clock free electricity to farming sector, given by Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao during last elections has been fulfilled.

All police stations to have social media accounts in Telangana:

- All police stations in Telangana will have social media accounts in the New Year for communicating with people on a daily basis.
- All police stations will maintain a Facebook page and a Twitter handle to keep communicating with the community and reporting the activities to the respective community on a daily basis.

Tiger census likely in Telangana in January 2018:

- The tiger census is ~~W~~ taken up in Telangana. This would be the first census of the striped animals in Telangana after the formation of the state.
- The last such count was carried out in 2013-14 in the undivided Andhra Pradesh.
(It will be taken up) mostly in third week or fourth of January, the field exercise (of the census) will be (for) five days.

Telangana government to distribute new Pattadar passbooks to all agriculture landowners:

- The Telangana government will distribute new Pattadar passbooks to all agriculture landowners in the state on a single day on 11th March.
- The new passbooks will have enhanced security features and will be issued to over 71 lakh farmers based on the findings of a special drive held last year to verify land records.

Uttarakhand

Capital – Dehradun, Nainital (Judiciary); CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor - Krishna Kant Paul

Uttarakhand Government Launched 'Solar Briefcase' to Provide Electricity in Remote Areas

- Uttarakhand State Government and a charitable funding agency named Swan Cultural Center and Foundation launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham. The initiative was taken to provide electricity to far-flung areas in the hill state.

Uttarakhand madrasas to take up Sanskrit as a subject:

- Madrasas in Uttarakhand are reportedly planning to teach Sanskrit to students, in a bid to make them acquire skills related to Ayurveda and Yoga.
- The Madrasa Welfare Society has written to CM Trivendra Rawat seeking his nod to appoint Sanskrit teachers.

Uttar Pradesh

Capital – Lucknow; Chief Minister – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Ram Naik



UP Declares Vrindavan, Barsana as Sacred Sites

- The Uttar Pradesh government issued an order notifying **Vrindavan and Barsana towns in Mathura district as "pavitrathethals (sacred pilgrimage sites)"**. No meat and liquor shops will be allowed in these towns anymore.

India's first conservation reserve for blackbuck in Allahabad

- Uttar Pradesh cabinet decided to make India's first conservation reserve for blackbuck in Allahabad's Meja.

Uttar Pradesh tops the list on crimes against women in 2016:

- **Uttar Pradesh tops the tally of crime data against women in 2016** released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

Uttar Pradesh Government to Set up Cow Sanctuaries in 75 Districts:

- **Uttar Pradesh government is planning to set up cow sanctuaries** in all 75 districts of the state.

Uttar Pradesh assembly passes bill for death penalty for illicit liquor trade:

- The Uttar Pradesh assembly passed a bill to award death penalty and life imprisonment to those dealing in spurious liquor if its consumption leads to any death.

Uttar Pradesh launches free household power connection scheme 'Prakash hai to vikas hai':

- **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched a **free household power connection scheme 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' for the poor** in the state to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announces new metro projects for Agra, Kanpur:

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath has announced new Metro projects for Agra and Kanpur in the state**. The work for setting up an airport at Jewar near Noida has also been expedited. The chief minister announced two major expressways - one in Purvanchal and another in Bundelkhand - are also being planned in the state.

GAIL Commissions India's 2nd largest Roof top solar plant in UP

- State-owned gas utility **GAIL India Ltd has commissioned the country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh**.
- It was opened in petrochemical complex at Pata in Uttar Pradesh by this we can produce 5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak)
- 1st place goes to Punjab.

Uttar Pradesh education board to help Nepal conduct school exams:

- Nepal has approached **Uttar Pradesh education board seeking support and guidance for its newly established National Examination Board of Nepal** in conducting high school and intermediate exams.

West Bengal

Capital: Kolkata; Chief Minister: Mamta Benerjee; Governor: Keshari Nath Tripathi

West Bengal considers blockchain technology to protect online records:



- The government of **West Bengal**, a state in eastern India, is planning to implement blockchain technology to protect its online records from cyber attacks.

West Bengal reports most human trafficking cases in 2016:

- **More than 8,000 cases of human trafficking were reported in India in 2016**, while 23,000 victims, including 182 foreigners, were rescued during the year, according to National Crime Records Bureau data.

West Bengal announces life insurance of Rs.5 lakh each for pilgrims:

- **West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee announced a life insurance of ₹5 lakh each for pilgrims visiting the state** for the upcoming Gangasagar fair, the second biggest pilgrimage fair after Kumbh.

India's First Advanced Homoeopathy Virology Lab in Kolkata

- **India's first State of art virology laboratory at Dr Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata** was inaugurated by ShripadYessoNaik, Union Minister of State for AYUSH.

Adani group to invest Rs 750 crore in West Bengal:

- **Adani Group would invest Rs 750 crore to double the capacity of the company's edible oil refinery at Haldia in West Bengal.**
- Announcing this at the second and last day of the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), Pranav Adani of the Adani Group expressed interest to invest in port, agri and power sectors.

West Bengal Chief Minister extends health scheme for senior sports personalities:

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee announced that senior sports personalities who have retired from playing would be brought under the 'Swasthya Sathi' insurance scheme.**
- Once the senior sporting personalities are included in the scheme, they would be eligible for Rs five lakh health cover at private medical establishments.

Kolkata to get its first floating market:

- Kolkata is set to get its first floating market, named 'The Floating Market of Patuli', which is likely to be open for public in January.

Kolkata airport gets CAT III B technology, becomes 24×7 functional:

- Kolkata's **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport has become the 5th airport in India having CAT III landing system.**
- Kolkata has operationalised CAT IIIB landing system on runway 01R. It enables flight operation up to runway visual range of 50 meters with decision height of 15 meters.

Mamata unveils official emblem of West Bengal government:

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee unveiled the official emblem of the state government, which was recently approved by the Centre.**
- The **logo highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of "Biswa Bangla" at the centre.** Banerjee has also contributed to the design of the emblem.

West Bengal government launching water ATMs in city, districts:

- **West Bengal** state government has launched a **water ATM project** to provide **bacteria-free drinking water in schools.**



- The government is setting up water ATMs in the city and suburbs and the machines are made in Germany.

OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

India is Second Largest Market for Pharma: LinkedIn Report

- India has emerged as the second largest market for the industry, a report by professional networking giant LinkedIn has revealed.

Google Viewed as Most Authentic Brand in India: Survey

- Indian consumers regard Google as the most authentic brand, even though Amazon.com tops the list globally, reveal results of the 2017 "Authentic Brands Study"

Italy PM Paolo Gentiloni on Two-Day Visit to India:

- Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentiloni** arrived in New Delhi on a two day visit to India. The visit aimed at strengthening the bilateral political and economic relations between the two countries. The last visit of the Italian Prime Minister to India was in February 2007.

Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) MukeshAmbani is asias billionaire

- Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) MukeshAmbani overtook China's HuiKa Yan to become Asia's richest person with a total wealth of \$42.1 billion, according to Forbes' real time billionaire's list.

Chanda Kochhar including Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra are in World's Most Powerful Women list released by Forbes

- Five Indian women led by ICICI Bank chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) ChandaKochhar including Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra, have featured on the list of the world's 100 most powerful women compiled by Forbes. The list was topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Person	Rank
Angela Merkel (German Chancellor)	1 st
ChandaKochhar (MD & CEO of ICICI Bank)	32 nd
RoshniNadarMalhotra (HCL Corp. CEO)	57 th
Priyanka Chopra (Actress)	97 th

Jaipur, Varanasi and Chennai Included in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network for Contribution in Music:

- Totally 64 cities from 44 countries have been designated as UNESCO Creative Cities by Director-General, Irina Bokova. Chennai is the third Indian city on the list of UNESCO Creative Cities list after Jaipur and Varanasi.

Tata Steel has established India's largest Coke Dry Quenching (CDQ) facility

- Tata Steel has established India's largest Coke Dry Quenching (CDQ) facility, capable of handling 200 metric tonnes per hour, at its state-of-the-art steel plant at Kalinganagar Industrial Complex in Jajpur district of Odisha.

India re-elected to UNESCO executive board:-

- India has been re-elected as the member of the UNESCO's executive board, its top decision-making body.

UPSC sets 7-day time limit to report mistakes in exam papers:



- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has fixed a seven-day time frame for candidates to report mistakes or discrepancies in questions asked in the various examinations conducted by it.

Kharagpur station to have Asia's largest interlocking system:

- The Indian Railways will introduce Asia's largest Solid State Interlocking (SSI) system in Kharagpur, which will aid in setting 800 train routes and ruling out collisions caused by cross movements.

Oxford launches first-ever Hindi word of the year:

- Oxford Dictionaries will have a Hindi word of the year for 2017. It will be a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of interest this year. The chosen word should reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the year.

Indian Oil opens India's first electric vehicle charging station in Nagpur:

- State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched nation's first electric vehicle charging station at a petrol pump in Nagpur. IOC, in collaboration with Ola, launched the country's first electric charging station at one of its petrol-diesel stations in Nagpur.

Facebook launches digital start-up training hubs in India:

- Facebook introduced its digital training and start-up training hubs in India aimed at helping small businesses and people grow by giving them the digital skills they need to compete in today's digital economy. Facebook plans to train more than half a million people in the country by 2020 through these online training hubs, which are being rolled out first in India.

Government Impose Anti-Dumping Duty On Chinese Antibiotic:

- Commerce ministry decided to levy of up to 9.48 dollar per kg for the Chinese antibiotics to India.

Government directs NGOs to open account in any designated bank within month for transparency:

- Union Home Ministry has directed all NGOs, business entities and individuals who receive funds from abroad to open accounts in any of the 32 designated banks, within a month for higher level of transparency.

Government Plans to Connect the Small City by seaplanes before 2019:

- Before the 2019 election, the Center is decided to process a frame work for the mode of transportation, and it has decided to service under the regional connectivity scheme.

24*7 Power for all by March 2019:

- All households in the country will provide uninterrupted power supply by March 2019.

GAIL awards major contracts for Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga:

- GAIL India has placed orders for another 400-km of pipeline of the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga natural gas pipeline project that will take the fuel to eastern India.

India going to launch its 1st POD taxi called PRT:

- Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is a dream project of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. PRT is a public transport system by using an advanced automated electric pod cars to serve like a taxis to a small groups of peoples and for pollution free journey.

Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik attempts world record with 'biggest' Santa Claus face on Puri beach:



- Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik claims to have created the 'world's biggest' sand Santa face with message "World Peace" on Odisha's famous Puri beach.

India's First Runway on 'Sea Bridge' to be built at Agatti Airport:

- India is all set to get its first runway on a 'sea bridge' soon, as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been given a nod to extend Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport.

Gravitational wave detector to be built in India by 2025:

- A new LIGO gravitational wave detector to measure ripples in the fabric of space and time is set to be built in India by 2025, in collaboration with universities from across the globe.

Government aims to provide Housing to all by 2022: PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government has decided to give a house to each and every homeless family by 2022.

Government to install digital boards in all schools:

- The Centre decided to launch "Operation Digital Board" shortly, with the help of community and corporate help. This will help students view diagrams and presentations through digital tools.
- Digital boards are likely to be installed in all government schools in India in the next five years

Centre sanctions projects over Rs. 10,000 crore in North East for better network connectivity:

- The Centre has 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 and Arunachal Pradesh.

Government to set up Rs.2,200-crore fund to finance solar projects:

- The government is planning to set up a Rs.2,200-crore fund to finance solar projects to achieve its target of having 175 GW in renewable energy by 2022.

GPS, panic button mandatory in buses, taxis from April 1:

- The government has announced April 1 as the deadline for the mandatory installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices and panic buttons in all passenger transport vehicles, including taxis and buses.

Government brings nine more cities under Smart City Mission:

- The government decided to add nine more cities to its existing list of proposed Smart Cities.
- The nine new cities added by the Housing and Urban Affairs in the proposed list includes Silvassa, Erode, Diu, Bihar Sharif, Bareilly, Itanagar, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Kavaratti.

Centre to declare 2018 as 'national year of millets':

- Nutrient-rich millets have got a boost with the Union government deciding to declare 2018 as the 'national year of millets'.
- This decision has been taken following a request by Karnataka, which is the country's leader in the millet sector.
- Karnataka Agriculture Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has been campaigning for declaring 2018 as national year of millets.



Aadhaar named Hindi Word of the Year, beats Bahubali, Mitron:

- The Oxford Dictionaries announced 'Aadhaar' as its 2017 'Hindi Word of the Year' at the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- The shortlist included words such as 'Mitron', 'Notebandi', 'Bahubali' and 'Gau-rakshak', among others.
- 'Aadhaar' was chosen due to its involvement in debates and controversies regarding the 12-digit unique identification system introduced by the Indian government.

AAI allocates nearly 3,400 crore rupees for upgradation of airports in North East region:

- The Airports Authority of India has allocated nearly 3,400 crore rupees for the upgradation of airports in the North East region.
- An amount of 1,720 crore rupees for Assam, 525 crore rupees for Tripura and 800 crore rupees for Manipur has been allocated.

5 states show the way with 70% of exports, enjoy higher standard of living:

- The Economic Survey 2017-18 has brought out the sharp disparity among states on inter-state and international trade, with just five — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana — accounting for 70 per cent of India's total exports.

No India Pakistan match till Pakistan stops terrorism:

- On the reflect of continuous terrorist attack in India Pakistan border Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj has stated that there will be no bi-lateral series between India and Pakistan till Pakistan stops the terrorist attack.
- But in case of big tournaments India and Pakistan have been meeting each other means it is possible.

India has laid road map for Electrical vehicle in 15 Years:

- The Niti Aayog policy document on EVs, which defined a 15-year roadmap to attain complete electrification.
- As a 1st step government of India ordered to implement 10000 electric vehicles in top 11 cities in the country which worth 2000 Cr.
- Since the cost of BS-VI Vehicle is comparably high Electric vehicle take place in maximum 5 years.

Deliveroo enters into India:

- UK-headquartered online food delivery giant Deliveroo going to start its service in India soon.
- Deliveroo is also in the process of on boarding a full-fledged team in the country. Once it enters the Indian food delivery space, the company will be one of the biggest compete to other companies like food panda.
- They planned to invest 2 billion in India.

Nine days before youth festival, venue moved from Jaipur to Noida:

- Just nine days before the opening ceremony of the 22nd National Youth Festival, the Centre has decided to move the festival venue from Jaipur to Noida.
- The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), the government organisation which conducts the annual festival, stated that: "Now we are looking at Noida as the alternate venue considering that there is little time for arrangements." The event opens on January 12.

Uber re-launches auto rickshaw service in India:



- Uber is re-launching its 'Auto' service in India, almost two years after shutting down the offering in March 2016.
- The service, which will be available initially in Bengaluru and Pune starting this month, will allow booking auto-rickshaw rides through 'AUTO' option on its app.

Matunga Railway station enters Limca Book of Records for having all-women staff:

- The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway of Mumbai division has figured in the Limca Book of Records 2018 for having an all-woman staff.
- The achievement comes six months after Matunga became the first railway station in the country to be run by an all-woman staff.

LG unveils robot to deliver meals in hotels, airports:

- South Korean electronics company LG has unveiled a hospitality robot at CES 2018 designed to deliver food and drinks to travellers in hotels and airport lounges.
- The Serving Robot, which is part of a range of concept robots called CLOi, has a built-in sliding tray for serving.

MINISTRY AFFAIRS NEWS

Vice President lays foundation Stone of Greenfield Smart City at Ranchi, Jarkhand

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of Greenfield Smart City at Ranchi in Jharkhand.

SIM Cards not Linked to Aadhaar to be Deactivated after February 2018

- The government is moving ahead with linking Aadhaar with mobile SIM cards and all unlinked phones will be deactivated after February 2018

Remove all unmanned rail crossings within a year, orders Piyush Goyal

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has asked the railways to remove all unmanned level crossings within a year, instead of the initial goal of doing it in three years.

National Pension Scheme Upper Age Limit Raised to 65

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) announced that the upper age limit for joining the National Pension Scheme (NPS) had been raised to 65 years, from the current 60.

DD & All India Radio to spread information about rights of Divyangs: I&B Minister Smriti Irani

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani said Doordarshan and All India Radio will give information to Divyangs regarding their rights and several schemes which are being run by the Centre.

Government Launches Wood is Good Campaign

- Environmental Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a two-day conference on "Sustainable landscapes and forest ecosystems: Theory to Practice".

Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha Launched First Ever India Mobile Congress 2017

- The Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha launched DoT's first ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India – India Mobile Congress 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

First ASEAN-India Music Festival Begins in New Delhi



- The first ever ASEAN-India music festival began at Purana Quila in New Delhi. The 3-day festival is being organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with Culture Ministry to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The theme for this commemorative year is 'Shared Values, Common Destiny'.

Government Sets up High-Level Committee for Water Management for NE Region

- Centre has set up a high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the North-Eastern region. The Committee will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar.

President Appoints Commission to Examine Sub-Categorisation of OBCs

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed a five-member Committee. The Committee will be headed by Delhi High Court's former Chief Justice G Rohini

Haj Committee Recommends Abolishing of Subsidy for Haj pilgrims.

- The government was appointed Committee on Haj Policy has recommended phasing out of subsidy for Haj pilgrims and allowing women devotees above 45 years of age to travel in a group of at least four without a male. In view of the Supreme Court direction, the Ministry had set up the Panel under the Chairmanship of former Secretary Afzal Amanullah to review the existing Haj Policy and to suggest a framework for new Haj policy 2018-22.

Smriti Irani Opens World Largest B2B Handicraft & Gifts Fair

- The 44th edition of world largest B2B handicraft and gifts fair entitled IHGF-Delhi Fair (Autumn) 2017 was inaugurated by Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Textiles in a ceremony at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida

Union Ministries Of Power & Textiles Jointly Launched 'SAATHI' Initiative

- The Union Ministries of Power and Textiles have jointly launched an initiative 'SAATHI' (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries). Under this initiative, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public sector entity under the Union Ministry of Power, will acquire energy efficient Powerlooms, motors and Rapier kits in bulk and provide them to the small and medium powerloom units.

Centre Asks States To Name Toilets As 'Izzatghar' In Rural Areas

- The Central Government has asked each state to name the toilets in their rural households as "izzatghar", or to use a phrase in regional language equivalent to "house of dignity".

India's First Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra Launched

- The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh along with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in Smart Cities, in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).

Govt Sets up Arun Jaitley-Panel to Oversee PSU Bank Mergers

- The government set up a ministerial panel, led by finance minister Arun Jaitley, to consider and oversee mergers among the country's 21 state-run banks. Members of the panel on PSU bank consolidation include railway and coal minister Piyush Goyal, and defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman.



Pan India scholarship program for school children called DeenDayal SPARSH Yojana launched to Promote Philately

- Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched a Pan India scholarship program for school children called DeenDayal SPARSH Yojana to increase the reach of Philately. Under the scheme of SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby), it is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby. The amount of Scholarship will be Rs. 6000/- per annum @ Rs. 500/- per month.

Govt will provide 100 Indian students full scholarship:-

- Indian government has agreed to provide 100 non-Indian students full scholarship if they study Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush) in any of the public deemed universities across India.

Economic advisory panel for skill development and job creation:-

- Economic advisory panel created for job creation, enhancing resource investment in the social sector, including for health and education, and for boosting Infrastructure financing.

Centre approves creation of National Testing Agency:

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of a National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions. Its creation will relieve the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) – which conducts exams like the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test – and the All India Council for Technical Education of the burden of conducting entrance tests.

JEE Main, NEET likely to be conducted twice a year from 2019:

- After the Centre cleared the proposal for formation of the National Testing Agency (NTA), entrance examinations like JEE Main and NEET are likely to be conducted twice a year from 2019.

Health Ministry was decided to change treatment strategy for tuberculosis:

- The Health Ministry was decided to change the treatment strategy for tuberculosis, TB, patients from thrice weekly to daily drug regimen using fixed dose combinations, FDC, for treatment.

Cabinet approved to create of GST anti-profiteering authority:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for the creation of the posts of Chairman and Technical Members of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST.

Government to link 1 billion Aadhaars to 1 billion accounts, 1 billion mobiles: Mission 111

- The Centre is planning to implement "1 billion-1 billion-1 billion" connectivity vision, which aims to link one billion Aadhaar numbers to one billion bank accounts and one billion mobiles.

Government Constitutes 6-Member Panel to Redraft Income Tax Law:

- The government constituted a task force for redrafting the 50-year old income tax law in sync with the economic needs of the country.
- The six-member task force will have Arvind Modi, CBDT Member (Legislation) as the Convener and other members, including Girish Ahuja (chartered accountant), Rajiv Memani (Chairman and Regional Managing Partner of EY) and Mansi Kedia (Consultant, ICRIER).



- The task force will submit its report to the government within six months. Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian will be a permanent special invitee in the task force.

Cabinet has approved India's membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development:

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development. Membership of the EBRD would enhance India's international profile and promote its economic interests and contribute to an improved investment climate in the country.

MHA to conduct Multi-State Mega Mock Tsunami Exercise 2017:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs will conduct a multi-State mega mock exercise on tsunami preparedness.

Union minister KJ Alphons elected unopposed:

- The Minister of State for Tourism KJ Alphons was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha seat from Rajasthan. The seat has been vacant since former MP M Venkaiah Naidu was elected the Vice President.

Cabinet approves Rs 9,000-crore National Nutrition Mission:

- The Cabinet has approved the setting up of the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with a three-year budget of Rs 9,046.17 crore commencing from 2017-18.

Centre to put quit line number on tobacco packs:

- The Union Health Ministry is looking to issue a new set of enhanced pictorial and text warnings and planning to make it mandatory for tobacco companies to print the national toll-free helpline number on the packets of all tobacco products.

Sharad Yadav, Ali Anwar disqualified as Rajya Sabha members:

- Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu disqualified rebel JD(U) leaders Sharad Yadav and Ali Anwar Ansari from the membership of the House.

President Ram Nath Kovind on 2 day visit to Andhra Pradesh to inaugurate Aircraft Museum:

- President Ram Nath Kovind will be on a two-day visit to Andhra Pradesh to inaugurate an Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam.

Minorities Commission to study minority status to Hindus in eight states:

- National Commission for Minorities has set up a three-member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in eight states including Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. The other states are Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

Railways to offer rewards for cashless booking of tickets:

- The Indian Railways is planning to offer rewards for cashless booking of unreserved tickets in a bid to promote digitalisation.

Centre to issue universal ID cards to Persons with Disabilities:

- Union minister Krishan Pal Gurjar stated that Centre will soon issue universal ID cards to persons with disabilities which will be valid throughout India.

India's first-ever mobile food testing laboratory launched:

- Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar launched country's first-ever mobile food testing laboratory.



WCD Ministry launches logo & tagline contest for National Nutrition Mission:

- Women and Child Development Ministry has launched logo and tagline contest for National Nutrition Mission with prize money of one lakh rupees.

Railways to offer discounts like airlines:

- Just like the airlines and hotels, the railways could soon be dishing out discounts on tickets if trains are not fully booked, indicating a complete revamp of the flexi-fare scheme.

HRD ministry asks all colleges to provide free Wi-Fi:

- Colleges and technical institutes across the country may soon offer free Wi-Fi to students and staff.
- According to the letter, each user would have a quota of data they can use for free after which; they will have to pay the telecom service provider.

Central Railway to install 11,000 CCTVs in all Mumbai trains:

- The Central Railway has planned to install 11,000 CCTVs in all the compartments of its local trains by the end of 2018 at an estimated cost of Rs.177 crore.
- The move is aimed at improving safety in suburban trains.
- Each coach will have six cameras in its compartments and talk-back systems will also be installed in women's compartments.

Government launches 100 accessible websites for Divyangs:

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched 100 accessible websites for Divyangs. These 100 government websites are now divyang friendly.

Rajnath Singh launches Bharat Ke Veer anthem, short film on India's bravehearts:

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Bharat Ke Veer anthem and a short film on India's bravehearts.
- Bharat Ke Veer is a fund to support the families of those courageous and brave Indian soldiers belonging to the eight Central Armed Police Forces, who lost their lives protecting the nation from terrorists and other anti- social elements.
- The fund is directly administered by the Home Ministry and is given as an annuity or one time grant to the family of the martyred soldier.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced the 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative:

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), announced the 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat will be operated on the three principles of Awareness, Education and Enablement.

73 new airport and helipads to be set up under regional connectivity scheme UDAN:

- Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju announced the name of 73 new airports and helipads to be set-up under the Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN.
- The ambitious scheme Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik-UDAN seeks to boost regional air connectivity and provides various incentives to airlines.

Government to set up apex cybercrime coordination centre:



- Union Home Ministry is planning to set up an apex coordination centre to deal with cyber crimes such as financial frauds, circulation of communal and pornographic contents.

New Khadi dress for Postmen/MTS launched by Communications Minister Manoj Sinha:

- Communications Minister Manoj Sinha had unveiled a new khadi uniform for the Department of Posts personnel, including postmen and multi-tasking staff.
- The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) had designed this new uniform.
- The new dress carries the logo of 'India Post' on the pocket and the cap, along with red stripes on shoulders and shoulder blade.

Govt announces five Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards:

- The Indian Parliamentary Group has announced five Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for five consecutive years from 2013.
- The awards are listed below:

2013	Manipur Governor Najma A Heptulla
2014	BJP's Lok Sabha member Hukumdev Narayan Yadav
2015	Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad
2016	Trinamool Congress' Dinesh Trivedi
2017	Bhartruhari Mahatab

Home ministry Exempt biometric for cruise tourist till 2020:

- Union government exempt biometric for the cruise tourist till 2020 a period of three years to promote cruise tourism in the country.
- Cruise tourism means the travelers who travel for their leisure time
- At present E-Visa has been in place in the five major ports of Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin and Chennai.

CCEA approves construction of bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA approved construction, operation and maintenance of 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel with Parallel Escape Tunnel on Srinagar-Leh section in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It will provide all-weather connectivity to strategically important Leh region. The total capital cost of the project is over 6 thousand 800 crore rupees.

CCEA nod for implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has given its nod for implementation of the Jal Marg Vikas Project, JMVP for capacity augmentation of navigation on National Waterway-1 at a cost of over 5 thousand 370 crore rupees with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank.

Health Ministry and Tata Memorial Centre Launches India's First Digital Online Oncology Tutorial



- Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) launched the country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry.

Government launches Swachh Survekshan 2018:

- The government announced the launch of cleanliness survey for this year as part of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The Swachh Survekshan 2018 will rank 500 cities on national level which have more than 1 lakh population, while 3,541 cities with less than 1 lakh population will have State and Regional ranking.

Smriti Irani chairs Consultative Committee meeting of I&B Ministry:

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani has chaired the meeting of Consultative Committee of her Ministry to discuss the efforts taken in organizing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2017 and the steps to be taken to improve the next edition of IFFI.
- She apprised the members of the various steps and initiatives taken by the Ministry in IFFI 2017.

Indian Railways to equip all 8,500 stations with Wi-Fi:

- All railway stations nearly 8,500 across the country, including those in rural and remote areas will be equipped with Wi-Fi facilities at an estimated cost of Rs 700 crore (\$110 million).

Defence Innovation Centre to be set up in Coimbatore:

- Defence Minister Nirmala Seetharaman stated that a Defence Innovation Centre will be set up in Coimbatore to assist small industries in manufacturing components for the defence sector.
- The Defence Ministry will release 20 crore rupees as an initial funding to the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA) to set up the innovation centre.

Cabinet approves CCEA decision on closure of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited:

- The Cabinet approved the implementation of the CCEA decision on closure of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, TSPL regarding disposal of its immovable assets.
- It also provides for getting the name of the company struck off from the Registrar of Companies after setting balance liabilities of TSPL.

Cabinet approves continuation of MPLAD Scheme till March 31, 2020:

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to continuation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, MPLADS, till the term of the 14th Finance Commission which is 31st March 2020.

Railways cuts cost of booking tours through IRCTC by 10%:

- Railway board Chairperson Ashwani Lohani has directed for reduction in the service charge for booking tour packages with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) by 10%.
- IRCTC offers various tour packages, and previously levied 25% service charge for it.
- The move aims to improve the competitiveness of the packages with consequent positive impact on tourism.

Information and broadcasting ministry plans to merge film units:

- The information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry plans to merge its various film units, a move aimed at realigning its resources to enhance efficiency.



- Last month, the ministry had integrated its three departments — Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP), Song and Drama Division (S&DD) and Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP).
- Now the ministry is planning to merge its film units — National Film Development Corp (NFDC), Children's Film Society India (CFSI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DIFF) and Films Division of India.

IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS

Reserve Bank of India

USEFUL INFO	
Repo Rate	6%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate and Bank Rate	6.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	19.5%
USEFUL INFO	
RBI Headquarters	Mumbai
RBI Governor	Urjit Patel
RBI Deputy Governors	BP Kanungo, N S Vishwanathan and Viral Acharya

Reserve Bank of India Opens Branch in Dehradun:

- The Reserve Bank of India opened a branch in the Dehradun city to make transactions of the Uthtrakhand State government more convenient.

RBI to soon Launch Financial Literacy Drive in 9 States:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to launch a financial literacy drive in 80 blocks in nine states on the pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases. 9 states are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

RBI withdraws sale of Rs 10,000 crore worth of government securities under Open Market

- The Reserve Bank of India, RBI, has withdrawn the sale of Rs Ten thousand crore worth of government securities under Open Market Operations, OMO.

RBI asks cooperative societies not to use word 'Bank' in names:

- The RBI has asked co-operative societies not use the word 'Bank' in their names as it violates the Banking Regulation Act.

RBI Release New Outsourcing Norms for NBFCs



- Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) cannot outsource core management functions like internal audit, strategic and compliance functions for know your customer (KYC) norms, sanction of loans and management of investment portfolio.

India not to pursue Islamic banking: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided not to pursue a proposal to introduce Islamic banking in India. Decision in this regard was taken after considering wider and equal opportunities available to all citizens to access banking and financial services.

Legal Entity Identifier mandatory for all large corporate borrowers: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made 20-digit Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) compulsory for companies having aggregate fund-based and non-fund based exposure over Rs 5 crore.

Senior citizens of more than 70 years of age get doorstep banking by December 31:

- Senior citizens of **more than 70 years** of age and the differently-abled can look forward to **availing of basic banking services**, right from the comfort of their home.

RBI rationalises charges on debit card transactions

- In order to promote digital payments, RBI has come out with differentiated merchant discount rates (MDR) for debit card transactions, prescribing separate caps for small and large traders.

Reserve Bank of India grants two more months to eWallets for completing KYC:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted them two more months (till February) to complete 'know your customer' (KYC) compliance of existing users

KKR gets Reserve Bank of India nod to start India's 1st Foreign-owned ARC:

- US buyout giant **KKR & Co** has become the **first foreign investor** to fully own an asset reconstruction company (ARC) in India as it received approval from the Reserve Bank of India at a time when lenders are fighting with a pile of bad loans that have crippled their businesses.

Reserve Bank of India bonds scheme not closed:

- The Finance Ministry stated that RBI Bonds Scheme has not been closed but the interest rate on such papers lowered to **7.75 per cent**.
- Earlier the government notified that the 8 per cent **GOI Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2003** "shall cease for subscription with effect from the close of business on January 2, 2018."

Reserve Bank of India puts Allahabad Bank under prompt corrective action:

- The Reserve Bank has put the lender under prompt corrective action framework post an on-site inspection of high NPAs and negative return of assets for fiscal 2016-17.
- The RBI inspection has revealed high net **NPAs (non performing assets)** and negative **ROA (return on assets)** for **two** consecutive years.

Reserve Bank of India to issue new Rs 10 note in chocolate brown colour:

- India's central bank will soon issue a new **Rs 10 note** in **chocolate brown colour**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has already printed 1 billion pieces of the new note. Further, the new note will bear the picture of **Konark Sun Temple**.



Size	63*123
Design in Reverse side	Konark Sun Temple.
Colour	chocolate brown colour
Lines	There is no lines in Rs. 10 Note

RBI Ordered Banks to Recalibrate ATMs With Rs.200:

- Indian apex bank RBI orders all the banks to recalibrate ATM to install new Rs.200 for the more circulation of the denomination.
- RBI introduced New Rs.200 Note in 25th August 2017

Image on Backside	Sanchi Stupa
Dimensions	66 X 146 mm ²
Colour	bright yellow

SBI

SBI to Set Up Country's Largest Innovation Centre at Mumbai:

- The nation's largest lender State Bank of India is creating a 15,000-sqft innovation center in Navi Mumbai investing around Rs 100 crore.

SBI Launched SME Assist for MSME Clients:

- The State Bank of India has launched a new product to provide a short-term working capital demand loan to its MSME clients. The new initiative, called SME Assist.

SBI Sanctions Rs2,317 crore for Financing Solar Power Projects:

- State Bank of India** announced sanction of credit facilities amounting to **Rs. 2,317 crore** to corporate for financing Grid Connected Rooftop Solar projects **under an SBI-World Bank program**. This funding will create solar power capacity aggregating 575 MW.

SBI to use blockchain for smart contracts and KYC:

- State Bank of India has announced that it will start integrating blockchain technology in products starting next month as part of a beta test.

SBI's revamped digital offering gets all group products & services on one app:

- The State Bank launched a comprehensive digital platform with a view to providing all its services as well as its subsidiaries with just one app.

SBI raises bulk deposit rates by 100 bps:

- Sensing an arbitrage opportunity in the repo market, the country's largest lender State Bank of India raised interest rate on bulk deposits of over Rs 1 crore by one per cent, effective November 30.

Lupin Foundation partnership with State Bank of India to open 2 lakh bank accounts:

- Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation, part of pharma major Lupin, will facilitate opening over 2 lakh bank accounts through its financial inclusion programme in rural areas by 2020.

SBI going to raise their capital by 8000 crore :



- The country's largest lender SBI announces that it going to raise their capital as Rs 8,000 crore through different sources, like masala bonds, to meet Basel III capital norms. SBI gets target to achieve it before March 2018. RBI imposed deadline to achieve Basel III norms by March 2019.

State Bank of India hikes bulk deposit rates by 50-140 bps:

- The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) raised interest rates on bulk deposits by 50-140 basis points.
- One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point. Bulk Deposit means "Rupee Term Deposits of Rs 1 crore and above".

SBI cuts base rate by 30 basis points:

- Nations largest lender **State Bank of India** brings **down** its base rate **30 percent** it will come to effect from **January 2, 2018**.
- The base rate becomes 8.65 per cent for existing customers from 8.95 percent,
- The benchmark prime lending rates is down from 13.7 per cent, to 13.4 per cent.
- **MCLR** stands unchanged at **7.95 per cent**.

SBI and NABARD Joins to Promote Joint Liability Groups in West Bengal:

- Country's largest lender **State Bank of India** and Agri house **NABARD** have signed an agreement with five NGOs in West Bengal for the promotion of 2,500 **joint liability groups (JLGs)**.

Indian Railways debit cards, in tie-up with SBI:

- Indian Railways is set to launch its own co-branded debit card and also hold monthly lottery draw to give 100% cash-back to 10 lucky passengers.
- The debit card will be launched in association with the country's biggest lender State Bank of India and the transporter's arm **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**.

SBI collected Rs 1771 crore as charges from below minimum balance accounts in April-November:

- The State Bank of India had collected whopping Rs **1,771 crore** during April-November 2017 as charges from below minimum balance accounts.
- The charges were slapped on customers who did not maintain their minimum **monthly average balance (MAB)** in their accounts, according to reports.

State Bank of India may cut minimum balance limit in savings a/c's to 1,000:

- India's largest lender SBI is planning to bring down the minimum balance limit for savings accounts to 1,000 from the current 3,000 balance in metros.

State Bank of India to raise \$2 billion for overseas expansion:

- **State Bank of India** will raise up to **\$2 billion** — about 12,700 crore at current exchange rates — over the next two fiscal years to fund its overseas expansion. India's largest lender intends to raise the amount through a public offer and/or the issue of bonds in US dollars or any other convertible currency.

Asian Development Bank

ADB invests \$50 million in True North to support mid-market biz:



- The ADB has invested USD 50 million in True North VI LLP (True North VI) to provide equity capital to middle-market companies in India embarking on their next phase of growth.

Allahabad Bank

Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India to come up with ESOP plans:

- As part of capital raising plans, public sector lenders Allahabad Bank, United Bank have initiated process to make employees stakeholders by way of issuing employee stock option (ESOP).

Allahabad Bank ties up with NeSL:

- Allahabad Bank entered into an agreement with state-run National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing the latter's Information Utility Services envisaged under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Axis Bank

Axis Bank launches Blockchain-based international payment service

- Private sector lender Axis Bank has launched an instant international payment services using Ripple's enterprise blockchain technology solution for retail and corporate customers. Though an international offer, the bank is offering the facility only to its retail customers in the country to receive payments from the UAE-based Rak Bank and for its corporate customers to receive payments from Standard Chartered, Singapore.

Bank of Baroda

Bank of Baroda launches digital Supply Chain Finance solution

- State-run lender Bank of Baroda launched digital Supply Chain Finance solution which aims to accelerate working capital loan opportunities for the small and medium enterprises and large corporate clients.

Canara Bank

Canara Bank rolls out several initiatives for staff:

- Canara Bank has launched several initiatives and benefits for its staff. These initiatives include a digital library, a Canarites app, a field recovery mobile app, a retail loan (vehicle) -- tracking system, and a regulatory guidance tracking system.

Canara Bank will raise up to Rs 3,500 crore capital by QIP

- Canara Bank will raise up to Rs 3,500 crore capital through a qualified institutions placement (QIP) route.

Catholic Syrian Bank

Catholic Syrian Bank to enter 2-wheeler financing from January:

- Catholic Syrian Bank, one of the oldest private sector banks in the country, intends to roll out a two-wheeler financing vertical from the New Year.



Corporation Bank

Corporation Bank launches RuPay credit cards:

- Corporation Bank has launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards

DBS Bank

DBS Bank Gets RBI Nod for Subsidiary in India

- DBS Bank India, part of Singapore-based financial services group DBS Group Holdings, has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert its existing India franchise to a locally incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India.

European Investment Bank

Yes Bank, EIB to co-finance \$400 million for clean power projects:

- Yes Bank and the European Investment Bank will co-finance \$400-million funding for renewable power generation in the country.

HDFC

HDFC Bank Becomes 2nd Most Valuable Company on BSE

- HDFC Bank surpassed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the country's second most valued firm in terms of market valuation.

HDFC Bank is India's Top Brand: BrandZ Top 50 Report

- India's second largest private sector bank HDFC Bank topped the list of the country's top 50 brands Airtel is at 2nd spot and State Bank of India is at 3rd.

HDFC Life Launched Neo, a Bot for Twitter :

- **HDFC Life Insurance Company** has launched 'Neo', a servicing **bot for Twitter** that uses artificial intelligence for customer service. This is the second bot put in operation by HDFC Life, after the launch of **SPOK**, which was an email bot to answer customer queries.

RBI Rejects HDFC Bank's Request to Declassify HDFC as FI

- The Reserve Bank of India has reportedly rejected HDFC Bank's plea to declassify its parent Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) as a foreign institutional investor (FI).

HDFC Bank tweaks norms for premium accounts:

- HDFC Bank has tweaked the requirement for its premium customers by mandating that they now keep Rs 1-lakh balance a month from the earlier requirement of Rs 1-lakh balance a quarter.

HDFC Bank to develop 1,000 villages under CSR by Financial Year 2019:

- HDFC Bank aims to transform lives in 1,000 villages by March 2019 as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR).



HDFC Bank Launched SmartUp Zone in Kochi

- HDFC Bank has announced the launch of its SmartUp Zone in Kochi, an exclusive area inside the branch dedicated for start-ups. SmartUp Zones will be launched in over 65 branches in 30 cities across India, including tier 2 and 3 cities.

HDFC Bank issues 3 lakh instant credit cards within a year:

- Private sector lender HDFC Bank has issued 300,000 instant credit cards within a year of its launch.

HSBC

HSBC Launches App to Track Trade Transactions:

- HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) announced the launch of a mobile app - Trade Transaction Tracker - to help customers track the status of their trade transactions on a real-time basis.

US central bank fines HSBC \$175 mn for Lax Forex Oversight:

- The US central bank has fined global banking giant HSBC \$175 million for failing to oversee foreign exchange traders who misused confidential client information and colluded with traders at competing

HSBC fined record \$51 million over Lehman-linked products:

- HSBC's private-banking unit was fined a record \$51 million over sales of structured products linked to Lehman Brothers in Hong Kong

ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank committed financial assistance to Armed Forces:

- ICICI Bank, the country's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, committed financial assistance of Rs. 10 crore to the Indian Armed Forces

ICICI Bank announced the launch of India's first voice-based international remittance service:

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of India's first voice-based international remittance service to enable non-resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to any bank in India.

Paytm, ICICI Bank Collaborate to Give Users Short Term Digital Credit:

- Paytm and ICICI Bank have collaborated to announce an all-new initiative where users can get interest-free short-term digital credit. Called Paytm-ICICI Bank Postpaid.
-

South Indian Bank

South Indian Bank raises Rs.490 crore via private placement:

- South Indian Bank has announced the successful fund raising of Rs.490 crore by way of private placement of Basel-III compliant Tier-2 bonds. The capital position of SIB as on September 30 was 11.74 per cent, which is well above the minimum required level of 10.25 per cent.
-

Yes Bank



Yes Bank, unveiled a superior payment wallet service, BHIM Yes Pay

- Yes Bank, unveiled a superior payment wallet service, **BHIM Yes Pay** by fully integrating the application with all the India Stack APIs and NPCI Products. Yes Bank has over 5.5 lakh registered users on BHIM Yes Pay.

Reliance General Insurance enters into bancassurance pact with YES Bank:

- Reliance General - a subsidiary of Reliance Capital Ltd – signed the bancassurance agreement - corporate agency agreement – with Yes Bank to distribute insurance products to the bank's customers.

Yes Bank raises \$400 million loans from Japan, Taiwan:

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has raised \$400 million in syndicated loans from lenders in Taiwan and Japan for on-lending to clients.

YES Bank approves proposal to set up \$1-billion debt programme to raise money:

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has approved proposal to set up MTN programme to raise \$1 billion (about Rs 6,500 crore) on private placement basis.

Yes Bank Signs MoU with Government for Rs 1,000 Crore Financing:

- Private sector lender Yes Bank signed an agreement with the government to provide Rs 1,000 crore financing for food processing projects. The funding will be provided to around 100 food processing projects with an average ticket size of Rs 10 crore each.

Yes Bank Ties up with Centre Denmark India for Fintech Collaboration:

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has signed an MoU with Innovation Centre Denmark India (ICDK India),

YES Bank to raise \$1 billion to fund solar energy projects:

- Yes Bank will mobilise \$1 billion till 2023 and \$5 billion till 2030 towards financing solar energy projects in India.
- The private sector bank made this announcement at the International Solar Alliance (ISA) conference organised at the World Future Energy Summit 2018 in Abu Dhabi.

Yes Bank to sell \$300 million bonds through IFSC unit:

- Mid-scale private sector lender Yes Bank is in the global debt market with a \$300-million bond issue, as part of its \$1-billion global medium-term note programme.
- This is the first overseas debt sale by a domestic issuer from the International Finance Centre at the Gift City in Ahmedabad.

Indiabulls Housing Finance raises Rs 1,000 crore from Yes Bank for affordable housing bond sale:

- Mortgage lender Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBHF) has raised Rs 1,000 crore from Mumbai based private sector lender Yes Bank in the country's maiden social affordable housing bond sale.
- Money raised through the sale of the five-year bonds will be used exclusively for financing the affordable housing sector.
- It can be noted that the government has set a target of ensuring that there is housing for all by 2022

Yes Bank, Nearby Tech bring cardless-pinless ATM service:

- Fintech startup **Nearby Technologies** has tied up with **Yes Bank** to provide Aadhaar- enabled cardless and pinless ATM service by which customers can deposit or withdraw money at retailers' place.



Foreign start-ups enter India's fintech segment with Yes Bank:

- **Yes Fintech**, a startup accelerator of Yes Bank, has launched its second cohort with eight start-ups, including three international firms.
- The cohort, a 15-week innovation programme, will help these start-ups, chosen out of nearly 500 applicants across 10 countries to work on their products, understand its value in the market and get wider access to global audience.

World Bank

India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for USD 119 Million

- A Financing Agreement for IBRD loan of US\$ 119 million (equivalent) for the "Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity (OHEPEE) Project" was signed with the World Bank.

India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for "Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project"

- A Guarantee Agreement for IBRD/CTF loan of USD 98 million and Grant Agreement for USD 2 million for the "Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project" was signed with the World Bank.

India, World Bank sign rupees 98cr loan pact for renewable energy:

- India and the World Bank signed a \$98 million loan pact, and a \$2 million grant agreement to help the country increase power generation capacity through cleaner, renewable energy sources. In Madhya Pradesh

SEBI

SEBI Advisory Committee to Discuss Trading Hours Extension

- An advisory committee of the Securities and Exchange Board of India is likely to discuss a proposal for extending stock market trading hours. The stock market in India currently opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 3.30 p.m., The 19-member committee is led by Jayanth R Varma

SEBI Allows Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to Issue Bonds

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) to raise capital by issuing debt securities

SEBI to bring Initial Coin Offerings using crypto currencies under its lens.

- The capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to bring Initial Coin Offerings (ICO) under its existing legal framework

Reliance General Insurance gets SEBI nod for IPO:

- Reliance General Insurance Company, a part of Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group, has received SEBI nod to float an initial public offering.

SEBI imposes Rs 6.8 lakh penalty on Skanda Aerospace:

- Markets regulator SEBI levied a fine of Rs 6.80 lakh on Skanda Aerospace for disclosure norm lapses.

SEBI ordered Axis bank to investigate WhatsApp Case:



- Axis bank's share was decreased 2% suddenly and SEBI suspects that Banks' internal information may leak by WhatsApp group. So, SEBI ordered Axis bank to enquire it by forming the internal probe.

SEBI has tightened the norms for credit rating agencies and mutual funds:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India has stricken the norms for credit rating agencies and mutual funds to reduce the conflict of interest.
- SEBI increased the net worth of rating agencies from 5 crore to 25 crore.

NABARD

NABARD Buys Additional 7% stake in SIDBI from IDBI Bank

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has bought an additional 7% stake in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for Rs 900 crore from public sector lender IDBI Bank Ltd.

NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017:

- Parliament has cleared the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to amend the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**.
- According to the bill the authorized capital is raised to 30000 Cr from 5000 Cr in future it may also increase with consultation of RBI.
- At present, **Union government has the 99.6% share in the bank rest with RBI.**

Paytm Payments Bank

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley formally launches Paytm Payments Bank:

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley formally launched the Paytm Payments Bank in New Delhi. The Payments Bank will have zero charges on all online transactions and no minimum balance requirement. The company has planned an investment of \$500 Mn in KYC (Know Your Customer) operations.

Digital payment platform Paytm introduced payments using BHIM UPI on its platform

- Digital payment platform Paytm introduced payments using **BHIM UPI on its platform**, using which users can create their own Paytm BHIM UPI ID on the app, which will be issued by Paytm Payments Bank.

Paytm to acquire startups Nearbuy, Little for \$30 mn: Report

- Digital payments platform Paytm is acquiring deal discovery startups, Nearbuy and Little for about \$30 million in a cash-and-stock deal. Nearbuy and Little provide online discount coupons for restaurants and salons, and commercial establishment deals.

Paytm introduces 'buy now-pay later' option for users:

- Digital payments platform Paytm has introduced 'buy now-pay later' option which allows users to pay after 45 days of making the purchase. The option will offer the "loan" ranging from Rs.3000 to Rs.10,000 without charging any interest. Paytm has partnered with ICICI Bank for the loan which depends on a user's Paytm transaction history, credit history and the bank's policies.

Paytm rolls out FASTag across India:

- Paytm Payments Bank is rolling out Paytm FASTag across the India, with the government mandating the use of FASTag on every new vehicle sold from December 1.



Paytm Payments Bank starts physical debit card delivery:

- Paytm Payments Bank Savings Account holders can now order physical debit cards from the Paytm app.
- Earlier the bank provided only a Digital Rupay card which was linked to a user's Paytm Payments Bank savings account.
- The users will be charged a one-time fee of Rs.120 to get the card.

Paytm Payments Bank, IndusInd tie-up for fixed deposit facility:

- Noida based Paytm Payments Bank has partnered with IndusInd Bank to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds Rs 1 lakh at the end of day

Other Banking News

IBBI Registered National E-Governance Services Ltd as Information Utility

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as an Information Utility (IU) under the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017

US banking regulators ordered Pakistan's Habib Bank to shutter its New York office

- US banking regulators ordered Pakistan's Habib Bank to shutter its New York office after nearly 40 years, for repeatedly failing to heed concerns over possible terrorist financing and money laundering.

Fiscal deficit touches 92.4% of budget estimates at July-end

- India's fiscal deficit at July- end touched 92.4 % of the budget mainly because of front loading of expenditure by various government departments.

21st GST Council meeting underway in Hyderabad

- The 21st meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has begun under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in Hyderabad.

Tech giant Google is announced to unveil a digital payment service 'Google Tez' in India

- Tech giant Google is announced to unveil a digital payment service in India 'Google Tez' that has been developed for the local market

Fino Payments Bank Launches Mobile Banking App

- Fino Payments Bank has launched its mobile banking app called BPay.

World Trade to Grow at Higher 3.6% in 2017: WTO

- World trade in goods is estimated to grow at a higher 3.6 percent in 2017 compared to 1.6 percent increase in 2016, according to revised estimates circulated by the World Trade Organisation.

Finance Ministry asks public sector banks to submit recapitalisation roadmap in a month:

- As part of Rs 2.11 lakh crore recapitalisation exercise, the finance ministry has asked state-owned banks to submit their board-approved roadmaps for raising funds and strengthening core activities in about a month.

Bank of China begins its operations in Pakistan:

- Bank of China has formally launched its operations in Pakistan with the first branch inaugurated at Karachi, Pakistan.



Fino Payments Bank ties up with Mother Dairy and Gokul Dairy:

- Fino Payments Bank has tied up with Gokul Dairy and Mother Dairy to **digitize payments in the milk industry.**

Dubai bank Emirates NBD begins operations in India:

- Emirates NBD, the UAE's second-largest lender has started operations in India with an aim to invest USD 100 million capital into its Indian operations. The Mumbai branch marks the bank's fifth international branch outside of its UAE network.

IPPB Bank to become operational in 650 districts by April 2018

- The government said India Post Payments Bank will become operational in all **650 districts of the country by April next year.** They will facilitate financial inclusion.

Air India has received a loan worth Rs 1,500 crore from Bank of India:

- Debt-laden Air India has received a loan worth Rs 1,500 crore from Bank of India to meet urgent working capital needs less than a month after floating a tender in this regard, an airline source said.

RBL Bank opens all women branch in Chennai:

- Private sector RBL Bank has set up an all women branch in Chennai

Government sets Rs 10,000 minimum balance in bank accounts as rural poverty measure:

- The government will now look at the bank accounts of families in a rural set up to determine the level of poverty in a gram Panchayat. According to a report the minimum amount in such accounts has been set as Rs 10,000. The aim of the mission is to create 50,000 poverty-free panchayats.

United Bank of India plans to raise Rs 500 crore via Basel III compliant bonds:

- State-owned United Bank of India (UBI) plans to raise up to Rs 500 crore to comply with the global standard Basel III banking norms by March 2019.

Banks allowed to hire machines, staffers for Aadhaar enrolment:

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has provided some relaxation to banks in procurement of enrolment machines and hiring private data entry operators for their Aadhaar centres.

Andhra Bank launches scheme to push entrepreneurship:

- The scheme, Pattabhi Sitaramayya — Self Business Group (PS-SBG), has been introduced to commemorate the 138th birth anniversary of its founder Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya, and the Silver Jubilee of the SHG-Bank linkage programme in the country.

AU Small Finance Bank has received RBI approval to operate as Scheduled Commercial Bank

- AU Small Finance Bank has received Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval to operate as Scheduled Commercial Bank. This bank's name has now been included in the Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

AIIB Grants Rs. 13,000 cr Loan to in Andhra Pradesh

- China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 2 million loan (Rs. 13,000 crores) for five projects in Andhra Pradesh.

Airtel Payments Bank CEO Shashi Arora quits:



- Airtel Payments Bank MD and CEO Shashi Arora quits the company after UIDAI suspended the firm's e-KYC licence.

Bank of Baroda partners with Invoicemart as a TReDS partner:

- Digital invoice discounting marketplace – Invoicemart has tied up with state-run lender Bank of Baroda to discount invoices for MSMEs.
- Buyers and sellers registered on the marketplace will now be able to access funding from Bank of Baroda. Invoicemart is a joint venture between Axis Bank Ltd and mjunction services Ltd.

Indian Bank hikes FCNR (B) rates:

- Chennai based Indian Bank has raised the interest rates on **foreign currency non-resident (banking)** term deposits from January 1.
- For FCNR (B) deposits in US dollar terms, the rate has been fixed at 2.89 per cent for deposits of one year and above but less than two years, from 2.77 per cent now.

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) For Employee Training:

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

Oriental Bank of Commerce hikes interest rates on FCNR accounts:

- Oriental Bank of Commerce has hiked interest rates for deposits in foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) accounts.
- The bank has revised the **interest rates on FCNR (Banks)** deposits with effect from **January 4, 2018**.
- For the USD FCNR (B) deposits of one year and less than two years, the interest rate has been revised upwards to 3.06 per cent from existing 2.78 per cent.

Paytm Payments Bank, IndusInd tie-up for fixed deposit facility:

- Noida based Paytm Payments Bank has partnered with IndusInd Bank to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds **Rs 1 lakh** at the end of day

Federal Bank ties up with Hedge Equities:

- Federal Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Hedge Equities Ltd for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.
- Federal Bank is authorised by the RBI to issue permission letter to NRIs on behalf of the RBI to transact in secondary market.

HDFC Bank becomes first Indian bank to cross Rs 5 trillion market capital:

- Private sector lender HDFC Bank became the first Indian bank to cross ₹5 trillion (about \$78 billion) market capitalisation.
- In the last one year, the bank's shares have gained around 56%. The bank is also only the third Indian company to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Reliance Industries.

Pakistan State Bank Allows Bilateral Trade of Yuan:

- For facilitate Chinese exporter **Pakistan** allowed Chinese Yuan for the financial transaction. From today Chinese Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan.



NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017:

- Parliament has cleared the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to amend the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**.
- According to the bill the authorized capital is raised to 30000 Cr from 5000 Cr in future it may also increase with consultation of RBI.
- At present, Union government has the 99.6% share in the bank rest with RBI.

AP Grameena Bank unveils desktop ATM in rural India:

- Warangal based Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) has operationalised its **first desktop ATM** at Kasibugga in **Mandi Bazar of Warangal** in Telangana.
- The mini ATM, within the branch premises, will facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts.

Six public sector banks get Rs. 7,500 crore capital from government:

- The Centre has pumped in capital of **Rs.7,577 crore** in various weak public sector banks.

Bank Of India	2,257
IDBI	2729
Central Bank Of India	323
Dena Bank	243
UCO	1375
Bank Of Maharashtra	650

HDFC Bank And Rajasthan Govt joins to Promote Startup Culture:

- **HDFC Bank** joins to **Rajasthan** government to develop and strengthen startup companies in the state. HDFC Bank will provide end-to-end solutions like current accounts, credit cards and other solutions to startups under its Smart Up programme.

Bandhan Bank to raise over Rs. 2,500 crore via IPO:

- **Kolkata**-based **Bandhan Bank** filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India for its **initial public offer (IPO)** to raise an estimated amount of over **Rs. 2,500 crore**.

Bank of Baroda rolls out '5X' rewards card:

- Bank of Baroda, through its wholly-owned subsidiary BOB Financial Solutions (formerly known as Bobcards Ltd), has launched the '5X Rewards' credit card.
- The card comes in three variants — Easy, Select and Premier — based on customer segmentation.
- 'Easy' is designed for everyday use and carries 5X rewards on regular spend categories — grocery, departmental stores and movies.

Government allows Small Finance Banks & Payments Banks to offer Atal Pension Yojana:

- Government has allowed Small Finance Banks and Payments Banks to offer Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- 10 Small Finance Banks and 11 Payment Banks have got license from Reserve Bank of India to start banking operations in the country.

Axis Bank launches 4th edition of "Evolve":



- Private sector Axis Bank today launched the fourth edition of 'Evolve', an annual multi-city knowledge series for Bank's SME customers.
- The current edition of evolve, titled "Transform your Family Business into your dream company", will empower the SMEs understand the winning strategies and best practises that have helped some of the leading family businesses in India grow into reputable enterprise.

Equitas Bank launches digital wealth management:

- Chennai-headquartered Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFBL) announced the launch of its digital wealth management service.
- The bank has collaborated with Valuefy Solutions – a fintech start-up – to create an online platform where customers can make paperless investments in mutual funds and other products.
- With the launch, ESFBL aims to provide to its clients the facility to invest in mutual funds digitally.

Axis Bank partners NGO Srijan to mentor IIM graduates:

- Axis Bank is partnering with NGO Srijan through an initiative called Buddha Fellowship Programme to help nurture talent for the development sector.
- The bank is mentoring 15 graduates from the Indian Institutes of Management at Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Shillong, who have been taken on board by Srijan as campus hires.

Mauritius largest source of FDI in India:

- Mauritius was the largest source of foreign investment in India, followed by the US and the UK, according to a census by the Reserve Bank.
- Singapore and Japan were the next two sources of foreign direct investment (FDI), said the Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies 2016-17, released by RBI.

AU Small Finance Bank inks MoU with LIC to offer PMJJBY scheme:

- 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 Rs.2 lakh in case of death to the customer at a nominal premium of Rs.330 per annum.

IOB inks pact with National Housing Bank:

- Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has joined hands with the National Housing Bank for implementation of the rural housing interest subsidy scheme offered under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- The scheme aims to provide subsidy for loans to households in rural areas for taking up construction and modification activities.

Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Bharti Airtel, has launched Airtel GST Advantage



- Airtel Business, the B2B arm of telecom major **Bharti Airtel**, has launched **Airtel GST Advantage** - a solution designed to enable small businesses and start-ups to file their GST returns "accurately, securely and seamlessly."

Samsung's Bixby Voice now works in India

- **Bixby** takes some initial setting up, requiring users to **input their voice, reading commands and sentences and trying out a few tasks.**

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is the world's third-biggest energy company

- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** is the world's third-biggest energy company according to **Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings.**

Aadhaar Made Mandatory For Small Saving Schemes as Post Office Deposits, PPF, KVP

- The government has made biometric identification Aadhaar mandatory for all post office deposits, PPF, the National Savings Certificate scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra.

GDP to Hit \$6 trillion by 2027 on Digital Leap: Morgan Stanley Report

- India is likely to be the world's fastest-growing large economy in the next 10 years, driven by digitisation, favourable demographics, globalisation and reforms, according to the Morgan Stanley report.

Direct Tax Collections in First Half of Current Financial Year rise 15.8 percent

- The Direct Tax Collections in the first half (April-September) of the current fiscal (2017-18) shows growth of 15.8 percent.

First US Crude Oil Shipment Arrives in Paradip

- Indian Oil, which became the first Indian public sector refiner to source US crude has placed a cumulative order 3.9 million barrel from the US.

Airtel Gets Approval for Tigo Merger in Ghana

- Bharti Airtel has received Ghana's National Communications Authority's approval for the merger between Bharti Ghana (Airtel) and Millicom Ghana (Tigo)

Private insurer Tata AIA Life announced the launch of 'Eazy Connect'

- Private insurer Tata AIA Life announced the launch of 'Eazy Connect' that will extend online customer service to social media platforms.

J Sagar Associates (JSA) Becomes First Law Firm in GIFT City

- J Sagar Associates (JSA) is the first law firm to have opened an office at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT).

Magicbricks Launches India's First Online Property Bidding Platform

- Magicbricks announced the launch of India's first online bidding platform for residential and commercial properties and tied-up with developer M3M for the inaugural 'My Bid, My Home' under which consumers can bid for ready-to-move-in residential properties in Gurugram.

India's Coffee Output Pegged at Record 3.5 lakh Tons in 2017-18

- Coffee output in India is pegged to be a record 3.50 lakh tonnes in the 2017-18 marketing year started this month on higher acreage



Govt Okays Rs 2,000 crore to Set up Aadhaar Units in Post Offices

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Rs 2,000 crore specifically for setting up Aadhaar centres in post offices; facilities will be available in around 15,000 post offices by March 31, 2018.

GIC Re Launched India's Third Largest IPO

- General Insurance Corp of India (GIC Re) kicked off its mega Rs 11,370 crore initial public offer (IPO). This is India's third biggest IPO ever after Coal India's and Reliance Power's

MasterCard Launched its First Innovation Centre in India

- US-based fintech company Mastercard has announced the launch of its global research and development arm Mastercard Labs in Pune, India.

IBM Launches Blockchain Banking Network to Speed Cross-border Payments

- International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) has announced the launch of IBM Blockchain, a new blockchain banking solution, that will help financial institutions for cross-border payments.

Income Tax dept Launches 'Online Chat' to answer Taxpayers Queries

- The Income Tax Department has launched an 'online chat' service for taxpayers so that they can seek answers to their basic queries and doubts relating to direct tax issues.

GSTN Launches excel-based offline tool to file initial GSTR-3B Returns

- Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has launched an excel-based offline tool for businesses to file initial GSTR- 3B returns.

Honda overtakes Bajaj to seal No 2 spot in domestic bike sales

- Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) have raced past Bajaj Auto to become the second biggest bike seller in India during the first half of the ongoing fiscal.

RIL, First Indian Company to Cross Rs 6 Trillion Market Capital

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs 6 trillion market capitalization after its shares surged over 75%

India Overtakes US to Become Second Largest Smartphone Market: Report

- India overtake the US to become the world's second-largest smartphone market, after China,

Cabinet Approves Rs 7,000 crore for Construction of Six IIT Campuses

- The Union Cabinet has approved over Rs 7,000 crore for construction of permanent campuses of six new Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) across the country. Each of the permanent campuses to be established at Tripathi (Andhra Pradesh), Palakad (Kerala), Dharwad (Karnataka), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) and Goa will

RCom-Sistema Merger Gets Final Nod from DoT

- Reliance Communication had received the final approval on its merger with Sistema from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT).

Government doubles import duty on wheat to 20%:

- The Government has doubled the import duty on wheat to 20 per cent in order to curb cheap shipments and give positive price signal to farmers in the ongoing Rabi season.



India pledges additional \$100 million towards UN partnership fund

- India has pledged an additional **100 million US Dollar** towards the **UN partnership fund**, significantly scaling up its support to sustainable development projects across the developing world.

Alibaba posts record Singles' Day sales of \$25 billion:

- Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba generated a record \$25.3 billion in its Singles' Day sales, showing a 39% jump from last year. It surpassed previous year's total of \$17.8 billion in just 13 hours.

India to overtake Japan as third largest economy by 2028: BofAML

- India is likely to become world's third largest economy by 2028 and overtake Japan in nominal gross domestic product (GDP), projects a recent Bank of America Merrill Lynch report co-authored by Indranil Sen Gupta and Aastha Gudwani.

RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed to Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board:

- RBI Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board or the Bank of International Settlement (BIS). Bank for International Settlements is an international financial organisation owned by 60 member central banks across the world.

Govt removes restrictions on export of all types of pulses:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has removed restrictions on export of all types of pulses.

Centre hikes import duty on edible oils to help farmers:

- The Centre has raised import duty on crude palm oil to 30 per cent from 15 per cent and on refined oil to 40 per cent from 20 per cent in a bid to curb cheaper shipments and boost local prices for supporting farmers and refiners, according to a notification.

BillDesk launches cryptocurrency exchange Coinome in India:

- Indian online payments company BillDesk has launched cryptocurrency exchange Coinome in India which allows for the trading of Bitcoin and Bitcoin Cash. Mumbai-based Coinome allows users to register via an instant e-KYC process by using Aadhaar number.

JM Financial gets NHB nod for home finance arm:

- Financial services player JM Financial has got the regulatory approval to launch a housing finance subsidiary.

IndiaFirst Life introduces first-ever micro-insurance plan 'insurance khata':

- IndiaFirst Life Insurance (IndiaFirst Life) has launched a unique micro-insurance plan 'insurance khata' targeted at those in the informal sector and agricultural labourers with seasonal incomes.

E-payments for charging electric vehicles:

- The government will allow electric car users to pay for charging of their electric vehicles through digital means, including BHIM app and Bharat QR code. **Government constitutes**

15th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of former bureaucrat NK Singh:



- The Government has constituted the 15th Finance Commission. Former bureaucrat and ex-Member of Parliament NK Singh will chair the Commission which will make recommendations for the five years commencing 1st April 2020.

Muthoot Finance launches loan scheme targeting SMEs:

- Gold finance company Muthoot Finance launched a new loan scheme targeted at Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) for their working capital requirements. Gold loans above Rs 10 lakh would be provided at an interest rate of 12 per cent per annum.

Amazon makes Aadhaar mandatory for tracking lost packages:

- E-commerce giant Amazon has made it mandatory for users to link Aadhaar details to their accounts in order to track lost packages.

PayPal Launches Domestic Payments in India

- American digital payments company PayPal launched domestic operations in India. At launch, Indian consumers will be able to make transactions at select online merchants.

Uber Approves SoftBank Multibillion-Dollar Investment Offer

- Uber Technologies Inc. approved SoftBank Group Corp.'s offer to buy a multibillion-dollar stake in the ride-hailing company, setting the stage for one of the largest private start-up deals ever.

Cabinet Approves India's Membership for EBRD

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD).

HEFA approved over 2000 crore rupees for 6 higher education institutions:

- Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) has approved projects worth over 2,066 crore rupees for six higher educational institutions to improve the research infrastructure and further their standing at the global level.

Aircel to shut operations in 6 circles from January 30:

- Telecom operator Aircel will shut operations in six circles, including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, from January 30.

Government cuts small saving interest by 0.2 present:

- The government cuts the interest rate on small savings schemes such as public provident fund (PPF), national savings certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra, by 0.2 percentages for the January-March quarter.

Schemes	%
Public Provident Fund (PPF),	7.6%
national savings certificate (NSC)	7.6%
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.3% (11 months maturity)
Senior Citizens Savings Scheme	8.3%

GST Cess hike to 25% for luxury cars:



- The Lok Sabha passes a bill to hike cess on luxury vehicles from 15 per cent to 25 per cent on today's session. The funds collected by this hike will be used to compensate for revenue loss on account of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Finance Ministry cuts the I-T exemption to cooperative banks:

- Until now there is a I-T exemption for the co-operative banks but it also making profit equal to the commercial banks. So finance ministry cuts the IT exemptions for the co operative banks from 1st Jan 2018.

Ripple becomes world's second largest cryptocurrency:

- Bitcoin's rival cryptocurrency Ripple has surpassed Ethereum as the world's second largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation.

Government extends deadline for pasting stickers reflecting new MRP:

- The government has allowed companies till March next year to paste price stickers on unsold packaged products to reflect new MRP post GST.

14,500 crore generated through BHARAT 22 Exchange Traded Fund:

- An amount of Rs 14,500 crore has been raised through its BHARAT 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), which was created to benefit long-term and retail investors by providing an opportunity to purchase equity stocks of government-run companies and earn stable returns.

Government allotted Rs 33,700 Cr for Swachh Bharat Mission since 2014

- The Union government has allocated over Rs 33,700 crore under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' since 2014, Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Uma Bharti released the distribution Rs 2,850 crore in 2013-14, Rs 6,525 crore for 2014-2015, Rs 10,513 crore 2015-16 and Rs 13,948.27 2016-17.

Finance Ministry warns about crypto currencies:

- Until RBI only warning about the crypto currency now finance ministry also join hands about the Virtual currency.

Center Approves Rs 167 Crore To 9 States For Border Development:

- Center Sanctions 167 Cr under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) for the development of infrastructure in the border regions.

Airlines drop flat Rs.3,000 cancellation fee after DGCA notice:

- Indian domestic carriers have scrapped their flat Rs.3,000 cancellation fee after regulator DGCA asked the airlines to provide data on cancellation charges.

Power Finance Corporation helps 100 divyaang children under CSR:

- Under the Cochlear Implant Scheme of the Government of India for hearing disability hundred children under 6 years have benefited as a result of Corporate Social Responsibility initiative of the Power Finance Corporation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces Rs 90,000 crore for improving roads, highways in Northeast:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 90,000 crore for improving roads and national highways in the Northeast in the next two to three years to facilitate better connectivity.

India is the first country where AIIB has committed over \$1-billion of financing:



- India is the first country where the Bank has committed more than \$1 billion of financing," Vice-President and Corporate Secretary of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Danny Alexander stated in a statement.

IBM, Maersk form blockchain firm for international cargo:

- US software firm IBM and Denmark's Maersk have announced a joint venture that uses blockchain technology to track international cargo movement.
- The company will use distributed ledger technology behind blockchain to create an unchangeable record of transactions that can be shared real-time.
- Maersk, which owns the world's largest container shipping line, will be the first to use the new platform.

TCS signs deal worth over 690 million dollars with M&G:

- India's largest IT services firm, Tata Consultancy Services has signed a deal worth over 690 million dollars with M&G Prudential, savings and investments business of Prudential plc. in the UK and Europe.
- Under the contract, TCS will digitally transform M&G Prudential's business and deliver enhanced service for its UK savings and retirement customers.

Indian Oil signs Letter of Intent (LoI) with Two Israeli Firms :

- Indian Oil Corporation has signed Letters of Intent (LoI) with 2 Israel firms one is Phinergy, an Israeli start-up company, and another is YEDA, a technical company from Weizmann Research Institute, Israel.
- A letter of intent (LOI) is a document outlining the general plans of an agreement between two or more parties before a legal agreement is finalized

Apple named the world's most admired company for 2018:

- Technology giant Apple has topped Fortune magazine's list of the 'World's Most Admired Companies' for 2018.
- E-commerce giant Amazon has retained its second spot, followed by Google's parent Alphabet.

India to become fastest growing large economy in 2018

- India will overtake China to be the fastest growing large economy in 2018 and the country's equity market will become the fifth largest in the world.
- According to a Sanctum Wealth Management report, when the rest of the world offers low growth and insufficient structural change, India, by contrast, is seen as a reforming economy with the prospect of strong long-term growth.

US to overtake Saudi as 2nd biggest oil producer:

- The US is on track to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's second-largest oil producer this year, according to forecasts by International Energy Agency (IEA).
- The US' output is expected to surge above the historic high of 10 million barrels per day rivalling the largest producer Russia.

India to beat China as fastest growing economy in 2018:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that India will regain its fastest growing economy tag among developing countries in 2018, with a GDP growth rate of 7.4% as against China's 6.8%.



- India is further estimated to grow at 7.8% in 2019. Last year, China with 6.8% growth rate was ahead of India's 6.7%, making it the fastest growing economy.

Government to deposit Rs 88,000 crore into 20 PSBs this fiscal:

- The government announced it will give Rs88, 000 crore of capital to 20 state-run banks in the current fiscal while prescribing a reforms package to make them more accountable.
- Of this, Rs 80,000 crore will be through recapitalisation bonds and Rs 8,139 crore as budgetary support while banks will raise Rs 10,312 crore from the market.
- Apart from ensuring customer service levels and responsible banking practices, lenders will have to monitor loans, keep a close eye on bad debt and sell non-core assets.

GST on houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna reduced to 8%:

- The government has cut GST rate from 12% to 8% on houses purchased using the credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna.
- However, people who are not eligible for CLSS will continue to pay GST at 12%.
- The tax benefit will also be extended to an affordable housing project, which has been given infrastructure status.

ADB Gives \$250 Million For 5 States:

- The 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 rural roads for 5 states Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

Facebook bans ads promoting cryptocurrencies:

- Facebook has prohibited advertisements that promote financial services that are associated with misleading or deceptive promotional practices, naming cryptocurrencies and initial coin offering.
- While Facebook said it wants people to learn about these services through its ads, it added that many companies advertising such services "are not currently operating in good faith"

Google Introduced Bulletin For stories:

- Google has introduced a new app named "Bulletin" that allows anybody to submit stories for and about their communities.
- This is a free, lightweight app for telling a story by capturing photos, video clips and text right from your phone, published straight to the web.
- The app is made for contributing hyperlocal stories about your community. The application has been launched as a limited pilot project and is available in Nashville, Tennessee and Oakland, California.

Future Group Acquires Snapdeals Vulcan Express,

- Future group one of the India's largest retailers buys the Snapdeals logistic firm Vulcan Express for 50Cr.
- Vulcan Express is one which manages about half of Snapdeals deliveries and shipments.
- The company, currently operational in more than 100 cities, offers logistics and supply chain solutions for retail and consumer companies

14,500 crore generated through BHARAT 22 Exchange Traded Fund:



- An amount of Rs 14,500 crore has been raised through its BHARAT 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), which was created to benefit long-term and retail investors by providing an opportunity to purchase equity stocks of government-run companies and earn stable returns.
- The objective of BHARAT 22 ETF is to invest in constituents (22 companies) of S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index and endeavour to provide returns before expenses, which closely correspond to the total returns of the index.

E-commerce sites must show MRP:

- E-commerce players like **Flipkart, Amazon and eBay** will have to display maximum retail price (MRP), expiry date and other important details about the products up for sale on their sites.
- a notification under which sellers on all e-commerce sites would have to disclose the actual MRP of the product January 1 onwards. The e-commerce sites were given a six-month window to comply with the order.

CRISIL launches index to track FPI investments in fixed markets:

- **Mumbai** based Rating agency **CRISIL** launched an index to measure the performance of investments of **foreign portfolio investors (FPI)** in the fixed-income market.
- The CRISIL FPI index would serve as benchmark for performance of FPI investments in government securities, and '**AAA**' as well as '**AA**' rated corporate bonds with residual maturity greater than three years.

No charges on debit card transactions up to Rs. 2,000:

- Customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments through debit card, BHIM app and other payment made for up to Rs 2,000.
- Union Cabinet approved a proposal that government will bear the **merchant discount rate (MDR)** charges on transactions up to Rs 2,000 made through debit cards, BHIM UPI or Aadhaar-enabled payment systems to promote digital transactions.
- The merchant discount rate (MDR) will be borne by the government for **two years** with effect from January 1, 2018 by reimbursing the same to banks.

HSBC Predicts India's GDP as 6.5% in FY18:

- **London** based **HSBC** predicts India's growth rate is to be expected around **6.5 percent** in 2017-18.
- It is slowly improve to **7 percent** by 2018-19. It will reach **7.6 percent** by 2019-20.

SRL becomes 1st Indian diagnostic firm to hit Rs. 1000 crore revenue:

- Diagnostics chain **SRL Diagnostics** had become the first Indian diagnostics company to surpass **1,000 crore** in revenue in 2017.
- SRL treats over 15 million patients annually in 600 cities across India.

Air India ties up with three banks for loans for 3 B777 planes:

- State-owned **Air India** has tied up with **UAE-based First Abu Dhabi Bank** as well as **Standard Chartered Bank** and **Mashreq Bank** to avail short-term loans for acquiring three Boeing 777 aircraft.

India's GDP can clip at 6.7% average for next 5 years: Fitch:

- Rating agency **Fitch** has stated that India has the potential to grow at an average **6.7%** rate over the **next five years**.



- This puts India ahead of the 5.5% growth estimated for China and Indonesia, who are joined at the second fastest rank.

Government introduces a new 10-year benchmark bond at a coupon of 7.17%:

- The government introduced a new **10-year benchmark** bond at a coupon of **7.17 per cent** — much lower than the existing 10-year bond that closed at 7.29 per cent.

TIHCL gets Reserve Bank of India nod to operate as NBFC:

- **Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd (TIHCL)**, a State government initiative, has got RBI clearance to register and function as a non-banking finance company (NBFC).

Ethereum replaces Ripple as second largest cryptocurrency:

- Bitcoin's rival cryptocurrency **Ethereum** has surpassed Ripple to become the world's second largest cryptocurrency.
- The cryptocurrency hit a record high of \$1,267, climbing more than 16% in 24 hours.

World Bank projects growth rate of 7.3% for India in 2018:

- The **World Bank** has projected India's GDP growth rate at **7.3%** for 2018 and **7.5%** for the next two years.

PhonePe inks pact with mobile wallet firm FreeCharge:

- Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe has partnered mobile wallet company FreeCharge to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- According to the deal terms, PhonePe has now enabled its over 45 million users to link their existing FreeCharge wallets to the PhonePe app.

Paytm sets up investment and wealth management unit for its users:

- Mobile-first financial services platform **Paytm** announced the setting up of yet another company, '**Paytm Money Limited**'. It's wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications, the firm that owns the Paytm brand, to build investment and wealth management products for its users.

Kotak Mint its own Bitcoin KodakCoin:

- The partnership with **Wenn Digital** for **KodakCoin** is part of a broader initiative called **KodakOne**.
- This platform will enable both amateur and professional photographers to sell their work on a secure blockchain network and receive payment immediately using KodakCoin.

Cabinet approves number of amendments in FDI Policy:

- The Cabinet gave its approval to a number of amendments in the Foreign Direct Investment, FDI Policy.
- It will lead to larger FDI inflows contributing to growth of investment, income and employment.
- Currently, FDI, upto 49 per cent is allowed under automatic route but any investment beyond the limit require government approval.
- Government has decided to permit 100 per cent FDI under automatic route for SBRT.
- Approval also has been given for 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in Construction Development.
- Foreign airlines have been allowed to invest up to 49 per cent under approval route in Air India.

BSE's India International Exchange lists IRFC's first green bond:



- The 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 and has been IRFC's first foray into the Green Bond market.

Ola acquired 100% stake in Foodpanda India for \$31.7 million:

- Cab aggregator Ola acquired Foodpanda India from Germany-based Delivery Hero Group for \$31.7 million (nearly ₹202 crore).
- Delivery Hero reportedly invested \$27.3 million (₹174 crore) in Ola, acquiring 1% stake in the ride-hailing company, as part of the deal.
- The acquisition marked Ola's return to the Indian online food delivery space after Ola Cafe shut down in March 2016.
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Important International News

Vanuatu Becomes First Nation to Accept Bitcoin in Exchange for Citizenship

- The South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu has become host to the world's first government to accept bitcoin in exchange for citizenship.

Switzerland has highest wealth per adult at Rs.3.5 crore:

- Switzerland has topped the list of average wealth per adult with \$537,600 (Rs.3.5 crore), according to the 2017 Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report.

Austria's law banning face veils such as burkhas or niqabs has come into effect

- Austria's law banning face veils such as burkhas or niqabs has come into effect from now.

Russia Launches 'World's Biggest & Most Powerful' Nuclear Icebreaker

- Russia has launched the world's largest nuclear-powered icebreaker ship in a bid to expand its strategic presence in the resource-rich, terrain of the Arctic. The massive vessel, named Sibir (Siberia), was developed as part of a huge push by the Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation

Rio Olympic Committee Chairman Arrested on Corruption Charges

- Brazilian police arrested the chairman of the country's Olympic Committee Carlos Arthur Nuzman as part of a probe into alleged vote-buying to secure Rio's hosting of the 2016 Games.

Donald Trump is Most Followed World Leader on Twitter, PM Modi Third

- Donald Trump is now the world's most followed leader on Twitter, while Narendra Modi is the third

US and Israel announced their withdrawal from the UN's cultural agency UNESCO

- The US and Israel announced their withdrawal from the UN's cultural agency UNESCO after Washington accused it of anti-Israeli bias.

HPCL, First Indian OMC to Launch Lubricants in Myanmar :

- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has become the first Oil Marketing Company (OMC) from India to mark its presence in the lubricant market in Myanmar



VarunDhawan Youngest Indian Actor to get Statue at Tussauds:

- Actor VarunDhawan will get a wax statue at Madame Tussauds Hong Kong, making him the youngest Indian actor to have his statue at the museum.

11-Year-Old GitanjaliRao Named America's Top Young Scientist

- Gitanjali Rao, an 11-year-old Indian-American schoolgirl, was named as "America's top young scientist"

Singapore Passport Named 'Most Powerful', India Ranks 75

- Singapore's passport has become the most powerful in the world with a Visa-Free Score of developed by advisory firm Arton Capital. India secured the 75th rank

Saudi Arabia, First Country to Grant Citizenship to a Robot

- Saudi Arabia has become the first country to give a citizenship to robot 'Sophia'. The move is an attempt to promote Saudi Arabia as a place to develop artificial intelligence

Qatar Introduces Minimum Wage for First Time

- Qatar, has committed that it will introduce a minimum wage for workers in the country. The announcement was made by labor and social affairs minister IssaSaad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi.

Chile Named Best Country to Visit in 2018

- The travel guide company Lonely Planet has ranked Chile as the number one country to visit in 2018 in its Best in Travel 2018 list.

Indian Origin Activist Gina Miller Named UK's Most Influential Black Person of the Year

- Indian origin campaigner Gina Miller was named UK's most influential black person of the year.

Burundi, First Nation to Leave International Criminal Court

- Burundi became the first nation ever to leave the International Criminal Court of justice. In Netherland

World's First Hydrogen Tram Begins Operation in China

- The world's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells has started running in China, marking a big step in the application of green energy in public transport.

Michael Jackson Named Top-Earning Dead Celebrity for 5th Time

- Jackson is atop the Forbes list of top-earning dead celebrities for the fifth straight year, with \$75 million (all figures in US).

China unveiled Asia's largest artificial island-building ship

- China unveiled Asia's largest artificial island-building ship. The 140-metre-long vessel, which has been dubbed as "magic island maker",

UNSC drops plan to adopt resolution demanding end to violence in Myanmar

- In the face of strong opposition from China, the United Nations Security Council has dropped plans to adopt a resolution demanding an end to the violence in Myanmar

Guinea Becomes New Member of International Solar Alliance

- External Affairs Minister SushmaSwaraj met Guinea's Foreign Minister, MamadyToure; during the course of which the latter handed over his countries instrument accession to the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA).



UNESCO appoints its second woman Director-General:

- UNESCO member states appointed former French Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay as the new Director-General of the cultural agency.

Borut Pahor won President Election in Slovenia:

- Slovenia's internet-savvy President Borut Pahor won the second term in a runoff vote that was marred by an abysmally low turnout.

China to build police station powered by AI, not humans:

- The Chinese government has announced that it will build an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered police station without any human personnel.

EU nations sign up for new era of deeper defence cooperation:

- European Union countries officially launched a new era in defence cooperation with a program of joint military investment and project development aimed at helping the EU confront its security challenges.

Indians form 2nd largest group of international students in USA:

- Indians registered an impressive double-digit growth of 12.3 per cent in the last one year to become the second largest group of international students in the US after China, contributing USD 6.5 billion to the country's economy in 2016

Saudi Arabia recognises yoga as sports activity:

- Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Trade and Industry officially declared yoga as a sport. Any Saudi citizen wanting to practice or teach yoga can avail a licence from the government.

Japan to relax visa norms for Indians from January 1:

- Japan will simplify its visa rules from January 1, 2018, for Indians and issue multiple-entry-visa for short-term stay, a move which is expected to benefit tourists and business persons as well as repeat visitors.

China has launched the world's first all-electric ship:

- China has launched the world's first all-electric ship, which can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge.

Canada named TRAVEL + LEISURE 2017 destination of the year:

- Canada has been named the '2017 Destination of the Year' by the Travel+Leisure magazine.

Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana crowned Miss International 2017:

- Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana was crowned Miss International 2017 in Tokyo.

Germany replaces US as best country in Nation Brands Index:

- Germany has replaced the United States as the country with the best "brand image," according to a new study of 50 countries released.

Turkey withdraws from NATO drills:

- Turkey withdrew troops from NATO military exercises after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

China making fastest wind tunnel to test hypersonic weapons:

- China is building the world's fastest wind tunnel to simulate hypersonic flights of 12 kilometres per second as part of the country's hypersonic weapons development program.



Egypt to boost economic cooperation with India:

- Egypt is keen on boosting economic cooperation with India specially in developing small and medium enterprises.

114 nations launch urgent action to end TB by 2030:

- As many as 114 nations agreed to take urgent action to end Tuberculosis (TB) by 2030, Report by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Canada opens its first highway to the Arctic:

- Canada has officially opened its first permanent highway to the Arctic Ocean. The highway will connect Tuktoyaktuk, a Canadian hamlet on the Arctic Ocean which was previously accessible only by air or winter ice road, to the southern parts of the country.

China's military launches website to report fake news:

- China's military launched a website inviting the public to report leaks and fake news, as well as illegal online activities by military personnel, the latest step in a push to ensure Communist Party control over the internet.

Robert Mugabe resigned his post as Zimbabwe's president after 37 years:

- Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, who has ruled the nation for 37 years after its independence, resigned from his post.

UK to launch driverless cars by 2021:

- UK government plans to launch driverless cars by 2021. UK government will announce \$99 million funding for artificial intelligence to achieve the same in coming years.

Singapore to get driverless buses from 2022:

- Driverless buses will appear on some roads in Singapore from 2022 as part of plans to improve mobility in the land-scarce city-state.

Myanmar, Bangladesh signed a deal to return Rohingya Muslims:

- Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding for the return of over six lakh Rohingya Muslims who had fled to Bangladesh to escape a violent crackdown by the Myanmar military.

Iraq launches operation to clear last IS holdouts from desert:

- Iraqi forces announced the launch of a major operation to flush remaining Islamic State group fighters out of the western desert near the border with Syria.

Trilateral meeting between leaders of Russia, Turkey, Iran held in Sochi:

- A trilateral meeting between leaders of Russia, Turkey and Iran was held in Russian city of Sochi, to discuss ways to advance a political settlement in Syria.

China successfully launches remote sensing satellites

- China successfully launched remote sensing satellites designed to conduct electromagnetic probes and other experiments.

Nepal holds its first parliamentary elections in 18 years:

- Nepal witnessed the first phase of the two-phase parliamentary elections, held for the first time since 1999.



China to build third nuclear reactor in Pakistan:

- China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) have signed a deal to build a third nuclear reactor with HPR1000 technology to meet Pakistan's energy needs.

Russian government approves Uber merger with Yandex:

- The Russian government has given an approval to merge US-based Uber and Russia-based Yandex's ride-sharing businesses.

Asian Development Bank to provide a 150 million USD loan to Nepal:

- The Asian Development Bank will provide 150 million USD loan for Nepal to improve its urban infrastructure.

Russia to launch 'independent internet' for BRICS nations:

- Russia's Security Council has reportedly asked the country's government to develop an independent internet infrastructure for BRICS nations, which would continue to work in the event of global internet malfunctions.

IMF approves new 88 billion US dollar credit line for Mexico:

- The International Monetary Fund today approved a new 88 billion US dollar credit line for Mexico, replacing the existing line.

Pikachu named cultural ambassador for Japanese city:

- Hello Kitty and Pokémon's Pikachu have been named cultural ambassadors for the Japanese city of Osaka, Foreign Minister Taro Kono has announced.

'Populism' is Cambridge dictionary's word of the year:

- The word "populism" has been announced as the Cambridge Dictionary 2017 Word of the Year. The dictionary defines populism as "political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want".

UN seeks record \$22.5 billion in humanitarian aid for 2018:

- The United Nations is appealing for a record 22.5 billion Dollar to provide humanitarian assistance to 91 million victims of conflict and natural disasters in 2018.

China tests 'jellyfish shredder' to save aircraft carriers:

- China has tested its "jellyfish shredder" weapon aimed at protecting its fleet of aircraft carriers

Venezuela to launch new virtual currency:

- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced the creation of a new virtual currency in a bid to ease the country's economic crisis.

China launches land exploration satellite:

- China launched a land exploration satellite into a preset orbit, designed for remote sensing exploration of land resources.

South Korea launches special 'decapitation unit' against North Korea:

- The South Korean military has launched a special 'decapitation unit' as part of its 'Beheading Operation' that aims to target the North Korean leadership in case of a conflict.



Saudi Arabia, Qatar FMs attend round-table talks ahead of regional Gulf summit

- The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia and Qatar attended round-table talks yesterday ahead of a regional Gulf summit, in their first such encounter since Riyadh cut all ties with Doha.

UAE to open new consular offices in India:

- Boosting bilateral engagement with India, the United Arab Emirates will open several new consular centres in India and invest \$75 billion of its sovereign wealth fund in the country.

UAE participate in joint military exercises with US, UK and France:

- UAE Armed Forces along with the UK, US and French armies are participating in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi.

World's 1st robot citizen calls for Saudi women's rights:

- The humanoid robot Sophia who became the world's first robot citizen in October this year after receiving Saudi Arabia's citizenship has called for women's rights in the kingdom.

Sri Lanka formally hands over Hambantota port to China:

- Sri Lanka formally handed over the southern Hambantota Port to China on a 99-year lease and received \$292 million out of the \$1.12-billion deal.

World's biggest floating solar plant goes online in China:

- China-based firm Three Gorges Group has started producing power from part of a 150-megawatt floating solar plant in east China, the largest of its kind in the world.

World's largest automated container terminal opens in Shanghai:

- China started trial operations of the world's biggest automated container terminal – the Shanghai Yangshan Deep Water Port – in Shanghai.

In Saudi Arabia cinemas will be allowed from early 2018:

- Saudi Arabia government stated that public cinemas would be allowed in the conservative kingdom and the first cinemas were likely to open early next year.

Russia to build Egypt's first nuclear power plant:

- Russia and Egypt signed a deal to build Egypt's first nuclear power plant. The preliminary agreement between the two countries was signed in 2015 and the project is expected to be completed by 2028-2029.

4.5 Lakh Indians Got Foreign Citizenship:

- As per information of the union government since 2014, 4.5 lakh Indians migrated to foreign countries.
- According to the 2016 yearbook of immigration statistics published by the U.S. The highest number of Indians were Coming to California (10,298), followed by New Jersey (5,312), Texas (4,670) and New York (2,954), the Minister said.

Electric car sharing launched in Singapore:

- Singapore launched an electric car-sharing service, the latest transport innovation aimed at encouraging people away from owning vehicles and keeping gridlock at bay in the space-starved city-state.

Israel eases visa procedure for Indians:



- To encourage more Indians to visit Israel, Tel Aviv has simplified its visa application procedures for visitors from the Sub-continent.

Dubai opens world's first camel hospital:

- A \$10.9 million (approximately Rs.70 crore) hospital exclusively for camels, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, has recently opened in Dubai.

Norway becomes first country to end national radio broadcasts on FM:

- Norway completed its transition to digital radio, becoming the first country in the world to shut down national broadcasts of its FM radio network despite some grumblings.

Iran opens first museum dedicated to female artist exiled for decades:

- Iran has opened its first museum dedicated to a solo female artist — Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, who has received widespread international attention during decades of exile.

World's steepest funicular railway line opens in Switzerland:

- The world's steepest funicular (steepest mountain side) railway line opened 1,300 metres above sea level in Switzerland.

Saudi women will be allowed to drive bikes, trucks:

- Saudi Arabian women will be able to drive trucks and motorcycles, after three months the kingdom announced a historic decision to end a ban on women driving.

WHO certifies Gabon as polio free:

- The World Health Organisation has declared Gabon a "polio-free country", given the lack of new reported or suspected cases in the central African country.

India, Sri Lanka complete 2nd phase of joint oceanographic survey:

- Indian Navy in collaboration with its Sri Lankan counterpart has successfully completed the second phase of the joint oceanographic survey conducted off the South Western Coast of Sri Lanka.

China plans world's biggest carbon market to curb emissions:

- The world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, China, has launched the world's biggest ever mechanism to reduce carbon, in the form of an emissions trading system.

France imposes world's 1st ban on oil and gas production:

- France's parliament has approved a law banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within the country and its overseas territories.

IMF approves \$2 billion loan instalment for Egypt:

- The International Monetary Fund has approved the third instalment of a USD 12 billion, three- year loan for Egypt, bringing the total released to date to just over USD 6 billion.

China successfully launches remote sensing satellites to conduct electromagnetic environmental probes:

- China successfully launched remote sensing satellites to conduct electromagnetic environmental probes.

UK eases rules student to work visas:



- Overseas students studying in UK got the good news that they can get the working visas (Tier-2) immediately after finishing their courses. According to present norms they have to wait for the receiving of degrees.

UK celebrated 2017 as the Greenest Year:

- UK Celebrating 2017 as its greenest year. From June power obtained from the wind, nuclear and solar power is higher than gas and coal combined.

US, Russia agree to work on diplomatic solution to North Korea crisis:

- The United States and Russia have agreed to continue to work towards a diplomatic solution to achieve a denuclearized Korean peninsula.

Nepal rejects India's offer to jointly re-measure Mount Everest:

- Nepal has rejected India's offer to jointly re-measure the height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest following the massive earthquake in 2015 and will carry out the exercise on its own.

Former football player George Weah is set to become next President of Liberia:

- George Weah was appointed as the next president of Liberia. It is Liberia's first independently run election since the end of its back-to-back civil wars.

China opens 1st wireless charging systems highways:

- China unveils another innovative by opening its 1st wireless charging system highways. With the presence of this system electric vehicles and other sensors for drones can charge easily without the use of wire.

Israel formally notifies UNESCO of its withdrawal from organization:

- Israel has formally notified the UN's culture and education body UNESCO of its withdrawal from the organisation.

Turkey, Russia signs S-400 missile system loan deal:

- Turkey and Russia have inked a loan agreement in Ankara for purchase of the S-400 missile defence system worth \$2.5 billion.

China builds 'world's biggest air purifier':

- China has constructed an experimental air purifying tower, touted to be the world's biggest at a height of over 100 meters (328 feet).
- The tower, built in Xian in Shaanxi province, has brought a positive effect on the chronic smog problem in the country.

China to build intelligent super expressway:

- China is planning to build a 161- km-long, six-lane intelligent expressway by 2022 in Zhejiang Province in the east.
- The freeway, linking Hangzhou with Ningbo, is expected to increase the average traffic speed by 20 to 30 per cent, slashing the travel time between the two cities from two hours to just one.

Afghans award 'Medal of Bravery' to US President Trump:

- US President Donald Trump has been awarded a 'Medal of Bravery' by the residents of Afghanistan's Logar province for his stance against Pakistan.



World's longest underwater cave system discovered in Mexico:

- A 347-km-long flooded cave in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula has been identified by a group of divers as the world's longest underwater cave system.
- The Gran Acuifero Maya project found that two previously discovered cave systems measuring 263 km and 83 km in length were connected.

Norway's airliners should be entirely electric by 2040

- Avinor, the public operator of Norwegian airports, "aims to be the first in the world" to make the switch to electric air transport,
- In the near future, Avinor plans to launch a tender offer to test a commercial route flown with a small electric plane with 19 seats, starting in 2025.
- All of Norway's short-haul airliners should be entirely electric by 2040

France launched hydrogen-powered bicycles

- A French start-up has become the first company to start factory production of hydrogen-powered bicycles for use in corporate or municipal fleets.

State of emergency extended for another 6 months in Turkey:

- In Turkey, state of emergency has been extended for another six months. Turkey's parliament voted in favour of extending emergency in place since a failed coup in summer 2016.

China donates over 32,000 solar power generators to Nepal:

- China has donated over 32,000 solar power generating systems to Nepal to enhance its domestic capacity and to provide electricity to communities that have been without power since the 2015 earthquake.

Malta's capital Valletta named European Capital of Culture:

- Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018 in a ceremony. Valletta will share the title with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.

Federal Bank launches chatbot for easy m-commerce on its mobile app:

- Kerala based lender Federal Bank has launched a chatbot based virtual assistant in the bank's mobile application FedMobile in partnership with Niki.ai.
- Using the Chatbot feature, the users of the app can avail a host of m-commerce services by simply chatting on the application.

Spain develops AI that can predict corruption in government:

- Scientists have developed a new artificial intelligence system that can predict the likelihood of corruption in a government.

China proposes building a road across the Arctic:

- China unveiled plans to build a 'Polar Silk Road' across the Arctic as part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- It would build the 'Polar Silk Road' by developing shipping routes in the region.
- This comes after China invited Latin American and Caribbean nations to join the BRI.

China plans to talk India to link China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project:



- China planned to discuss India's concerns on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which India has opposed because it passes through Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Brexit transition period to end by 2020: European Union

- The European Union General Affairs Council has adopted guidelines for Britain's exit from the Europe as per which the transition period would end on December 31, 2020.
- This comes despite calls by British PM Theresa May for a two-year transition period until 2021.
- Britain is scheduled to leave the European Union in March 2019.

Chinese volunteers complete 200 days on virtual Moon base 'Yuegong-1':

- Four Chinese students have successfully completed 200 days living in an isolated "lunar lab" to simulate a long-term space mission.
- Four students crammed into a 160-square-metre (1,720-square-foot) cabin called "Yuegong-1".

Raila Odinga declared himself as the "people's president":

- Kenyan Opposition leader Raila Odinga on Tuesday declared himself as the "people's president" and took oath at a ceremony in the capital city of Nairobi.

China drawing up "battle plan" against smog:

- China is currently drawing up details of a new "battle plan" to curb pollution over the 2018-2020 period.

PM Modi to open India-assisted diplomat centre in Palestine:

- During Indian PM visit to Palestine Narendra Modi will inaugurate Palestine Institute of Diplomacy.
- It has been set up with Indian assistance of Rs.6 crore.
- PM Modi will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Palestine.

Nepal Bans Solo Climbing on Mount Everest

- Nepal has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in a bid to reduce accidents.

India and Pakistan exchange list of nuclear installations:

- India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between the two countries.
- The exchange took place through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.

Saudi Arabia, UAE introduce VAT for first time:

- Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time.
- The 5 per cent levy is being applied to the majority of goods and services. Petrol and diesel, food, clothes, utility bills and hotel rooms all now have VAT applied.

Venezuela raises minimum wage 40 %, stoking world's fastest inflation:

- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced a 40 percent increase to the minimum wage.
- To counter price increases, Maduro has been raising the minimum wage, but quickening inflation coupled with a depreciating bolivar currency has plunged millions into poverty.

Germany set to start enforcing hate speech law:



- Germany is set to start enforcing a law that demands social media sites move quickly to remove hate speech, fake news and illegal material.
- Sites that do not remove “obviously illegal” posts could face fines of up to 50 million euros.

China Strong Underwater Surveillance Network In Indian Ocean:

- Since the panic of war against indo-china, china strong the underwater surveillance system for their submarine attacks and to prevent their nation.
- The project was conducted by the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

'Whistled language' spoken in Turkish village entered in UNESCO list:

- The 'whistled language' used as a means of communication in Turkish village Kuskoy has entered the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Border Hotline Reopens

- North Korea said it would reopen a long-closed border hotline with South Korea for the talk regarding winter Olympics across the border in Pyeongchang and Trumps statement of Nuclear weapon.
- The border was opened at one hour after announcement of bigger and more powerful” nuclear button than Kim Jong Un state by US.

Iceland becomes the first country to make it illegal to pay men more than women:

- As the law is being enforced, both government offices and private business – which employ more than 25 staff – will have to obtain a special government certification on the equal pay policies, failing which, they could be fined.
- Although similar provisions are available in places such as Switzerland or the US state of Minnesota, Iceland becomes the first country to make it compulsory.

World's largest ice festival kicks off in China:

- The Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival, the world's largest ice festival has kicked off in China.
- The festival's 34th edition features various landmarks from around the world, including Moscow's Red Square and Bangkok's Temple of the Emerald Buddha.
- Nearly 2 lakh cubic metres of ice and 1.5 lakh cubic meters of snow were used to build the sculptures.

Saudi Arabia gives green signal to India's proposal to revive sea route for Haj pilgrimage:

- Saudi Arabia has given green signal to India's proposal to revive option of Haj pilgrimage through sea route.
- The practice of ferrying Haj pilgrims between Mumbai and Jeddah by waterways was stopped from 1995.

Srilanka lifts the ban for Liquor Drinking Women:

- The Sri Lankan government on Wednesday said that it would allow women over the age of 18 to buy alcohol legally for the first time in more than 60 years.
- The government added that it was amending a 1955 law terming it “discriminatory against women”.

World's largest solar thermal plant to be built in South Australia:



- The world's largest solar-thermal power plant has been given development approval by the South Australian government.
- Construction on the 150-megawatt Aurora plant, to be built by utility-scale solar power company SolarReserve, will begin in 2018 at an estimated cost of \$509 million.
- The facility will power 90,000 homes with eight hours of full load storage.

India, Bhutan jointly unveils 'Special logo':

- Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan is being celebrated.
- To mark the launch of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan Damcho Dorji jointly unveiled the 'Special logo' for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in New Delhi and Thimphu through video-conference.

India gives \$45.27 million aid to develop KKS harbour in Sri Lanka:

- An agreement for Indian financial assistance for \$45.27 million (LKR 6.9 billion) for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi by David Rasquinha, Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India and RHS Samarasinghe, Secretary to Treasury of Sri Lanka.

Saudi allows women to visit country without a male companion:

- Women aged 25 and above will now be allowed to visit Saudi Arabia alone, without being accompanied by a male companion.
- The move is a part of Saudi Arabia's broader plans to issue tourist visas.
- Saudi's promotion of tourism is aimed at diversifying its source of revenue generation.

Turkmenistan bans women from driving:

- Turkmenistan has banned women from driving in the country.
- President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov issued the order at the request of Interior Minister Isgender Mulikov who claimed that women drivers were responsible for the majority of car accidents in the country.
- Officials have reportedly started seizing the licences of female drivers and impounding their cars.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS

National Appointments

Designation	Person
Chairperson of Second World Hindu Congress 2018	Tulsi Gabbard
Newly appointed advisors of USISPF	Arvind Panagariya(Economist) and Kanwal Sibal (Former foreign secretary)



First woman President of NASSCOM	Debjani Ghosh(Previously he worked as Managing director of Intel South Asia)
Director general of Doordarshan News	Ira Joshi(Succeeded by Veena Jain)
MD & CEO of Aegon Life Insurance	Vineet Arora (effective January 2018)
First woman Secretary General of Lok Sabha	Snehlata Shrivastava(Previously worked as Joint Secretary in the Law Ministry)
India's Sherpa for G20	Shaktikanta Das
Air India CMD	Pradeep Singh Kharola(Succeeded by Rajiv Bansal)
First Chairman of National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA)	BN Sharma
AIFF Ombudsman	Bhaskar Ganguly(Former football captain)
Chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)	Sethurathnam Ravi (Succeeded by Dharendra Swarup)
SEBI Executive Director	Anand Rajeshwar Baiwar(Previously worked as Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer)
Madras HC judge	Justice Satrughana Pujahari
IDSA President	Nirmala Sitharaman
15th Finance Commission chairman	NK Singh
UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India	Dia Mirza (Actress)
Delhi Chief Secretary	Anshu Prakash (IAS Officer)
Infosys CEO and Managing Director	Salil Parekh
Prasar Bharati chief	Surya Prakash
Vodafone India CFO	Manish Dawar
Women Fighter Pilot Indian Air Force	Pratibha (Rajasthan) Shivangi (Varanasi)
Chief of National Green Tribunal	Justice UD Salvi
NARI chief	Samiran Panda
Gujarat Chief Minister	Vijay Rupani
General Manager, Cricket Operations.	Saba Karim(Former Wicket Keeper)



Himachal Pradesh CM	Jairam Thakur
Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).	Senior IPS officer Abhay
Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru	M. Subbarayudu
Resigned from the post of Airtel Payments Bank CEO	Shashi Arora
Retired from National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairperson	Justice Swatanter Kumar
Director of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad	R Hemalatha
New secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).	Dhammapiya Buddhist monk (Tripura)
BARC India Chairman	Nakul Chopra
RBI Executive Director	Uma Shankar
President Para Sports Foundation	Sarvesh Tiwari
Next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan	Azar A.H.Khan
New CEO of Online food delivery start-up Swiggy (Bundl Technologies Pvt. Ltd)	Vishal Bhatia
Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment	Ellie Goulding (singer)
DGOF and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board	S K Chourasia
Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).	Pankaj Jain
chief secretary to the Himachal government.	Vineet Chowdhary
Om Prakash Singh	Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh
Vinay Sahasrabuddhe	President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations.
Salil Parekh	CEO of Infosys
Vijay Keshav Gokhale	Foreign Secretary Of India
Rajinder Khanna	next deputy National Security Advisor
Secretary (Economic Relations) in the External Affairs Ministry	T S Tirumurti
President Of JK Tyre	Rajiv Prasad
9th chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	K.Sivan
the 'Chef De Mission' for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games	Harjinder Singh
Governor of Madhya Pradesh.	Anandiben Patel



Chairman of Indian School of Business (ISB)	Harish Manwani
New chief of National Security Guard (NSG)	Sudeep Lakhtakia
The new Chief Election Commissioner, CEC	Om Prakash Rawat
Election Commissioner	Ashok Lawasa
Swiss Fed Cup team head coach	Martina Hingis
Director of the space agency's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)	V Narayanan
Independent director of Federal Bank	A P Hota
Foreign Secretary of India	Vijay Keshav Gokhale
Chef-de-Mission for the upcoming Commonwealth Games	Vikram Singh
New Chief Secretary of Telangana.	S K Joshi

International Appointments

Designation	Person
First Female President of UK's Supreme Court	Brenda Hale
New Deputy Director General at WHO	Soumya Swaminathan
FICCI UK Director	Param Shah
Mongolia New Prime Minister	Ukhnaa Khurelsukh
Pakistan's New Navy Chief	Zafar Mahmood Abbasi
UNESCO Chief	Audrey Azoulay
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Cambodia	Manika Jain
New Zealand Prime Minister	Jacinda Ardern
Ambassador of India to Switzerland	Sibi George
New CEO of Malaysia Airlines	Izham Ismail
CEO of HSBC (The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation)	JayantRikhye
Interlocutor (Kashmir)	Dineshwar Sharma (Ex-Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB))
New CEO of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)	NS Venkatesh
MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	Suresh Sethi
CBI Special Director	Rakesh Asthana
Additional Director General, CISF	Alok Kumar Pateria
High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Zambia	N.J.Gangte
Tata Steel Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director	T V Narendran



(globally)	
Consul General of Korea	Suresh Chukkapalli
India's Next High Commissioner to Pakistan	Ajay Bisaria
Britain's First female Black Rod	Sarah Clarke
Indian envoy to China	Gautam Bambawale
New Member of International Court of Justice (ICJ)	Dalveer Bhandari(India)
UNICEF celebrity advocate	Actor Trisha Krishnan(South India)
President of Zimbabwe	Emmerson Mnangagwa
UK's first female ambassador to the UN	Karen Pierce
First Person to hold press gaggle aboard Air Force One	Raj Shah(Indian American)
First Sikh woman Mayor of U.S	PreetDibbal(Currently Vice mayor)
Next US Ambassador to India	Kenneth Juster(Succeeded by Richard Verma)
Women's Youth World Championships Ambassador	Mary Kom
UNESCO New Head	France's Audrey Azoulay(Succeeds Irina Bokova)
President of 36th International Geological Congress (IGC)	Scientist Vijay Prasad Dimri
World Packaging Organisation Ambassador	AVPS Chakravarthi
UNAIDS Special Ambassador	Quarraisha Abdool Karim
New prime minister of Poland	Mateusz Morawiecki
Head of Asia Pacific analytics (Hired by CITI Bank)	Zoher Karu
Chile's president	Sebastian Pinera
Honduran President	Juan Orlando Hernandez
Next Secretary General of Amnesty International	Kumi Naidoo
New Liberian President	George Weah
President of African Conservation Group	Prince Harry
First International Ambassador	Deepak Parekh (London Mayor)
President of Kenya	Uhuru Kenyatta
Recently resigned Pakistan Law Minister	Zahid Hamid
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).	Sunny Vargese
New president of Liberia	George Weah
The next chairman of the Federal Reserve	Jerome H Powell
Finland President	Sauli Niinisto



RESIGNATION

D Shivakumar Resigns	Pepsi Co India Chairman and CEO
Umang Bedi Resigns	Facebook MD of India
Ranjit Kumar Resigns	Solicitor-General of India
Anthony Noto resigns	Twitter COO

Important Awards and Honours

Noble Prize winners

Field	Description	Winner
Physiology or Medicine	For the discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm	Jeffrey C. Hall (USA), Michael Rosbash (USA) and Michael W. Young (USA)
Physics	For decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves	Rainer Weiss (Germany), Barry C. Barish (USA) and Kip S. Thorne (USA)
Chemistry	For developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution	Jacques Dubochet (Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Germany) and Richard Henderson (Scotland)
Literature	In novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world	Kazuo Ishiguro (Japan)
Peace	For its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) (founded in Australia)
Economic Sciences	For contributions to behavioural economics	Richard H. Thaler (USA)

Awards

Winners

The 'Cross of the Order of Merit', the highest civilian honour awarded to individuals for their services to Germany	Rajesh Nath
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Best FMCG in the food sector at the 5th International Advertising Associations (IAA) Leadership Awards in Mumbai	The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which manages brand AMUL
National award for senior citizens	Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu
National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017	Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak
Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016	M K Sanu
Padma Prabha Puraskaram for 2017	Prabha Varma
Man Booker Prize 2017	George Saunders (US Author)
Blue Planet Prize	Hans Joachim Schellnhuber
World Food Prize Laureate Award 2017	Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina
National Lata Mangeshkar Award 2017	Alka Yagnik, Udit Narayan (playback singers), Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri and Anu Malik (music composers)
AIDS Research Award from the Institute for Human Virology (IHV) in Baltimore, US	Professors Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Industrial Innovation Award, 2017	L&T Technology Services Ltd
AICTE Award for Supporting Start-Ups	Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII)
Golden Peacock Award in London	N Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Sharmila Tagore
Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2017	K Satchidanandan
PEN Translates 2017 Grand	Arunava Sinha For the book [Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay's Bengali book "The Yogini"]
Mother Teresa Award 2017	United Nation High Commission for Refugees
Indira Gandhi Peace Prize	Manmohan Singh (India's Former Prime Minister and Former Governor of RBI)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Girish Karnad
Asia Pacific Screen Awards	Rajkumar Rao
Silver medal in International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM)	IISER Pune students
Most visited place of the world	Golden Temple
Miss Universe 2017	Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters
Bosphorus International Film Festival	Ishaan Khatter
Golden Peacock Award in IFFI 2017	'120 Beats Per Minute'



SangeethaKalasarathy award	K.J. Yesudas
UNESCO Asia- Pacific Award	Royal Opera House
Jewish Nobel Prize	Natalie Portman
Miss International 2017	Kevin Lilliana
National Child Awards 2017	Master Akash Manoj (Won Gold) (from Tamilnadu)
Abu Dhabi Award	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC)
2017 Cervantes Prize	Sergio Ramirez
Big Little Book Award 2017	Nabaneeta Dev Sen
'Life Time Achievement Award' by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)	Manik Banerjee
3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award from Indian Council for Cultural Relations(ICCR)	Hiroshi Marui
2017 Jnanpith Award	Krishna Sobti
General Insurance Company of the Year	Apollo Munich Health Insurance
world top 50 management schools	IIM Bangalore – 22 nd IIM- Ahmedabad 23 rd ISB Calcutta on 46 th
South Asian Film Festival of Montreal(SAFFA)	The School Bag
Variety's list of 500 'influential business leaders	Salman Khan and Priyanka Chopra
doctorate degree in Philosophy	Yuvraj Singh
Miss Supranational 2017	Miss Korea Jenny Kim
Star screen awards	Rajkummar, Irrfan, Vidya
Manush Sanman award	Dipak Das
International Children's Peace Prize	Mohamad Al Jounde
topped the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers'	Kamala Harris
Politico's Power List	Pramila Jayapal
Most Followed Indians	Narendra Modi
Saudi Crown Prince	Mohammed bin Salman
Best Asian Film at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards (AACTA) 2017	Dangal
Famous in twitter	Trump , Modi
UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage status	Kumbh Mela
Honorary Award at the 14th edition of the Dubai	Irrfan Khan



International Film Festival (DIFF)	
Yahoo India's Most Searched Personality in 2017	Narendra Modi
2nd best UNESCO world heritage site	Taj Mahal
UNESCO 'intangible heritage'	Italy's pizza toss
Internet Movie Data Base (IMDb).	Shah Rukh Khan
2018 Colour of the Year	Ultra Violet
ISO 9000 certified home	Surana family in Chennai
Mother Teresa Memorial Award	Priyanka Chopra
1986 World Cup-winning captain holding the trophy he helped Argentina win.	12-foot-tall statue of Diego Maradona
'Power of One' award	Six diplomats
licensed fisherwoman	KC Rekha
winner of the 2017 Mr India pageant	Jitesh Singh Deo
spending 139 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS)	Three space station astronauts
Suvarna Chakoram	Wajib
word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries	'Youthquake'
BBC Team of the Year Award	England's women cricket team
National Geographic Nature photographer of the Year	Jayaprakash Joghee Bojan
Sahitya Akademi award	Mamang Dai, Ramesh Kuntal
best countries for business in 2018	United Kingdom
SKOCH award	Municipal Administration and Urban Development
Forbes Top 100 Indian Celebrity List	Virat Kohli
India's most trusted FMCG Brand	Patanjali
first Indian carrier to operate 1,000 daily flights	IndiGo
Nobel Peace Prize at ceremony held in Oslo, Norway	ICAN
Vyas Samman 2017	Mamta Kalia
2017 Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball)	Cristiano Ronaldo
The silence breakers	Time
31 st Moorthi devi award.	Joy Gousami
Smitha patil memorial awrad	Rekha
PETA 2017 person of the year	Anushka Sharma



British royal Knighthood honour award	Pratibha Laxman Gai
Sangita Kalanidhi	N Ravikiran
Samudra Manthan Award	The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust
1st Mufti Mohammed Sayeed Probity in Politics and Public Life Award	Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar
World's most oppressive leader	Donald Trump
the Lifetime Achievement award by Nandi Fine Arts and KAPRI	S.P. Balasubrahmanyam
Sangeet Natak Akademi	Arvind Parikh
	R Vedavalli.
	Ram Gopal Bajaj
	Sunil Kothari.
Best Film at the 63rd edition of the Filmfare Awards.	Hindi Medium
Oscar nomination table with the list of 13 nominations.	Shape Of Water
UNESCO Award of Merit	Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple in Tiruchirapalli.
Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2016-17	Arundathi Batachariya
Yash Chopra Memorial Award	Asha Boshle
The best tableau at the 69th Republic Day parade	Maharashtra
The US Documentary Grand Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival.	'The Kilash' Documentary on Kailash Satyarthi
Honorary D.Lit degrees by the Calicut University	Mohanlal, P T Usha
Badminton Association of India's (BAI) inaugural Lifetime Achievement award	Prakash Padukone

Important MoU and Agreements

9th BRICS Summit has started in Xiamen, China

- The 9th BRICS Summit has started in Xiamen, China with a group photograph of leaders of the five countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and was preceded by a warm handshake between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese president Xi Jinping.

Arun Jaitley will attend key security dialouge with Japan today



- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will attend a key security dialouge with Japan today. Mr Jaitley said he will hold a bilateral dialogue with his Japanese counterpart, ahead of a visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to India later this month.

Sushma Swaraj meets Maithripala Sirisena in Colombo to discuss bilateral issues

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj today met Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena in Colombo and discussed bilateral issues.

India, US to Implement HOSTAC to Strengthen Maritime Security

- To strengthen maritime security, India and the United States have agreed to implement the program for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC).

Swiss parliament panel allows information exchange with India:

- A Swiss parliamentary panel has approved the automatic exchange of information between Switzerland and India.

India, China, US agree to cooperate more on cyberspace security:

- The United States, India and China have agreed to work together to make cyberspace a safer and secured place to live and work.

India-Russia sign pact for visa free entry of flight crew:

- India and Russia have agreed to implement the general declaration for visa free entry of the crew of chartered and scheduled flights between the two countries.

India agreed to provide 2.87 million US Dollar to Afghanistan's Transport network:

- India will provide financial assistance of 2.87 million US Dollar to Afghanistan for the refurbishment of 350 buses to help in strengthening the public transport system of capital Kabul.

India, Singapore agreed to enhance security cooperation:

- India and Singapore have agreed to further deepen security cooperation to collectively tackle the threat of terrorism.

India, Tunisia Agreed to Combat Terror, Extremism

- India and Tunisia agreed to jointly combat terrorism and extremism while ramping up cooperation in the field of security.

India sends 3000 relief packs for Rohingyas in Myanmar:

- India has sent relief material consisting of 3,000 family relief packs to Myanmar's Rakhine state, where violence has triggered an outflow of Rohingya refugees.

India opens two border crossing points with Myanmar, Bangladesh

- India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh. Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram for Myanmar , Kawrpuichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram for Bangladesh

India, Nepal to Conduct First Joint Tiger Count



- For the first time, Nepal and India will undertake a joint tiger census in their national parks, forests and protected areas adjoining the two countries using a globally-recognised method.

China proposes creating 'mega regional market' with India:

- China proposed the idea of creating a "mega regional market" with India to increase prospects of cooperation between the two countries.

India, Myanmar signs MoU for \$25 million development of Rakhine:

- India and Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for \$25 million aimed at developing Myanmar's Rakhine state.

India, China holds 20th Special Representatives level talks:

- The 20th Special Representatives level talks between India and China was held in New Delhi.

India signs agreement with Switzerland to allow automatic sharing of tax related information:

- India has signed an agreement with Switzerland that would allow automatic sharing of tax-related information from 1st of next month.

India, Russia hold talks to firm up economic & cultural relations:

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is holding meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation with visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin

India, Russia hold talks to firm up economic & cultural relations:

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is holding meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation with visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin

DCI, NHAI ink MoU for sand supply:

- Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have signed an MoU for facilitating supply of sand for highways construction work.

Tata group, GE partner to make aircraft engine components in India:

- Tata group and General Electric Co. (GE) have signed an agreement to build a new factory in Hyderabad to make engine parts for passenger jets.

MoHUA inks agreement with German firm GIZ for technical cooperation in transport projects:

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has signed an agreement with German firm GIZ for technical cooperation in the implementation of transport projects in Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar and Kochi.

India, Israel sign pact for co-production of films:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have signed a pact for the co-production of films between the two nations.
- It aims to establish a framework to encourage all audio visual media output, especially co-production of films for benefitting film industries of both countries.

India Israel Free Trade:



- The Israeli government is pushing for a free trade agreement (FTA) with India to boost trade and investments.
- This will help to lower tax rates and removal of excessive regulations would help the private businesses to prosper.
- Free trade agreements are an important economic agreement in various areas and it helps in reducing tariffs, non-tariff barriers.

India, Cambodia ink four pacts to strengthen bilateral ties:

- India and Cambodia signed four agreements, including one to improve cooperation in prevention, investigation of crimes and legal assistance in criminal matters, besides a line of credit from India to fund Cambodia's Stung Sva Hab water resources development project for USD 36.92 million.

India and UK ties up for the improvement of public transportation:

- The Centre approved a MoU between India and London's transportation authority to improve public transport in the country.
- This pact will help improve the road transportation of India.

Cabinet approves Indo-Myanmar agreement on land border crossing:

- Cabinet has approved the Agreement between India and Myanmar on Land Border Crossing.
- The Agreement will facilitate regulation and harmonization of already existing free movement rights for people ordinarily residing in the border areas of both countries.

MoU between India and Israel on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector Approved

- Cabinet has approved the signing of **MoU between India and Israel** on cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector.
- The cooperation envisaged under the agreement will facilitate promotion of investments in each other's countries, technology transfer, R&D, conducting joint studies, capacity building of human resources and collaboration in the area of Start-ups.

MoU between India and Canada:

- India and Canada signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology.
- The MoU will provide a mechanism and help to foster scientific cooperation between R&D and academic institutions of India and Canada.

Gujarat and South Korea MoU for Business Cooperation:

- South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) signed a MoU for the development of industries in Gujarat.
- The main objective of the MoU is to help Gujarat-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to explore opportunities through joint ventures with South Korean firms, especially in areas of automobile, defence and textiles.

India, UK sign pact on return of illegal immigrants:



- India has signed an MoU with the UK to enable the return of illegal Indian immigrants within a month of their detection.
- Both the countries also agreed to share criminal records. Indians constitute the largest number of illegal immigrants living in the UK, as per reports.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCE

DCI, NHAI ink MoU for sand supply:

- Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have signed an MoU for facilitating supply of sand for highways construction work.

11th Annual MedTech Summit was organised in New Delhi:

- Under Bio Design Programme, XIth Annual MedTech Summit was organised in New Delhi. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has implemented a Bio Design Programme to develop innovative and affordable medical devices to cater to the clinical needs of the country.
- Theme of the summit: Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century

President inaugurates Indian Economic Association (IEA) summit held in Hyderabad:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Indian Economic Association (IEA) summit at the Acharya Nagarjuna University in Hyderabad.

The dreams of a new India by the year 2022:

- Indian President Ram Nath Govind inaugurating the centenary conference of Indian Economic Association (IEA). In the conference he stated that India commemorates the 75th Independence day by the resolution of "insufficient access to health care, education, housing and civic amenities have to be addressed to achieve the dreams of a new India by the year 2022"

1st International exhibition and Conference on AYUSH & Wellness sector begin in New Delhi:

- The first International exhibition and Conference on AYUSH and Wellness sector- AROGYA 2017 begin in New Delhi.
- Theme of the Conference: Enhancing the global potential of Ayush

President Ramnath Kovind to attend World Telugu Conference in Hyderabad:

- President Ramnath Kovind would be the chief guest at the valedictory function of the World Telugu Conference to be organised in Hyderabad by the Telangana government from December 15 to 19.

Three-day media workshop on climate change reporting in Himalayas gets underway at Kohima:

- A three-day media workshop on climate change reporting in the Himalayas got underway at Kohima in Nagaland.

Three-day gems & jewellery exhibition begins in Surat:

- A three-day gems and jewellery exhibition by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) started in Surat.

Third World Telugu Conference begins in Hyderabad:



- The third World Telugu Conference begins in Hyderabad. The aim of the Conference is to promote Telugu and its literature besides helping the present generation learn more about Telugu language and its rich culture and heritage.

India to host meeting of some WTO members in February:

- Commerce and India Minister Suresh Prabhu has stated that India will call a meeting of some WTO members in February to muster support for food security and other issues.

Three day 'All India Young Writers' Festival begins in New Delhi:

- The SAHITYA Akademi is organising a three-day All India Young Writers' Festival from December 22 to 24.

India host International Coffee Festival in January 2018:

- After a gap of four years, Bengaluru will host the seventh edition of India International Coffee Festival (IICF) in January 2018.

Vice President inaugurates Centenary celebrations of Yoga Institute in Mumbai:

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Centenary celebrations of the Yoga Institute in Mumbai.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Delhi Metro's Magenta line:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a section of the Magenta Line of Delhi Metro. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath is also attending the opening ceremony.

President to participate in annual Convocation of NIMHANS, Bangalore:

- President Ram Nath Kovind participated in the 22nd Annual Convocation of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences "NIMHANS" in Bengaluru.

74th anniversary of 1st Flag Hoisting Day celebrates in Andaman, Nicobar Islands:

- The 74th anniversary of First Flag Hoisting Day is being celebrated in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

'Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival' inaugurated in New Delhi:

- Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju will inaugurate 7th edition of three day 'Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival' in New Delhi.

India, EU to Hold 14th Summit Talks in New Delhi

- President of European Council, **Donald Franciszek Tusk** and President of the European Commission, **Jean-Claude Juncker** will be on a **three-day visit to India** to hold the **14th India-EU Summit** on 6th of next month in New Delhi

International Conference on Dialogue of Civilizations – IV

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Culture is hosting an international conference on "Dialogue of Civilizations – IV" from 8th to 15th October 2017 at Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira.

First Meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee Held

- The First Meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee was held in New Delhi. This meeting was a follow-up to the MoU on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime exchanged between the two sides during the visit of Australian Prime Minister Mr. Malcolm Turnbull to New Delhi in April 2016.



India to Host UN Wildlife Summit in 2020

- India will host the next United Nations (UN) global wildlife conference in 2020. India will host the next CMS Conference of the Parties CMSCOP13. It was officially announced at the closing CMSCOP12 plenary, in Manila, Philippines. The theme of the Conference was 'Their Future is Our Future - Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People'.

PM Modi Inaugurated International Mega Food event, World Food India 2017

- Narendra Modi inaugurated the most anticipated International Mega Food event- **World Food India 2017**, the biggest congregation of global investors and business leaders of major food companies. The event is organised by the Food Processing Industries Ministry in Delhi.

A two-day seminar was held in Shillong to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Prasar Bharati:

- A two-day seminar was held in Shillong to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Prasar Bharati on the occasion of Public Broadcasting Day. This seminar was addressed by Director General of All India Radio, Mr Fayyaz Sheheryar .

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 37th India International Trade Fair in Delhi:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 37th India International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.

India-Canada Technology Summit held in New Delhi:

- India-Canada Technology Summit in New Delhi, Dr Harsh Vardhan said, harnessing Science and Technology that connects people and market can help the economy of two nations.

India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit held in Chhattisgarh:

- India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit has been organised at Dantewada in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.

India to organise global conference on Cyberspace:

- India was organised a global conference on Cyberspace. Prime Minister NarendraModi inaugurated this conference .

Global Entrepreneurship Summit- 2017 was held at Hyderabad

- The 8th edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit-2017 was held at Hyderabad

USEFUL INFO

Theme of the Summit 2017	Women First, Prosperity for All
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India hosted international congress on military medicine:

- India is for the first time hosting the World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine

USEFUL INFO

Theme	Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead
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Home Minister chairs 12th meeting of standing Committee of Inter-State Council:

- The 12th meeting of the standing committee of the inter-state council held in New Delhi.The issues discussed in meeting included, financial transfers from Centre to States, GST, devolution of functions to local bodies, district planning, special provisions for Fifth and Sixth scheduled areas, communal harmony, deployment of central forces, migration and criminal justice system.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated HT Leadership Summit in New Delhi:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit in New Delhi. Former US President Barack Obama, Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Chattishgarh Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh will also address different sessions during the two-day event.

President inaugurated conference on National Law Day in New Delhi:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the conference on National Law Day in New Delhi. The two-day conference, organized by the NITI Aayog, in association with Law Commission of India, will deliberate on issues concerning the country's judicial system. The theme of the conference is '**structural reforms for overcoming delays in justice delivery**' and '**scope of judicial powers; judicial activism**'.

Union Home Minister Inaugurated First BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the four-day First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017' (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) in New Delhi. The Exercise will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

Arun Jaitley Attends G-20 Finance Ministers Meeting

- The Union Minister for Finance Arun Jaitley participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C.

8th SAARC Speaker, Parliamentarians Conference Started in Sri Lanka

- The 8th conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians (ASSP) will take place from October 4 to 6 at the Hotel Hilton in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

India to be Guest Country at the World Government Summit

- The World Government Summit announced that India is a guest country in its upcoming gathering. The Annual Gathering is scheduled from February 11 to 13, 2018 at Dubai..

Canada chosen as partner country for 2017 Technology Summit, New Delhi

- Canada has been chosen as the partner country for the 23rd edition of Technology Summit which is scheduled to be held from 14th – 15th November, 2017 in New Delhi.

2nd World Congress on Marxism to be Held in Beijing

- The 2nd World Congress on Marxism is scheduled to be held at Peking University in Beijing, China in May 2018.

India Pavilion at Conference of Parties (COP) 23 was inaugurated at Bonn in Germany

- The India Pavilion at Conference of Parties (COP) 23 was inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan at Bonn in Germany.

First International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition held at Dubai:

- Minister for AYUSH Shripad Naik and Indian Ambassador to UAE Navdeep Suri attended the inaugural ceremony of first International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition held at Dubai.

US President To Address Apec Summit:-



- US President Donald Trump and other world leaders are to address the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Vietnam, with trade and growth high on the agenda.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends ASEAN Summit in Philippines:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the opening ceremony of the ASEAN Summit in the Philippines' capital Manila.

The 7th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan held in Turkmenistan:

- The 7th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan held at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to discuss investment opportunities in war-torn country.

The 10th South Asia Economic Summit held at Nepal:

- The 10th South Asia Economic Summit, SAES held at Kathmandu, Nepal. The theme of 3-day summit is "Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia".

UN Climate Change Conference concludes:

- The UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) ended after two weeks of talks in Bonn, Germany.

Two day annual SCO meeting begins in Russian city of Sochi:

- The annual meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) begins in Russian city of Sochi. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj represents India in the two-day summit which is likely to discuss regional security scenario, including situations in the Gulf and Afghanistan.

AYUSH Ministry holds meeting on draft National Policy of medicinal and aromatic plants:

- Ministry of Ayush is holding a day-long meeting to finalise draft of National policy of medicinal and aromatic plants in New Delhi.

Nepal to host international conference on climate change:

- Nepal will hold an international conference to draw attention on climate change and its adverse effects on people in the Hindu Kush mountain range.

India, China and Russia to hold trilateral meeting:

- The External Affairs Ministry informed that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov will visit India for a trilateral meeting.

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council:

- India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation under a category that represents nations with the largest interests in international sea borne trade.

India allows 1,300 Buddhists from Myanmar's Rakhine state to enter Mizoram:

- The Indian government has allowed over 1,300 tribal Buddhist refugees from Myanmar's Rakhine region to enter Mizoram.

11th Annual MedTech Summit was organised in New Delhi:

- Under Bio Design Programme, XIth Annual MedTech Summit was organised in New Delhi

India to host Southeast Asia connectivity summit:



- Keeping with India's initiative of connectivity with Southeast Asia under its Act East Policy, New Delhi will host an Asean-India Connectivity Summit (AICS) on December 11-12.
 - Theme of the summit, Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century

President inaugurates Indian Economic Association (IEA) summit held in Hyderabad:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Indian Economic Association (IEA) summit at the Acharya Nagarjuna University in Hyderabad.

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- The first International exhibition and Conference on AYUSH and Wellness sector - AROGYA 2017 begin in New Delhi.

USEFUL INFO: Theme of the Conference: Enhancing the global potential of Ayush

Three-day gems & jewellery exhibition begins in Surat:

- A three-day gems and jewellery exhibition by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) started in Surat.

International film festival begins in Chennai:

- The 15th edition of the Chennai International Film Festival was inaugurated by actor Aravind Swamy. The festival, which will take place till December 21, will showcase 140 films across 50 countries.

India to host meeting of some WTO members in February:

- Commerce and India Minister Suresh Prabhu has stated that India will call a meeting of some WTO members in February to muster support for food security and other issues.

India host International Coffee Festival in January 2018:

- After a gap of four years, Bengaluru will host the seventh edition of India International Coffee Festival (IICF) in January 2018.

'Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival' inaugurated in New Delhi:

- Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju will inaugurate 7th edition of three day 'Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival' in New Delhi.

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have signed a pact for the co-production of films between the two nations.
- It aims to establish a framework to encourage all audio visual media output, especially co-production of films for benefitting film industries of both countries.

India Israel Free Trade:



- The Israeli government is pushing for a free trade agreement (FTA) with India to boost trade and investments.
- This will help to lower tax rates and removal of excessive regulations would help the private businesses to prosper.
- Free trade agreements are an important economic agreement in various areas and it helps in reducing tariffs, non-tariff barriers.

India, Cambodia ink four pacts to strengthen bilateral ties:

- India and Cambodia signed four agreements, including one to improve cooperation in prevention, investigation of crimes and legal assistance in criminal matters, besides a line of credit from India to fund Cambodia's Stung Sva Hab water resources development project for USD 36.92 million.

105th Science Congress to start at Manipur University in Imphal on March 16:

- The 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be held from March 16 to 20 at Manipur University in Imphal.
- The dates were finalised at a meeting of officials of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) and the Manipur government in Imphal. Chief Minister Biren Singh completes one year in office on March 15.

Sushma Swaraj 5-day visit to three countries:

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj going to 5-day visit to three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

Thailand:

- On her 1st visit he goes to Thailand will hold an official meeting with Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Don Pramudwinai.

Indonesia:

- On the second leg she visit to Indonesia, Ms Swaraj will going to attend the 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.

Singapore

- 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.

India Ruled Pakistan from SAARC:

- India has removed 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 and remote access to advanced research facilities.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three day International Dharma- Dhamma conference:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three day International Dharma- Dhamma conference in RAJGIR in Bihar.
- The conference is on State and Social Order in Dharma -Dhamma Traditions.
- This conference has been jointly organised by India Foundation, Nalanda University, Ministry of External Affairs, Asean India and Vietnamese Buddhist Sangha.



Seventh edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav begins in Karnataka:

- The seventh edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix, begins in Karnataka.
- The event, organised by the Ministry of Culture, will continue till the 20th of this month. The state paired with Karnataka is Uttarakhand.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure organized by National Disaster Management Authority in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT MOBILE APP AND WEB PORTAL

Petition website for Aadhaar-linking complaints launched:

- A petition website, "Speak For Me", has been launched for complaints against receiving continuous Aadhaar-linking calls and texts.

Online platform for employees to access all service details:

- Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh launched the electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) as the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions observed Good Governance Day

India's First Bitcoin Trading App Launched by Pluto Exchange:

- At the same time of government warns about crypto currencies, Pluto exchange launched India's 1st Bitcoin trading App.

Prasar Bharati launches Online Application System for AIR Auditions

- Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash has launched an online application system for music auditions across all genres for the All India Radio. The initiative was launched on the occasion of 64th Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan in New Delhi.

Chairman NHAI Launches New Website and PMIS Mobile App

- The Chairman of National Highways Authority of India Shri Deepak Kumar launched a world-class, new multilingual website of the organization. He also launched a Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) Mobile App that will facilitate close, in-house monitoring of NHAI projects on a mobile phone.

Flipkart Launched Private Label MarQ for Large Appliances Category

- Flipkart announced the launch of MarQ, an in-house brand in the large appliances category.

Govt launched 'Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App' benefitting customers of Coal India Limited

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways & Coal has launched 'Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App' benefitting customers of Coal India Limited (CIL) lifting coal through road mode.

Government launched its Second and last phase of BharatNet project:



- The Government will launch its second and final phase of BharatNet project to provide high-speed broadband service in all Gram Panchayats by March 2019. It will be implemented at an outlay of around 34 thousand crore rupees.

Trial courts launch e-mail alerts for updates on case status:

- Trial courts have launched an e-mail alerts facility wherein litigants are sent updates on the proceedings in their case, the date of next hearing, and reminders before the hearing date via e-mail.

Facebook brings in disaster response tools and maps to India:

- Facebook has partnered with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and SEEDS, a non-profit body, in India, to offer tools to these agencies to help them respond more effectively to natural disasters.

The union finance Arun Jaitley has launched SBI's unified integrated app YONO (You Only Need One).

- YONO' is the first digital banking platform which offers customized products to the customer. SBI has tied with 60 e-commerce players, including Amazon, Ola, Flipkart, Yatra, etc. to provide more facility other than banking services.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched an all in one app at the Global Conference on Cyber Space, as an initiative to promote Digital India Program Umang App.

- UMANG stands for Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance and can be downloaded by the people to avail various Government services. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) have together developed this app.

Digital payment platform has introduced payments using "BHIM UPI"

- Now, users can create their own Paytm BHIM UPI ID on the app, which will be issued by Paytm Payments Bank. As per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) guidelines, users can send up to Rs. 1 lakh a day using BHIM UPI; while there's no receiving limit.

Online complaint Management System for working women harassment at workplace SHe-Box.

- The SHe-Box has been launched to provide platform to aggrieved women to make their complaints directly so that suitable action is taken to redress their grievances.

The National Power Portal (NPP) for collation and dissemination of Indian power sector

- The Dashboard would also act as the single point interface for all Power Sector Apps launched previously by the Ministry, like TARANG, UJALA, VIDYUT PRAVAH, GARV, URJA, MERIT. information <http://npp.gov.in>

Union independent minister Giriraj singh launched MSME samadhan portal

- Name of the portal :<http://msefc.msme.gov.in> It was launched to provide information about bending ling payment of MSMs with individual CPSE's, central government state ministers, etc

Indian Army released an Integrated Quarter Master package software Application

- Integrated Quarter Master package (IQMP) software application released by vice chief of army Lt Gen Sarath Chand at New delhilt was developed by TCS, and it was launched to automate the various logistics related functions of an Army unit.

Western Railways Launches 'Eyewatch Railways' App For Women's Safety

- The free app, 'Eyewatch Railways', has been developed by RPF of Western Railway in



Rajasthan government launched free learning app for competitive exams

- Rajasthan's Higher and Technical Education minister Kiran Maheshwari on launched 'Dishari' -- an educational mobile application that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations.

Odisha APARNA Portal – Apply Online For Revision of Pension

- Government has launched the ARPANA Portal for the revision of pension/ family pension and pensioners. The word "ARPANA" stands for Apply for Revision of Pension Using Aadhaar Number Authentication.

Indian Air Force Launched Health Mobile App 'MedWatch'

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) launched an innovative health mobile App named 'MedWatch' on the occasion of its 85th anniversary. It was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa during the Air Force Commanders' Conference in New Delhi. The Mobile app was launched to keep up with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Digital India'.

Petition website for Aadhaar-linking complaints launched:

- A petition website, "Speak For Me", has been launched for complaints against receiving continuous Aadhaar-linking calls and texts

India's First Bitcoin Trading App Launched by Pluto Exchange:

- At the same time of government warns about crypto currencies, Pluto exchange launched India's 1st Bitcoin trading App.

Alibaba-owned DingTalk enterprise messaging app launched in India:

- Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba-owned messaging app DingTalk unveiled an English version in India that caters to the small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Available on both Android and iOS operating systems, DingTalk is a communication and collaboration platform designed for enterprises.

Telegram to launch its own cryptocurrency 'TON' to raise \$1.2 billion:

- Messaging app Telegram is developing a blockchain platform to rival world's second biggest crypto Ethereum and is seeking to raise \$1.2 billion through an Initial Coin Offering (ICO) called the 'Telegram Open Network' (TON)

Bajaj Finance to acquire 12.6% stake in Mobikwik:

- Bajaj Finance will acquire 12.60 per cent stake in mobile wallet company Mobikwik as against 10.83 per cent stated earlier due to a change in conversion price of the compulsory convertible cumulative preference shares.

Grab acquires Indian mobile payments startup iKaaz:

- Southeast Asian ride-hailing firm Grab has acquired Bengaluru-based payments startup iKaaz to strengthen its payments platform.
- Grab currently offers services in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia.

Samsung launches shopping app 'Samsung Mall' in India:



- Samsung India has launched a new shopping app and service, called Samsung Mall, exclusively for the Indian market.
- The app offers visual searching of products online and provides an interface to shop across different e-commerce sites, like Amazon and Flipkart.

WhatsApp may launch digital payments in India next month:

- Facebook-owned messaging service WhatsApp may launch its digital payments feature in India next month.
- WhatsApp is working with State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank to integrate its Unified Payments Interface (UPI)- based payments platform.

Facebook launches 'Marketplace' to buy, sell goods in India:

- Facebook has launched its 'Marketplace' to buy and sell used goods and services across categories such as electronics, entertainment, and housing in India.
- For used goods, it allows sellers to register by including details like price, category, location and images.

UAE launches app for Indians seeking work visas:

- The United Arab Emirates has launched a smartphone app for Indians seeking work visas that is aimed at streamlining the process and completing most of the procedures in India so that the applicants can make a hassle-free entry into the workforce.

Paytm launches Business App for merchants:

- Digital payments startup Paytm has introduced 'Paytm for Business' app for merchants and businesses to accept payments instantly for zero charges.
- The app also lets businesses view their transactions without the need to wait for a confirmation SMS or an email.
- It is available in 10 regional languages and has currently been launched on Android operating system.

ICICI Lombard app for cashless visits to doctors:

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance has launched a mobile app that enables cashless visits to doctors who operate standalone clinics.
- This health insurance app 'IL TakeCare' has been launched in collaboration with Practo, an aggregator of doctors and medical services that offers its database to mobile phone users.

HDFC Bank customers can get their queries answered using Google Assistant:

- HDFC Bank customers can get their queries answered using Google Assistant.
- All you need to say is "Ok Google, talk to HDFC Bank", and you'll be connected to the bank's AI Chatbox 'Eva'.

Paytm, Alibaba's AGTech Holdings launch new mobile gaming platform:

- Mobile payments company Paytm and Alibaba Group-owned AGTech Holdings Ltd have formed a joint venture to launch Gamepind, a gaming platform aimed at mobile users in India.
- Gamepind will offer a host of popular social, casual and sports games with an exclusive rewards programme.

Maneka Gandhi inaugurates online portal NARI:



- Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated an online portal NARI in New Delhi for the empowerment of women.
- Developed by the Ministry, the portal will provide easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
- The portal – nari.nic.in summarise over 350 government schemes and other important information

New helpline for income tax e-filing:

- The Income Tax Department notified a new helpline number for taxpayers who e-file their returns and conduct other tax-related businesses online.
- The department issued an advisory: "Attention taxpayers: e-Filing help desk number has been changed. New Help desk number is: India Toll Free- 18001030025, Direct Number-+918046122000."

Indian Railways extends SMS delay alerts to 1,400 trains:

- Indian Railways extends its SMS alerts for departure delays of over an hour to cover about 1,400 trains, including premium, superfast and express trains.
- So far, such alerts were sent only to passengers of premium trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi, and were restricted to people boarding at the departure station.

Income Tax Department launches on-line chat service:

- Income Tax Department has launched an on-line chat service on its national website www.incometaxindia.gov.in.
- This is aimed at facilitating the taxpayers resolve their queries.
- A customer support executive having expertise in tax-related matters helps the users in resolving their queries on-line.
- The facility is available on all working days from Monday to Friday between 10 AM and 6 PM.
- The module can also be accessed through a mobile application called 'AayakarSetu' on Android phone.

Indian Railway Launches SFOORTI Application:

- Railway Ministry has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for Freight Managers that provides facilities for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views.

Punjab rolls out e-Raktkosh web portal in all 45 government blood banks:

- Punjab has rolled out e-Raktkosh web portal in all the 45 government blood banks.
- The web portal provides the guidelines and streamlines the workflow of blood banks and storage centres across the nation and interconnects all blood banks with a single network.

DEFENCE AND SCIENCE NEWS

IAF jet conducts first aerial refuelling exercise successfully:

- An Embraer transport aircraft with Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system successfully carried out air-to-air refuelling (AAR).



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inducts first made-in-India Scorpene class submarine, INS Kalvari:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned India's first indigenous Scorpene-class submarine, Kalvari, into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

INS Trikand & INS Teg to sail into port of Abu Dhabi:

- As a part of comprehensive strategic relationship and to strengthen defence cooperation between India and the United Arab Emirates, two ships of the Indian Navy - INS Teg and INS Trikand will make port of call in Abu Dhabi.

India successfully test-fires supersonic interceptor missile:

- India's indigenously developed supersonic Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor successfully destroyed an incoming hostile Prithvi missile over the Bay of Bengal during its third test-fire this year.

8th India-Maldives joint military exercise "Ekuverin" concludes:

- The Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) have been carrying out a joint military exercise in Belgaum.

Indian Air Force Contingent in Israel to Participate in 'Ex Blue Flag-17'

- A 45 member contingent of the Indian Air Force had left for Israel to participate in exercise 'Blue Flag-17'.

Joint Indo-Russia Tri-Services Exercise Indra-2017 Successfully Conducted

- The Joint Indo-Russia Tri-Services Exercise INDRA-2017 was successfully conducted at Vladivostok in Russia.

"PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017" between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army begins

- A fourteen-day joint training exercise "PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017" between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army commenced with the Opening Ceremony at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

Indian Air Force, along with the DRDO successfully tested an indigenously developed lightweight 'Glide' bomb

- The Indian Air Force, along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested an indigenously developed lightweight 'Glide' bomb in Chandipur in Odisha.

India, Bangladesh Joint Military Combat Exercise 'Sampriti' Begins

- Army personnel of India and Bangladesh are going to take part in a joint training exercise 'Sampriti-7' in Meghalaya and Mizoram. This is the 7th edition of the joint training exercise.

Long-Range Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay' Test-Fired

- India conducted a flight test of its indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'. It can carry warheads of up to 300 kg from a test range at Chandipur along the Odisha coast. This was the fifth experimental test of the homegrown missile system.

Sweden-based scientists calculate speed of electron emission from atom:

- Sweden-based researchers have found that an electron takes 20 attoseconds, or 20 billionths of a billionth of a second to be emitted from a neon atom using laser pulses.

Switzerland Researchers engineer non-immune cells to kill cancer cells:

- Switzerland-based researchers have engineered non-immune cells transforming them into synthetic cells that mimic T-cells.



Singapore scientists fold a protein within a protein:

- Singapore-based researchers have invented a fundamentally new way of folding and protecting recombinant proteins.

Ericsson conducts first-ever live 5G demonstration in India:

- Communications technology firm Ericsson showcased the first-ever live 5G end-to-end demonstration in India.

Indian scientists help detect black holes in space through gravitational waves:

- Indian scientists were part of a multinational team which detected a gravitational wave from the lightest black hole merger.

New 3D printed fabric cools 55% more than cotton:

- US-based researchers have designed a thermal regulation textile that has a 55% greater cooling effect than cotton. The 3D printed fabric is developed from nanofibres consisting of boron nitride and polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) that are highly aligned, uniform, and densely packed.

NASA probe captures image of a storm on Jupiter:

- NASA's Juno spacecraft beamed back a stunning image of a massive, raging storm in Jupiter's northern hemisphere, captured by the probe during its ninth close flyby of the gas giant planet.

Environmentalists record 130 butterfly species during Butterfly & Biodiversity Meet:

- In Arunachal Pradesh, a team of environmentalists including entomologists and wildlife experts have recorded 130 butterfly species during the second edition of Butterfly & Biodiversity Meet at Pasighat in East Siang District.

NASA tests Supersonic Parachute for Mars 2020 mission:

- NASA has successfully tested a supersonic landing parachute that will be deployed in its Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020.

ISRO's sun mission to take off in 2019:

- After conquering the moon and Mars, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has set its sights on the sun with the Aditya-L1 mission.
- "Aditya-L1, India's maiden mission to the Sun, will be launched in 2019,"

BrahMos missile successfully test-fired from IAF fighter jet:

- The world's fastest supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for the first time from the Indian Air Force's fighter aircraft Sukhoi-30MKI against a sea-based target.

Earth's neutrino absorption rate measured for the first time:

- In a first, scientists at the IceCube collaboration have measured the rate at which Earth absorbs high-energy neutral subatomic particles called neutrinos. IceCube, the world's largest neutrino detector, has 5,160 optical sensors encased within a cubic kilometre of Antarctic ice near the South Pole.

Low-cost method can convert methane without forming CO2:

- US-based researchers have developed a low-cost technology that can convert methane to clean-burning hydrogen while also preventing the formation of carbon dioxide.



- The method introduces methane at the bottom of a reactor filled with molten metal, which breaks down into hydrogen on reaching the top.

Tesla to test world's biggest lithium-ion battery system:

- Billionaire Elon Musk-led Tesla has finished building the world's biggest lithium-ion battery system in South Australia and is expected to test it soon.

Scientists make world's smallest tape recorder from bacteria:

- Columbia University researchers have converted a bacterial immune system into the world's smallest data recorder.

MIT technique turns carbon emissions into fuel:

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers have developed a membrane for converting carbon dioxide emissions from power plants into fuel.
- The membrane which is 100% selective for oxygen separates it from carbon dioxide, leaving carbon monoxide which serves as fuel.
- The separation is driven by temperatures reaching 990°C while a stream of hydrogen or methane is maintained on other side to attract oxygen.

Comprehensive three- day Coastal Security exercise Sagar Kavach concluded:

- The comprehensive three- day Coastal Security exercise SagarKavach by Indian Coast Guard off Kerala Coast, concluded.

Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba was participate in IMMSAREX in Bangladesh:

- Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba participate in International Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) in Bangladesh.

Third Indo-UK joint military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' concluded:

- The third Indo-UK joint Army training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' will be conducted in Rajasthan The first exercise was conducted in 2013 at Belgaum, Karnataka, where as for the second exercise in 2015, an Indian Army contingent had visited the United Kingdom.

Defence Minister to commission INS Kiltan into Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam

- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has commissioned an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette **INS Kiltan** into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in **Visakhapatnam**. According to Defence Minister, **INS Kiltan strengthens India's** defence system and will be a shining armour in 'Make in India' programme as it is totally built indigenously.

Indian Army organises Jashn -e-Kokernag to strengthen jawan-awam relationship

- With the slogan of "**Jawan aur Awaam Amun Hai Muqam**" (Army and Locals together, peace will prevail), 19 batch Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army organised '**Jashn-e-Breng**' festival in Kokernag village of the Anantnag district to **promote peace and brotherhood** between security forces and the local population.

India, Russia to Participate in first-ever Tri-services Military Exercise

- The first-ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between **Indian and Russian** Armed Forces, **INDRA-2017** began near **Vladivostok** in **Russia**. Two indigenously built Indian Naval ships **INS Satpura** and **INS Kadmat** reached



Vladivostok Port and were given a traditional ceremonial welcome. The Indian contingent for the Exercise is led by the Task Force Commander **Major General ND Prasad**. The Exercise **INDRA** in its previous nine editions has been conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries.

30th Edition of CORPAT Begins Between Indian-Indonesian Navy

- **Indian Navy Ship Sukanya** under the command of Commander SA Deodhar has arrived at Belawan Indonesia to participate in the 30th edition of CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and 3rd Bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy.

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar Assumes Charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS) from Vice Admiral Karambir Singh AVSM at a formal ceremony held in New Delhi.

Indo-UK combined military exercise begins in Bikaner:

- A 14 day long Combined Military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior- 2017' between India and the UK begins near Bikaner.

India, Japan and Australia agree to greater collaboration on maritime security:

- India, Japan and Australia have "growing convergences" in the Indo-Pacific region, stated by the officials of the three countries after meeting for a trilateral in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inducts first made-in-India Scorpene class submarine, INS Kalvari:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned India's first indigenous Scorpene-class submarine, Kalvari, into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

INS Trikand & INS Teg to sail into port of Abu Dhabi:

- As a part of comprehensive strategic relationship and to strengthen defence cooperation between India and the United Arab Emirates, two ships of the Indian Navy - INS Teg and INS Trikand will make port of call in Abu Dhabi.

India successfully test-fires supersonic interceptor missile:

- India's indigenously developed supersonic Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor successfully destroyed an incoming hostile Prithvi missile over the Bay of Bengal during its third test-fire this year.

8th India-Maldives joint military exercise "Ekuverin" concludes:

- The Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) have been carrying out a joint military exercise in Belgaum.

ISRO to launch Chandrayaan-II in Q1 2018:

- Indian Space Research Organisation is planning to launch Chandrayaan-II in the first quarter of next year.

US lab makes the world's strongest superconducting magnet:

- US-based MagLab has successfully tested the world's strongest superconducting magnet, producing 32 teslas (a unit of magnetic field strength), 33% stronger than the previous record.

SpaceX sets record for most rockets launched in one year:

- SpaceX has completed its 18th launch in 2017, marking a record year for the private space company.

Gravitational wave detector to be built in India by 2025:



- A new LIGO gravitational wave detector to measure ripples in the fabric of space and time is set to be built in India by 2025, in collaboration with universities from across the globe.

Sukoi-30 MKI is a nuclear-capable aircraft was launched:

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman undertook a sortie in IAF's frontline combat jet Sukhoi-30 MKI in the western sector of Rajasthan.
- The country's first woman defence minister described the 30-minute sortie as "wonderful".
- Sukoi-30 MKI is a nuclear-capable aircraft which can penetrate deep into enemy territory.

ISRO releases first image taken by Cartosat-2

- ISRO released the first image captured by its Cartosat-2 series satellite which was recently launched from the space agency's spaceport at Sriharikota.
- The image shows a part of Indore with the Holkar Cricket Stadium in the centre.

India successfully test fires Agni-V missile:

- India successfully test fired its indigenously built, nuclear-capable missile, Agni-V. It was conducted off a test range from Odisha's Abdul Kalam Island.

India Japan Coastguards conduct joint search and rescue exercise:

- A joint Search and Rescue exercise named SAREX-18 was conducted in the Bay of Bengal off Chennai between Indian and Japan Coast Guards.

Rudra In Republic Day parade

- Indigenously-developed weapon system integrated helicopter Rudra will make its maiden appearance in the Republic Day parade
- The flypast by the Indian Air Force on the Republic Day parade will involve 38 aircraft, including 21 fighters, 12 helicopters and five transporters; these are lead by the group Captain Rahul Bhasin.

Indian Naval Sailing Vessel- INSV Tarini enters Port Stanley, Falkland islands:

- The Indian Navy's first all-women crew of Indian Naval Sailing Vessel- INSV Tarini entered Port Stanley, Falkland islands.
- The crew of six women naval officers is sailing on Tarini, a 55-foot yacht, on their eight-month circumnavigation of the globe.

Indian Navy launched the third Scorpene class submarine 'Karanj':

- The Indian Navy launched the third Scorpene class submarine Karanj on January 31st
- It has been constructed by shipbuilder Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) here.
- Karanj will undergo tests for the next one year before the commission, total six submarines are going to be built at the

India deals with Russia and Israel:

- Defense minister signed two deals one with Russia and another with Israel.
- India-Russia: procurement of 240 bombs, at a cost of 1 thousand 254 crore rupees from M/s JSC Rosonboron Exports, Russia



- India-Israel: procurement of 131 Barak Missiles and associated equipment, under option clause from M/s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Limited.

Pakistan test-fires naval cruise missile 'Harba':

- The Pakistan Navy successfully test-fired the indigenously developed 'Harba' naval cruise missile after launching it from a newly commissioned fast attack vessel.
- The missile is capable of hitting its target from surface to surface and ground assault.
- The indigenously-built missile was launched from PNS Himmat and it successfully hit the target.
- The missile accurately hit its target signifying the impressive capabilities of Harbah Naval Weapon System.

India Cancels Israel's Defence Deal:

- India cancelled a \$500 million deal to develop Spike anti-tank guided missiles and expressed regrets over this decision.
- India had planned to acquire the ATGMs for the Army at a cost of \$500 million.
- The Indian defence ministry has been strongly pushing for transfer of technology in procuring various weapons and other platforms from foreign defence majors.

ISRO launches its 100th satellite into space:

- India successfully launched weather observation satellite Cartosat 2 Series and 29 other spacecraft onboard its dependable Polar rocket.
- The successful orbiting of the satellites by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV C-40 comes four months after the Indian space Research Organisation's mission to launch backup navigation spacecraft IRNSS-1H onboard PSLV-39 ended in a rare failure.

Warships Nirbhik, Nirghat decommissioned:

- Warships INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat were decommissioned in Mumbai, after serving the Navy for 30 and 28 years respectively.
- The warships were decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval Dockyard, a Defence.

S.No	Name of the countries		Name of exercises	Venue of exercise
1	India	Kyrgyzstan	Khanjar IV (Special forces)	Kok Jhangak Kyrgyzstan
2	India	Nepal	Surya Kiran XI (Military)	Uttarkhand India
3	India	Singapore	Bold Kurukshetra (Military)	Madhya Pradesh India
4	India	Oman	Al Nagah-II II (Military)	Himachal Pradesh India
5	India	Mongolia	Nomadic Elephant XII	Mizoram India



			(Military)	
6	India Army Chetak Corps		Thar Shakti (Military)	Rajasthan India
7	India	Nepal	Surya Kiran XII (Military)	Saljhandi Nepal
8	India	USA	Yudh Abhyas (Military)	Washington USA
9	India	Sri Lanka	Mitra Shakti (Military)	Pune India
10	India	Russia	Indra (Tri service)	Vladivostok Russia
11	India	Kazakhstan	Prabal Doztyk (Military)	Himachal Pradesh India
12	India	Bangladesh	Sampriti (Military)	Mizoram India
13	India		DANX (Naval and special forces)	Andaman and Nicobar India
14	India	Myanmar	IMBAX (Military)	Meghalaya India
15	India	UK	Ajeya Warrior (Military)	Rajasthan India

Important Schemes and Programs

India International Science Festival (IISF)

- Day two of the India International Science Festival (IISF) in Anna University campus at Chennai saw the making of a new Guinness World Record for the Largest Biology Lesson. One thousand forty nine (1049) students participated in the record breaking session

15th MIFF for Documentary, Short, Animation Film to begin on 28th January:

www.ibpsguide.com | estore.ibpsguide.com | www.sscexamguide.com

For Free Online Mock Test: Visit- estore.ibpsguide.com



- The 15th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) for Documentary, Short and Animation Film will be organised from January 28 to February 3, 2018 at the Films Division premises in Mumbai.

Mahindra Launches 'Reran' Project for Women Farmers

- Mahindra & Mahindra has launched a program, Reran, to empower women working in the agriculture sector by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment. The project will be initially launched in the state of Odisha

Ministry WCD Launched Campaign on 'women for women'

- In an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking an online campaign #IamThatWoman. Through the campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing 'by' and 'for' women. Ministry of WCD has urged people to shun stereotypes associated with women harming other women.

7 Companies Given Lol for 14 monuments Under 'Adopt a Heritage Scheme'

- Seven shortlisted companies were given 'Letters of Intent' for fourteen monuments under 'Adopt a Heritage Scheme' of Ministry of Tourism at the closing ceremony of 'ParyatanParv' at Rajpath Lawns, New Delhi. These companies will be the future 'Monument Mitras' who would associate pride with their CSR activities.

1. SBI Foundation shortlisted for the adoption of -

- JantarMantar, Delhi.

2. TK International Limited shortlisted for the adoption of -

- Sun Temple, Konark
- Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneshwar
- Ratnagiri Monuments, Jajpur, Odisha

3. Yatra Online Pvt. Limited shortlisted for the adoption of:

- Hampi, Karnataka
- Leh Palace, Jammu & Kashmir
- QutubMinar, Delhi
- Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra

4. Travel Corporation of India Ltd. shortlisted for the adoption of:

- Mattancherry Palace Museum, Kochi
- Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi

5. Adventure Tour Operator Association of India shortlisted for the adoption of :

- Gangotri Temple Area and Trail to Gaumukh
- Mt. StokKangri, Laddakh, Jammu and Kashmir

6. Special Holidays Travel Pvt. Ltd. (With) Rotary Club of Delhi shortlisted for the adoption of:

- AgrasenkiBaoli, Delhi

7. NBCC shortlisted for the adoption of:

- PuranaQuila, Delhi.



3rd 'Global Investors' India Forum Held in New Delhi

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh addressed the 3rd Global Investors' India Forum in New Delhi. The theme of the event was 'Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India' and it was attended by global industry stalwarts. In the forum, major focus was given on generation of electricity and its distribution across the country. The event was organized by the ASSOCHAM.

All India Radio to launch its services on Amazon's Echo smart speakers:

- All India Radio (AIR) Director General Fayyaz Sheheryar announced that the government-owned broadcaster will have its services on Amazon's Echo Dot in the next three-to-six months' time.

Google announces scholarship program to train 1.3 lakh Indian developers in emerging technologies:

- Google India has collaborated with online education company Pluralsight and educational organization Udacity to help train 1.3 Lakh developers and students across India

73 new airport and helipads to be set up under regional connectivity scheme UDAN:

- Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju announced the name of 73 new airports and helipads to be set-up under the Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN.
- The ambitious scheme Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik-UDAN seeks to boost regional air connectivity and provides various incentives to airlines.

Govt announces 4 new schemes to promote young scientists:

- The government has announced four new schemes to promote young scientists and researchers in the country.
- The Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE) Scheme will connect the educators to leading public funded institutions like IIT, IISc or national institutions like CSIR to pursue research.
- The second scheme – Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship – offers support to 100 PhD scholars for training in universities/laboratories abroad up to 12 months during their doctoral research.
- The third scheme – Distinguished Investigator Award – offers a maximum of 100 fellowships to principal investigators of Science and Engineering Research Board and Department of Science and Technology projects.
- The fourth scheme 'Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR)' aims to encourage science writing.
- The schemes focus on youth to empower, recognise and motivate them.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Palestine, UAE and Oman in February:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Palestine, UAE and Oman from the 9th to the 12th of next month.
- It will be the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Palestine. During the visit, Mr Modi will hold discussions with the leaders of the three countries on matters of mutual interest.

From February 9, 3-day international bird festival at Dudhwa:

- A three-day international bird festival will be held at the Dudhwa National Park here from February 9 with nearly 200 leading ornithologists expected to attend.



- The purpose behind the international bird festival is to promote eco-tourism in Dudhwa and to give it a distinct international identity besides highlighting its traditional Tharu arts, culture and heritage.

171st Araadhanai Music Festival begins In Thiruvaiyaru:

- The Governor of TamilNadu Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated 171st Araadhanai Music Festival begins in Thiruvaiyaru Thyagaraja temple.
- The main highlight of the festival is the choral singing of Thyagaraja's five kritis in Ghana ragas which will be held on its last day of five day festival.

Center Unveils Electoral Bonds' scheme:

- As our Finance Minister announced the idea of electoral bonds in his Budget 2017-18 made on February 1, 2017. He unveiled such Bonds today.
- In action to clean election financing, the government unveils contours of the new electoral bonds that donors can buy from SBI and said receiving political parties can get money only through a designated bank account.
- The electoral bonds, which are being got as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties, will be available at specified branches of State Bank of India (SBI) for 10 days each in months of January, April, July and October.

Namami Gange Projects Worth Rs. 295 crore Approved by NMCG

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved five projects worth Rs. 295.01 crore.
- 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 and one project worth Rs 11.73 crore is related to *ghat* improvement works in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

IESA to hold India's 1st energy storage startup competition:

- The India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) is set to hold the country's first startup competition focused on energy storage, electric vehicles & charging infrastructure, and micro-grids.

IMPORTANT RANKING AND INDEX

- GIFT City's IFSC Bags 10th Place in Global Financial Centres Index around the world.
- In the Safest Cities Index 2017, Japanese capital city Tokyo tops the list, Delhi and Mumbai have ranked 43rd and 45th respectively.
- Gender Vulnerability Index Goa (Safest), Bihar (Least Safe),
- Varanasi tops the list of Country's Most Polluted city.
- Delhi has been rated the most tourist-friendly destination in India, according to a biennial survey conducted by the World Travel and Tourism Council India Initiative.
- Bengaluru is the best host among 45 cities worldwide, according to a report from the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU). San Francisco holds the 2nd spot followed by two other Indian cities Mumbai and Dew Delhi (3rd and the 4th spots).



- Forbes Magazine has released its India Rich List for 2017, with Reliance Industries Limited chairman Mukesh Ambani topping the charts for the 10th consecutive year
- Jaipur and Srinagar Airport got first and second rank respectively in the category of 2-5 million passengers in Airport Council International (ACI)-Airport Service Quality (ASQ).
- Rating agency Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC is an American financial services company which ranks India in the group 5 along with Italy, Spain, Ireland, the UAE and South Africa.

Mumbai more expensive than Singapore for expats:

- Mumbai has been ranked as Asia's fifth most expensive rental city for expatriates, leaving behind Singapore which stood at eighth rank on the list.
- Tokyo topped the list.

India Ratings projects economic growth at 7.1% next fiscal:

India Ratings and Research projected the country's economic growth to improve to 7.1 per cent next fiscal from 6.5 per cent this year, buoyed by robust consumption demand and low commodity prices.

World Bank projects growth rate of 7.3% for India in 2018:

- The World Bank has projected India's GDP growth rate at 7.3% for 2018 and 7.5% for the next two years.

Trump named world's most oppressive leader on press freedom:

- US President Donald Trump has been named the world's most oppressive leader towards press freedom by New York-based non-profit organisation Committee to Protect Journalists.

US Asks its people to avoid J&K, travel India ranked Level-2:

- The US has issued a new travel advisory in such statement India has been ranked Level 2 (exercise increased caution) while Pakistan has been placed in Level 3 (reconsider travel).
- However, it asks Americans not to travel to Jammu and Kashmir, except for eastern Ladakh and Leh and not to venture within 10 miles of the India-Pakistan border due to the "potential for armed conflict".

Narendra Modi named Number 3 world leader, ahead of Trump, Putin:

- Gallup International in its annual survey — Opinion of Global Leaders conducted across 50 nations — rated PM Modi among world's top three leaders.
- The top spot went to French President Emmanuel Macron (net score 21), followed by German chancellor Angela Merkel (net score of 20). PM Modi is ranked at number three (net score 8).

Bihar poorest state in India, Delhi richest: National survey

- National Family Health Survey on around 6 lakh households in 2015-16 has revealed that Bihar is India's poorest state, while Delhi is the richest.
- The survey classifies all households into five wealth quintiles, according to which Bihar has more than half of its households in the bottom quintile, while Delhi has over 60% households in the top quintile.

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Tuberculosis (TB) cases	1
Ease of doing business	100
Gender Gap	108
Migrants living abroad	1
Largest Importer of LPG	1
Vulnerable country in the world facing extreme weather events	6
Business optimism index	7
Pollution-related deaths	1
Global Passport Power Rank -2017	75
Human Development Index -2017	131
Foreign Direct Investment confidence index	8 th
Global Competitiveness Index 2016	39 th
Global Talent Index	92 nd
<u>Global Human Capital index 2017</u>	103
Global Hunger Index 2016	100 th
Global Innovation Index 2016	60
Global Peace Index (GPI) 2017	137
Global Slavery Index 2016	4 th
Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2017	89 th
Intellectual Property Index 2017	43 rd
Logistics Performance Index 2016	35 th
Global Human Capital Index	103
Sustainable Development Goal Index 2017	116 th
Economic Freedom Index 2017	143 rd
World Happiness Index 2017	122 nd
World Press Freedom Index 2017	136
World Risk Index 2016	77 th
Global Travel and Tourism Index-2017	40
Global Corruption perception index-2017	79
Inclusive Development Index	62
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IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

Athlete

Getachew Besha wins full Pune International Marathon:

- Getachew Besha from Ethiopia won the Full Marathon with the timing of 2 hours, 15 minutes and 15 seconds. Zelalem Lemmalemu claimed the second spot, with Deveje Kasaw finishing third.

Usain Bolt gets stone statue in native of Jamaica:

- Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness unveiled the Usain Bolt statue at Independence Park as a tribute to the world's greatest sprinter.

Bharat Khandare set to become UFC's first India-born fighter:

- Earlier this year Arjan Singh Bhullar became the first Indian to sign up in the UFC. And now, Bharat Khandare is all set to be the first Indian-born Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter in the UFC.

Olympian DipaKarmakar receives honorary degree from National Institute of Technology (NIT):

- India's star gymnast DipaKarmakar conferred a D.Litt. degree by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Agartala.

GopiThonakal becomes 1st Indian man to win Asian Marathon Championship:

- Gopi Thonakal became the first Indian man to win the Asian Marathon Championship held at China's Dongguan.

1st Khelo India School Games is Launched by PM Modi:

- The first Khelo India School Games is launched by PM Modi at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The Khelo India programme has been introduced to save the sports culture in India from the school level.
- Union government allotted annual financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh per annum for 8 years. The Khelo India School Games are being held from 31st January to 8th February 2018 in New Delhi.

Aanchal Thakur becomes first Indian to win an international medal in skiing:

- Aanchal Thakur created history by becoming the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing.
- The Manali resident grabbed a Bronze medal in the slalom race category at Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup organised by Skiing's international governing body, Federation International de Ski (FIS) at the Palandoken Ski Centre, in Erzurum in Turkey.

Bahrain to host first-ever 'Baby Olympics':

- Bahrain has announced plans to host the first-ever 'Baby Olympics' where two to four-year-olds will take part in the games in April.
- The Athletics competition will host three events: medley relay for four year-olds, a hurdles toddle for three year-olds, while participating two year-olds will cross a specially designed stretch of 15 meters in a freestyle race.

Archery



Indian archers bag 3 gold, 4 silver & 2 bronze medals at Asian Championship:

- Indian archers produced an impressive performance, grabbing three gold, four silver and two bronze medals at the Asian Championships in Dhaka.
- Two Indian boys and girls also booked quota places for the 2018 Youth Olympics. The tournament also serves as the precursor to 2018 Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires.
- India also bagged two gold medals in the non-Olympic compound discipline.

India's Deepika bags bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup:

- Indian archer Deepika Kumari defeated Sayana Tsyrempilova of Russia 7-3 in the women's recurve bronze play-off to win India's solitary medal at the Indoor Archery World Cup in Bangkok.
- Korean second seed Kim Surin shattered the former world number one's gold medal dream with a thrilling 6-5 win in the shoot-off and Deepika had to settle for third place.

Badminton

KidambiSrikanth Lifts Denmark Open Superseries Trophy 2017

- In Badminton, ace Indian shuttler KidambiSrikanth has lifted the Denmark Open Superseries trophy at Odense, Denmark. In the title clash, Srikanth, seeded 8th, defeated South Korea's Lee Hyun-il

KidambiSrikanth Wins French Open to Clinch 4th Super Series Title of 2017

- India's KidambiSrikanth created history as he became the first Indian player to win four Superseries titles in a year after he won the men's singles title at the French Open.

H S Prannoy emerges as the new National Badminton champion:

- H S Prannoy outwitted World No 2 and title favourite KidambiSrikanth in a thrilling finale to claim the men's singles title at the 82nd Senior National Championship held at Nagpur. It is H S Prannoy's first ever Senior National Title.

India bags 10 medals in Para Badminton World Championships:

- India clinched 10 medals, including two Gold, at the Para Badminton World Championships that concluded at Ulsan in South Korea. Both the Gold medals were bagged by Parul Parmar. India bagged 2 Silver medals through Tarun Dhillon and Manoj. India won six Bronze medals.

Saina Nehwal clinched the Women's Title at the 82nd Senior National Championship:

- Saina Nehwal, a former world number one, beat P V Sindhu, the Olympic and World Championship silver medalist, in a pulsating summit clash and clinched the coveted Women's title at the Senior National Championship held at Nagpur.

PV Sindhu won silver in Hong Kong Open Superseries:

- Indian shuttler PV Sindhu has lost the title clash of Hong Kong Open Superseries tournament at Kowloon.

India wins first-ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship:

- India has won the first-ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship. In the title clash played in Guwahati, India defeated Nepal, 3-0.

Sindhu wins silver at year-ending World Superseries Finals:



- World number three and Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu settled for a silver at the year-ending World Superseries Finals in Dubai

Indian shuttler PV Sindhu launches her own mobile app:

- Rio Olympic medalist PV Sindhu has launched her mobile app titled 'PV Sindhu Official App'.

India Open Badminton tournament kicks off in New Delhi:

- The India Open Badminton tournament kicked off in New Delhi with the Qualification matches.
- Top Indian shuttlers, including PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth, are taking part in the 6-day event.

Boxing

Indian Boxer Mary Kom wins Gold at Asian Women's Boxing Championships in Vietnam

- M.C. Mary Kom (48kg) notched up her fifth gold medal at the Asian Women's Boxing Championships in Vietnam.

AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship Logo, Mascot and song unveiled by India:

- AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship 2017 is to be held between Nov 19 -26, 2017 in Guwahati, India.
- Guppy, a female version of Assam's famed one-horned rhino was unveiled as the official mascot of the 2017 AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship in Guwahati.
- The official logo infuses two key elements namely the strength of an Indian woman in the form of a female boxer and the culture of Assam through the 'GAMOSA', a hand-woven piece of cloth in the state.
- The World Championship's official anthem is 'Make Some Noise' which is composed by Shaan and rendered by renowned singer Sunidhi Chauhan.
- M.C. Mary Kom has been announced as the Ambassador for the AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship 2017.

India win 5 gold medals at Women's Youth World Boxing C'ship

- Indian boxers won five gold medals at the AIBA Women's Youth World Boxing Championships in Guwahati.
- Nitu, Jyoti, Sakshi and Shashi Chopra from Haryana and Assam's Ankushita Boro won golds in their respective weight categories.
- Anupama and Neha Yadav won bronze medals in their respective categories.

Mary Kom resigns as national observer for Indian boxing:

- Five-time world champion M C Mary Kom has resigned as the national observer for Indian boxing.

Sarjubala Devi claims gold in National Women's Boxing Championship:

- Former world silver medallist Sarjubala Devi representing Manipur claimed the gold in 48 kg category in the National Women's Boxing Championships in Rohtak, Haryana.

Cricket

John Hastings Retires From Test and ODI Cricket



- Australian fast bowler John Hastings has called it quits from Test Match and ODIs, citing recurring injuries as the reason. The 31-year-old wants to solely focus on T20 cricket

New Test Championship, ODI League Gets ICC's Nod

- The International Cricket Council Board has given an in-principle nod to the proposed nine-team Test Championship and a 13-team One-Day International league at the end of the meeting in Auckland.

Shakib first from Bangladesh in MCC World Cricket Committee

- Premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan became the first cricketer from Bangladesh to be inducted in the MCC World Cricket Committee under the chairmanship of Mike Gatting..

Indian Pacer Ashish Nehra has Announced Retirement

- Indian pacer Ashish Nehra has confirmed his retirement from International Cricket. He will play his last match against New Zealand on November 1, 2017.

Ravi Shastri becomes World's Highest Earning Cricket Coach

- Indian cricket team coach Ravi Shastri is the world's highest-earning cricket coach in the world.

ViratKohli Overtakes Lionel Messi in Forbes List by \$1 Million

- According to the list released by Forbes, ViratKohli ranks ahead of Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi when it comes to brand value. The captain of the Indian cricket has a brand value of \$14.5 million which puts him ahead of Messi on the 7th spot in the top 10 list revealed by Forbes.

ViratKohli Becomes Fastest Batsman to Score 9000 ODI Runs

- ViratKohli became the sixth Indian to complete 9000 ODI runs during the third game against New Zealand. He went on to score his 32nd ODI century off 96 balls.

ViratKohli consolidates top spot in latest ICC T-20 Batsmen Rankings:

- ViratKohli, the Indian skipper who scored 104 runs in the T20I series to guide the Indian team to a 2-1 win over New Zealand has retained his 1 spot in the latest ICC T-20 Batsmen ranking.
- The Indian Team remains currently in the FIFTH position in ICC T-20 rankings.

Cricketer GautamGambhir named government nominee in DDCA managing committee:

- Indian cricketer GautamGambhir was named a government nominee in the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) managing committee.

MS Dhoni launches Global Cricket Academy in Dubai:

- The flamboyant Indian cricketer MS Dhoni unveiled his first global cricket academy in the effervescent city of Dubai.

Rahul Dravid named Bengaluru FC ambassador for ISL 2017:

- Bengaluru FC have announced that former India cricket captain and batting legend Rahul Dravid as their ambassador for the upcoming ISL season. The Blues kick-off their debut season in the ISL with a home fixture against Mumbai City FC on November 19 at the SreeKanteerava Stadium, in Bangalore.

Pollard becomes 2nd batsman to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket:

- West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard became only the second player in history to hit 500 sixes in T20 cricket. Pollard is only behind compatriot Chris Gayle, who has smashed 772 sixes in 303 T20 innings.



Kohli sets record for most international tons in a year as captain:

- Indian captain Virat Kohli set the record for the most number of international centuries in a year as captain after registering his 10th international ton of the year against Sri Lanka.
- Kohli also set the record for the most number of Test tons as India's captain after posting his 12th Test ton as captain.

Ravichandran Ashwin breaks Lillee's record of fastest 300 Test wickets:

- India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest bowler to reach the milestone of 300 Test wickets today in his 54th match, breaking Dennis Lillee's record during India's win over Sri Lanka in the second Test.

Afghanistan beat Pakistan by 185 runs to lift Under 19 Asia Cup title:

- Afghanistan won the final of the Under-19 Asia Cup by registering a comprehensive 185-run victory over Pakistan at the Kinrara Academy Oval, Kuala Lumpur.

Prithvi Shaw named India's captain for U-19 World Cup:

- Mumbai batsman Prithvi Shaw was named as the captain of India's squad for the upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup.

USEFUL INFO

U-19 World Cup venue 2018, New Zealand

U-19 World Cup venue 2020, South Africa

U-19 World Cup venue 2022, West Indies

Virat Kohli becomes first Indian captain to complete 1,000 runs in a calendar year twice:

- Kohli is the first Indian captain to complete 1,000 runs in a calendar year twice. With 1009 runs (average - 77.61) in ten Tests in 2017

Ajay Kumar Reddy to lead Indian team at ODI World Cup for the Blind:

- Ajay Kumar Reddy of Andhra Pradesh will lead a 17-member Indian squad at the 5th ODI World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind to be held in January.

India to host 2023 World Cup, Champions Trophy in 2021:

- India will host the One Day International World Cup in 2023 as well as the Champions Trophy in 2021, the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed in its Special General Meeting (SGM).

USEFUL INFO

One Day International World Cup 2019, England

One Day International World Cup 2023, India

Champions Trophy 2021, India

India becomes 1st ever team to register 100 300+ ODI totals:

- India has become the first-ever team to register 300+ totals 100 times in ODIs

Rohit Sharma is the first batsman to hit three ODI double hundreds:

- Rohit Sharma became the first-ever player in ODI history to hit three double hundreds, slamming his third in the Mohali ODI against Sri Lanka.

ICC lays down guidelines for four-day Test, each day to have minimum 98 overs:



- South Africa and Zimbabwe will play the first ever four-day Test match and the International Cricket Council has laid down the template for the match.

Kerala Kings beat Punjabi Legends to win 1st-ever T10 title:

- Kerala Kings thrashed Punjabi Legends by 8 wickets at Sharjah to become the first-ever T10 Cricket League champions.

Mithali Raj, Bisht, Harmanpreet selected in ICC teams of the year:

- India captain Mithali Raj was named in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year while left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht was the lone cricketer to find a place in the both the ODI and T20 Teams of the year announced by the world body.

Rohit Sharma hits fastest T20I century for India off just 35 balls:

- Indian opener Rohit Sharma smashed the joint-fastest T20I hundred, off 35 balls, against Sri Lanka in the second T20I.

18 year old Sundar becomes youngest T20I debutant for India:

- Spinner Washington Sundar became the youngest debutant for India in T20Is after appearing in the final T20I against Sri Lanka.

The Telangana Government presented 1crore and house for Mithali Raj:

Telangana Government honors Mithali Raj who had led the Indian team to the Women's World Cup 2017 final by presenting 1crore and a house worth 600 square-feet.

ICC Awards 2017:

- Virat Kohli became only the third cricketer to be named the captain of International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test and ODI teams in the same year.
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 for 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 stun India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017

Kohli becomes second India batsman to reach 900-point mark:

- Virat Kohli has become only the second India batsman after Sunil Gavaskar to reach the 900- point mark in the latest ICC Player Rankings for Test batsmen.
- Gavaskar, one of the ICC Cricket Hall of Famers, had achieved the milestone in his 50th Test when he scored 13 and 221 at The Oval in 1979 to jump from 887 points to 916 points, which remained his career-best.

India wins Blind World Cup 2018:



- The Indian cricket team won the blind world cup 2018 by beating arch-rivals Pakistan by 2 wickets in the final.
- Chasing a target of 308 runs in 40 overs at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in UAE, the Indian team reached there with 8 balls remaining.

Delhi wins maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy:

- Delhi beat Rajasthan by 41 runs at the Eden Gardens to clinch their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

V.Kohli overtakes Brian Lara's Record:

- Indian captain Virat Kohli overtakes West Indies legend Brian Lara in the all-time ICC Rankings for Test ranking for Batsmen by earning 12 points from the Johannesburg Test.
- He is now on 912 points and in 26th position on the all-time list, which is headed by Don Bradman (961 points).

Kohli is the only player to remain with same IPL team for 11 years:

- Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli is the only player to be associated with the same franchise for 11 years.
- Next to him Harbajan singh is retained in Mumbai Indians for 10 years Now he moved to CSK.

WT20 Final Match in Marylebone:

- 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.
- It will mark the first time the tournaments are held as stand-alone events in the same year in the same country. The women's final will coincide with International Women's Day (8th March).

ICC rates MCG pitch as 'poor':

- International Cricket Counsel Reports that Melbourne cricket club pitch was very poor at the 4th Ashes test. Both Australia and England players complained about pitch after the match.
- The main reason is nature of the pitch did not change over the five days and there was no natural deterioration

India is most successful team since 3 years:

- Since January 2015, Indian team is considered as most successful winning team of the world.
- India have played 135 matches since 2015 in all formats, among that 87 won, loosed 36 and nine matches are drawn and three matches resulted in no-results. India has a winning percent of 64.44.
- At present India is No. 1 in Tests, second in ODIs and third in T20.

New Zealand's Colin Munro 1st batsman to hit 3 T20I hundreds

- New Zealand opener Colin Munro became the first cricketer to hit three centuries in T20I cricket after smashing a 47-ball ton against West Indies.
- Munro scored 104 runs off 53 balls to help New Zealand post their highest-ever T20I total of 243/5.
- The ton was the fastest by a New Zealand cricketer in T20Is.

Golf



GaganjeetBhullar Clinches Macao Open Golf Title 2017

- GaganjeetBhullar had completed a wire-to-wire victory and lifted his eighth Asian Tour title at the Macao Open. He drained five birdies on the front nine and won by three shots despite a nerve-jangling double bogey.

Shiv Kapur clinched his first Asian Tour title in India by bagging the Panasonic Open

- Shiv Kapur clinched his first Asian Tour title in India, bagging the Panasonic Open by three strokes, after bringing home a card of four-under 68 in the fourth and final round at the Delhi Golf Club.

Golfer VaniKapoor finishes tied sixth at Women's Indian Open:

- Indian golfer VaniKapoor registered her maiden top-10 finish after finishing tied 6th at the Women's Indian Open in Gurugram.

Indian women golfer Aditi Ashok becomes first Indian to qualify for

- Indian golfer Aditi Ashok has qualified for the season-ending event of the LPGA Tour, CME Group Tour Championship, becoming the first Indian to qualify for the competition.

Aditi Ashok Wins the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open in Abu Dhabi

- Indian golfer Aditi Ashok made her return to the Ladies European Tour by clinching the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open in Abu Dhabi. It is Aditi's third LET win in less than 12 months.

Indian golfer Shiv Kapur wins third Asian Tour title of 2017:

- Indian golfer Shiv Kapur produced a dramatic turnaround in the closing stages to win the Royal Cup and end the year on a high note by claiming his third Asian Tour title of 2017.
- The 35-year-old, who had just one win in almost 11 years till April this year, has now won three times in last eight months.

CHES

Viswanathan Anand wins bronze at World Blitz Chess Championship:

- Indian chess champion Viswanathan Anand clinched a bronze medal at the World Blitz Chess Championship in Riyadh.
- The bronze medal follows Anand's gold-winning performance in the World Rapid Chess Championship a couple of days back.

Hockey

Asia Cup Hockey 2017: India Beat Malaysia To Lift Their 3rd Continental Title

- India beats Malaysia 2-1 in the finale to win the 2017 Asia Cup Hockey tournament held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Indian Women Win Asia Cup, Qualifies for Hockey World Cup

- India has defeated China 5-4 via shootout to win the women's Asia Cup hockey title 2017. With this, India also qualified for World Cup 2018 as Continental champion. Savita Punia was adjudged Goalkeeper-of-the-Tournament while Monica won the Woman-of-the-Match award. Skipper Rani scored twice while Monica, LilimaMinz and NavjotKaur scored a goal each in the shootout.



Odisha CM unveils logo & mascot of Hockey World Cup 2018:

- Logo and mascot of Hockey World Cup 2018 have been unveiled at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Johor Cup Hockey: Indian Junior Team Win Bronze Medal

- Indian Junior Men's Hockey team beat hosts Malaysia 4-0 in the Bronze medal match of the 7th Sultan of Johor Cup 2017 at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, in Malaysia.

India beat Germany to win bronze in Hockey World League

- India won the Bronze medal in the Hockey World League Final tournament

Australia beat Argentina to win gold in Hockey World League final

- Australia defeated Rio Olympics champions Argentina 2-1 in the final of the Hockey World League Final to win gold at Bhubaneswar.

India's Prasad, Shaikh to officiate in 2018 Hockey World Cup:

- India's Raghu Prasad and Javed Shaikh were named in the panel of umpires for next year's Hockey World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar

USEFUL INFO

Men's Hockey World Cup 2018, Bhubaneswar, India

Women's Hockey World Cup 2018, London, England

IOC bans 11 Russians for life over alleged Sochi Games doping violations:

- Sochi luge silver medallists Albert Demchenko and Tatyana Ivanova are among a group of 11 Russians

Kabaddi

Patna Pirates Clinched Third Pro Kabaddi Successive Title

- Pardeep Narwal scored incredible 24 points to steer Patna Pirates to third consecutive Pro Kabaddi title.

Indian men's team beats Pakistan to win Asian Kabaddi Championship:

- The Indian men's kabaddi team defeated Pakistan 36-22 in the finals of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2017 in Iran to win the gold medal.

India women's team beat South Korea to win Asian Kabaddi Championship:

- The Indian women's team beat South Korea 42-20, in the finals of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2017 in Iran to win the gold medal.

Tennis

G Sathian Becomes India's Highest-Ranked Player in ITTF

- G Sathian has become India's highest-ranked player in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. He overcomes his competitor Sharath
- OVTCHAROV Dimitrij the Germany player topped the list.

G Sathian	49
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Sharath Kumar

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Tennis

Paes wins 25th Challenger doubles title at Newport Beach:

- Veteran Indian tennis star Leander Paes won his 25th ATP Challenger level doubles title with partner James Cerretani after beating Denis Kudla and Treat Huey in the final of the Newport Beach event.

Gilles Simon wins inaugural Tata Open title:

- Gilles Simon of France has lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy.
- In the summit clash at Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune, the unseeded French player humbled big-serving second seeded Kevin Anderson in straight sets 7-6, 6-2.
- world number one Rafael Nadal 6-4 6-3 to win the Shanghai Masters and register his fourth victory of the year over his Spanish rival.

Maria Sharapova Wins Tianjin Open, Claims First Title Since Drugs Ban

- Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova was made to fight by 102nd-ranked teenager Aryna Sabalenka at the Tianjin Open before winning her first title since her 15-month doping ban.

LUGE SPORT:

Shiva Keshavan wins gold in Asian Luge Championships:

- India's Shiva Keshavan retained his gold medal at the Asian Luge Championships in Germany.

Wrestling

Meet Kavita Devi, India's First Woman Wrestler to Sign for WWE

- Kavita Devi, a former competitive powerlifter, has become the first ever Indian woman to be signed by the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).

Snooker

Anupama Clinches World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship Title

- India's Anupama Ramachandran has clinched the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St.

Rafael Nadal Wins China Open Title

- World number one Rafael Nadal (Spain) won his sixth title of this year. He defeated Nick Kyrgios (Australia) at the China Open 2017.

Racing

Jagan Wins Sixth Title in a Row at National Motorcycle Racing

- TVS Racing's mascot **Jagan Kumar** notched his sixth straight title in the premier Super Sport Indian class on a rain-affected day to bring down the curtain on the **MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The event was organised by Madras Motorsports Club. It was sponsored by MRF Tyres.

Valtteri Bottas beats Lewis Hamilton to win season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix:

- Valtteri Bottas won the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix from pole position, beating his Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton as Formula One's season finale petered out into a procession.



Hamilton wins his 4th F1 World Championship with 363 points:

- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won his fourth F1 World Championship, finishing the season with 363 points after securing second position in the last race at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Felipe Massa retired from Formula One grand prix:

- Felipe Massa bowed out of Formula One in Abu Dhabi with his head held high and one last point in a career that brought him 11 wins and nearly a world championship with Ferrari.

FootBall

Iceland, Smallest Country to Qualify for Football World Cup 2018

- Iceland created history by qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. This is the first time that Iceland qualified for the World Cup.

FIFA Suspends Pakistan Football Federation

- FIFA has decided to suspend the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) with immediate effect in accordance with the decision of the Bureau of the FIFA Council on account of undue third-party interference.

Arjen Robben Retires from International Football

- Netherlands captain Arjen Robben announced the end of his international career after his country failed to reach the 2018 World Cup finals despite a 2-0 win over Sweden

India Beat Macau to Qualify for 2019 AFC Asian Cup

- Indian football team has qualified for the 2019 Asian Cup after they had a convincing 4-1 win over Macau with two matches still to go in the qualifying round.

Cristiano Ronaldo Named Best FIFA Men's Player

- Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has beaten Lionel Messi and Neymar to win the Best FIFA Men's Player award for the second year running. Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane was named the Best FIFA Men's Coach.

Sebastian Vettel won the Brazilian Grand Prix title:

- Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel overtook Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas on the first turn of the circuit to go on and win his fifth race of the season in the form of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Italy has failed to qualify for the FIFA World Cup for the first time:

- In Football, Italy has failed to qualify for the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1958. The four-time champions failed to make the cut after they lost the World Cup Qualifying European play-off against Sweden, 0-1.

Lionel Messi wins fourth European Golden Shoe award:

- Argentina forward Lionel Messi won his fourth European Golden Shoe award after netting 37 times in La Liga in 2016-17.
- In the process, Messi equaled Cristiano Ronaldo's tally of four Golden Shoes.
- Messi finished ahead of Sporting CP's Bas Dost, who netted 34 in the Primeira Liga, while Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was third with 31 goals.



Ronaldo honoured with new bust at Real Madrid museum:

- Real Madrid forward and Portuguese captain Cristiano Ronaldo has been honoured with a new bust at the club's museum at Santiago Bernabeu.
- Earlier in March, a bust of Ronaldo was unveiled at an airport at Madeira Islands which was widely mocked with many suggesting it looked more like former Ireland footballer Niall Quinn.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins fifth Ballon D'Or, equals Lionel Messi's record:

- Cristiano Ronaldo won his fifth Ballon D'Or, equalling arch-rival Lionel Messi's record for clinching the prestigious title the most number of times.

Indian Football Team ends year on 105th in FIFA Rankings:

- The Indian men's football ended the year at 105th spot in the FIFA rankings, unchanged from last month.

Ranveer Singh partners with Premier League in India:

- The English Premier League has formed an official partnership with Indian film actor Ranveer Singh.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins Globe Soccer Award:

- The Portuguese player Ronaldo wins the Globe Soccer best player of the year award

Brazil legend Ronaldinho retires:

- The Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho has retired from international football.
- The 37-year-old, who also won the Champions League and Ballon d'Or in a glittering career, has not played for a professional team since 2015.

India rise three places in latest FIFA rankings:

- India jumped three rungs to be placed 102nd in the first FIFA rankings of the year released. India, who are just above 103rd placed Qatar, are ranked 14th among Asian countries.

David Beckham launches his football club in USA:

- Former England captain and Manchester United legend David Beckham launched his new Miami-based football club in USA's Major League Soccer (MLS) championship.
- The name, logo and debut season of the new club will be announced later.

Shooting

Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu Strike Gold in ISSF World Cup

- Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu combined to give India their first gold medal of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final in New Delhi.

Amanpreet Wins Bronze at ISSF World Cup Final

- India's Amanpreet Singh clinched a bronze medal in his maiden appearance in an ISSF World Cup Final, in New Delhi.

ISSF World Cup Final: Sangram Wins Silver in Double Trap

- Sangram Dahiya won a silver in the ISSF World Cup Final, in New Delhi. Double trap exponent Sangram clinched his first-ever senior medal in International Shooting Sports Federation tournament. He was taking part in the prestigious event for the first time.



- Ace Indian shooter Heena Sindhu has bagged gold in women's 10m Air Pistol event at Commonwealth Shooting Championships in Brisbane, Australia.
- India also picked up their second medal through Deepak Kumar as he won bronze in men's 10m Air Rifle event.
- GaganNarang won a silver medal in the men's 50m rifle prone event

Jitu Rai, Heena Sidhu win medals at 10th Asian Championship in Japan:

- Pistol aces Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu bagged a bronze each to continue India's medal charge at the 10th Asian Championship 10m Rifle/Pistol in Wako City, Japan

India bags 21 Medals at Asian Championship and 4 Youth Olympic Games quotas:

- India bagged 21 medals at the 10th Asian Championship 10m Rifle/Pistol at Wako City Japan and also booked 4 Youth Olympic Games quotas.

Anisa Sayyed wins women's 25m pistol gold with new national record:

- Haryana shooter Anisa Sayyed won the women's 25m pistol gold with a new record at the ongoing 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions (61st NSCC), in Trivandrum

Indian shooting contingent finished the Commonwealth Shooting Championship 2017 with the best tally of 20 medals

- The Indian shooting contingent finished the Commonwealth Shooting Championship 2017 in Brisbane, Australia. with the best tally of 20 medals. Indian shooters won a total of six gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals in the competition.
- Ace Indian shooter Heena Sindhu has bagged gold in women's 10m Air Pistol event
- Deepak Kumar as he won bronze in men's 10m Air Rifle event.
- GaganNarang won a silver medal in the men's 50m rifle prone event

GaganNarang inaugurates shooting tournament in Noida:

- Olympic bronze medallist GaganNarang inaugurated the 3rd All India Digvijay Singh Memorial Air Rifle/Air Pistol Championship at Noida's Billabong High International School.

Others

Woman performs 105-hour non-stop yoga, attempts world record:

- Kavitha Bharanidaran, a Chennai resident, has attempted a new Guinness World Record for performing yoga continuously for over 105 hours.
- Kavitha Bharanidaran, who took five-minute breaks after each hour, started doing Yoga continuously from 7 AM on December 23, 2017.

India wins its First Ever Wushu World Championship Gold

- Pooja Kadian became the first ever Indian sportsperson to win a gold medal at the Wushu World Championship in Kazan, Russia. Kadian, who competed in the women's 75kg Sanda category,

India's First Portal Dedicated to Para-Sports Launched



- In a bid to create awareness about para-sports and provide a platform to para sportspersons to narrate their stories of triumph and adversity, "thenationspride.com",

Indian Pair Win Gold at World Archery Youth Championship 2017

- Mixed pair of Jemson Ningthoujam and Ankita Bhakat clinched the gold medal as India returned with three medals from the World Archery Youth Championship in Rosario, Argentina.

Top awards at the Indian Sports Honours:

- While in the team sports it was off-spinner R Ashwin in men's and Mithali Raj in women's category bagged the awards.
- Tennis player Sania Mirza was awarded Inspirational Honour by the jury, while Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra was honoured with the Transformational Contribution to Sports award.

Mithali Raj named Sportswoman of the Year:

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj bagged the Indian Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports) award at the Indian Sports Honours (ISH) event held in Mumbai.

Shagun Chowdhary crowned National Women's Trap champion:

- The first Indian woman trap shooter to win an Olympic berth, Shagun Chowdhary bagged a national champion crown at the 61st National Shooting Championship in New Delhi.

Mithali Raj named Sportswoman of the Year:

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj bagged the Indian Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports) award at the Indian Sports Honours (ISH) event held in Mumbai.

Shagun Chowdhary crowned National Women's Trap champion:

- The first Indian woman trap shooter to win an Olympic berth, Shagun Chowdhary bagged a national champion crown at the 61st National Shooting Championship in New Delhi.

France to host of 2023 Rugby World Cup:

- France will host the 2023 Rugby World Cup in a huge surprise after the Council of the sport's governing body went against the recommendations of an extensive evaluation report in a secret ballot.

Indian luger Shiva Keshavan qualifies for his sixth Winter Olympics:

- Indian luger Shiva Keshavan will make his sixth appearance at the Winter Olympics as he qualified for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Games at the ongoing Viessmann Luge World Cup 2017-18 in Innsbruck, Austria.

European Games 2019 to include new mixed gender team event:

- A new mixed gender team competition is set to be introduced at the European Games in 2019 in Minsk.

Mirabai Chanu 1st Indian in 22 yrs to win World Weightlifting Championship:

- India's Mirabai Chanu has bagged the country's maiden gold at the 2017 World Weightlifting Championships held in Anaheim, USA

USEFUL INFO

2018 Winter Olympic Games Venue, Pyeongchang, South Korea

2022 Winter Olympic Games Venue, Beijing, China

Official emblems for Beijing 2022 Winter Games unveiled:



- The emblems of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named "Winter Dream" and "Flight," respectively.

26-year-old wins India's 1st World Para Swimming Championship gold:

- Nagpur's Kanchanmala Pande became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the World Para Swimming Championship, taking place in Mexico.

Russia banned from 2018 Winter Olympics:

- Russia has been banned from competing in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang in an historic decision by the International Olympic Committee

Rathore Announces Partnership with Japanese University:

- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced a sports tie-up between Lakshmi Bai University of Physical Education and a Japanese university.

India wins 10 medals in Wushu Sanda Asian Cup:

- India bagged as many as 10 medals in the first Wushu Sanda Asian Cup that concluded in Guangzhou, China. The medals include five Silver and five Bronze.

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES

Name	Field
Adarsh Sein Anand	Former Chief Justice of India
Sreerupa Mukherjee	Former India woman cricketer
Saraswati Tripathy	Freedom fighter
Shashi Kapoor	Actor
Ali Abdullah Saleh	Former Yemeni President
Michael I	Romania's former king
Aadhithyan	Music director
Simeon Booker	Journalist
Bhagavatula Seetharama Sharma	Musical Artist
Neeraj Vora	Actor-director
C.V. Karthik Narayanan	industrialist
Banwari Lal Joshi	Former Uttar Pradesh governor
Bruce McCandless	NASA astronaut
Bengali film actor	Partha Mukhopadhyay
Menzies-Urich	Actor



Bob Givens	The creator of Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd
Purushottam Lal Kaushik	Former Union minister and socialist leader
Kundan Shah	Director
swimmer Shamsher	Swimmer
Roy Dotrice	British actor
I V Sasi	Malayalam director
Girija Devi	Eminent classical singer
Punathil Kunjabdulla	Malayalam writer
M V Pylee	Educationalist
Anwar Jalalpur	Urdu Writer
Radha Vishwanathan	Carnatic Singer
Vasant Davkhare	Senior NCP leader
Raghunath Jha	Former Congress Union Minister
Dan Gurney	Car Racer
Gnani Sankaran	Tamil writer
Charu Rohatgi	TV Actress
Prof Narayan Sadashiv Pharande	Senior BJP leader
Ava Mukherjee	Bollywood Actress
Kashinath	Kannada Actor
W B Rao	Cinematographer
Chandi Lahiri	Cartoonist
Anindya Sengupta	Journalist
Hasmukh Patel	Architecture
Jimmy Armfield,	England Football player
Yashwant Chavan	Veteran Communist leader
Krishna Kumari	South Indian Actress
A.E. Manoharan, popularly known as 'Ceylon Manoha	Pop Singer and actor
Puran Singh Bedia	Senior Congress leader
Chintaman Wanaga	BJP MP
Dharmasena Pathiraja	Srilankan Filmmaker

IMPORTANT BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Authors
Citizen Delhi: My Times, My Life	Autobiography of Sheila Dikshit



The Tall Man Biju Patnaik	Sundar Ganesan
The Underground Railroad	Colson Whitehead
The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between	Hisham Matar
Drama: Sweat	Lynn Nottage
History: Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising in 1971 and Its Legacy	Heather Ann Thompson
Poetry: Olio	Tyehimba Jess
A Call for Unity	Gauri Lankesh
Grieving to Healing	Vinita Deshmukh
The Way I See It	Gauri Lankesh
Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams	Saji Mathew and Jubie John
Journey of Women law reforms and law commission of India –Some Insights	M. Venkaiah Naidu
After Piketty: The agenda for economics and inequality	Heather M. Boushey
Who me poor	Gayatri Jayaraman
An ordinary life: A memoir	Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Rituparna Chatterjee
Employment Growth and development; Essays on changing world economy	Deepak Nayyar
I do what I Do	Raghuram Rajan
The Glory of Patan	KM Munshi
Marriage and its discontents; women, Islam and the Law in India	Sylvia Vatuk
Political Violence in Ancient India	Upinder Singh
The Ivory throne	Manu S. Pillai
Keeping India Safe: The dilemma of Internal security	Vappala Balachandram
The Shershah of Kargil	Deepak Surana
Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl	Ram Kamal Mukherjee
No room for small dreams	Shimon peres
30 seconds thriller	K V Sridhar
Where India Goes	Dian Coffey and Dean Spears



Moments of truth: My life with acting	Rohan Taneja
The Emergency: Indian democracy's darkest hours	A Surya Prakash
Indira: India's most powerful Prime Minister	Sagarika Ghoshe
Durand curse: A line across the pathan heart	Rajiv Dogra
The Call Centre	AAP spokesperson Dilip Pandey

UNION BUDGET 2018 – HIGHLIGHTS

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley presents general Budget 2018-19 in Parliament on February 1, 2018. As per the Finance Ministry, India is a Rs. 2.5 trillion economy. This is the first budget after big-ticket economic reforms like the Goods and Services Tax, dynamic fuel pricing, mega PSU bank recapitalization and more. The following article will throw major light on the Union Budget 2018 & Its major points.

Agriculture:

- Agri-Market Development Fund with a corpus of Rs 2000 crore to be set up for developing agricultural markets.
- Restructured National Bamboo Mission to be launched with an allocation of Rs 1290 crore to promote bamboo sector in a holistic manner.
- 200 crore allotted for organic farming sector
- Fishery and aquaculture and animal husbandry funds with a total corpus of Rs 10,000 crore
- Credit for agricultural activities is up from Rs 10 lakh crore to Rs 11 lakh crore .
- The Minimum Support Price of all crops shall be increased to at least 1.5 times that of the production cost.
- The government will ensure payment of full MSP even if farmers sell below MSP.
- Agri-related stocks gain after it is said MSP for all crops to be increased by 1.5 times.
- Kaveri Seeds Co Ltd rose 2.4%, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd 2.1%, Escorst Ltd rose 5%, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd rose 2.2%.
- 470 APMCs have been connected to eNAM network, the rest to be connected by March 2018.
- Agri-Market Development Fund with a corpus of 2000 crore to be set up for developing agricultural markets
- Cluster-model approach to be adopted for agricultural production
- Allocation to food processing ministry is being doubled from Rs 715 crore to Rs 1400 crore.
- Rs 500 crore announced for Operation Green



- Grameen Agricultural Market (GRAM) will provide farmers a means to sell directly to buyers.

Tax proposals:

- Number of tax payers increased to 8.27 crore from 6.47 crore
- 100% tax reduction available for FPOs turnover of Rs 100 crore
- Direct taxes growth at 12.6 per cent this year
- Farmer producer companies with turnover of Rs 100 crore or more to get 100 per cent reduction under I-T Act for next 5 years
- Propose to extend tax relaxation up to 150 days to footwear and leather industry for employment creation
- Corporate tax to be reduced to 25 per cent for MSMEs with turnover of Rs 250 crore

Individual taxes:

- Salaried tax payers 1.89 crore returns filed Rs.1.44 lakh crore tax paid
- Introduces standard deduction of Rs 40,000 in lieu of transport and medical allowance. No other proposal for the salaried class.
- Senior citizens interest income exemption increased to Rs 50,000 from Rs 10,000 for all fixed and RD schemes, including small savings
- Sec 80 D increased from Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 for senior citizens

Education sector proposals:

- Huge outlay – one lakh crore over the next four years for revitalising educational infrastructure
- Education to be treated holistically from pre-nursery to class 12
- Schools to move from blackboard to digital board gradually
- Every block in the country with 50% tribal people will have a school under Eklavya scheme
- Government will launch PM's research fellows this year for B Techs from premier institutes.
- He proposes to launch the Revitalising of Infrastructure and Systems of Education (RISE) by next year.
- We propose to set up two new full-fledged schools of planning and architecture.
- 18 new schools of planning and architecture will be set up in the IITs and NITs.

MSME proposals:

- Rs 3,794 crore allocated for credit support to through capital and interest subsidy to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
- Government to announce measures to ease NPA burden on MSMEs
- Online sanction of loans to MSMEs will be increased
- In 2018-19, to allocate Rs 3 lakh cr lending under MUDRA scheme

Rural Development:

- All poor households to be covered under PMJDY and pension, insurance schemes on mission mode
- Identified 115 aspirational districts for better development in healthcare, education, electricity
- Rs 16,730 crore allocated for rural sanitation
- 4400 villages along the Ganga river have been declared Open Defecation Free



- 47 projects under Namami Gange have been completed
- Microfinance, unorganised sector pension schemes thru jan dhan yojana
- Dedicated affordable housing fund to be financed from priority sector allocation
- Focus on maximum livelihood in rural areas in next year
- Over 6 crore toilets built under Swachh Bharat; 2 crore toilets to be built under in 2018-2019
- 4 crore houses in rural India to get free electricity, Rs 14,000 crore allocated
- Government aims to disburse 8 crore gas connections under UJJWALA scheme, up from 5 crore
- 16,000 crore set apart for PM Saubhagya Yojana

Health:

- Education and healthcare allocation increased to Rs 1.38 lakh crore
- The National health Policy 2017 has envisioned health and wellness centres as the foundation of India's healthcare system.
- 1,200 crore committed for this flagship programme and invites contributions from the private sector.
- A flagship National Health Protection Scheme to cover 10 crore poor and vulnerable families. It will provide them with upto 5 lakh per family per year in secondary and tertiary care institutions.
- This scheme will have 50 crore beneficiaries.
- These schemes will generate lakhs of jobs, particularly for women, The government is progressing towards universal health coverage.
- Tuberculosis claims more lives every year than any other disease. The government will provide Rs.600 crore for nutrititonal support to all TB
- 24 new government medical colleges will be set up by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country.
- At least one medical college for three parliamentary constituencies
- The Jivan Bima Yojana has benefited 5.22 crore families. 187 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange.
- All 4,465 Ganga gram villages have been declared open-defecation free. The government has identified 115 aspirational districts and will invest in social services.

Infrastructure and transport:

- Railway capex for the year 2018-19 is Rs.1.48 lakh crore. 18,000 km of doubling will eliminate capacity constraints.
- Rs.50 lakh crore is needed to create world class infrastructure in the country.
- 99 cities have been selected with outlay of Rs.2.09 lakh crore under Smart City programme.
- 10 prominent tourist sites will be developed into iconic ones to boost tourism.
- We are moving towards optimal electrification of railway networks.
- All stations with more than 25,000 footfalls will have escalators.
- All trains to be progressively provided with WiFi, CCTV and other state-of-the-art amenities.
- UDAN shall connect 56 unserved airports and 31 unserved helipads in the country.



- AAI has 124 airports. We propose to expand our airport capacity to handle more than one billion trips a year.
- Ujwala will give 8 crore women new LPG connections.
- Special scheme to address air pollution in Delhi-NCR region
- Total 187 projects sanctioned under the Namami Gange programme.
- Announce allocation of Rs. 56,619 crore for SC welfare and Rs. 39,135 crore for ST welfare
- Rs 3 lakh crore allocated for PM MUDRA Yojana
- The Saubhagya Yojana will be another focus for the government. Six crore toilets have been built already, and in the next year, two crore additional toilets will be constructed.
- Loans to self-help groups will increase to Rs.75,000 crore. He allocates ₹5,750 crore to National Livelihood Mission and Rs.2,600 crore to the groundwater irrigation scheme.
- The government will contribute 12% of EPF contribution for new employees in all sectors for the next three years.
- Bharatmala project approved for better road connectivity at Rs 5.35 lakh crore.

Finance and investment:

- The RBI has issued guidelines to nudge corporate to access the bond markets.
- Corporate bonds rated at BBB are investment grade.
- The Commerce Ministry is developing a national logistics portal as a single window program to boost the logistics sector.
- Disinvestment target of Rs.80,000 crore has been set for this year.
- The government will recapitalize public sector banks to help them lend an additional Rs.5 lakh crore.
- United India Insurance, Oriental Insurance and National Insurance will be merged and then listed.
- Gold monetization scheme will be revamped to allow people to open hassle-free gold deposit accounts.

Connectivity and defence:

- NITI AAYOG will establish programme to direct initiatives to develop artificial intelligence initiatives.
- Phase 1 of Bharat Net programme has been completed.
- The government will explore use of blockchain technology proactively to boost digital economy.
- The government will not consider Cryptocurrency as legal tender.

Members' salaries:

- Emoluments will be revised for the President to Rs.5 lakh, Rs.4lakh for Vice-President and Rs.3.5 lakh per month for Governors.
- Changes to re-fix emoluments to MPs with effect from April 1, 2018
- The law will provide automatic revision of emoluments every five years indexed to inflation.
- Total revenue expenditure of the government is Rs.21.57 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit 2013-14 was 4.4 per cent of the GDP.
- In 2017-18 3.5 per cent of the GDP. Projected fiscal deficit 3.3 per cent of the GDP.



Economic Survey 2018

Economic Survey of India will be annually published before the announcement of Union budget 2018 by the current finance minister (Arun Jaitley) in the presence of both houses of Parliament i.e., Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Economic Survey will provide the review of, economic status of the country comparing the previous year. Economic Survey 2018 presenting the country's major development programmes has been undertaken by the Government of India. Economic Survey of India will also provide the detailed financial structure of main policy initiatives of the Government of India.

We can expect minimum of one or two question from Economic Survey 2018 for all the upcoming bank Exams. So, IG team provided you all the important possible questions which can be asked from Economic Survey of India.

Highlights of Economic Survey 2018:

- According to the Economic Survey of India, India's GDP is expecting to grow 7-7.5% in FY-19 .
- Policy agenda for next year is to support agriculture, privatise Air India, finish bank recapitalization.
- Economic Survey 2018 hope for average price rising of crude oil of about 12% in FY-19.
- Policy vigilance was required for next fiscal, if high oil prices persist or stock prices correct sharply.
- Imports are expected to grow in the current financial year. So, the net exports of goods and services are slated to decline in 2017-18.
- Since, Exports is the biggest source for the growth of Country's economy.
- GVA (Gross Value Added) growth rate was expected to reach 6.1% in FY19, while it marked 6.6% in FY17.
- CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation expects to mark 3.7% In FY18
- Real GDP will reach 6.75% in FY18.
- According to the GST report Indirect Tax payers was increased up to 50%.
- Agricultural sector expected to grow 2.1%, Service sector growth seen at 8.3%, and Industrial sector growth seen at 4.4%.
- Average growth rate of GDP from 2014-15 to 2017-18 was ranged to 7.3%. this is one of the highest among ,major economies of the world
- Sanitation coverage in rural India increased the substantially due to launch Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) on October 2, 2014, Now it ranges from 39% to 76% (2014 – 2018).
- So far, 296 districts and 3,07,349 villages from all over India have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- Priority to social infrastructure like education, health to promote inclusive growth of the country.
- Foreign exchange reserves have grew by 14.1% from December 2016- 2017. So Forex were estimated to USD 370 billion in FY 16-17
- In 2017-18 Forex was grew to USD 409.4 billion in FY17-18
- For the first time in India's history, data on the international exports of states has been dwelt in the Economic Survey. Such data indicates a strong correlation between export performance and states standard of living. States that export internationally and trade with other states were found to be richer.



- India has very less contribution in Exports, while comparing with other countries. India has contributed only 38% in exports, While, Brazil has 72%, Germany has 68%, Mexico has 67%, USA has 55%.
- Rs. 20,339 crore has been approved by Government in FY 17-18 for farmers, to provide short-term crop loans, post-harvest storages and all other agricultural activities.
- Urban migration leading to feminisation of farm sector
- FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in Service sector grew 15% in 2017-2018. This was achieved mainly due the steps taken by Government of India.
- And the favor made by government in National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy, implementation of GST, reforms for ease of doing business for FDI's.
- Tax collected by states, local governments are significantly lower than those, collected in other federal countries
- Retail inflation averaged to 3.3% in 2017-18, which is lowest in last 6 fiscals.

Key Points in Economic Survey 2018

1. GDP - 7-7.5%
2. Retail inflation - 3.3%
3. crude oil rising – 12%
4. GVA - 6.1%
5. Sanitation Coverage in rural India - 39% to 76% (2014 – 2018).
6. Agricultural sector- 2.1%
7. Service sector – 8.3%
8. Industrial Sector – 4.4%
9. FDI in service sector – 15%
10. Farm loans and agricultural activities - Rs. 20,339 crore
11. Forex - USD 409.4 billion
12. Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages - 3,07,349 villages
13. Real GDP – 6.75%
14. CPI – 3.7%

ICC U-19 CRICKET WORLD CUP-2018 (New Zealand)

History:

The ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup is an international cricket tournament organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC) of national under-19 teams. The tournament was first conducted in 1988, as the Youth World Cup, it was not staged again until 1998. The first edition of the tournament had only eight participants, but now it is extended to sixteen teams. India, the current champions, has won the World Cup four times which is the highest amongst all teams, while Australia has won thrice, Pakistan twice and England, South Africa, and the West Indies once each.



About ICC U-19 CRICKET WORLD CUP-2018:

The 16 teams have been divided into four groups of four teams each. All teams in each group will play each other once. The top two from each group will qualify for the quarter-finals. The top four will qualify for the semi-finals. The final was held between India and Australia on February 3 at Mount Maunganui. In the match India taste the victory by 8 wickets (Indian Batsman Manjot Kalra scored 101 runs in 102 balls).

Highlights of ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup-2018:

- Name of Indian Captain: Prithvi Shaw.
- Indian Coach: Rahul Dravid.
- Man of the Series: Shubman Gill. (372 Runs in 6 matches).
- Man of the Match: Manjot Kalra scored 101 runs in 102 balls.
- Most Runs in the tournament: A Athanaze (Windies) (413 runs) .
- Most Wickets in the tournament: Anukul Sudhakar Roy (14 in 6 matches).

Rewards:

BCCI announces prize money for victorious India U19 team.

- Mr. Rahul Dravid, Head Coach India U19 – INR 50 lakhs.
- Members of India U19 team – INR 30 lakhs each.
- Members of the Support Staff, India U19 – INR 20 lakhs each.

STADIUMS:

- Hagley Oval, Christchurch
- Rangiora Oval, Rangiora
- Bert Sutcliffe Oval, Lincoln
- Lincoln Green, Lincoln
- John Davies Oval, Queenstown
- Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui
- Cobham Oval, Whangarei





