



Current Affairs - July to December 2017

Month Type





- ▶ [3456 Current Affairs were found in Last Six Months for Type - All](#)

(Showing **2489** Important Ones)

Appointments

1. ▶ Ajit Kumar P assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
2. ▶ A Surya Prakash has been re-appointed as chairman of Prasar Bharati board for second consecutive term till February 2020.
3. ▶ A. P. Maheshwari has been appointed as Director General in Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
4. ▶ Abanti Sankaranarayanan has been elected as chairperson of board of *The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)*.
5. ▶ Abhay Krishna has been appointed as head of Indian Army's crucial Eastern Command.
6. ▶ Acclaimed South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV.
7. ▶ Actor Dia Mirza has been appointed UN (United Nations) Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India.
8. ▶ Aegon Life Insurance appointed Vineet Arora as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
9. ▶ Ajay Vipin Nanavati has been appointed as chairman of Government owned Syndicate Bank.
10. ▶ Amardeep Singh Bhatia is appointed as new director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
11. ▶ Andrej Babis has been appointed as new prime minister of Czech Republic (Europe).
12. ▶ Angela Merkel won fourth term as chancellor of Germany.
13. ▶ Anita Karwal has been appointed as new Chairperson of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
14. ▶ Anshu Prakash has been appointed as chief secretary of Delhi.
15. ▶ Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as Chief Secretary for Puducherry.
16. ▶ Ashwani Lohani has been appointed as Chairman of Railway Board (Ministry of Railways).
17. ▶ Audrey Azoulay (France) elected as new Director General of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).
18. ▶ Axis Bank re-appointed Shikha Sharma as MD & CEO of Axis Bank for another 3 year term starting June 2018 as Her current term is coming to an end in June 2018.
19. ▶ B S Sahrawat is appointed as Director General of National Cadet Corps.
20. ▶ Balraj Joshi has been appointed as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of NHPC (National Hydro Power Corporation).
21. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India's CAC (Cricket Advisory Committee) named former Indian Cricketer Ravi Shastri as new chief coach of Indian cricket team till ICC World Cup 2019.
22. ▶ Borut Pahor re-elected as President of Slovenia for 2nd term.
23. ▶ Brazilian Soccer Player Neymar became Goodwill Ambassador for *Handicap International*, that was founded in 1982 to assist 6,000 Cambodian refugees who had lost limbs and later co-founded International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in 1992 which won Nobel Peace Prize.
24. ▶ Brenda Marjorie Hale has been appointed as first female president of UK's Supreme Court, top Judicial Post in UK.
25. ▶ Britain's Prince Harry is appointed as president of African Parks, a conservation group which manages wildlife areas in Africa.
26. ▶ British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding is appointed as Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment, joining fight to save lives and habitats of people and animals by cleaning up air and seas.
27. ▶ Buddhist monk Dhammapiya from Tripura has been elected as the secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), during 2nd general assembly of IBC held in New Delhi.
28. ▶ Cabinet Changes -


New Cabinet Ministers

-  Nirmala Sitharaman - Ministry of Defence. Sitharaman is first woman after Indira Gandhi to hold portfolio of Defence Minister.
-  Piyush Goyal - Ministry of Railways (also Minister of State for Coal Ministry (IC))
-  Dharmendra Pradhan - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural. He will also hold Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
-  Muqtar Abbas Naqvi - Ministry of Minority Affairs.
-  Nitin Gadkari - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (also holds Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)
-  Uma Bharti - Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
-  Narendra Singh Tomer - Ministry of Mines (Also Holds Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj)
-  Suresh Prabhu - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

New Ministers Of State

-  Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
-  Krishna Raj - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
-  K J Alphons - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
-  Satya Pal Singh - Ministry of Human Resource Development AND Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
-  Virendra Kumar - Ministry of Women and Child Development AND Ministry of Minority affairs.
-  Anant Kumar Hegde - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
-  Mahesh Sharma - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
-  Sudarshan Bhagat - Tribal Affairs
-  Rao Inderjit Singh - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
-  Arjun Ram Meghwal - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation AND Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
-  Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary - Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines
-  Pon Radhakrishna - Ministry of Finance AND Ministry of Shipping
-  Shiv Pratap Shukla - Ministry of Finance








New Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

-  Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (IC)
-  Hardeep Puri - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (IC)
-  RK Singh - Ministry of Power (IC) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (IC)
-  K J Alphons - Ministry of Tourism (IC)
-  Mahesh Sharma - Ministry of Culture (IC)
-  Santosh Kumar Gangwar - Ministry of Labour & Employment (IC)
-  Giriraj Singh - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (IC)
-  Rao Inderjit Singh - Ministry of Planning (IC)
-  Piyush Goyal - Ministry of State for Coal Ministry (IC)

29. ▶ Christopher Wray has been appointed as USA's Prestigious Investigation Agency Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
30. ▶ D R Soni appointed as chief of Indian Army's Southern Command.
31. ▶ David Rasquinha has been appointed as Managing Director of Exim Bank of India.]
32. ▶ Debi Prasad Dash has been appointed as Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DG-DRI).
33. ▶ Debjani Ghosh has been appointed as first Female President of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).
34. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is elected President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA).
35. ▶ Devendra Kumar Joshi has been appointed as Lieutenant Governor of UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
36. ▶ Dharmendra Kumar has been appointed as Director General in Railway Protection Force (RPF).
37. ▶ Dhirendra Pal Singh is appointed as chairperson of University Grants Commission (UGC).
38. ▶ Dhirendra Swarup is appointed as chairman of board of directors of BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
39. ▶ Dipak Misra has been appointed as next (45th) Chief Justice of India, replacing J S Khehar.
40. ▶ Donald Trump appointed 3 Indian-Americans to key posts -
 -  Neil Chatterjee - Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

 Krishna R. Urs - USA Ambassador to Peru

 Vishal Amin - White House Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator

41. ▶ Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been elected as Chair of Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for 4 years term.
42. ▶ Former cricketer Saba Karim is appointed as new General Manager (GM) of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
43. ▶ George Weah (Former footballer) has been elected as new president of Liberia (West Africa).
44. ▶ Government appointed Dineshwar Sharma as its Representative to carry forward dialogue with elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in Jammu and Kashmir.
 -  After this appointment, Supreme Court adjourned hearing of plea (*filed by Delhi-based NGO in 2014*) challenging Article 35A of Constitution by 3 months.
 -  Article 35A of empowers J&K legislature to define permanent residents (PR) of state. It was added through Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 issued under Article 370 of Constitution.
 -  J&K Constitution adopted on November 17, 1956 defines Permanent Resident as person who has been resident of state for 10 years and has acquired immovable property in state. Provision of Permanent Resident bars Indian citizens of other states to settle in J&K and do any personal or professional activities. Therefore, Plea was filed to remove Article 35A of constitution.
45. ▶ Government appointed Mukesh Kumar Jain as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Oriental Bank of Commerce.
46. ▶ Government appointed Prasoon Joshi as Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification. Actress Vidya Balan has also joined CBFC as a Member.
47. ▶ Government appointed Rajiv Bansal as interim CMD of Air India, after previous Air India CMD Ashwani Lohani has been appointed as Chairman of Railway Board.
48. ▶ Government appointed Rajnish Kumar as chairman of State Bank of India for 3 years term, succeeding Arundhati Bhattacharya.
49. ▶ Government appointed S. Aparna as Executive Director of World Bank, to represent India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for 3 years.
50. ▶ Government appointed Santosh Sharma as CMD of *Hindustan Copper Limited* and Emandi Sankara Rao as MD & CEO of IFCI Ltd (Industrial Finance Corporation of India).
51. ▶ Government appointed Sunil Arora as an Election Commissioner of India.
 -  Election Commission has 3 members - 1 Chief EC and 2 EC.
 -  Currently, Achal Kumar Joti is CEC and Om Prakash Rawat is Other EC.
52. ▶ Government appointed U D Salvi as officiating chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT), after Swatenter Kumar Retired Recently.
53. ▶ Government has constituted 15th Finance Commission in pursuance of clause (1) of article 280 of Constitution, to make recommendations for the 5 years commencing on April 1, 2020. It will be headed by N.K.Singh. Currently, 14th finance commission (headed by Y V Reddy) is active.
54. ▶ Government named Election Commissioner Achal Kumar Joti as next Chief Election Commissioner of India, to take charge on July 6. He will succeed Nasim Zaidi.
55. ▶ Halimah Yacob has been appointed as 8th President of Singapore (and First female ever).
56. ▶ Hasmukh Adhia Has been appointed as new Finance Secretary of India. He wa previously serving as Revenue secretary.
 -  Additionally, Binoy Kumar has been appointed as Special Secretary in Commerce Ministry.
57. ▶ Hassan Rouhani has been appointed as President of Iran for second term.
58. ▶ Henrietta Fore (USA) is appointed as new Executive Director of United Nations Childrens' Fund (UNICEF).
59. ▶ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) appointed Jayant Rikhye as Chief Executive Officer for India.
60. ▶ IPS Officer Abhay has been appointed as Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
61. ▶ IT Firm Infosys appointed Salil S. Parekh as its new CEO and Managing Director.
62. ▶ Inder Jit Singh has been appointed as Chairperson of National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC).
63. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) appointed Suresh Sethi as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
64. ▶ India TV Chairman Rajat Sharma elected as President of News Broadcasters Association (NBA) for 2017-18.
65. ▶ India' Chakravarthi AVPS has been appointed as global ambassador of World Packaging Organisation (WPO).
66. ▶ India's Dalveer Bhandari has been re-elected as a member of International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands).
 -  For the First Time, Britain will not have any member at ICJ.
67. ▶ Indian National Congress appointed Rahul Gandhi as Party's new President, replacing Sonia Gandhi.
68. ▶ Indian Origin Person Subra Suresh from IIT Madras has been chosen as President of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore.

69. ▶ Indian Weightlifting Federation President Birendra Prasad Baishya elected as chairman of two sub-committees of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Ethics Commission AND Anti-Disciplinary Commission.
70. ▶ Indian noted sprinter Milkha Singh has been appointed as World Health Organisation's goodwill ambassador for physical activity in South-East Asia Region (SEAR).
71. ▶ Indian-origin person Joseph Yuvaraj Pillay has been appointed as Interim President of Singapore, until new President is elected.
72. ▶ Indo-British Person Deepak Parekh is named as First *International Ambassador* for London city and will work towards championing London City across the globe.
73. ▶ Jacinda Ardern has been elected as new Prime Minister of New Zealand. She is youngest Prime Minister of NZ in over 150 years.
74. ▶ Jai Ram Thakur has been named as new (14th) Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, after BJP won recent state assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.
75. ▶ Joao Lourenco appointed as Angola (South African Nation)'s first new President in 38 years.
76. ▶ John Joseph has been appointed as Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI), A key intelligence agency tasked with checking evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
77. ▶ K K Venugopal has been appointed as new (15th) Attorney General of India.
78. ▶ KV Rama Moorthy appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.
79. ▶ Kenneth I. Juster has been nominated as next USA ambassador to India.
80. ▶ Khaltmaa Battulga has been appointed as President of Mongolia.
81. ▶ Leading Business House Tata Sons appointed Roopa Purushothaman as Chief Economist and Head of Policy Advocacy.
82. ▶ Lord Mervyn Davies has been appointed as Chairman of UK India Business Council (UKIBC).
83. ▶ M Mahender Reddy has been appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana State.
84. ▶ M. Nagaraja Sarma has been appointed as chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of United India Insurance Company.
85. ▶ M. Venkaiah Naidu Resigned as Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs after his name has been put up for Vice-president elections to be held on Aug 05, 2017. Now, Narendra Singh Tomar (*Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj*) has been given additional charge of Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry and Smriti Zubin Irani (*Minister of Textiles*) has been given additional charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
86. ▶ M. Venkaiah Naidu has been elected as 13th Vice President of India. He will succeed Hamid Ansari, who held the position for two consecutive terms of 5 years.
87. ▶ Mahendra Pratap Mall has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
88. ▶ Mercedes Araoz Fernandez has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Peru.
89. ▶ Ministry of Coal appointed Gopal Singh as CMD of Coal India Ltd.
90. ▶ Mohammad Mustafa has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
91. ▶ N C Goel is appointed as new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan.
92. ▶ N Sambasiva Rao has been appointed as Director-General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh.
93. ▶ Naga People's Front (NPF)'s TR Zeliang has been sworn in as 19th chief minister of Nagaland.
94. ▶ Nakul Chopra is elected as new Chairman of BARC India (Broadcast Audience Research Council).
95. ▶ Narinder Batra (*chief of International Hockey Federation*) is elected as President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) at its Annual General Meeting in New Delhi.
96. ▶ Nasir Kamal has been appointed as Additional Director General in Border Security Force (BSF).
 K.K Sharma is current Director General of BSF.
97. ▶ National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee Ram Nath Kovind has been elected as 14th President of India, getting almost twice votes as his opponent Meira Kumar. He is second Dalit after KR Narayanan to get appointed as President of India and first President from Uttar Pradesh. Sanjay Kothari has been appointed as Secretary to President - elect Ram Nath Kovind.
98. ▶ Neelmani N. Raju has been appointed as Karnataka's first woman Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG and IGP).
99. ▶ New Ambassadors Appointed -
 -  Vinay Mohan Kwatra - Principality of Monaco
 -  Sibi George - Switzerland.
 -  Pooja Kapur - Macedonia.
 -  Manika Jain - Cambodia
 -  N.J.Gangte - Zambia

100. ▶ New Appointments -
- ▶ C.K. Mishra - Secretary in Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
 - ▶ Injeti Srinivas - Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
 - ▶ Gopal Krishna - Secretary in Ministry of Shipping
 - ▶ Preeti Sudan - Secretary in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
 - ▶ Mahesh Kumar Gupta - Member (Engineering) in Railway Board.
 - ▶ D.K.Gayen - Member (Staff) in Railway Board
101. ▶ New Appointments -
- ▶ Asha Ram Sihag - Secretary in Department of Heavy Industries.
 - ▶ Rajiv Kumar - Secretary in Department of Financial Services.
 - ▶ Surina Rajan - Director General in Bureau of Indian Standards.
 - ▶ N. Baijendra Kumar - Chairman & Managing Director in National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).
 - ▶ Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi - Director General in National Skill Development Agency (NSDA).
 - ▶ Satyajeet Rajan - Director General (Tourism).
 - ▶ R.K. Raghavan - New Indian High Commissioner to Cyprus.
 - ▶ Reenat Sandhu - New Indian Ambassador to Republic of San Marino
 - ▶ Ashwini Attri, Anita Pattanayak and Ranjan Kumar Ghose - Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General (Deputy CAG).
102. ▶ New Appointments Approved -
- ▶ Badri Narain Sharma - Chairman of Newly Formed National Anti-profiteering Authority under GST.
 - ▶ Pradeep Singh Kharola - Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.
 - ▶ Pritam Singh - Director General in National Archives of India.
 - ▶ Raghvendra Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Culture
 - ▶ Upendra Prasad Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
 - ▶ Sandeep Beecha - Chief of Naval War College (Goa)
103. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors Appointed -
- ▶ Gautam Bambawale - China
 - ▶ Ajay Bisaria - Pakistan
 - ▶ Harsh Kumar Jain - Slovakia
 - ▶ Vani Sarraju Rao -Estonia
 - ▶ Palau - Jaideep Mazumdar
104. ▶ New Indian Amdassadors Apointed -
- ▶ Azar A.H.Khan - Turkmenistan.
 - ▶ K. Jeeva Sagar - Kuwait.
105. ▶ New PSU Appointments -
- ▶ Jatindra Nath Swain as Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India.
 - ▶ Sundeep Kumar Nayak as Managing Director of NCDICI (National Cooperative Development Corporation of India).
 - ▶ Ira Joshi as director general of Doordarshan News.
106. ▶ Newly Appointed Governors of Various States -
- ▶ B. D. Mishra - Arunachal Pradesh
 - ▶ Satya Pal Malik - Bihar
 - ▶ Banwarilal Purohit - Tamil Nadu
 - ▶ Jagdish Mukhi - Assam
 - ▶ Ganga Prasad - Meghalaya
107. ▶ Nikolay Kudashev has been appointed as Russia's new ambassador to India.
108. ▶ Nisha Desai Biswal is appointed as President of US-India Business Council (USIBC).
109. ▶ Nitish Kumar took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar for 6th Time, a day after he had resigned from the same post amid political turmoil.
110. ▶ Noted Actor Anupam Kher has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune.
111. ▶ Nuclear scientist U Kamachi Mudali has been appointed as Chief Executive of Heavy Water Board (under Department of Atomic Energy).
112. ▶ ONGC CMD Dinesh K Sarraf is appointed as new Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
113. ▶ Om Prakash Singh is appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, M Malakondaiah is appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh.

114. ▶ Paul Antony is appointed as next Chief Secretary of Kerala.
115. ▶ Paul Kagame won Presidential Elections in African nation Rwanda, getting 98.66 % votes.
116. ▶ Peter Thomson (Fiji; *outgoing president of the UN General Assembly*) has been appointed as UN's first Special Envoy for oceans.
117. ▶ Phanindra Sama (Co-founder of RedBus) has been appointed as Chief Innovation Officer for Telangana state.
118. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 10 days Sangai Festival in Imphal (Manipur), during his visit to 3 North Eastern States - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur. He also opened a 2 day North-East Development Summit in Imphal.
119. ▶ R A Sankara Narayanan has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Vijaya Bank.
120. ▶ R Hemalatha is appointed as Director of National Institute of Nutrition (Hyderabad).
121. ▶ RBI Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed to Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board of the Bank of International Settlement (BIS), a global financial organisation owned by major central banks from across world. FSI assists financial sector authorities worldwide in strengthening their financial systems.
 - ▶ BIS is based in Basel (Switzerland) with Jaime Caruana as its current Chief (General Manager).
122. ▶ RBI Released INR 200 Denomination Note. Its The new dimensions are 66 mm × 146 mm. It has Motif of Sanchi Stupa on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. The base colour of the note is Bright Yellow.
 - ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will also shortly issue new banknotes of Rs. 50 denomination in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, with fluorescent blue as base colour. All earlier banknotes in INR 50 denomination will continue to be legal tender. Its dimension will be 66 mm x 135 mm. It will have a motif of Hampi with Chariot on reverse and Swachh Bharat logo.
123. ▶ Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as NITI Aayog's new vice-chairman, after Arvind Pangariya resigned from the post. Vinod K. Paul has also been appointed as a Member of NITI Aayog.
124. ▶ Rajiv Mehrishi has been appointed as New (13th) CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India), Replacing Shashi Kant Sharma.
125. ▶ Rajkiran Rai G assumed charge as MD & CEO of Union Bank of India and Melwyn Rego assumed charge as MD & CEO of Syndicate Bank.
 - ▶ Additionally, Kewal Handa has been appointed as non-executive chairman of Union Bank of India.
126. ▶ Rajni Kant Mishra has been appointed as new Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
127. ▶ Ram Nath Kovind has been sworn in as 14th president of India. Sanjay Kothari has been appointed as Secretary to President.
128. ▶ Saima Wazed Hossain has been appointed as WHO's Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia region.
129. ▶ Samiran Panda is appointed as director of National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.
130. ▶ Sandeep Chakravorty has been appointed as head of Indian consulate in New York (USA). Note that he is also India's Ambassador to Peru.
131. ▶ Sangram Singh has been appointed as CEO of Digital Payments firm Freecharge (Owned by Axis Bank).
132. ▶ Sanjay Gupta has been appointed as Chairman of Indian Institute of Management Amritsar.
133. ▶ Sanjay Kumar appointed as Director General (DG) of National Disaster Response Force.
134. ▶ Sanjaya Baru has been appointed as Secretary General of Freedom of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
135. ▶ Sanjeev Kaushik has been appointed as whole-time member of SEBI.
136. ▶ Sarah Clarke has been appointed as Britain's first female *Black Rod* in its over 650-year history, to serve as *Lady Usher of the Black Rod*.
 - ▶ The Black Rod is responsible for controlling access to and maintaining order within UK's House of Lords.
137. ▶ Scientist Vijay Prasad Dimri is appointed as president of 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), to be held in New Delhi in 2020. IGC is a global platform for advancement of earth science.
138. ▶ Sebastian Pinera has been elected as next president of South American Nation Chile.
139. ▶ Sethurathnam Ravi has been appointed as chairman of BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
140. ▶ Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has been appointed as Interim Prime Minister of Pakistan as Nawaz Sharif became 2nd head of a government to step down amidst political fallout of Panama Papers revelations. In April 2016, Iceland Prime Minister Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson had to quit his post in same regard.
 - ▶ Ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) named Shahbaz Sharif as PM but he will first have to be elected to National Assembly.
 - ▶ Panama Papers is a massive leak of 11.5 million documents of a Panamanian law firm - Mossack Fonseca. It revealed how clients of Mossack Fonseca were able to launder money, dodge sanctions and avoid tax.
141. ▶ Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as India's G 20 Sherpa till December 31, 2018 for Development Track of G20.
142. ▶ Shashi Shanker has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of ONGC.
143. ▶ Shinzo Abe has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Japan for his Third Term. He belongs to Liberal Democratic Party.
144. ▶ Sjoerd Marijne (Netherlands) has been named chief coach of Hockey men's side. Harendra Singh has been appointed as Specialist coach of senior women's team.

145. ▶ Smita Nagaraj has been appointed as Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
146. ▶ Snehlata Shrivastava has been appointed as new Secretary General of the Lok Sabha (and first woman to hold this post). She will succeed Anup Mishra.
147. ▶ Somesh Goyal has been appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Himachal Pradesh.
148. ▶ South African human rights activist *Kumi Naidoo* has been appointed as new Secretary General of Amnesty International (A non-governmental organization working for human rights).
149. ▶ Subhash Chandra Garg (*Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs*) has been appointed as India's Alternate Governor on Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
150. ▶ Sumita Misra is appointed as joint secretary in Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC). PMEAC is currently chaired by Bibek Debroy.
 - ▶ Additionally, Gurbachan Singh is appointed as Director General (Investigation) in National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
151. ▶ Sunil Kumar Chourasia is appointed as Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
152. ▶ Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis appointed Vasant Narasimhan as its CEO.
153. ▶ Tata Steel Limited appointed T V Narendran as global CEO and MD.
154. ▶ Tulsi Gabbard (first Hindu lawmaker in US Congress) is named as chairperson of World Hindu Congress (WHC) to be held in Chicago (USA) in 2018.
155. ▶ Uhuru Kenyatta won re-election as President of Kenya for 2nd Term.
156. ▶ Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Mongolia.
157. ▶ Uma Shankar has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), replacing Meena Hemchandra who retired recently.
158. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI) CEO A.B. Pandey has been appointed interim chairman of Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN).
159. ▶ Upendra Prasad Singh appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and CEO OF National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
160. ▶ Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.
161. ▶ Venkaiah Naidu has been sworn in as 13th vice president of India and rajya sabha chairman.
162. ▶ Vijay Rupani re-appointed as Chief Minister of Gujarat for second term in a row, after BJP's Victory in recent state assembly polls. Nitin Patel has been reappointed as Deputy CM.
163. ▶ Vikram Singh has been appointed as Private Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind for 2 Years.
164. ▶ Vinay Sahasrabudde is appointed as President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
165. ▶ Vineet Chowdhary is appointed as chief secretary to new Himachal government under CM Jairam Thakur.
166. ▶ Viveck Goenka has been elected as Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI). N. Ravi is elected as Vice Chairman.
167. ▶ World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) appointed Indian Person Sunny Verghese as its new chairman. WBCSD is global network of over 200 CEOs who are responsible for a combined revenue of more than \$ 8.5 trillion and 19 million employees.
168. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) appointed Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Chief Soumya Swaminathan at one of 2 newly created Deputy Directors General posts at WHO. This is highest post held by an Indian in WHO.
169. ▶ Y C Modi has been appointed as new Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Top

Awards

1. ▶ Portuguese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo became First to be named Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Men's Player of the Year for consecutive 3 seasons - 2014, 2015 and 2016.
2. ▶ 12-year old Indian girl Poorvi G B has been awarded *best performer* subtitle at *Little Miss World 2017* pageant held in Greece.
3. ▶ 18th edition International Indian Film Academy Awards held in New York (USA). Awards are - .
 - ▶ Best Actor: Shahid Kapoor (Udta Punjab)
 - ▶ Best Actress: Alia Bhatt (Udta Punjab)
 - ▶ Best Film: Neerja
 - ▶ Best Debutante: Disha Patani (M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story)
 - ▶ Best Debutant: Diljit Dosanjh (Udta Punjab)
 - ▶ Woman of The Year: Taapsee Pannu
 - ▶ Special Contribution to Indian Cinema: AR Rahman

- 🔗 Best Supporting Actress: Shabana Azmi (Neerja)
 - 🔗 Best Supporting Actor: Anupam Kher (M.S Dhoni: The Untold Story)
 - 🔗 Best Director: Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury (Pink)
 - 🔗 Best Story – Shakun Batra and Ayesha DeVitre Dhillon (Kapoor & Sons)
 - 🔗 Best Music Director: Pritam (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)
 - 🔗 Best Lyricist: Amitabh Bhattacharya (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)
 - 🔗 Best Singer Male: Amit Mishra (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)
 - 🔗 Best Singer Female- Tulsi Kumar (Airlift) and Kanika Kapoor (Udta Punjab)
4. ▶ 2 Indian-Americans - Adobe Chief Shantanu Narayen and former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy are among 38 persons named for this year's *Great Immigrants: The Pride of America Award 2017*.
5. ▶ 2017 BBC Sports Awards -
- 🔗 Sports Personality of the Year - British Distance Runner Mo Farah.
 - 🔗 Overseas Sports Personality of the Year - Swiss Tennis Player Roger Federer (winner for fourth time)
 - 🔗 Sports Personality Team of the Year - England Women's Cricket Team
 - 🔗 Sports Personality of the Year Lifetime Achievement - Jessica Ennis-Hill (British track and field athlete)
 - 🔗 Sports Personality of the Year Coach - Benke Blomkvist, Stephen Maguire and Christian Malcolm
 - 🔗 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year: Phil Foden (English Footballer)
6. ▶ 2017 Balzan Prize Winners -
- 🔗 James P Allison (USA) - For Immunological Approaches in Cancer Therapy that enhanced the survival of patients with metastatic melanoma.
 - 🔗 Bina Agarwal (Indian British) - For her heroic work studying women's contributions to agriculture in India.
 - 🔗 Michael Gillon (Belgium) - For his work that helped finding new solar systems of planet Earth using robotic telescopes, instead of much more costly satellites.
 - 🔗 Germans Aleida and Jan Assmann (Germany) - For presenting collective memory as a requirement for forming identity of religious and political communities.
7. ▶ 2017 Magsaysay Awards -
- 🔗 Winners -
 - 🔗 Lilia De Lima (PHILIPPINES) - For harnessing sustained, non-stop and credible public service.
 - 🔗 Yoshiaki Ishizawa (JAPAN): For restoring Cambodia's treasured gift to world culture.
 - 🔗 Abdon Nababan (INDONESIA): For giving compelling face and voice to Adat communities and their rights.
 - 🔗 Philippine Educational Theater Association (PHILIPPINES): For empowering communities for development action through theater arts.
 - 🔗 Gethsie Shanmugam (SRI LANKA): For rebuilding lives from the psychosocial wounds of war and violence.
 - 🔗 Tony Tay (SINGAPORE): For mobilizing collective goodwill to address hidden hunger.
 - 🔗 About Magsaysay Award -
 - 🔗 Ramon Magsaysay Awards' is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society
 - 🔗 It is a reputed honour and termed as Nobel Prize of Asia.
8. ▶ 2017's *Kalakar Puraskar* instituted by Mandd Sobhann will be conferred on Noted Konkani folk artiste Gopal Gowda.
- 🔗 Kalakar Puraskar honors Konkani artistes from fields of folk arts, theatre, music and dance. Award carries a cash award of Rs 25,000 and a citation.
9. ▶ 27 journalists honored in 12th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards. Award includes a trophy and a reward of Rs 1 lakh.
10. ▶ 30th Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015 and 2016 has been awarded to Carnatic vocalist T M Krishna for his services in promoting National Integration in India.
- 🔗 The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and is bestowed on Oct 31.
11. ▶ 48th International Film Festival of India 2017 (IFFI 2017) held in Goa -
- 🔗 Facts -
 - 🔗 Canada was the focus country of IFFI Goa 2017.
 - 🔗 *Beyond the Clouds* directed by Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi was opening film this year, while Pablo Cesar-directed Indo-Argentine film *Thinking of Him* was closing film.
 - 🔗 Jahnu Barua was chairman of Steering Committee and Vivek Agnihotri was chairman of Film Preview Committee.

World's first Sanskrit 3D film 'Anurakthi' screened during IFFI 2017.

Awards -

Indian film personality of 2017 - Amitabh Bachchan

Lifetime achievement - Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan.

Best film (Golden Peacock award) - 120 Beats Per Minute (French movie) directed by Robin Campullo.

Best director - Vivian Qu for Angels Wear White (China).

Special Jury Award - Take-off (Malayalam film-India)

Best Actor (Female) - Parvathy for *Take Off*

Best Actor (Male) - Nahuel Perez Biscayart for *120 Beats Per Minute*.

Best Debut Feature Film Director - Kiro Russo for Dark Skull (Spanish).

ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal - Kshitij-A Horizon (Marathi movie) directed by Manouj Kadamh.

12. ▶ 67th edition of Miss World Beauty pageant held in Sanya (China) -

India's Manushi Chhillar (Haryana) won the Title, Bringing Miss world Crown back to India After 17 Years (Priyanka Chopra winning in 2000).

13. ▶ Govardhan Eco Village set up by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar (Maharashtra) won Green Platinum Award during Green Building Congress 2017 held at Jaipur (Rajasthan).

14. ▶ The Hindu Playwright Award 2017 has been given to Gerish Khemani and Akshat Nigam for their play *In Search of DariyaSagar*, during 13th edition of *The Hindu Theatre festival*.

15. ▶ Yeraringan Award has been conferred upon Noted Agricultural Scientist M.S. Swaminathan.

16. ▶ AFC Asian Football Awards -

Male Player of the Year - Omar Kharbin (he became First syrian ever to win this title)

Men's Coach of the Year - Takafumi Hori (Japan)

International Player of the Year - Son Heung-min (South Korea)

Women's Player of the Year -Samantha Kerr (Australia)

17. ▶ Aamir Khan Film Dangal chosen as Best Asian Film at 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards, in Sydney.

18. ▶ Actor Anupam Kher received Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award. Saira Banu, who moved Supreme Court seeking a ban on instantaneous 'Triple Talaq' among Muslims, is the second recipient of Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award.

19. ▶ Actor Prakash Raj received Kota Shivaram Karanth Huttura Prashasti award in Kota (Udupi district), Karnataka.

20. ▶ Actor Sonu Sood received Punjab Ratan award from State Govt. for his contribution to welfare of people of Punjab.

21. ▶ Actor Trisha Krishnan has been conferred UNICEF celebrity advocate status for child rights, becoming first South Indian actor industry to receive this honour.

22. ▶ Akinwumi Adesina (Nigeria), President of African Development Bank will be honored by 2017 World Food Prize.

Since 1987, World Food Prize is awarded annually by World Food Prize Foundation to recognize contributions in any field related to world food supply.

23. ▶ American author George Saunders won 2017 Man Booker Prize for his novel *Lincoln in the Bardo*.

It is given by *Man Group* (UK) with £50,000 as Prize Money. Man Booker Prize begun in 2005. It is 8th edition of these awards.

24. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu has been honoured with prestigious Golden Peacock Award in 17th London Global Convention, in category of *Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation*.

25. ▶ Andhra Pradesh state government Announced Nandi Awards 2014 - 2016 -

Nandi Awards are given by AP State Government to honor artists in Telugu Cinema, that were discontinued in 2014 when new state Telangana was born. Awards for 3 successive years (2014-16) are announced now.

Nandi Awards 2014

Best Film: Legend

Best Director: Boyapati

Best Actor: Nandamuri Balakrishna

Best Actress: Anjali

Nandi Awards 2015

Best Film: Baahubali

Best Director : S S Rajamouli

Best Actor: Mahesh Babu

🎬 Nandi Awards 2016

- 🎬 Best Film: Pelli Choopulu
- 🎬 Best Director : SatishVegesna
- 🎬 Best Actor: Junior NTR
- 🎬 Best Actress: Ritu Varma

🎬 Special Awards

- 🎬 NTR National Award -
 - 🎬 2014 - Kamal Hassan
 - 🎬 2015 - K Raghavendra Rao
 - 🎬 2016 - Rajanikanth
- 🎬 BN Reddy State Award -
 - 🎬 2014 - SS Rajamouli
 - 🎬 2015 - Trivikram Srinivas
 - 🎬 2016 - Boyapati Srinivas
- 🎬 Nagireddy and Chaprani State Award -
 - 🎬 2014 -Narayana Murthy
 - 🎬 2015 - Keeravani
 - 🎬 2016 - K S Rama Rao
- 🎬 Raghupati Venkaiah State Award -
 - 🎬 2014 - Krishnam Raju
 - 🎬 2015 - Eshwar
 - 🎬 2016 - Chiranjeevi
- 🎬 Special Jury Award -
 - 🎬 2014 - Siddala Ashok Teja
 - 🎬 2015 - P C Reddy
 - 🎬 2016 - Paruchuri Brothers

26. ▶ Argentinian Footballer Lionel Messi Received Golden Shoe award (*handed to Europe's top goalscorer*) for his 37 Goals in Spanish Football League in 2016-17. It is fourth time Messi has won this title, equalling Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal).
27. ▶ Around 3.5 lakh students in Gujarat will get 7-inch 'NAMO E-Tab' tablets at a subsidised rate of Rs 1,000 each under a state government scheme. The market Price for these Tablets is INR 8000 for one unit.
28. ▶ Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane, Australia -
 - 🎬 Bollywood movie 'Newton' secured 2 awards with Rajkummar Rao winning best actor award and Mayank Tewari and Amit V. Masurkar secured best screenplay honour. Newton is directed by Amit V. Masurkar.
29. ▶ Awards for Display at 37th IITF (*India International Trade Fair*) Delhi 2017 -
 - 🎬 Gold - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
 - 🎬 Silver - Ministry of Power
 - 🎬 Bronze - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
30. ▶ BJP leader L.K. Advani received Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions as a parliamentarian in Lok Sabha while JDU leader Sharad Yadav also received Lifetime Achievement Award as a Rajya Sabha representative. Awardess were selected by a jury headed by Shivraj Patil. Additionally, N.K. Premachandran was named Best Parliamentarian in lok sabha and Sitaram Yechury is named Best Parliamentarian in Rajya Sabha.
31. ▶ Badminton Player Prakash Padukone conferred with first Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by Badminton Association of India (BAI). He won 1980 All England and won a bronze at 1983 World Championship in Copenhagen (Denmark).
32. ▶ Bengali writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen won *Author in Bengali language* category at 2nd edition of Big Little Book Awards, under Parag initiative of Tata Trusts to promote children's literature.
33. ▶ Blue Planet Prize (*Noted as Most prestigious award in environmental science*), has been given to German theoretical physicist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber.
34. ▶ Cannes International Festival of Creativity (France) will honour Indians Piyush & Prasoon Pandey with Cannes Lions' Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming 1st Asians to win this award.
35. ▶ Choti Kumari from Bihar won International acclaim for her efforts to uplift Musahar community in Bihar, considered most downtrodden community in state's caste-ridden society. Title was *Women's Creativity in Rural Life* Award and was given by Switzerland-based Women's

World Summit Foundation.

36. ▶ East Bengal Football Club Awards -

- ▶ Bharat Gaurav - Dhanraj Pillay (Hockey)
- ▶ Lifetime Achievement Awards - Subhsh Bhowmick and syed Naemuddin.
- ▶ Footballer of the Year - Gurwinder Singh
- ▶ Cricketer of the Year -Boddupalli Amit

37. ▶ Egyptian journalist Khaled el-Balshy won Individual Activist award of *Nelson Mandela – Graca Machel Innovation Awards*. He made several attempts to publicly reveal violations by Egyptian government.

38. ▶ Eric Vuillard’s novel *L’ordre du jour* (in English ‘Agenda’), story of how German industry and finance backed Adolf Hitler, won Goncourt Prize 2017 award (Top Award in French-speaking world).

39. ▶ FE Best Banks Awards 2015-16 held in Mumbai. Winners -

Category	Winner
Best Nationalised Bank	State Bank of India (SBI)
Best Old Private Sector Bank	City Union Bank
Best New Private Sector Bank	HDFC Bank
Lifetime Achievement Award	Uday Kotak
Banker of the Year	Arundhati Bhattacharya
Best Non- Banking Financial Institution	Ujjivan Financial Services
Best Mobile Banking Application	ICICI Bank
Best Savings Bank Product	Kotak Mahindra Bank

40. ▶ First ever Smita Patil memorial award given to Rekha for her contribution in film industry.

41. ▶ Former Indian Footballer Subrata Bhattacharya will be honored as *Mohun Bagan Ratna* for year 2017 by Kolkata Based FC Mohun Bagan.

42. ▶ Former PM Manmohan Singh will receive Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2017 for his services as PM between 2004 and 2014. It includes cash prize of INR 25 lakh and a citation.

43. ▶ Former Union Minister Ashwani Kumar has been conferred with Japan’s imperial decoration ‘Order of the Rising Sun’ award for his contribution to fostering Japan-India ties.

44. ▶ Ghana-based Indian entrepreneur Birendra Sasmal won International Business Person of Year at Asian Achievers Awards in London, for for turning his company *Subah Group* into a thriving succes Through West Africa and employs around 350 people.

45. ▶ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which manages brand AMUL, has been awarded as best FMCG in food sector at 5th International Advertising Associations (IAA) Leadership Awards in Mumbai.

46. ▶ Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 was given to Nora K. Jemisin (USA) for her work *The Obelisk Gate*. It was presented at 75th World Science Fiction Convention in Helsinki (Finland).

47. ▶ ISKCON’s Govardhan Eco village (Maharashtra) received *spirit of humanity* award by AmeriCares, a non-profit organisation working for disaster relief and global health, in *livelihood* category.

48. ▶ Indian - origin actor Dev Patel chosen for Asia Society 2017 Asia Game Changers Award, for making a “transformative and positive” difference for future of Asia and world. He will be honored at UN Headquarters in New York in November 2017.

49. ▶ Indian Actor Ishaan Khattar won Best Actor award for his debut film ‘Beyond The Clouds’ at the International Bosphorus Film Festival in Turkey. Film is directed by Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi, and Music composed by A. R. Rahman.

50. ▶ Indian Film Lipstick Under My Burkha (*directed by Alankrita Shrivastava*) won a top prize (*Founder's Award for Sustainability on the Big Screen*) at time Global Sustainability Film Awards 2017 in London.

51. ▶ Indian Origin Person Guruswamy Jayraman has been awarded Order of Australia for community work, highest civilian award in Australia.

52. ▶ Indian Origin UAE businessman Firoz Merchant has been honoured with UAE’s prestigious Community Service Medal, after hespent over USD 4 million to help free prisoners languishing in jails due to non-payment of debts.

53. ▶ Indian Scientist Mahtab Bamji has been selected for Living Legend Award of International Union of Nutritional Sciences ((IUNS), to be presented at its General Assembly to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

▶ IUNS Council presents Living Legend Awards to individuals of Adhering Bodies in good standing who are eighty (80) years or above.

54. ▶ Indian actor Priyanka Chopra has been honored with 2017 Mother Teresa Memorial Award for her support to social causes such as her recent visit to Syria where she met and interacted with refugee children. She is also UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador.

55. ▶ Indian short film *The School Bag* won Best Short Film Award at South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM). Directed by Dheeraj Jindal, it , tells a Peshawar (Pakistan) based story of relationship between a mother and her 7 year old son.

56. ▶ Indian-American Gitanjali Rao won 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge for inventing a quick, low-cost test to detect lead-contaminated water.
57. ▶ India's first operational Smart City and IFSC, Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City) won Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Services Excellence Award.
58. ▶ Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana has been crowned Miss International 2017 at an event held in Tokyo (Japan). She also won award for as best dressed contestant.
59. ▶ Infosys Cofounder N R Narayana Murthy and Mumbai-born scientist veena Sahajwalla have been conferred PLuS Alliance Prize. Murthy was chosen for Global Leadership while professor Sahajwalla was awarded for Research Innovation for her project.
60. ▶ Israeli Actress Natalie Portman has been awarded Israel's 2018 Genesis Prize (Also called Jewish Nobel Prize), for her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots.
61. ▶ Jaipur and Srinagar Airport won first and second rank in category of 2-5 million passengers in Airport Service Quality (ASQ)-Airport Council International (ACI) survey 2017. Jaipur Airport received award in same category in 2016 as well.
62. ▶ Jitesh Singh Deo from Lucknow (UP) is declared winner of 2017 Mr India pageant.
 - ▶ Footballer Prathamesh Maulingkar won Mr India Supranational title and will compete at Mr Supranational 2018.
63. ▶ Journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh, who was shot dead recently has been posthumously accorded with prestigious Anna Politkovskaya Award, instituted by Reach All Women (RAW) in War. Pakistani activist Gulalai Ismail is also honored for her fight against Islamic extremism.
64. ▶ Jurist Tahir Mahmood has been honored by N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award 2017 for his services to legal education.
65. ▶ Karnataka Bank won *Best Bank* award among small banks for use of technology for financial inclusion at 13th IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards 2016-17.
66. ▶ M K Sanu has been chosen for Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.
67. ▶ Madhu Chitkara has been honored by Himachal Pradesh Environment Leadership Award 2017 for promotion of environmental conservation and sustainable development measures.
68. ▶ Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat, IPS officer from Telangana has been conferred with 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Heroes Award by USA Government.
69. ▶ Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year Charity Gala Awards -
 - ▶ Sportsperson of the Year' - P V Sindhu (Badminton) and her coach P Gopichand received Coach of the Year award.
 - ▶ Living Legend of the Year - Milkha Singh.
 - ▶ Lifetime Achievement Award - Abhinav Bindra (2008 Beijing Olympics gold medallist and India's sole gold medal winner in individual events at Olympics)
70. ▶ Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced 2nd Edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017, beginning in 2016 with 15 Organizations / Individuals as winners. It includes cash prize of 5 lakh for enterprises and individuals and 10 lakhs for organizations and institutes. Winners are -
71. ▶ Miss South Korea Jenny Kim won title of Miss Supranational 2017 at an event in Poland.
72. ▶ Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2017, held in Las Vegas (USA)-
 - ▶ Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters of South Africa won the contest.
 - ▶ Shraddha Shashidhar represented India in this pageant.
73. ▶ Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria has been awarded International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to ensure rights of Syrian refugee children.
 - ▶ He has set up a school together with his family in a Lebanese refugee camp that currently provides 200 children with education.
74. ▶ NITI Aayog (in partnership with MyGov and United Nations) announced 12 winners of Women Transforming India Awards 2017. Winners are - Laxmi Agarwal (UP), Subasini Mistry (WB), Safeena Hussain (MH), Arunima Sinha (UP), Kamal Kumbhar (MH), Jamuna Tudu (JH), Rajlakshmi Borthakur (KN), Kiran Kanoji (HR), Harshini Kanhekar (MH), Shima Modak (Meghalaya), Sunita Kamble (MH), Kanika Tekriwal (MP).
75. ▶ NSE Entity India Index Services & Products (IISL) launched *Nifty SME Emerge Index* as a new Nifty Index to measure performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) listed on NSE's EMERGE platform (dedicated NSE platform for small companies).
 - ▶ Nifty SME Emerge Index represents about 62 % of full market capitalisation of all SMEs listed on EMERGE.
76. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) conferred *best performance award* for 2015-16 and 2016-17 to Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) for its work in credit-linking joint liability groups (JLGs).
77. ▶ Nicaraguan author Sergio Ramirez Mercado won 2017 Cervantes Prize, Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor.
78. ▶ Nobel Prize 2017 -

- ✎ Physics - Rainer Weiss (USA), Barry C. Barish (USA) and Kip Thorne (USA) for decisive contributions to LIGO detector and observation of gravitational waves.
 - ✎ Chemistry - Jacques Dubochet (Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Germany) and Richard Henderson (Scotland) for developing a technique to produce detailed images of life's complex molecular machinery.
 - ✎ Physiology / Medicine - American trio of Jeffrey C. Hall (USA), Michael Rosbash (USA) and Michael W. Young (USA) for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.
 - ✎ Literature - Kazuo Ishiguro (Japan).
 - ✎ Peace - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for its work to draw attention to catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.
 - ✎ Economic Sciences - Richard H. Thaler (USA) for his contributions to behavioral economics. It is also called Sveriges Riksbank Prize (Sveriges Riksbank is Sweden's central bank).
 - ✎ About Nobel Prize -
 - ✎ Established in 1895, in memory of Swedish inventor Alfred Bernhard Nobel.
 - ✎ Prize ceremonies take place annually in Stockholm (Sweden), except peace prize which is held in Oslo (Norway)
 - ✎ Each recipient received US\$1.1 Million.
 - ✎ Among total 835 recipients so far, 12 are Indians (5 Indian citizens and 7 of Indian origin or residency). Rabindranath Tagore was first Indian citizen to be awarded (1913) and Mother Teresa is the only woman in list (1979).
79. ▶ Noted Actor Sharmila Tagore received Lifetime Achievement Award by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi for her contribution in field of cinema.
 80. ▶ Noted Author Ruskin Bond presented with Lifetime Achievement Award by Chandigarh Literary Society during 5th Chandigarh Literature Festival.
 81. ▶ Noted Bengali poet Joy Goswami will be honored with 31st Moortidevi Award for 2017, for his poetry collection *Du Dondo Phowara Matro*. He is first Bengali poet to get this title.
 82. ▶ Noted British Indian Businessman Swraj Lord Paul (Chairman of Caparo Group) has been honoured with Life Time Achievement Award at the 2nd British Asian Achievers Awards organised by Jagatwani a Hindi weekly.
 83. ▶ Noted Hindi Litterateur Krishna Sobti has been honored with 53rd Jnanpith Award for 2017. She is 8th women to win this prestigious award.
 84. ▶ Noted Hindi writer Mamta Kalia is chosen for Vyas Samman 2017 for her novel "Dukkham Sukkham". She was selected by selection committee headed by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
 85. ▶ Noted Indian Multilingual Actor Mohan Joshi honoured with vishnudas Bhave award for his contribution to theatre. It is conferred with memory of Vishnudas Bhave, founder of Marathi theatre. It comprises a trophy, a citation and a cash prize worth Rs 25,000.
 86. ▶ Noted Indian-American Ajay Raju has been honoured with 3rd American Bazaar Philanthropy award for his philanthropic activities in USA.
 87. ▶ Noted Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honored by Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel *Hawthan*, that captures cultural lives of traditional potter community in Goa.
 88. ▶ Noted Malayalam Poet K Satchidanandan selected for 2017 Ezhuthachan Puraskaram award, Kerala government's highest literary honor.
 - ✎ It award is instituted in name of Ezhuthachan, known as father of Malayalam language. It carries cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.
 89. ▶ Noted Marathi filmmaker Sumitra Bhave will be honoured with Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Sanman, instituted by Kolhapur International Film Festival.
 90. ▶ Noted Novelist T D Radhakrishnan's is selected for 2017's Vayalar award.
 - ✎ Vayalar Award was instituted in 1977 by Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust in memory of Malayalam poet and lyricist Vayalar.
 91. ▶ Noted Scientist G. Satheesh Reddy has been conferred with National Design Award, for his significant contribution towards indigenous design and development of diversified missile systems, guided weapons and avionics technologies.
 92. ▶ Noted actor Sharada has been selected for 2017's Prem Nazir Award, was instituted by people of Chirayankeezhu (Nazir's hometown in Kerala).
 93. ▶ Noted actor and playwright Girish Karnad will be honoured with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2017. He will receive the award as a playwright.
 94. ▶ Noted journalist Manik Banerjee honored by *Life Time Achievement Award* by Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).
 95. ▶ Noted journalist Prabha Varma selected for Padma Prabha Puraskaram 2017, by Mathrubhumi daily.

96. ▶ Noted journalist T J S George chosen for first Kesari Media Award, instituted by Kesari Memorial Journalist Trust.
97. ▶ Noted lyricist Javed Akhtar will be honored with Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award 2017. He will receive INR 1 lakh and a memento.
98. ▶ Noted music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik and playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan have been selected for Madhya Pradesh government's prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award.
99. ▶ Noted writer Namita Gokhale received first Centenary National Award for Literature, conferred by Asam Sahitya Sabha.
100. ▶ Odia poet Rabi Singh is named as winner of Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman 2017 instituted by Odisha Sahitya Akademi.
101. ▶ Odisha Government granted Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence for the year 2016 to Digambar Behera of PGIMER (Chandigarh).
102. ▶ Outgoing President Pranab Mukherjee awarded IIM Bangalore (IIMB) for making management education accessible to all through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). IIMB is national coordinator for management education on government's Swayam platform and has completed five MOOCs on platform so far.
103. ▶ Portuguese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo won Ballon d'Or (title of best footballer of year) for a fifth time, to level Argentina's Lionel Messi haul.
104. ▶ Preethi Srinivasan has been presented with *Kalpna Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise*, for she braved a debilitate accident to support those suffering from spinal cord injuries like her.
105. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind Presented Pt. Ramnarayan Sharma National Ayurved Award 2008-2014 to Jodhpur University's former Vice Chancellor Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur.
106. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred 3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award on Professor Hiroshi Marui of Japan.
107. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave National award for senior citizens to Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Bindeshwar Pathak.
108. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.
109. ▶ Pune Based *Swayam Shikshan Prayog* has been awarded United Nations Development Programme's Equator Prize for devising an ecologically sustainable agriculture model to combat the adverse impacts of drought.

It has helped empower over 20,000 marginal women farmers and their families in Marathwada by helping them make informed decisions about agriculture and environment.

110. ▶ Pune-based NGO Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) that workes for women farmers, won 2017 UN Equator Prize.
111. ▶ Raghunandan Industries Private Limited has been awarded with Krishi Pragati Award 2017 by National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
112. ▶ Rajesh Nath (MD of VDMA India) has been conferred *Cross of the Order of Merit* (also known as Bundesverdienstkreuz or Federal Cross of Merit), highest civilian honour in Germany.
113. ▶ Reliance Foundation and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) received Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar. KVK was honored for its 'Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent' (IDCO) program.
114. ▶ Sahitya Akademi announced its annual awards 2017, recognising literary works of 24 writers in 24 different languages. Prize includes a cheque of Rs 1 lakh.

Awards will be conferred during a ceremony on 12 February 2018.

Awardees -

- English - Mamang Dai for *The Black Hill*.
- Hindi - Ramesh Kuntal Megh won for *Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar*
- Sanskrit - Niranjan Mishra for *Gangaputradanam*.
- Malayalam - KP Ramanunni for *Daivathinte Pusthakam*.
- Punjabi - Nachhattar for *Slow Down*.

Poets -

- Udaya Narayana Singh (Maithili)
- Shrikant Deshmukh (Marathi)
- Bhujanga Tudu (Santali)
- Inqulab (Tamil)
- Devipriya (Telugu).
- Inqulab (Tamil). Though His poet 's family refused to accept the award he received for his collections of poems *Kaandhal Naatka*

Short Stories -

- ✍ Shiv Mehta (Dogri)
- ✍ Autar Krishen Rahbar (Kashmiri)
- ✍ Gajanan Jog (Konkani)
- ✍ Gayatri Saraf (Odia)
- ✍ Baig Ehsas (Urdu).

✍ Literary Criticism -

- ✍ Ramesh Kuntal Megh (Hindi)
- ✍ TP Ashoka (Kannada)
- ✍ Urmi Ghanshyam Desai (Gujarati)
- ✍ Bina Hangkhim (Nepali)
- ✍ Neeraj Daiya (Rajasthani).

✍ Essay - Jagdish Lachhani (Sindhi)

✍ Play - Rajen Toijamba (Manipuri).

✍ Academy also announced theme for Sahitya Akademi's next edition of 'Festival of Letters' – '70 years of Indian Independence'.

115. ▶ Sikkim CM Pawan Chamling has been honoured by Grand Prix Award for his work in field of organic farming, During a ceremony at Germany's Lagau on the occasion of the One World Festival.
116. ▶ Singer K S Chitra is selected for 2017 'Harivarasanam' award, awarded by Kerala government for spreading spirit of secularism, equanimity and universal brotherhood.
117. ▶ Six diplomats including an Indian were felicitated with inaugural Diwali 'Power of One' award by UN, on occasion of first anniversary of issuance of a 'forever Diwali stamp' by USA Postal Services.

✍ Awardees Include India's Lakshmi Puri (Indian head of the UN Women)

✍ Others- Matthew Rycroft, Nawaf Salam, Maged Abdelaziz, Ion Botnaru, Yuriy Sergeyev.

118. ▶ South African Indian-origin researcher couple Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim honoured with prestigious US award for their contributions in field of HIV/AIDS Research.
119. ▶ Sports Ministry announced National Sports Awards 2017 have been announced. Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award an Arjuna Awards was headed by Justice C. K. Thakkar. Selection Committee for Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards was headed by Pullela Gopichand. Winners -

✍ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** - Winners receive a statuettes, certificate and cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakh. 2017 winners are -

- ✍ Para Athlete Devendra Singh Jhajharia
- ✍ Hockey Player Sardar Singh

✍ **Dronacharya Awards** - winners receive a statuettes, certificate and cash prize of Rs 5 lakh. 2017 winners -

- ✍ Athlete Late Dr. R. Gandhi
- ✍ Kabaddi Player Heera Nand Kataria
- ✍ Badminton Player G.S.S.V. Prasad (Lifetime)
- ✍ Boxing Player Brij Bhushan Mohanty (Lifetime)
- ✍ Hockey Player P.A. Raphel (Lifetime)
- ✍ Shooter Sanjoy Chakraverthy (Lifetime)
- ✍ Wrestler Roshan Lal (Lifetime)


✍ **Arjuna Awards** - Winners receive a statuettes, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 5 Lakh. 2017 winners are -

- ✍ Archer V.J. Surekha
- ✍ Athlete Khushbir Kaur
- ✍ Basketball Player Prasanthi Singh
- ✍ Boxer Sub. Laishram Debendro Singh
- ✍ Cricketer Harmantpreet Kaur
- ✍ Footballer Oinam Bembem Devi
- ✍ Golfer S.S.P. Chawrasia
- ✍ Hockey Player S.V. Sunil
- ✍ Kabaddi Player Jasvir Singh
- ✍ Shooter P.N. Prakash
- ✍ Table Tennis Player Amalraj
- ✍ Tennis Player Saketh Myneni
- ✍ Wrestler Satyawart Kadian
- ✍ Para Athlete Mariyappan
- ✍ Para Athlete Varun Singh Bhati

✍ **Dhyanchand Award** - Winners receive a statuettes, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh. 2017 winners are -

- 🏆 Athlete Bhupendra Singh
- 🏆 Football Player Syed Shahid Hakim
- 🏆 Hockey Player Sumarai Tete

120. ▶ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam bags Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2017 for his novel *The Story of a Brief Marriage*. Note that recently he also won \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2017 for the same novel.
121. ▶ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam's *The Story of a Brief Marriage* won \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2017, during Dhaka Literature Fest 2017 (Bangladesh).
122. ▶ Sri Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangam in Tamil Nadu won UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for cultural heritage conservation programme in Awards of Merit category, for its efforts for protecting and conserving cultural heritage.
123. ▶ Star Screen Awards 2017 Winners -
- 🏆 Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal)
 - 🏆 Best Actress: Konkona Sen Sharma (Lipstick Under My Burkha)
 - 🏆 Best Actor: Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
 - 🏆 Best Supporting Actor: Rajkummar Rao (Bareilly Ki Barfi)
 - 🏆 Best Supporting Actor (Female): Neha Dhupia (Tumhari Sulu)
 - 🏆 Best Music Director: Pritam (Dangal)
 - 🏆 Best Playback Singer: Arijit Singh (Raees - Zaalima and Jagga Jasoos)
 - 🏆 Best Playback Singer Female: Shashaa Tirupati (Kanha - Shubh Mangal Savdhaan)
124. ▶ Tata Literature Live Literary Awards (Mumbai) -
- 🏆 Non-fiction - Pankaj Mishra's 'Age of Anger: A History of the Present'.
 - 🏆 First Book – Prayaag Akbar's 'Leila' & Pranay Lal's 'Indica: A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent'
 - 🏆 Fiction – Easterine Kire's 'Son of the Thundercloud'
 - 🏆 Business Book of Year – YV Reddy's 'Advice and Dissent: My Life in Public Service'
 - 🏆 Publisher of the Year – Penguin Random House India
 - 🏆 Big Little Book Award – Nabaneeta Dev Sen
125. ▶ Tata Steel won Prime Minister's trophy for 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant' in country for years 2014-2015 and 2015- 16.
- 🏆 It is 3rd consecutive time that Tata Steel has won this award. Overall, company has been recognised as best integrated steel plant for 12 times and has won the PM's Trophy 10 times.
126. ▶ Telangana CM K Chandrashekhar Rao has been selected for coveted Agriculture Leadership Award 2017, by a Committee headed by agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan.
127. ▶ UK Govt. presented J.K. Rowling with a Companion of Honor award, as recognition of her services to literature and philanthropy. Rowling is creator of Fictional character *Harry Potter*.
128. ▶ US-based Marconi Society to honor 3 Indian Origin Person -
- 🏆 Google research scientist Ananda Theertha Suresh, by Paul Baran Young Scholar award for 2017. He has been honored for creating technology that makes search faster and easier even on low-end mobile devices with basic Internet.
 - 🏆 Thomas Kailath - Lifetime Achievement Award for his stellar contribution to modern communications.
 - 🏆 Arun Netravalli - Marconi Prize for his pioneering work in digital video technology used in mobile phones and television sets.
129. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced winners of 2017 International Literacy Prizes. These Prizes are divided into 2 categories - Confucius Prize (sponsored by China) and King Sejong Literacy Prize (sponsored by South Korea). All winners will each receive a medal, a certificate and USD 20000, on International Literacy Day on 8 September 2017.
- 🏆 Confucius Prize 2017 (recognises projects that benefit rural populations and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and women).
Winners are -
 - 🏆 AdulTICoProgram - Initiative of Secretariat of Information and Communications Technologies of Armenia (Colombia) for teaching digital competencies to seniors.
 - 🏆 Citizens Foundation (Pakistan) - For its Aagahi Literacy Programme for Women and Out-of-School Girls.
 - 🏆 FunDza (South Africa) - It launched a project to develop a culture of reading and writing for pleasure through an online platform.
 - 🏆 King Sejong Literacy Prize 2017 - Dedicated to mother-tongue literacy education. Winners -
 - 🏆 Centre for the Study of Learning & Performance (Concordia University (Canada)) - For its 'Using Educational Technology to Develop Essential Educational Competencies in Sub-Saharan Africa's project'.

 We Love Reading (Jordan) - It offers online read-aloud trainings for parents, mobilizes volunteers to read aloud in community spaces to children.

130. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO) announced winners of 2017 UNESCO Prize for Girl's and Women's Education. Each of 2 winner organisations received prize money of USD 50000. Winners are -
 -  Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities Centre in Greater Mekong Sub-Region (DEPDC/GMS) in Thailand - For its project *Education and Life Skills Training Programme to Help Stateless Children and Women Migrating from Shan State to Thailand*.
 -  Mini Academy of Science and Technology (MaCTec Peru) - For its project Mobile MaCTec Bus Labs/Mini Academy of Science and Technology.
131. ▶ United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is named as recipient of Harmony Foundation's Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2017 with 2017 theme *Compassion Beyond Borders*.
132. ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu honored film-maker S S Rajamouli (*Director of Famed Baahubali Series*) with prestigious ANR National Award for his contribution to Telugu film industry.
133. ▶ West Bengal Government conferred 2017's Mahanayak Samman 2017 to noted actress Shakuntala Barua. While, Prosenjit Chatterjee and Nusrat Jahan received Best Actor and Best Actress awards respectively.
134. ▶ Zannah Mustapha won annual Nansen Refugee Award for his *crucial mediating* role and efforts to help children affected by insurgency in Nigeria. His *Future Prowess Islamic Foundation School* provides free Islamic education to orphaned children.

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Books

1. ▶ Actor Amitabh Bachchan launched a book based on Indian cinema in - *Bollywood: The Films! The Songs! The Stars!*, co-authored by S.M.M. Ausaja, Karan Bali, Rajesh Devraj and Tanul Thakur.
2. ▶ Actress Deepika Padukone launched Hema Malini's biography *Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl* written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee.
3. ▶ Amit Bhardwaj launched his third e-book *Cryptocurrency for Beginners* after *Cryptocurrency Trading for Beginners* and *Cryptocurrency Mining for Beginners*.
4. ▶ Book *Bhartiya Kala Mein Salil Kridayen Evam Sadyahsnata Nayika* authored by Kshetrapal Gangwar and Sanjib Kumar Singh has been launched.
5. ▶ Book *Dalhousie...Through My Eyes*, authored by Kiran Chadha has been released.
6. ▶ Book *Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams* containing inspiring words of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has been released. It is co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John.
7. ▶ Book *Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives*, written by C. Raj Kumar has been released.
8. ▶ Book *How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century*, written by Shyam Saran has been launched.
9. ▶ Book *India: Priorities for the Future*, authored by Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan has been launched.
10. ▶ Book *Journey of Women Law Reforms and The Law Commission of India – Some Insights*, written by Pavan Sharma has been launched by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
11. ▶ Book *Narendra Damodardas Modi : The Making of a Legend*, authored by Sulabh International chief Bindeshwar Pathak has been released.
12. ▶ Book *President's Lady (Pranaber Preyosi)*, based on President Pranab Mukherjee's wife Late Smt. Suvra Mukherjee has been released. It has been written by Sangeeta Ghosh.
13. ▶ Book *The Shershah of Kargil*, is a biography of Kargil war hero Late Captain Vikram Batra has been released. It has been written by Deepak Surana.
14. ▶ Book *The Singing Tree* was launched by an international NGO Orbis India to spread awareness on preventing child blindness. Author of this book is Ken Youngstein.
15. ▶ Book *Unstoppable: My Life So Far*, authored by Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova has been Launched.
16. ▶ Book titled *A to Z of Financial Management in Autonomous Institutions*, authored by Rajat Bhargava and Deenanath Pathak has been released.
17. ▶ Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has written a book *I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric & Resolve*, explaining economic concepts and talks of issues like tolerance and connection between political freedom and prosperity
18. ▶ Indian Writer Ramendra Kumar has been felicitated (Honored) in Sri Lanka for his contribution to children's literature. His book *Dilemma and other stories* was also released on this occasion.
19. ▶ Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's first book *Hit Refresh* has been launched.

20. ▶ Noted Author Amish Tripathi's new Book *Immortal India* has been launched.
21. ▶ Noted lyricist Gulzar's debut novel in English named 'TWO' has been released. It examines status of refugees after Partition of India.
22. ▶ Poetry Collection Book *Poetry* written by Vikas Khanna has been launched.
23. ▶ Recently released book *The Golden House* by Noted Indian Writer Salman Rushdie is named as *New York Times Bestseller*.
24. ▶ Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched his biography *Trivendra Ek Zindaginama – Khairasain ka Sooraj*.

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Committees

1. ▶ 21-member Committee on corporate governance headed by Kotak Mahindra Bank Chief Uday Kotak submitted its report to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Recommendations Include -
 - ▶ Separation of roles - Roles of chairman and managing director at listed firms should be separated and chairmanship should be limited to only non-executive directors.
 - ▶ Minimum board strength - Should be increased to 6 members and at least one woman should be appointed as independent director.
 - ▶ Independent Directors - At least half of board members to be independent directors at listed companies.
 - ▶ Shareholder meeting and cash flow statement - Top 100 firms by market capitalisation should webcast shareholder meeting and all listed firms should have cash flow statement every six months.
 - ▶ Credit ratings - Updated list of all credit ratings obtained by the listed entity must be made available at one place, which would be very helpful for investors and other stakeholders.
 - ▶ Minimum remuneration - Independent directors must get minimum remuneration of Rs 5 lakh per annum and sitting fee of Rs 20,000-50,000 for each board meet.
 - ▶ Risk management and IT committee - Top-500 listed companies should have risk management committee of boards for cyber security.
2. ▶ 5 member committee headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash has been formed to select editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV).
3. ▶ A Committee led by Ved Prakash Mishra submitted its report regarding measures for upgrading healthcare infrastructure at major ports under PPP mode to provide world class health services, along with affordable medical and paramedical education.
4. ▶ A Parliamentary Committee has been formed to examine Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 in New Delhi. It has been chaired by Bhupender Yadav.
5. ▶ A Parliamentary Committee under B C Khanduri has been formed to examine operational preparedness of armed forces.
6. ▶ A committee headed by M Vinod Kumar (GST chief commissioner for Karnataka) started review of laws governing Goods and Services Tax (GST).
7. ▶ An Internal Committee has been formed by External Affairs Ministry to examine India-China relations. It will be headed by Shashi Tharoor and will primarily Focus on Doklam and Rohingya Muslims Issues.
8. ▶ An advisory committee of Securities and Exchange Board of India, headed by Jayanth R Varma will decide on proposal for extending stock market trading hours from 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m (starting 9 am).
9. ▶ Committee headed by T K Viswanathan submitted its report on review of on Section 66A of the IT Act. It was constituted after Supreme Court struck down controversial Section 66A of IT Act in 2015.
 - ▶ Section 66A of the IT Act deals with arrests of people for posting content deemed to be *allegedly objectionable* on Internet.
10. ▶ Committee under Justice B.N.Srikrishna submitted its report regarding measures to be undertaken for speedy resolution of commercial disputes and to make India an international hub of Arbitration and a Centre of robust ADR mechanism catering to international and domestic arbitration at par with international standards.
11. ▶ Delhi Government has set up a panel to look into the functioning of private hospitals and nursing homes, under Kirti Bhushan.
 - ▶ Delhi Government also constituted 'Fee Anomaly Committees' in each district to look into complaints of fee hike by private schools in state, on recommendations of Justice Duggal Committee.
12. ▶ Department of Science and Technology constituted a National Steering Committee to initiate a National Programme on “Scientific Validation and Research on Panchgavya” (SVAROP).
13. ▶ Expert committee headed by TK Viswanathan to deal with cybercrimes especially online hate speech submitted its report. Committee recommended appointing cybercrime coordinators in all states and establishing cybercrime cells in each district.
14. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi to monitor and resolve IT challenges faced in implementation of GST.

15. ▶ Finance Ministry constituted a task force Under Arbind Modi, to review Income Tax (IT) Act 1961 and draft new direct tax law in consonance with current economic needs. Task Force will draft appropriate Direct Tax Legislation keeping in view direct tax system prevalent in various countries, international best practices.
16. ▶ GST Council constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to make GST composition scheme more attractive, to be headed by Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
 - ▶ Committee will look to make GST Composition Scheme more attractive as only 15.50 lakh businesses out of total 98 lakh GST registered ones opted for composition scheme.
 - ▶ GoM will also revisit tax structure of different categories of restaurants in order to rationalise rates which is Currently 12% on non-AC restaurants and 18% on air-conditioned ones.
 - ▶ GST Composition scheme -
 - ▶ It is an alternative method of levy of tax designed for small taxpayers whose turnover is up to Rs 75 lakh (Rs 50 lakh in case of 8 north-eastern states and hilly state of Himachal Pradesh). Its aims to bring simplicity for small taxpayers as manufacturers have to pay 2% tax on their annual turnover and file returns quarterly. The tax rate is 5% for restaurant services and 1% for traders.
17. ▶ GST Council formed a Selection Committee under Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary (*Currently Pradeep Kumar Sinha*) to recommend eligible persons for appointment as Chairman and Members of National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAPA) under GST. NAPA ensures that full benefits of a reduction in tax on supply of goods or services flow to consumers.
18. ▶ Government appointed Committee on Haj Policy recommended phasing out Haj pilgrims' subsidy and allowing women devotees above 45 years to travel in a group of at least 4 without a male. Panel was headed by Afzal Amanullah.
19. ▶ Government constituted a high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER), under Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman in Niti Aayog (Rajiv Kumar Currently).
20. ▶ Government has set up a 14-member panel to identify and suggest ways to address issues faced in implementation of Insolvency Law, to be headed by Injeti Srinivas. Committee will take stock of implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
21. ▶ Government has set up a committee headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to address problem of stressed assets in India's power sector, which are around 5.9% of banking sector's total outstanding advances of 4.73 trillion.
22. ▶ Government has set up a committee tasked with simplification of GST returns filing, to make process convenient for businesses that have minimal transactions. It will be headed by GSTN Chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey.
23. ▶ Government reconstituted Multi-Agency Group (MAG) to investigate cases relating to recent 'Paradise Papers' data disclosure which is also probing Panama Papers leak. It will be led by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Sushil Chandra.
24. ▶ Home Ministry formed study group under Rina Mitra, to examine problems faced by people residing near International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir.
25. ▶ Insurance regulator IRDAI formed committee Under Pournima Gupte, to help in implementing new risk-based capital (RBC) regime.
 - ▶ RBC Committee was headed by Dilip C Chakraborty and it suggested that industry should move ahead with RBC to ensure that capital held by a company will take into account its overall risk profile, rather than current solvency regime.
 - ▶ New RBC Regime is expected to be implemented by March 2021.
26. ▶ Karnataka Government constituted a committee to study possibility of designing a separate state flag and providing it a statutory standing.
27. ▶ Law Ministry created a panel (Second National Judicial Pay Commission) to recommend new salary structure for 21000 judges of lower courts in India. It will be headed by Former SC judge PV Reddi and will submit its recommendations in early 2019.
28. ▶ Maharashtra State government formed a panel to study feasibility of merging financially weak District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) with Maharashtra State Cooperative (MSC) Bank, to be headed by Yashwant Thorat.
29. ▶ Maharashtra government has set up a committee headed by Sudhir Shrivastava (*Additional Chief Secretary (Home)*) to recommend ways to stop custodial deaths.
30. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry constituted a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for India's Economic Transformation, to be headed by V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras. Task force will explore possibilities to leverage AI for development across various fields.
31. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology constituted a Committee under Chairmanship of B N Srikrishna (Former SC Judge) to study and identify key data protection issues and recommend methods for addressing them as Protection of Data is expected to provide big boost to Digital economy of the country.
32. ▶ Nagaland Government constituted a committee (to be headed by Temjen Toy), to review Nagaland Municipal Act 2001 by consulting all tribal hohos and stakeholders for reviewing Municipal Act and submit its report.

33. ▶ National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has set up three member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in 8 states where their population is less than 50%. Committee will be led by George Kurien.
- ✎ Govt also formed a committee for consultation on matters pertaining to implementation of drug price control order (DPCO) including technicalities involved in pricing and new launches.
34. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog constituted Expert Task Force to provide major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar. It will give sector-specific recommendations in key employment sectors for policy interventions and suggest measures to enhance trade in services with high employment potential.
35. ▶ PM Narendra Modi reconstituted Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to assist on economic issues, with Bibek Debroy appointed as its chairman. EAC was defunct since former C Rangarajan resigned as its chairman.
36. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed a 5 member Committee headed by G Rohini to examine subcategorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), to ensure more backward among OBC communities can avail benefits of reservation.
37. ▶ RBI panel under Chandan Sinha recommended a list of commodities which can be hedged in overseas markets by all Indian residents (including gold, silver, zinc, tin, crude oil and its derivatives, coal, natural gas, tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa).
- ✎ Panel also recommended that domestic banks should be allowed to offer commodity hedging facility to their customers, on both Over The Counter (OTC) as well as international and domestic exchanges.
38. ▶ Rajya Sabha Committee headed by Vinay P Sahasrabudhe has recommended body wearable cameras for traffic policemen and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) officials enforcing Motor Vehicles Act, to reduce arbitrariness and corruption by enforcement officials.
39. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel on external benchmark rate for banks headed by Janak Raj submitted its report. Panel observed that several practices including violation of RBI guidelines, inflating of base rate and arbitrary adjustment of spreads are prevalent among major banks in India.
40. ▶ Reserve Bank of India appointed committee on Household Finance, headed by Tarun Ramdorai has suggested that banks must link their home loan rates to the RBI's repo rate (rate at which RBI lends to banks), instead of Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR), which banks follow now.
41. ▶ Reserve Bank of India constituted a 10-member High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India, which will suggest a roadmap for developing a transparent, comprehensive and near-real-time PCR for India. It will be Headed by YM Deosthalee.
42. ▶ SEBI formed a committee on *fair market conduct* that which will suggest measures for improving surveillance of the markets and strengthen rules for trades. It will be headed by T K Viswanathan and would suggest measures for improvement in PIT (Prohibition of Insider Trading) norms, PFTUP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) regulations.

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Days


1. ▶ Aug 07 - National Handloom Day. It was started by Indian Government in 2015. Aug 1 - 07, 2017 is also observed as World breastfeeding week with theme *Sustaining Breastfeeding Together*.
2. ▶ Aug 08, 2017 - 75th Anniversary of Quit India Movement.
 - ✎ Quit India Movement was a movement launched at Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by M K Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British Rule of India.
 - ✎ This year's Theme was *Sankalp Se Siddhi (Attainment through Resolve)*, aimed at New India Movement 2017-2022 that envisages an India free of Poverty, Corruption, Terrorism, Communalism, Casteism and Un-cleanliness.
3. ▶ Aug 09 - International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples.
4. ▶ Aug 10 - International Biodiesel Day (IBD), to create awareness about non fossil-fuels (Green Fuels).
5. ▶ Aug 12 - International Youth Day. 2017 theme is *Youth Building Peace*.
6. ▶ Aug 12 - World Elephant Day.
 - ✎ On this occasion, Ministry of Environment and Forest launched nationwide campaign Gaj Yatra to protect elephants.
7. ▶ Aug 15, 2017 - 71st Independence Day of India.
 - ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 112 Gallantry Awards to Defence Personnel, including 5 Kirti Chakras, 17 Shaurya Chakras, 85 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 3 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
 - ✎ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched live twitter wall for promoting 'Bharat Ke Veer' portal on the eve of 71st Independence Day.
 - ✎ PM Narendra Modi has launched a website to honour all gallantry award winners since Independence - <http://gallantryawards.gov.in>.
8. ▶ Aug 19 - World Honey Bee Day.
9. ▶ Aug 19 - World Humanitarian Day (WHD). 2017 theme is *#NotATarget*.

10. ▶ Aug 19 - World Photography Day.
11. ▶ Aug 20 - Sadbhavana Diwas (Harmony Day). It commemorates birth anniversary of Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
12. ▶ Aug 29 - National Sports day. It marks birthday of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
13. ▶ Aug 29 - United Nations (UN) International Day against Nuclear Tests, established by 64th UN GA in 2009.
14. ▶ Aug 30 - International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.
15. ▶ Aug 6 - Hiroshima Day. It marks dropping of Atomic Bomb On Japanese City of Hiroshima during second world war On Aug 06, 1945.
16. ▶ Dec 04, 2017 - 46th Indian Navy Day. On this day in 1971, Indian Navy carried out Operation Trident, which was a devastating attack on Pakistan's Naval Headquarters of Karachi.
17. ▶ Dec 1 - Formation day of Nagaland (Formed in 1963). It also marks beginning of 10 days Hornbill Premier festival of Nagaland. Dec 1 is also raising day of Paramilitary Force BSF (Border Security Force).
18. ▶ Dec 1 - World AIDS Day. 2017 Theme is Right to health.
 - 🔗 To increase Reach of Free ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) services provided by Government to People affected by HIV Virus, Government launched National Strategic Plan 2017-24 and Mission *SAMPARK*. It aims at eradicating HIV / AIDS completely by 2030.
19. ▶ Dec 10 - Human Rights Day. 2017 Theme is *Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity*.
20. ▶ Dec 11 - International Mountain Day. 2017 theme is *Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger and migration*.
21. ▶ Dec 12 - UN International Day of Neutrality. It was declared in Feb 2017 by UN after being recommended by Turkmenistan.
22. ▶ Dec 12 - Universal Health Coverage Day.
 - 🔗 On this Occasion, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched *LaQshya* Initiative and mHealth: Safe Delivery Application. Operational Guidelines for Obstetric High Dependency Units and Intensive Care Units were also released.
 - 🔗 *Laqshya* - A Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative It is safe delivery mobile application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral area.
 - 🔗 *mHealth* - Its a Safe Delivery Application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in peripheral areas.
23. ▶ Dec 14 - National Energy Conservation Day.
 - 🔗 On this Occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled interactive online portal, *ECO-NIWAS* (Energy Conservation – New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable homes) for increasing awareness to build sustainable and energy efficient homes in country.
24. ▶ Dec 16 is observed as Vijay Diwas, marking India's military victory over Pakistan in 1971 during Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.
25. ▶ Dec 18 - International Migrants Day. 2017 theme is *Safe Migration in a World on the Move*. Dec 18 is also observed as National Minority Rights Day in India. On This Occasion, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released International Migration Report 2017 -
 - 🔗 Approx 25 crore people are living in a country other than their country of birth, Increase of 49 % in number of migrants since 2000.
 - 🔗 India has largest Diaspora in with over 1.7 crore Indians living overseas. Russia, China, Bangladesh, Syria, Pakistan and Ukraine have large migrant populations living abroad, ranging from 6 to 11 million each.
 - 🔗 Largest number of international migrants reside in USA with over 2 crore international migrants in USA. Saudi Arabia, Germany and Russia are at next 4 places respectively.
26. ▶ Dec 2 - International Day for Abolition of Slavery. December 2 is also observed as computer literacy day.
27. ▶ Dec 20 - International Human Solidarity Day.
28. ▶ Dec 22 - National Mathematics Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of Noted Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. In 1918, he became a Fellow of Royal Society, becoming youngest person to achieve this feat.
29. ▶ Dec 23 - Kisan Diwas (Farmer's Day) in India, observed to mark birth anniversary of 5th prime minister of India - Chaudhary Charan Singh.
 - 🔗 He worked distincively for welfare of farmers, also he never visited Lok Sabha during his term as PM of India (28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980).
30. ▶ Dec 25 - Good Governance Day in India. It marks Birth Anniversary of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was announced by Central Govt. in 2014.
 - 🔗 On this occasion, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions launched electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS), as a step towards the ease of governance and is in lines with Government's goal of minimum government, maximum governance.
 - 🔗 On this occasion, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) launched 'Atal Jan Aahar Yojana' for poor people to provide them meal at Rs 10.
31. ▶ Dec 3 - Birth Annivwersary of first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

32. ▶ Dec 3 - International Day of Persons With Disabilities. 2017 Theme is *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all*.
- ▶ On this occasion, Telangana Government signed agreement with Vindhya E-Infomedia, to set up world's first Information and Technology (IT) Campus for differently-abled persons (divyangs), in capital Hyderabad.
 - ▶ On this occasion, Noted communication expert Sarvesh Kumar Tiwari is appointed as President of Para-Sports Foundation (PSF).
 - ▶ On this occasion, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched Deen Dayal Divyangajan Sahajya Scheme in Guwahati, Assam. Under which, every differently abled person in Assam would be entitled to a one-time grant of Rs 5000 for their treatment.
 - ▶ On this occasion, Disability Empowerment Awards was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind on this occasion in 14 categories to 52 individuals and institutions. Some important awards -
 - ▶ Best State in Promoting Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - Chhattisgarh
 - ▶ Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service - Madurai
 - ▶ Best Braille Press Award - Mumbai-based National Association for the Blind.
33. ▶ Dec 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.
34. ▶ Dec 5 - World Soil Day. 2017 theme is *Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground*.
35. ▶ Dec 7 - Indian Armed Forces Flag Day.
36. ▶ Dec 7 - International Civil Aviation Day. 2017 theme is *Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind*.
37. ▶ Dec 9 - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD). 2017 Theme is *United against corruption for development, peace and security*.
38. ▶ Disarmament Week celebrated every year from October 24-30, since United Nations founded it in 1978. Aim is to control usage of weapons of mass destruction.
39. ▶ July 1, 2017 - International Day of Cooperatives (First Saturday of July). 2017 Theme is *Co-operatives ensure no-one is left behind*.
40. ▶ July 11 - World Population Day. 2017 theme is *Family Planning- Empowering People, Developing Nations*.
41. ▶ July 15 - World Youth Skills Day. 2017 Theme is *Skills for All*.
42. ▶ July 17 - International Justice Day, marks 1998 Rome Statute that created International Criminal Court (ICC).
43. ▶ July 18 - Nelson Mandela Day. It Commemorates Legendary South African Reformer Nelson Mandela's birthday.
44. ▶ July 23 - Birth Anniverary of Legendary Freedom Fighters Bal Gangadhar Tilak & Chandra Shekhar Azad.
45. ▶ July 26, 2017 - 18th Kargil Vijay Diwas.
46. ▶ July 28 - World Hepatitis Day. 2017 theme is *Eliminate Hepatitis*.
- ▶ Punjab government signed MoU with Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), global diagnostic firm to help state diagnose and treat Hepatitis C patients.
47. ▶ July 29 - International Tiger Day (also *Global Tiger Day*). 2017's theme is *Fresh Ecology For Tigers' Protection*.
- ▶ India has 70 % of world's tigers with approx 2,226 tigers in India in 2014. There are 50 tiger reserves in India which are governed by *Project Tiger*, administered by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Karnataka has most tigers in India (approx 410), followed by Uttarakhand (approx 350).
48. ▶ July 30 - United Nations (UN) World Day against Trafficking in Persons. 2017 theme is *Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons*.
49. ▶ National Nutrition Week observed throughout country from Sep 1 - 7, 2017 with theme *Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health*.
50. ▶ Nov 01 - World Vegan Day.
51. ▶ Nov 10 - World Science Day for Peace and Development. 2017 theme is *Science for Global Understanding*.
52. ▶ Nov 11 - National Education Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, first education minister of independent India.
53. ▶ Nov 12 - Public Service Broadcasting Day. It marks first and last visit of MK Gandhi to studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. It is also observed as *World Pneumonia Day*.
54. ▶ Nov 16 - International Day of Tolerance.
55. ▶ Nov 16 - National Press Day in India.
56. ▶ Nov 16, 2017 - World Philosophy (Observed Every Year on 3rd Thursday of November).
57. ▶ Nov 17 - International Students Day.
58. ▶ Nov 19 - 100th Birth Anniversary of Former Indian PM Indira Gandhi. It is observed as National Integration Day. It is also observed as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.
59. ▶ Nov 19 - International Men's Day. 2017 theme is *Celebrate Men and Boys*.
60. ▶ Nov 19 - World Toilet Day. 2017 Theme is *Wastewater*.
- ▶ On this occasion, world's biggest toilet pot model unveiled at Marora, popularly known as *Trump village* in Haryana.
61. ▶ Nov 20 - UN Africa Industrialization Day.








62. ▶ Nov 20 - Universal Child Rights Day with 2017 theme *It's a #KidsTakeOver*.
📌 Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017) from 16th - 20th November, 2017.
63. ▶ Nov 21 - World Fisheries Day AND World Television Day.
64. ▶ Nov 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW). 2017 theme is *Leave no one behind: end violence against women and girls*.
65. ▶ Nov 26 - Constitution Day in India.
📌 It commemorates 26 November 1949, when the Constituent Assembly adopted Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
66. ▶ Nov 26 - National Law Day in India. a 2 day conference on National Law Day held in New Delhi.
67. ▶ Nov 29 - UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
68. ▶ Nov 5 - World Tsunami Awareness Day. 2017 theme is *Reduce the Number of Affected People*. First WTAD was observed across the world in 2016.
69. ▶ Nov 8 - International Day of Radiology (IDoR). 2017 theme is *Emergency Radiology*.
70. ▶ Nov 9 - Legal Service Day in India, started by Supreme Court in 1995 to offer help and support to weaker and poor group of sections of people.
71. ▶ Nov 9, 2017 - Government Observed this day as National Entrepreneurship Day.
📌 On this occasion, 2 MoUs signed between Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Atal Innovation Mission – Niti Ayog and Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University. Haryana Government also signed MoU with Vyakti Vikas Kendra (Art of Living Foundation) for helping jail inmates to improve their health and reduce physical and mental stress.
72. ▶ Oct 08, 2017 - 85th Indian Air Force Day.
📌 IAF on this occasion launched mobile health App named *MedWatch*. It has features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
73. ▶ Oct 1 - UN International Day of Older Persons. 2017 Theme is *Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society*.
74. ▶ Oct 1 - World Vegetarian Day. It initiates month of October as Vegetarian Awareness Month that ends on November 1 as World Vegan Day.
75. ▶ Oct 10 - World Mental Health Day. 2017 theme is *Mental health in the workplace*. Oct 10 is also observed as World Day against the Death Penalty.
76. ▶ Oct 11 - International Day of Girl Child. 2017 theme is *The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030*.
77. ▶ Oct 13 - International Day for Disaster Reduction. 2017 theme is *Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement*.
78. ▶ Oct 14 - World Standards day. 2017 theme is *Standards make cities smarter*.
79. ▶ Oct 15 - UN International Day of Rural Women.
80. ▶ Oct 15 - UN World Students Day. It Commemorates Birth Anniversary of Noted Indian Scientist and Former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He was known as Missile Man of India and honored with highest Indian Honor *Bharat Ratna* in 1997. UN declared this day in 2010.
81. ▶ Oct 16 - World Food Day. 2017 Theme is *Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development*
82. ▶ Oct 17 - International Day for Eradication of Poverty (IDEP). 2017 theme is *Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies*.
83. ▶ Oct 17 - World Sawfish Day. Scientists announced that sawfish, sighted off Indian coast less than 10 times in over a decade appears to be more threatened than tigers and elephants.
84. ▶ Oct 2 - Birth Anniversary of Noted Leader Lal Bahadur Shastri (2nd Prime Minister of India). He gave famous slogan *Jai Jawaan Jai Kisaan*.
85. ▶ Oct 2 - International Day of Non-Violence, on occasion of Birth Anniversary of M K Gandhi (also referred as Gandhi Jayanti). UN approved this day in 2007.
📌 Andhra Pradesh Government launched Swachh Andhra Mission on this occasion, with Badminton Player PV Sindhu as brand ambassador.
📌 On this occasion, Nepali version of MK Gandhi's autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* released in Kathmandu, translated by Shekhar Giri.
📌 On This occasion, Bihar government launched drive against child marriage and dowry.
📌 On This occasion, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) was conferred with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award.
86. ▶ Oct 2, 2017 - UN World Habitat day (First Monday of October every year). 2017 theme was *Housing Policies: Affordable Homes*.

87. ▶ Oct 20 - UN World Statistics Day. Theme for 2017 is *Better Data, Better Lives*.
88. ▶ Oct 21 - National Police Commemoration Day.
 On This Occasion, Uttar Pradesh Government announced to double ex-gratia amount for police officials martyred on duty. Now this amount becomes INR 40 lakh, compared to INR 20 lakh earlier.
89. ▶ Oct 22 - International Stuttering Awareness Day. 2017 Theme is *A World That Understands Stuttering*.
90. ▶ Oct 24 - First International Day of Diplomats celebrated in Brasilia (Brazil). Diplomats of Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey participated in Event, to recognise hard work and sacrifices of diplomats and their families.
91. ▶ Oct 24 - United Nations Day, started in 1948. Oct 24 is Raising Day of Indian Paramilitary Force ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police).
92. ▶ Oct 24 - World Development Information Day (WDID).
93. ▶ Oct 24 - World Polio day.
94. ▶ Oct 27 - Infantry Day. It commemorate sacrifices made by infantry who fought against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947. This was first infantry action by Indian Army after independence.
95. ▶ Oct 27- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. 2017 Theme is *Discover, remember and share*.
96. ▶ Oct 28 - International Animation Day.
97. ▶ Oct 31 - World Cities Day. 2017 theme is *Innovative Governance, Open Cities*. General theme of World Cities Day is *Better City, Better Life*.
98. ▶ Oct 31 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). Observed to commemorate birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel who played important role in unifying India pre-independence.
99. ▶ Oct 4 - World Animal Day.
100. ▶ Oct 5 - World Teachers' Day. It commemorates signing of 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. 2017 theme is *Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers*.
101. ▶ Oct 9 - World Post Day.
102. ▶ Sep 02 - World Coconut Day.
103. ▶ Sep 12 - UN International Day for South-South Cooperation.
104. ▶ Sep 14 - Hindi Day. On this day in 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script was accepted as official language of India.
105. ▶ Sep 15 - Engineer's Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of Noted Indian Engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya.
106. ▶ Sep 15 - International Day of Democracy. 2017 theme is *democracy and conflict prevention*.
107. ▶ Sep 16 - International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer (World Ozone Day). 2017 theme is *Caring for all life under the sun*. Sep 16 is also known as International Coastal Cleanup day.
108. ▶ Sep 21 - International Day of Peace. 2017 theme is *Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All*.
109. ▶ Sep 26 - International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. So far, 50 Nations have signed a recent UN Treaty putting complete ban on nuclear weapons.
110. ▶ Sep 27 - World Tourism Day with 2017 Theme is *sustainable tourism – a tool for development*.
 Cab aggregator Ola started a tourism promotion campaign in Karnataka State. with theme *GhoomoResponsibly*.
 Madhya Pradesh won *Best Tourism State* national award for 3rd consecutive year at National Tourism Awards. The state bagged total 10 awards, including national award as Best Film Promotion Friendly State/Union Territory.
 Event also saw launch of 'Incredible India 2.0 campaign' and 'Adopt a Heritage' project and new Incredible India website.
111. ▶ Sep 28 - International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). UNESCO hosted Conference under theme *Overcoming Divides and Achieving the SDGs in Africa* in Balaclava (Mauritius).
112. ▶ Sep 28 - World Maritime Day. 2017 theme is *Connecting Ships, Ports and People*.
113. ▶ Sep 28 - World Rabies Day. 2017 theme is *Rabies: Zero by 30*.
114. ▶ Sep 30 - International Translation Day. 2017 theme is *Translation and Diversity*.
115. ▶ Sep 5 - International Charity Day.
116. ▶ Sep 5 - National Teachers Day in India. It marks Birth Anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, first Vice President of India (1952 - 1962) and 2nd President of India (1962 - 1967).
 Vice President Venkaiah Naidu gave away National awards for teachers on Teachers day Function, honoring total 219 teachers.
 He also launched DIKSHA, a national digital infrastructure for teachers. Web - diksha.gov.in.
 Environment Ministry launched environment awareness initiative, under which an online environmental quiz competition named *Prakriti Khoj* will be conducted at national level. It aims to generate interest among school children about the science related to environment.
117. ▶ Sep 8 - International Literacy Day. 2017 theme announced by UNESCO is *Literacy in a digital world*.

 On this occasion, Government announced that *School Chalo Abhiyan* will be implemented in 2018, aimed at enrolling 80 lakh students.

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Defence

1. ▶ *FIPSPHYSIOCON 2017* - Conference on Human Physiology - VII Congress of Federation of Indian Physiological Societies (FIPS) and XXIX Annual Conference of Physiological Society of India (PSI) organised at University of Delhi.
2. ▶ Defence Ministry approved a proposal to procure six AH-64-E Apache attack helicopters along with weapons systems from American aerospace giant Boeing for Indian Army.
3. ▶ 13th edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017, joint military exercise between Indian and USA armies commenced in Washington (USA).
4. ▶ 12th India-Nepal joint military exercise - Surya Kiran XII held in Saljhandi (Nepal).
5. ▶ 14 day joint training exercise *PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017* between Indian and Kazakhstan Armies commenced at Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh)
6. ▶ 14 day long joint military exercise Maitree 2017 between Indian and Thailand Armies commenced in Himachal Pradesh.
7. ▶ 14-day long Combined India-UK Military exercise *Ajeya Warrior- 2017* began in Rajasthan.
8. ▶ 45 Member Contingent of Indian Air Force left for Israel to participate in exercise 'Blue Flag-17', onboard a C-130J special operations aircraft. Exercise will be conducted in First week of November 2017. This is first time the Indian Air Force is operating with Israeli AF in a multilateral exercise.
9. ▶ 5th India-Sri Lanka Joint Army Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 Organized in Pune.
10. ▶ 7th India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise SLINEX 2017 held near Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal.
11. ▶ 7th Joint Army exercise of Indian and Bangladeshi armies - *Sampriti 2017* began at Vairengte in Mizoram. It will last till Nov 18, 2017.
12. ▶ 8th India - Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 held in Belagavi (Karnataka).
13. ▶ Advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS, Developed Jointly by DRDO and Bharat Forge Limited of Kalyani Group) with special ammunition high explosive – base bleed (HE – BB) has set world record in terms of range by hitting targets at distance of 48 km during trial firings at Pokhran (Rajasthan).
14. ▶ Anil Ambani led *Reliance Defence and Engineering* changed its name to *Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNEL)*, in line with company's focus on building capabilities for Indian Navy and Coast Guard.
15. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved implementation of first phase of reforms pertaining to Indian Army based on recommendations of Lt Gen Shekatkar Committee. It aims to enhance combat capability and optimize defence expenditure of Indian Army by December 2019. It is first ever reform exercise to be undertaken in Indian Army since independence. Major reforms are -
 -  Redeployment and restructuring of approximately 57,000 posts of Army men.
 -  Optimisation of signals establishments - To include Radio Monitoring Companies, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.
 -  Restructuring of repair echelons in Army - To include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Station Workshops in field Army.
 -  Redeployment of Ordnance echelons - To include Vehicle Depots, Central Ordnance Depots and Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
 -  Other Reforms - Better utilization of Supply and Transport echelons and Animal Transport units, Closure of army postal establishments and military farms in peace locations and Improving efficiency of National Cadet Corps (NCC) etc.
16. ▶ Central Government has approved INR 32,000 crore five-year action programme for Indian Coast Guard to enhance its capability in maintaining vigil on coastal waters.
17. ▶ DRDO signed Rs.17,000 crore deal with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for producing advanced medium—range surface to air missile (MRSAM) system for Indian Army by 2020. The deal envisages developing 40 firing units and around 200 missiles.
 -  MR-SAM is land-based version of long range surface to air missile (LRSAM) of Indian Navy, with strike range of up to 70 km.
18. ▶ DRDO successfully test fired Made-In-India Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), capable of deceiving enemy radars making it difficult to be detected. It can strike within 30 KMs and will supplement medium-range surface-to-air missile Akash.
19. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accorded acceptance of necessity (AoN) for procurement 111 naval utility helicopters (NUHs) worth Rs 21,738 crore for Indian Navy.
 -  DAC is Defence Ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement. After DAC gives AoN, request for proposal can be issued to firms, seeking their bids.

20. ▶ Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) jointly developed by India and Israel, to Indian Navy.
21. ▶ Defence Ministry approved procurement of 260 Software Defined Radios (SDR) for Indian Navy at cost of 490 crores to ramp up surveillance on high seas, Developed by DRDO's Defence Electronics & Applications Laboratory (DEAL). These SDRs will be first batch of indigenously designed and developed software defined radio sets to be procured by any of three services.
22. ▶ Defence Ministry launched 'ARPAN Version 3.0' software for Defence Security Corp, developed by Tech Mahindra. It would simplify personal documentation and all issues related to DSC Personnel's progression.
23. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched ut Muntra (Mission UNmanned TRAcked) as India's first unmanned, remotely operated tank at its Chennai lab. It has been launched in 3 variants - Muntra-S, Muntra-M and Muntra-N for surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and biological threats.
24. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested India's first indigenously developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile - *NIRBHAY*. It has operational range of 1000 - 1500 KM.
25. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) test-fired 3rd generation Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) NAG. It has operational range of 500m to 4km (Land version) and 7-10km (when air-launched).
26. ▶ Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) conducted by Army's Andaman & Nicobar Command.
27. ▶ Exercise INDRA-2017, First ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces conducted in Eastern Military District of Russia.
28. ▶ First India-Myanmar Bilateral Military Exercise 2017 (IMBAX 2017) started at Umroi Joint Training Node in Meghalaya (6 days long).
29. ▶ IN LCU L52 ship has been Inducted into Indian Navy, as 2nd Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class vehicle to be inducted into Indian Navy.
30. ▶ INS Kalvari, first of 6 Scorpene-class submarines has been commissioned into Indian Navy, as a significant success for the Make in India initiative. Submarines are being indigenously built by Mazagaon Dockyard in Mumbai under Project 75 in collaboration with French industrial group DCNS.
31. ▶ INS Sukanya Arrived in Indonesia for participating in 30th CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and 3rd Joint Naval exercise between India and Indonesia.
32. ▶ INS Tarasa (T94), fourth and last ship in series of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) commissioned into Indian Navy.
33. ▶ India and Oman Navies completed 11th Joint exercise *Naseem Al Bahr* OR *Sea Breeze*.
34. ▶ India and Russia for first time will conduct Indra tri-services exercise (Indra 2017), involving their armies, navies and the air forces in October 2017 to further ramp up military ties.
35. ▶ India cancelled a \$500 million deal for procuring Spike ATGM (Anti-Tank Guided Missile) from Israel, keeping in view the fact that importing a foreign ATGM would negatively impact indigenous development of weapon system by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
36. ▶ India, Japan and USA navies completed 2017 MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise near Chennai in Bay of Bengal. This is 21st edition of Malabar naval exercise.
37. ▶ Indian Air Force successfully fired BrahMos air version anti shipping missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
 - ✍ BrahMos missile is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of more than 400 kms. IAF is first Air Force in world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category.
38. ▶ Indian Army approved huge procurement plans for infantry modernization at a cost of nearly Rs 40,000 crore to replace aging weapons. Under this, Approx 7 lakh rifles, 44,000 light machine guns (LMGs) and nearly 44,600 carbines will be procured.
39. ▶ Indian Army launched Integrated Quarter Master Package (IQMP) software application for automating various logistics related functions of an Army Unit, developed by Army Software Development Centre in association with TCS.
 - ✍ It will replace numerous legacy applications such as 'Vastra' and 'Quarter Master Package' and will automate all logistics functions of Indian Army at unit level.
 - ✍ IQMP willhelp in effective logistics management and decision making, assisting Indian Army units to be battle ready all time.
40. ▶ Indian Army launched an independent and fully-integrated Joint Training Node (JTN) at Umroi cantonment in Shillong, aimed at hosting foreign armies in joint military exercises. It is the first of its kind in eastern command and is different from other joint training centres in Belgaum, Varangte and Bakloh.
41. ▶ Indian Army organized Operation Sadbhavana for National Integration in Jammu & Kashmir and North East states respectively
42. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to raise 5 regiments of advanced Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM) with 60 Missiles. MRSAM air defence system can shoot down enemy missiles, aircraft at range of over 50 km. It is land-based variant of long-range surface-to-air missile (LRSAM) or Barak-8 naval air defence system.

43. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned two high-speed interceptor boats C-433 and C-434 boats. Interceptor boat V-409 has also been launched.
44. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaurya has been commissioned, fifth in series of six 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).
45. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship *Sujay* (6th (last) in series of 105m Offshore Patrol Vessels) has been commissioned.
46. ▶ Indian Coast Guard conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise *Clean Sea - 2017* at sea off Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
47. ▶ Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo (Japan).
48. ▶ Indian Navy signed contract with Tata Power SED under *Buy and Make* category, through which Tata Power SED will supply Portable Diver Detection Sonar (PDDS) for Indian Navy.
49. ▶ Indian Navy's second LCU (landing craft utility) Mark IV L52 ship built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) Kolkata has been launched. These vessels are designed for multipurpose amphibious operations carried out Indian Navy and Army to ensure maritime security of Andamans and Lakshadweep islands.
50. ▶ Indian Ocean Naval Symposium's (IONS) maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) will be held in November 2017 in Bay of Bengal under chairmanship of Bangladesh. IONS is a regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states launched by India in February 2008, which now has 35 members.
51. ▶ Indian and Japan Navies initiated an intensive air anti-submarine warfare exercise in Indian Ocean. It has P-8 I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti Submarine Warfare of Indian Navy and 2 P-3 Orion Anti Submarine Warfare aircraft of Japanese Navy.
52. ▶ India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition *Navika Sagar Parikrama* flagged off in Goa, onboard Sailing Vessel *INSV Tarini*. It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018.
53. ▶ India's first ingeniously built INS Kalavari submarine handed over to Indian Navy, built by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai. INS Kalavari is first of six Scorpion class submarines built in India under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks Limited with technology transfer from France's DCNS (Direction des Constructions Navales Services).
54. ▶ India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility (a 51:49 joint venture between Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems) inaugurated near Hyderabad (Telangana).
55. ▶ Indigenously developed Prithvi Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile has been successfully test-fired.
56. ▶ Indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan has been commissioned into Indian Navy.
 - ▶ It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs.
57. ▶ Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over offshore patrol vessel (OPV) *Vikram* to Indian Coast Guard. It is country's first-ever such defence vessel to be built in a private shipyard.
58. ▶ Ministry of Defence (MoD) will raise 3 new tri-service agencies - Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and a Special Operations Division. These will be headed by officers of rank of Major General (equivalent in Navy and Indian Air Force).
 - ▶ Defence Cyber Agency will work in close coordination with National Cyber Security Advisor and It will focus on non-civilian cyber issues, including safeguarding critical infrastructure. It will be have over 1,000 personnel.
 - ▶ Defence Space Agency will work closely with ISRO and DRDO for better utilisation and integration of space resources. It will have over 200 personnel.
 - ▶ Special Operations Division will have components of Special Forces of Army, Navy and IAF and will be trained together for various external contingencies.
59. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs launched full-fledged intelligence wing of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), paramilitary force that guards India's borders with Bhutan and Nepal. It will have 650 field and staff agents to gather actionable information. Intelligence wing of and Welfare and Rehabilitation Board App (WARB) was also launched.
60. ▶ Navy, the Air Force, Coast Guard Initiated *Operation Synergy* as a joint rescue mission to save fishermen stranded in seas after cyclone Ockhi, in Kerala.
61. ▶ New Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels Shachi and Shruti launched at Pipavav Shipyard in Gujarat. These are first set of warships that have been manufactured by a private defence sector entity - Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited.
62. ▶ Odisha and West Bengal held joint coast guard security exercise *Sagar Kavach*, to tighten existing coastal security mechanism.
63. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to Submarine Arm of Indian Navy.
 - ▶ President's Colour is highest honour which can be bestowed upon any military unit.
64. ▶ Six-member all-woman team of Indian Navy will set sail to circumnavigate globe on sailing vessel *INSV Tarini*, making it first-ever Indian circumnavigation of globe by an all-woman crew.

65. ▶ Surface to Air Missile AKASH has been tested successfully with indigenous radio frequency seeker.
 - ✍️ AKASH missile is being inducted into Army as Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) with range under 25 KM. This is first Surface to Air Missile with indigenous seeker that has been test fired.
66. ▶ USA will provide Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System(EMALS) technology to India for aircraft carriers. It will help to launch heavy combat planes from short runway of an aircraft carrier using electromagnetic force, instead of old steam-powered catapults.

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Economy

1. ▶ Finance Ministry imposed 18.95% countervailing duty (CVD) on certain Chinese flat steel products for 5 years to protect domestic players from cheap subsidised imports.
2. ▶ Fitch declared that Indian banks will need an additional capital of \$65 billion in order to satisfy all banking rules of global Basel III norms, by March 2019.
3. ▶ *IndiaFirst Life Insurance* launched India's first-ever micro-insurance plan 'insurance khata' for those in informal sector and agricultural labourers with seasonal incomes.
 - ✍️ It provides flexibility to pay premium in parts depending on periodicity of income, with minimum premium INR 500.
4. ▶ *Refining and Marketing - Asia* Report by credit rating agency Moody's -
 - ✍️ India will surpass China as the fastest-growing product market in Asia for petroleum consumption, growing at 6 % in 2018, as compared to 2.5-3 % Growth rate for China.
 - ✍️ In absolute terms, China will still account for nearly half of demand in region.
 - ✍️ China and India will be key growth engines within Asia Pacific region, representing over 80 % of sector's expected growth in 2018.
5. ▶ *Shubh Aarambh Home Loans* scheme has been launched by Axis Bank, which will see 12 equated monthly installments (EMIs) waived off (4 EMIs each after 4th, 8th and 12th year from the of disbursement) on regular repayments of loans of up to Rs 30 lakh.
6. ▶ India signed \$200 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank for Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project, to support Assam Government to facilitate agri-business investments and increase agriculture productivity and market access
7. ▶ ADB (Asian Development Bank) signed Loan deal worth \$200 Million with India's IndusInd Bank to provide loans for low income women in rural areas.
8. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank received Reserved Bank of India (RBI) approval to operate as Scheduled Commercial Bank.
 - ✍️ With this, AU SFB's has been included in 2nd Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act 1934. Now, it can do borrowing and lending with RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF).
9. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank signed MoU with Sahaj e-Village for providing its banking service in remote areas of India.
 - ✍️ Sahaj e-Village Limited is an entity of SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and works for bridging digital divide between urban and rural India under flagship of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of Central Government.
10. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to launch an INR 200 crore fund for providing loans to MSMEs. It will fund term loans in the 25 lakh to 2 crore ticket size.
11. ▶ Abu Dhabi Global Market (Abu Dhabi) and Yes Bank have signed MOU to boost cross-border exchange between United Arab Emirates and India. It will enable fintech innovators from Middle East region and India to apply into Yes FinTech programmes and ADGM's Regulatory Laboratory and will get to expand into each other's markets.
12. ▶ According to 2nd National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) State Investment Potential Index (N-SIPI 2017) report -
 - ✍️ Gujarat retained top position in list of 21 states and UTs with most investment potential, followed by Delhi and Andhra Pradesh.
13. ▶ According to Asian Development Bank, India will achieve GDP growth rate of 7.4 % in 2017-18 and 7.6 % in 2018-19.
14. ▶ According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Maruti Suzuki India is largest passenger cars exporter from India in first half (April-September) of ongoing fiscal with 57,300 units exported in period, followed by Volkswagen and Hyundai.
 - ✍️ Additionally, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) left past Bajaj Auto to become 2nd biggest bike seller in India during first half of ongoing fiscal. While Hero MotoCorp continues to top the list.
15. ▶ Aditya Birla Group will shut down its e-commerce site *Abof.com* by December 2017, amid strong competition in sector.
16. ▶ Agri service solutions provider Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM) tied up with HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank to provide collateral management services, to improve farmers' access to post-harvest credits at affordable interest rates and provide access to scientific storage facilities.
17. ▶ Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched Livestock Disease Forewarning –Mobile Application (LDF-Mobile App) developed by ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (Bengaluru).
 - ✍️ NIVEDI will use this app and Monthly Bulletin system to send out early warnings related to pertaining livestock diseases.

18. ▶ Air India received loan worth of Rs 1,500 crore from Bank of India to meet urgent working capital needs.
19. ▶ Airtel Business (part of Bharti Airtel) launched *GST Advantage* as a solution designed to enable small businesses and start-ups to file GST returns securely and seamlessly.
20. ▶ Airtel Payments Bank partnered with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to boost to enable 14,000 HPCL fuel stations to act as banking points for Airtel Payments Bank.
21. ▶ Airtel launched *Office-In-a-Box* for start-ups registered under Karnataka government's Start-Up Cell initiative.
22. ▶ Allahabad Bank signed agreement with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing NESL's Information Utility Services envisaged under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
 - ▶ Government owned NeSL is first Information Utility entity registered by Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India under IBBI (IU) Regulations 2017.
23. ▶ Andhra Bank launched a new scheme for self-help groups (SHGs) to encourage entrepreneurship, named *Pattabhi Sitaramayya – Self Business Group (PS-SBG)*. Under this, SHGs having five years of association with Andhra Bank and having successfully completed 3 credit rotations with good repayment record, will be eligible for a loan.
24. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU with Mastercard to pave way for digital financial transactions in a secure environment.
25. ▶ As Per Govt Data, GDP Growth Rate for 2nd quarter (July-September) Q2 of 2017-18 remained 6.3 %, as compared to 5.7% in First quarter of FY 2017-18.
26. ▶ As per Data, Direct Tax Collections in first half (April-September) of FY 2017-18 shows growth of 15.8 % over previous year with net direct tax collections at 3.86 lakh crore rupees. These collections are 39.4 % of total budget estimates of Direct Taxes for FY 2017-18.
27. ▶ As per Morgan Stanley, India will be world's fastest-growing large economy by 2026-27 with digitisation providing enhancement of 50-75 bps to GDP growth. India will grow to a 6-trillion-dollar economy and achieve upper-middle income status by 2026-27.
28. ▶ As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report of Return of SBN (Specified Bank Notes), 99 % of demonetised notes (Worth INR 15.28 lakh crores) have been returned to bank. Value of Specified Bank Notes (SBNs). Approx INR 16000 crores worth of demonetised notes have not come back to RBI so far.
29. ▶ As per a world bank report -
 - ▶ India will maintain its place as top remittances receiving nation with overseas Indians sending in USD 65 billion in 2017, compared to 62.7 Billion USD in 2016.
 - ▶ Other top 5 remittances receiving countries after India - China (USD 61 billion), Philippines (USD 33 billion), Mexico (USD 31 billion), and Nigeria (USD 22 billion).
30. ▶ As per report, SBI accounts for over 27 % of total amount owed to public sector banks by wilful defaulters, with 1,762 wilful defaulters owing SBI INR 25,104 crore. Punjab National Bank (PNB) is 2nd with 1,120 wilful defaulters Owing INR 12,278 crores.
31. ▶ As per survey by Brand Finance, State Bank of India (SBI) is India's most trusted and popular bank, followed by HDFC Bank and Central Bank of India. On popularity charts, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank take 2nd and 3rd spots respectively.
32. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced to increase annual funding to India to up to \$4 billion from existing \$2.7 billion from next year to accelerate inclusive economic transformation. India is largest recipient of ADB Loans and will get about \$20 billion over next 5 years.
 - ▶ ADB approves \$500 mn loan under *Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme* to improve Over 12000 KM rural roads in West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
33. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved loan of \$80 million (about Rs 524 crore) for modernization of Himachal Pradesh's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.
34. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved loan of USD 346 million to fund highway upgradation project in Karnataka, to improve 419 km of state highways by upgrading it to two and four-lane highways.
35. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will increase its annual lending to India to maximum of \$4 billion between 2018 and 2022, much higher than average \$2.65 billion a year in loans extended during 2012 and 2016.
36. ▶ Asian Development Bank approved \$583 million for developing Reliance Bangladesh Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Power Project, including loans and partial risk guarantees for power project being set up for \$1 billion.
37. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) will co-finance a USD 100-million loan for boosting power sector in India.
38. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 335 million loan for an Bangalore Metro Rail Project – Reach 6 (R6).
 - ▶ India Became 1st Nation where AIIB has approved 1 Billion USD of Financing.
39. ▶ Axis Bank acquired digital payment platform FreeCharge in an all-cash deal valued at INR 385 Crores.
 - ▶ Freecharge was founded in 2010 and was sold to Snapdeal in 2015 for USD 400 Million.

40. ▶ Axis Bank has entered into a collaboration with Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) to facilitate trade with Latin America and Caribbean. Axis Bank became first Indian bank to participate in the Trade Finance Facilitation Programme as a confirming bank.
41. ▶ Axis Bank launched an instant international payment services using Ripple's enterprise blockchain technology solution for its customers.
 - ▶ Though an international offer, Axis Bank is offering facility only to its retail customers in country to receive payments from UAE-based Rak Bank and for its corporate customers to receive payments from Standard Chartered (Singapore).
42. ▶ Axis Bank subsidiary *Axis Securities* became first broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange by registering itself with NCDEX.
43. ▶ BNP Paribas Securities Services teamed up with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to deliver an innovative blockchain based platform named *Corporate Event Connect*. It will provide fast, accurate and secure corporate event announcements to clients around world.
44. ▶ BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) launched BEST (BSE Electronic Smart Trader) as an advanced hosted trading solution built on Thomson Reuters Omnesys NEST platform. It will facilitate smooth trading for BSE customers across multiple exchanges, including BSE, NSE, MCX and NCDEX for a wide range of investment categories like equity, equity derivatives, bonds etc.
45. ▶ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched *Pro-fit* platform that will act as a one-stop solution to all health-record tracking needs of customers.
46. ▶ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company started adoption of digital branch services through its offering *Mosambee*, to add depth to its service offerings.
47. ▶ Bajaj Finance picked 10.83 % stake in Mobile wallet Firm *MobiKwik* for approx Rs 225 crore. Aim is to offer Bajaj Finance's lending (purchase finance, credit card, mortgage loans and personal loans) and insurance products through *MobiKwik* app.
48. ▶ Bandhan Bank appointed *Goldman Sachs*, JPMorgan Chase, Axis Bank, JM Financial and Kotak Mahindra Bank as lead managers to manage its proposed initial public offering (IPO). Bandhan Bank will look to raise INR 5000 crores by IPO in 2018.
49. ▶ 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. BoB's digital Supply Chain Finance solution has been designed to ensure faster approvals, smoother transaction processing and availability of finance to the Small and Medium Enterprises.
50. ▶ Bank of Baroda signed MoU with POORTI (*Platform for Online Ordering and Rural Transformation of India*) Agri Services to help farmers buy agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers and pesticides. POORTI is a platform for buyers and sellers of agricultural inputs.
51. ▶ Bank of Baroda signed agreement with Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D) for extending various banking services to Government e-Marketplace (GeM). e-GeM is an initiative intended to bring transparency and efficiency in public procurements.
52. ▶ Banking Digital Innovation firm Aurionpro Solutions launched its Branch-in-a-Box product, the Virtual Teller Machine (VTM) as a fully integrated self-service kiosk for automating 90% of banking transactions at branch level.
53. ▶ Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2017 presented in Lok Sabha, seeking to amend Banking Regulation Act 1949 and replace Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance 2017. It authorises RBI to -
 - ▶ Direct banking companies to resolve the problem of stressed assets and Initiate insolvency resolution process on specific stressed assets.
 - ▶ Issue other directions for resolution, appoint or approve authorities or committees to advise banking companies for stressed asset resolution. Recovery proceedings will be carried out under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
54. ▶ Based on massive drive undertaken by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), around 2.24 lakh companies have been disqualified till date for remaining inactive for a period of two (2) years or more (Betwe FY 2013 - 14 to FY 2015-16).
55. ▶ Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) will become 8th Maharatna company, upgrading from its Navratna status.
 - ▶ *Maharatna* category for CPSEs was introduced in 2009, to empower them to expand their operations globally.
 - ▶ At present, there are 7 Maharatna companies — Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Coal India (CIL), GAIL (India), Indian Oil Corporation, NTPC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Steel Authority of India (SAIL).
 - ▶ Criteria for grant of Maharatna status Include annual turnover of Over INR 25000 crores, annual net worth of Over 15000 crores and annual net profit after tax of Over 5000 crores, during last 3 years.
56. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) launched *bespoke mobile wallet* to enable its existing 10 crore customers to make Bill payments, developed by *Mobikwik* on behalf of BSNL.
57. ▶ Bharti Group Founder Sunil Bharti Mittal announced INR 7000 Donation for social causes, which includes setting up a university that will provide high quality professional education, preferably to socially and financially weaker sections of society.
58. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange's subsidiary, India International Exchange (India INX) received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on framework for listing of debt securities. Indian and foreign issuers will now be able to issue Eurobonds, masala bonds and foreign currency bonds from India INX located at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) city in Gujarat.

59. ▶ Cab *Aggregator Ola* acquired food delivery firm Foodpanda's India business from its German parent Delivery Hero AG in an all-stock deal. Ols will further Infuse \$200 million in Foodpanda's India operations.
60. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Scheme of providing Budgetary Support under Goods and Service Tax (GST) Regime for eligible industrial units in Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States including Sikkim.
- ✎ Budgetary support of INR 27,413 crore for said Scheme has been approved for period from 1-7-2017 till 31-03-2027 for industrial units located in aforesaid States which availed benefit of Central Excise exemption prior to GST implementation.
61. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved implementation of Special Banking Arrangement (SBA) with SBI (State Bank of India) for INR 10000 crores for payment of outstanding claims on account of fertilizer subsidy in year 2016-17.
- ✎ Government is making available P&K fertilizers and Urea to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers and importers. For making funds available to fertilizer companies against subsidy claims, Finance Ministry approved SBA for amount of 10000 crores Government interest liability limited to G-Sec rate.
62. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved revision in price of ethanol under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) at INR 40.85 per litre.
63. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved closing of loss making Central PSU Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL), under Ministry of Railways.
64. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR)* for 2017-18 to 2019-20 with Financial allocation of INR 15,722 crores, aimed at making farming as a remunerative economic activity through strengthening farmer's effort and promoting agribusiness entrepreneurship.
- ✎ RKVY-RAFTAAR funds would be provided to the States as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States).
 - ✎ RKVY is continuing scheme from XI Five Year Plan and provides considerable flexibility and autonomy to states in planning and executing programmes for incentivizing investment in agriculture and allied sectors.
65. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved renaming Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).
- ✎ SAMPADA was approved in May 2017, to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.
 - ✎ PMKSY with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore is expected to handle 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing over 1 Lakh Crores INR, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate over 5 lakh employment by 2020.
66. ▶ Cabinet approved proposal of Finance Ministry to amend Schedule of Section 8 of GST (Compensation to a State) Act 2017, allowing GST Council to hike maximum rate of compensation cess levied from current cap of 15% to 20%.
- ✎ Final decision to increase compensation cess will be taken by GST Council. Hike in rate of compensation cess will be levied on SUVs, mid-sized, large and luxury cars.
67. ▶ Canara Bank launched 2 new digital services for online payments - payment settlement mechanism Bharat QR (Quick Response) and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
68. ▶ Canara Bank launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' named 'CANDI' in Bengaluru, to provide end-to-end digital experience to customers.
69. ▶ Canara Bank will raise \$400 million as part of its \$2 billion medium-term note programme, by issuing a benchmark dollar bond with tenor of 5 years. Bond sale will be drawn through London branch of Canara Bank and bonds will be listed on Singapore Stock Exchange. Rating agency Moody's assigned a Baa3 rating to the issue.
70. ▶ Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company (CHOICE) launched 'Point-of-Sale' product targeted at mass-market segment - *PoS - Easy Bima Plan*. It is first PoS product for company and is a pure term insurance plan.
71. ▶ Carmaker Maruti Suzuki became India's sixth most valued firm, crossing SBI with market capitalisation of INR 2.74 trillion, marginally ahead of SBI's 2.71 trillion.
- ✎ Reliance Industries is most valued company with market value of 5.8 trillion, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ITC and Hindustan Unilever.
72. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) extended deadline for linking of Aadhaar with PAN till 31 December 2017. Aadhaar - PAN linkage is mandated through Section 139 AA (2) of Income Tax Act 1961 which says that person having PAN as on 1 July 2017 and is eligible to obtain Aadhaar, must intimate his Aadhaar number to the tax authorities.
73. ▶ Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) doubled import duty on wheat to 20% from 10% to curb cheap shipments and give positive price signal to farmers in ongoing Rabi season. It also imposed import duty of 50% on peas to check cheaper shipments.

74. ▶ Central Government has removed income limit for incentive under 'Dr Ambedkar scheme for social Integration through inter caste marriage'.
- ▶ Scheme was launched in 2013 to provide monetary incentive to at least 500 inter-caste couples (where either the bride or the bridegroom is a Dalit) per year.
 - ▶ Previously, couples whose total annual income does not exceed Rs 5 lakh were eligible to get a one-time incentive of Rs 2.5 lakh from Government, to help them settle down in initial phase of their married life.
 - ▶ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has now removed max Income limit and now all Dalit couples are eligible for incentive under this scheme.
75. ▶ Central Government has set INR 10000 minimum balance in bank account as one of 21 parameters to assess poverty in gram panchayats under 'Mission Antyodaya', that aims to create 50000 poverty-free gram panchayats.
76. ▶ Central Government recognised Odisha as a 'Champion State' for exports recording highest growth in exports during 2016-17. Exports from Odisha during 2016-17 stood at Rs 40872 crores, marking growth of 114% from Rs 19082 crore in 2015-16.
77. ▶ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) will develop Integrity Index of 25 Government Organizations in line with its broader strategy and emphasis on preventive vigilance. Index will be for bench-marking internal processes and controls within organisation as well as management of relationships and expectations of outside stakeholders.
- ▶ CVC will observe vigilance awareness week from 30 October to 4 November 2017 with theme *My Vision Corruption Free India*.
78. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government reduced rate of interest on loan given to women and their self-help groups (SHGs) under 'Saksham Yojna' from 6.5 % to 5 %, operated by Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh.
79. ▶ Chhattisgarh government will merge all district cooperative central banks (DCCBs) of state into a single State Cooperative Bank, to serve farmers with better and efficient banking facilities.
80. ▶ China based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 329 million loan to build access roads to 4,000 villages in Gujarat.
81. ▶ China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 2 Billion loan (Rs. 13,000 crores) for 5 projects in Andhra Pradesh.
82. ▶ Commodity derivatives bourse Multi Commodity Exchange Ltd (MCX) received Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval to launch India's first gold options contract with bi-monthly duration. The option will also have existing gold kilo futures contract as its underlier.
83. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved merger of IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion. It now awaits approval from RBI, Stock exchanges, SEBI, and National Company Law Tribunal.
84. ▶ Consumer Affairs Ministry amended Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 (PCR), To benefit consumers and protect them from paying different prices at different locations. Rules will be known as Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules 2017.
- ▶ In accordance with new rules to come into effect from 1 January 2018, price of packed goods would no longer depend on where the product is purchased - A mall / five-star hotel / airport or a local Kirana store.
 - ▶ Retail sale price of any packed product will be Maximum Retail Price (MRP) inclusive of all taxes, with provision to round off price to nearest rupee or 50 paise.
 - ▶ New legal provision will make sure that no person is able to declare different MRPs on an identical pre-packed commodity, curbing possibility of any vendor charging differential prices for same product.
 - ▶ e-commerce marketplaces will ensure that declarations (except month and year of manufacturing) shall be displayed on digital and electronic network used for e-commerce transactions. It include companies like Grofers and BigBasket, who stock the inventory. Other e-Commerce entities like Amazon and Flipkart who do not own an inventory, responsibility of correctness of declarations will be of manufacturer / seller / dealer / importer.
85. ▶ Credit rating agency ICRA launched a new system for rating of infrastructure projects in association with India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), to focus on overall recovery of dues by investor and lender over lifecycle of project.
86. ▶ Dara Khosrowshahi has been appointed by Cab Aggregator Major Uber as its CEO.
87. ▶ Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and Asean Development Bank reviewed \$13.5 billion ADB Sponsered Project Portfolio in India -
- ▶ Works worth \$9.6 billion is ongoing and \$5.4 billion has been disbursed.
 - ▶ Best project implementation performance awards -
 - ▶ Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission and Distribution System Improvement Project
 - ▶ Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program (Tranche-1)
 - ▶ Uttarakhand Emergency Assistance Project.

88. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) (Commerce and Industry Ministry) will release a new industrial policy by October 2017, to replace National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) released in 2011.
- ✎ It will review existing foreign direct investment (FDI) policy regime to facilitate greater technology transfer. Policy will aim to attract \$100 billion of FDI in a year, up from \$60 billion in 2016-17.
 - ✎ DIPP has adopted consultative approach for formulating industrial policy by setting up six thematic focus groups - Manufacturing and MSME, Technology and Innovation, Infrastructure, Investment, Trade and Fiscal Policy, Ease of Doing Business and Skills and Employability for Future.
89. ▶ Digital payments firm MobiKwik partnered with IRCTC to allow customers to book railway tickets using MobiKwik's payment gateway in IRCTC Rail connect app.
- ✎ Rukaiya Rangwala is recently Appointed as MobiKwik's Payment Gateway Business Head.
90. ▶ Digital wallet app Samsung Pay tied up with State Bank of India to store higher variants of SBI debit cards on app, turning Samsung smartphones into electronic card-holders and users can pay at point-of-sale (PoS) terminals with just a tap on cards stored in Samsung Pay.
91. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted scheduled commuter operator (SCO) permit to Air Deccan, enabling it to operate flights under regional air connectivity scheme UDAN.
92. ▶ E-commerce Firm *Myntra* launched its CSR initiative in association with Textile Ministry to work directly with weavers and elevate their economic stature and uplift handlooms Industry in India.
93. ▶ Eminent classical singer late Girija Devi will be honoured with Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement. She has Passed Away Recently.
94. ▶ Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India inked MoU with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to provide easy access to export finance for SMEs and merchant exporters of council.
95. ▶ European Securities & Markets Authority (ESMA) certified clearing arms of National Stock Exchange (named *National Securities Clearing Corporation Ltd*) and Bombay Stock Exchange (named *Indian Clearing Corporation Limited*) as qualified central counterparty (CCP).
- ✎ CCP is a corporate entity which guarantees the terms of a trade even if a buyer or seller defaults on the agreement.
 - ✎ As per Basel III framework, entities are subjected to lower capital requirement/charges while participating in capital markets through qualified central counterparty (CCP).
 - ✎ This certification will now enable European entities to have lower capital requirements to participate in Indian Capital Markets.
96. ▶ FINO Payments Bank commenced operations as a payments bank.
- ✎ FINO Payments Bank is 4th entity to start functioning as a Payments Bank in India, after Airtel, India Post and Paytm.
97. ▶ Federal Bank partnered with Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Exchange to leverage blockchain technology for cross-border remittances.
98. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched mandatory use of Public Finance Management System (PFMS) for all Central Sector Schemes, to ensure that benefits of Government Schemes reach directly to real beneficiaries. He stated that soon PFMS will become a Government wide Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS) as a comprehensive Payment, Receipt and Accounting System.
99. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley officially launched the *Paytm Payments Bank* as 4th Payments Bank in India, along with Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank. Features of Paytm Payments Bank Include -
- ✎ Money Transfer services such as IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, UPI are all free on Paytm Payments Bank.
 - ✎ Paytm Payments Bank offers free personalised RuPay digital debit card. A physical debit card can be provided on request.
 - ✎ Paytm Payments Bank offers interest of 4 % on savings, payable monthly.
 - ✎ Account holders will also be offered a free insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh in case of death or permanent disability.
100. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented 2nd volume of Economic Survey 2016-17 on last day of monsoon session of Parliament. It has been authored by Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian and his team. Key Highlights are -
- ✎ **Transparency of Rules Act (TORA)** has been proposed, to help citizens overcome an opaque mesh of complicated rules that often leads to corruption and endless litigation.
 - ✎ TORA is needed as At present due to opaque mesh of regulations prevalent in India make life of ordinary citizens (as well as businesses) difficult as it is not easy for ordinary citizens for them to navigate the multitude of rules, regulations, forms, taxes and procedures imposed by various tiers of government.
 - ✎ **Fiscal Developments -**
 - ✎ Fiscal Deficit -
 - ✎ Kept Under 3.5 % of GDP in 2016-17 and expected to decline to 3.2 % of GDP in 2017-2018. Fiscal deficit target of 3 % of GDP under FRBM framework is projected to be achieved in 2018-19.

- Reforms undertaken in Budget 2017-18 are Integration of Railway Budget with Union Budget, advancing of date of the Budget to February 1, elimination of the classification of expenditure into 'plan' and 'non-plan' etc. Introduction of Goods and Services Tax from July 01, 2017 has been most highlighted reform among all.

Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Energy -

- India ratified Paris Agreement on 2nd October 2016. India's actions for the post-2020 period are based on its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). NDC targets to lower the emissions intensity of GDP by 33 - 35 % by 2030 from 2005 levels, to increase share of non-fossil based power generation capacity to 40 % of installed electric power capacity(cumulative) by 2030, and to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 Gt CO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- India has ambitious targets of increasing renewable energy capacity to 175 GW by 2022. This includes 100 GW of solar, 60 GW of wind, 10 GW of biomass, and 5 GW of small hydro power capacity.
- A number of initiatives have been taken in the Indian financial sector also. In the renewable energy segment, bank loans of up to Rs.15 crore for solar-based power generators, biomass-based power generators, wind mills, micro-hydel plants, etc. will be considered part of Priority Sector Lending. External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms have been further liberalized so that green projects can tap this window for raising finance across the borders.

External Sector

- India's balance of payments improved in 2016-17, as a result of low and falling trade and current account deficits and moderate and rising capital inflows, resulting in further accretion of foreign exchange reserves.
- India's exports increased 12.3 % in 2016-17 and a marginal decline in imports by 1.0 % resulted in narrowing down of trade deficit to US\$ 112.4 billion (5 % of GDP) in 2016-17 as compared to US\$ 130.1 billion (6.2 % of GDP) in 2015-16.
- Current account deficit (CAD) narrowed down to 0.7 % of GDP in 2016-17 from 1.1 % of GDP in 2015-16
- Net capital inflows were slightly lower at US\$ 36.8 billion (1.6 % of GDP) in 2016-17 as compared to US\$ 40.1 billion (1.9 % of GDP) in the previous year, mainly due to fall in NRI deposits.
- Gross FDI inflows to India increased to US\$ 60.2 billion in 2016-17 from US\$ 55.6 billion in 2015-16. FDI equity inflow of 43.4 Billion USD in Financial Year 2016-17, which is highest ever FDI Equity inflows.
- Mauritius, Singapore and Japan have been top three source countries of FDI inflows to India contributing 36.2%, 20% and 10.8%, respectively, during 2016-17, according to survey.
- Among major economies running current account deficit, India is second largest foreign exchange reserve holder after Brazil with reserves at US\$ 386.4 billion as on 7th July, 2017.
- India's aggregate external debt stock at end-March 2017 stood at US\$ 471.9 billion registering a decline of US\$ 13.1 billion (2.7 %) over end-March 2016. Ratio of external debt to GDP fell to 20.2 % from 23.5 %.

Agriculture and Food Management - Several multi-dimensional Agricultural and Food Management Reforms Measures have been suggested -

Challenges Include -

- Small Operational Land Holdings - Average farm size in India is small and declining since 1970-71.
- Credit - Predominance of informal sources of credit for farmers is a concern. Moreover, there is regional disparity in the distribution of agricultural credit.
- Problems like Post - harvest losses, availability of quality planting material and lack of market access for horticultural produce of small farmers.

Reforms suggested -

- Price risks in agriculture and allied sectors - Strengthening and building marketing infrastructure along the entire value chain.
- Production risks - Share of irrigated area should be expanded by increasing the coverage of water saving irrigation systems like micro irrigation systems.
- To Increase productivity of crops, Standards should be set and enforced for better quality, pest and disease resistant seeds.
- Trade and domestic policy changes should be announced well before sowing and should stay till arrivals and procurement is over.
- Enhance women's involvement in the dairy projects.
- Formal and institutional credit should be provided in timely and affordable manner to small and marginal farmers.


Industry and Infrastructure -

- Industrial performance moderated from 8.8 % during 2015-16 to 5.6 % in 2016-17. Industrial growth as per Index of Industrial Production (IIP) new series of 2011-12 shows overall IIP growth at 5 % in 2016-17 as compared to 3.4 % last year. Index of Eight Core Industries growth during 2016-17 was 4.8 % as compared to 3.0 % in 2015-16.
- Steps taken by government have borne fruit since imports of Steel by India have declined by 36.2 % while exports have risen by 102 % in 2016-17. It has been helped by imposition of Minimum Import Price (MIP) to counter dumping of Steel into Indian markets.
- Apparel sector is a highly employment intensive industry especially for women. Government in June 2016 approved Rs.6,000 crore special package for textile & apparel sector.
- Indian Railways registered freight earnings at Rs.104339 crore (P), registering negative growth of 4.5 % over 2015-16 due to carrying larger volume of low fare freight in 2016-17. Passenger earnings were Rs.46280 crore (P) registered an increase of 4.5 % during 2016-17.
- Government launched the UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) for financial turnaround of power distribution companies in November 2015. 26 states and 1 UT which have joined UDAY scheme account for outstanding debt of Rs. 3.82 lakh Cr. So far, 15 states have issued UDAY bonds totaling Rs.2.09 lakh Cr. and DISCOMs have issued Bonds worth Rs. 0.23 lakh Cr.
- After introduction of UDAY, National average (all UDAY states) of AT&C loss has come down to 20.2 % in FY 2017 from 21.1 % in FY 2016.
- Under Smart Cities Mission, 57 projects worth Rs.941 crore have already been completed as of April 2017. An estimated additional 462 projects worth Rs.15307 crore are likely to be completed through 2018.

101. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released National Trade Facilitation Action Plan that gives a time bound map for implementing WTO-Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and also includes India's initiatives for trade facilitation and ease of doing business which goes beyond TFA.
102. ▶ Finance Ministry Approved Granting Infrastructure status to *Logistics Sector*, in view of the fact that the logistics cost in India is very high compared to developed countries and it reduces competitiveness of Indian goods in domestic and export market. It will enable Logistics Sector to avail infrastructure lending at easier terms with enhanced limits, access to larger amounts of funds, longer tenor funds from insurance companies etc.
103. ▶ Finance Ministry allowed public sector banks and top 3 private banks (ICICI, HDFC and Axis) to accept deposits under various small savings schemes to encourage savings. Until now, most of small savings schemes were sold through post offices.
 - Now banks will sell National Savings Time Deposit Scheme 1981, National Savings (Monthly Income Account) Scheme 1987, National Savings Recurring Deposit Scheme 1981 and NSC VIII issue.
 - So far, these banks were allowed to receive subscription only under Public Provident Fund (PPF), Kisan Vikas Patra-2014, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme-2004.
104. ▶ Finance Ministry announced to launch *Project Insight* from October 2017, to restrict black money holdings and transactions.
 - Project Insight has been developed by L&T Infotech Ltd and costs approx \$156 Million USD.
 - It will observe and check high value transactions and track tax evaders with the help of technology to restrict black money holdings.
 - It will also check social media posts and activity of people, to determine tax evasion practices.
105. ▶ Finance Ministry approved post of 4th Whole time member in Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI's), whose need was being felt due to increased workload post merger of Forward Markets Commission (FMC) with SEBI in 2015.
 - SEBI board comprises a chairman (Ajay Tyagi Currently), 1 member each from RBI, Finance Ministry and corporate affairs Ministry.
 - SEBI's Current 3 whole time members - Madhabi Puri Buch, G Mahalingam and Sanjeev Kaushik.
106. ▶ Finance Ministry extended deadline for linking Aadhaar number with PAN card till 31-03-2018.
107. ▶ Finance Ministry imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel wire rods from China for a period of five years.
108. ▶ Finance Ministry reduced interest rates on Small Saving Schemes for January -March 2018 quarter by 20 basis points (0.2%) as compared to October- December 2017 quarter. New interest rates for January -March 2018 quarter are -

Small Savings Scheme	Annual Interest Rate
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.6%
National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.6%
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.3% (11 months maturity)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account	8.1%
5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme	8.3% (Unchanged from previous quarter)
Savings Deposit	4.0% (Unchanged from previous quarter)
Term Deposits (1-5 year maturity)	6.6% to 7.4%
5-year Recurring Deposit	6.9%


109. ▶ Finance Ministry will launch *Project Insight* in October 2017 to monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders using technology, in partnership with IT Major Infotech. Linking of Aadhaar and PAN will be key mechanism in this project.
110. ▶ Financial services firm JM Financial received approval from National Housing Bank (NHB) for carrying out housing finance activities through its subsidiary JM Financial Home Loans.
111. ▶ Fincare Small Finance Bank (previously *Disha Microfin Limited*) started its banking operations with branches across Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
112. ▶ Fino Payments Bank signed agreement with Rajasthan government's RajCOMP as its corporate business correspondent and will offer banking services to people across state. Now, 55000 e-Mitra points of RajCOMP across Rajasthan will act as banking points of Fino Payments Bank.
113. ▶ First Small Finance Bank in North East India commenced operations with name RGVN (North East) Microfinance Limited. It is based in Guwahati. In April 2017, it received final licence from RBI under Banking Regulation Act 1949 to carry on business as a small finance bank.
114. ▶ From January 1 2018, farmers in Telangana will get 24-hour free power supply, making Telangana first state to do so. Power utilities in Telangana have spent Rs 12610 crore in setting up new power lines, transformers and sub-stations for this purpose.
115. ▶ GDP Growth Rate Forecasts -
- ▶ Japanese financial services company Nomura stated that India's GDP growth will be around 7.1 % in 2017-18.
 - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted 7 % for India in 2017 - 18 and 7.4 % in 2018 - 19.
 - ▶ OECD (Paris based think tank) announced that Indian economy will grow at 6.7 % in 2017-2018.
 - ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) trimmed India's growth forecast for 2017-18 to 6.7% from 7.2 earlier. Forecast for 2018-19 is 7.4 %.
 - ▶ World Bank reduced India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier.
 - ▶ NITI Aayog expects GDP to grow at 6.9-7 % in 2017-18 and 7.5% in 2018-19.
116. ▶ GDP Growth Rate Forecasts -
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 - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted 7 % for India in 2017 - 18 and 7.4 % in 2018 - 19.
 - ▶ OECD (Paris based think tank) announced that Indian economy will grow at 6.7 % in 2017-2018.
117. ▶ GST Council 23rd Meeting (Guwahati) -
- ▶ Under GST Composition Scheme - Annual turnover eligibility increased to 2 crore from 1 crore Presently, Making eligibility for composition increased to 1.5 Crore per annum.
 - ▶ Major Changes in GST Rates for several goods / services (213 Headings (*Items / Class of Items*)) -
 - ▶ 28 % to 18% - 178 Headings . Now Only 50 Headings are in 28 % Slab.
 - ▶ 28 % to 12% - 2 Headings
 - ▶ 18 to 12 % - 13 Headings
 - ▶ 18 % to 5 % - 6 Headings
 - ▶ 12 % to 5 % - 8 Headings
 - ▶ 5 % to 0 % - 6 Headings
118. ▶ GST Council reduced tax rates on 27 items Including dried mangoes, Khakhra, plain chapatis, unbranded Namkeen, unbranded ayurvedic medicines and paper wastes to (5 % from 12 %). Food packets used in ICDS scheme, plastic and rubber wastes will now be taxed at 5 % instead of 18.5. GST Council approved quarterly filing of returns for businesses with turnover up to 1.5 crore rupees and raised threshold for composition scheme from 75 lakh rupees to 1 crore rupees.
119. ▶ GST Network (GSTN) reopened registration for *composition scheme* for small taxpayers with turnover of up to Rs.75 lakh, that offers easy compliance for business as returns are to be filed only quarterly (not monthly).
120. ▶ Global Environment Facility (GEF) partnered with India's Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for project named *Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency*, as a result of India's efforts towards energy efficiency programmes.
- ▶ Project will receive a composite funding of \$454 million comprised of GEF grant of \$20 million and co-financing of \$434 million as loans. It includes a \$200 million loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 - ▶ EESL proposed Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF) for sustainable funding mechanism of energy efficiency projects in country.
 - ▶ It aims to mitigate 60 million tons of CO₂ that will enable a total direct energy savings of 38.3 million GJ by 2022 and 137.5 million GJ by 2032.
 - ▶ About GEF -

 Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on eve of 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle most pressing environmental problems.

 GEF is located in Washington (USA) with as Naoko Ishii as CEO and Chairperson.

121. ▶ Goods and Services Tax (GST) Came into Effect, bringing in *One Nation, One Indirect Tax*.

 GST simplified Indirect Taxes by abolishing set of Different Indirect Taxes at State and Central Level. Tax Slabs are - 0 %, 5%, 12 %, 18% AND 28%.

 We Created a Summary file for All recent events and Updates related to GST. It can be accessed **Here**.

122. ▶ Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) launched excel-based offline tool for businesses to file initial GSTR- 3B returns. Taxpayers can download the offline utility and upload on GST portal after filling. It will automate filing GSTR-3B Returns.


123. ▶ Goods and services tax (GST) collections exceeded revenue target for first month (July 2017) with INR 92,283 crores collections. Different Components (Approx) CGST - 15000 Crores, SGST - 23000 Crores, IGST - 47000 Crores, Cess - 7000 Crores.


124. ▶ Google acquired Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup Halli Labs for an undisclosed sum, founded by Pankaj Gupta in 2017 (4 months into operations).

125. ▶ Google launched mobile wallet and payments app *Tez* in India, that will let users link their phones to their bank accounts to pay for goods in physical stores and online, also enabling person to person money transfers.

126. ▶ Government extended Deadline for linking Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar extended by 4 months to 31st December, 2017.

127. ▶ Government Launched *Aaykar Setu* as a new tax payer service module, To enhance mobile access experience for Taxpayers.


 It is aimed at reducing physical interface between assesses and tax assessing authorities and thereby minimizing chances of any tax harassment.

 The module compiles various tax tools, live chat, dynamic updates, and important links to various processes within Income Tax Department in a single module.

128. ▶ Government announced Bank Recapitalisation Plan to infuse Rs. 2.11 lakh crore (\$32.4 billion) capital over next 2 years into public sector banks (PSBs) and prioritised financing support for MSMEs in 50 clusters.

 Capital infusion will be done to check widening losses of PSB Banks due to Rise in NPAs. NPAs of banks had more than doubled to Rs. 7.33 lakh crore in June 2017 from Rs. 2.75 lakh crore in March 2015.

 Under this plan, PSBs will get Rs 1.35 lakh crore from Recapitalisation Bonds, 18,000 crore from Budgetary and 58,000 through sale of share of banks.


 Government also constituted Alternative Mechanism Panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to oversee merger proposals of public sector banks (PSBs).


129. ▶ Government announced that subscribers to General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds shall get interest at rate of 7.8% with effect from 1st October, 2017 to 31st December, 2017.

130. ▶ Government announced to build 83,677km of roads, highways, greenfield expressways with investment of Rs.6.92 lakh core by 2022. It also includes first phase of new umbrella programme BharatMala Pariyojana that involves construction of 34,800 km highways by 2022.

 It was announced as part of INR 9 lakh crore package to Boost economy, that also includes 2.11 lakh crore for bank recapitalisation.


 Bharatmala -


 It will include economic corridors (9,000 km), inter-corridor and feeder route (6,000 km), national corridors efficiency improvement (5,000 km), border roads and international connectivity (2,000 km), coastal roads and port connectivity (2,000 km) and greenfield expressways (800 km).

 BharatMala project will be funded in three-pronged manner – market, private investment and asset recycling of NHAI's toll assets. Of total INR 5,35,000 crore, 2.09 lakh crore will be raised as debt from market, 1.06 lakh crore will be mobilised through public-private partnership (PPP) mode and 2.19 lakh crore will flow from accruals of Central Road Funds and toll collections.

131. ▶ Government approved 100% disinvestment through strategic sale of Central Electronics Limited (CEL), with net worth approx 50 crores.

132. ▶ Government approved Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) with outlay of Rs 10881 crore during 2017-18 to 2028-29.

 DIDF will be set up as a corpus of INR 8004 crores with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), INR 2001 crores shall be end borrowers contribution, Rs 12 crore would be NDDDB/NCDC's share and Rs 864 crore shall be contributed by DADF towards interest subvention.

 DIDF activities will include building efficient milk procurement system by setting up of chilling infrastructure & installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipment, creation/modernization/expansion of processing infrastructure.

- ▶ DIDF will be implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Dairy Development Cooperation (NCDC) through End Borrowers such as Milk Unions, State Dairy Federations, Multi-state Milk Cooperatives, Milk Producer Companies etc. End borrowers will get the loan @ 6.5% per annum with repayment period 10 years.
- ▶ With this, Approx 1 crore farmers in about 50,000 villages would be benefitted in form of Additional Milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre per day, milk drying capacity of 210 MT per day, milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre per day etc.
- ▶ 133. Government approved Labour Code on Wages Bill which will ensure a minimum wage across all sectors by integrating existing labour related laws. The Labour Code on Wages Bill consolidates the Minimum Wages Act 1948, Payment of Bonus Act 1965, Payment of Wages Act 1936 and Equal Remuneration Act 1976.
- ▶ 134. Government approved raising Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of upto Rs. 9020 crore during 2017-18 by NABARD through issuance of Bonds for ensuring lending at 6% per annum under borrowings for implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works of 99 ongoing prioritized irrigation projects under PMKSY.
 - ▶ Several irrigation projects taken up under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) were languishing due to inadequate provision of funds. To cater to large fund requirement and ensure completion of these projects, Government created Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) in NABARD with an initial corpus of Rs. 20,000 crore for funding of Central and State share for identified ongoing projects under PMKSY (AIBP and CAD).
 - ▶ To make loan from NABARD attractive for states, rate of interest was kept around 6% by providing requisite cost free funds to NABARD every year during 2016-17 to 2019-20 on which interest cost would be borne by Govt. of India.
- ▶ 135. Government approved revision of guidelines of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) Scheme, which is aimed at converting part of 300 tons of physical bars and coins purchased every year for Investment into 'demat' gold bonds. Mobilisation target was 15,000 crore in 2015-16 and at Rs.10,000 crore in 2016-17. But, amount credited so far in scheme's account is approx 4700 crores, triggering need for changes in guidelines.
 - ▶ Specific changes in attributes of scheme to make it more attractive, mobilise more and reduce economic strains caused by imports of gold and reduce Current Account Deficit (CAD).
 - ▶ Flexibility to design and introduce variants of SGBs has been given to Ministry of Finance.
 - ▶ Investment limit per fiscal year has been increased to 4 kg for individuals, 4 Kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 Kg for Trusts and similar entities.
- ▶ 136. Government approved selling government's entire 51.11% stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd to Oil and Natural Gas Corp.
 - ▶ Government is 51% owner of HPCL and 68% owner of ONGC. HPCL's addition will make ONGC third-largest refiner in country after IOC and Reliance Industries.
- ▶ 137. Government formulated National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (2017-20) as a detailed action plan with timelines for smooth implementation of WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Implementation of the plan has been divided into short term (0-6 months), medium term (6-18 months) and long term (18-36 months).
- ▶ 138. Government has launched Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 – Series-III, from October 09, 2017 to December 27, 2017.
 - ▶ Sovereign Gold Bonds were launched under sovereign gold bond scheme in November 2015, to reduce demand for physical gold and shift part of domestic savings, used for purchase of gold, into financial savings.
 - ▶ Features of Sovereign Gold Bonds -
 - ▶ Denomination in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof. Minimum investment in bonds is one gram. Maximum limit will be of 4 kg for individual and HUF (Hindu Undivided Family) and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities.
 - ▶ Issue price will be fixed in Rupees on basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association.
 - ▶ Interest rate will be 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually on nominal value.
 - ▶ Tenor will be 8 years with exit option from 5th year, that can exercised on the interest payment dates.
 - ▶ Bonds can be used as collateral for loans and will be also tradable on stock exchanges.
 - ▶ Capital gains tax on it has been exempted.
- ▶ 139. Government has set up Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management (DGARM) as a new wing to provide intelligence inputs taking action against tax evaders. It has been has been set up will be under the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC). DGARM was set up on 1 July 2017, coinciding with rollout of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ▶ 140. Government increased its stake IDBI to 77.79% by acquiring 3.81% shares through preferential allotment. Previously government owned 73.98% of IDBI Bank.
- ▶ 141. Government infused over Rs. 7500 crore equity capital in six stressed public sector banks (PSBs)-

Bank	Infused Amount

IDBI Bank	Rs. 2729 crore
Bank of India	Rs. 2257 crore
UCO Bank	Rs. 1375 crore
Bank of Maharashtra	Rs. 650 crore
Central Bank of India	Rs. 323 crore
Dena Bank	Rs. 243 crore

142. ▶ Government kept unchanged interest rates on small savings schemes for October-December quarter.
- ✎ Investments in Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme - 7.8 percent
 - ✎ Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) - 7.5 percent (matures in 115 months)
 - ✎ Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme - 8.3 percent annually.
 - ✎ 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme - 8.3 percent (interest paid quarterly)
143. ▶ Government launched Bharat 22 exchange traded fund (ETF) managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, targeting initial amount of INR 14500 crores (increased from 8000 Crores earlier). This ETF is open for subscription till 17 November and a discount of 3% is being offered to all investors.
- ✎ The fund aims to replicate S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index, which will invest in 22 stocks in CPSE universe, stakes held under Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), and state-run banks.
 - ✎ S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index
 - ✎ This index has stocks representation of 39 % Private and 61 % Government Firms in 6 sectors - Finance, Industry, Energy, Utilities, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) and Basic Materials. This index was launched in August 2017 and since then it has performed better than Sensex and NIFTY-50.
144. ▶ Government launched *GST Rates Finder* appn to verify accurate tax rate on commodity and services under Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.
145. ▶ Government launched a new Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) named *BHARAT 22*, consisting 22 stocks of CPSE's, PSB's & strategic holding of SUUTI.
- ✎ It is more diverse as Compared to energy heavy CPSE ETF, and has a Diversified portfolio with 6 sectors (Basic Materials, Energy, Finance, FMCG, Industrials & Utilities).
 - ✎ Bharat 22 Index will be rebalanced annually. ICICI Prudential AMC will be the ETF Manager and Asia Index Private Limited (JV BSE and S& P Global) will be the Index Provider.
146. ▶ Government lowered interest rate on small saving schemes by 0.1 % for July- September quarter. However, Interest on savings deposits has been retained at 4 % annually. New Rates are -
- ✎ PPF - 7.8%
 - ✎ KVP (Kisan Vikas Patra) - 7.5% (mature in 115 months)
 - ✎ Sukanya Samriddhi - 8.3%
 - ✎ Five-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme - 8.3%
147. ▶ Government made Aadhaar linking mandatory for Public Provident Fund, National Savings Certificate and Kisan Vikas Patra schemes till December 31, 2017.
- ✎ Government already made mandatory to link Aadhaar to PAN by December 31, 2017 and SIM connections by February 2018.
 - ✎ Some 135 welfare schemes are to be linked to Aadhaar by March 31, 2018.
 - ✎ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) also launched new online facility for its members to Aadhaar number with their Universal Account Number (UAN) to ensure speedy EPFO services.
148. ▶ Government notified that Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and thus regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✎ It will help P2P lenders to gain official recognition and opens new avenues for fund-raising and business expansion.
 - ✎ P2P lending is a form of crowd-funding used to raise loans which are paid back with interest. It enables individuals to borrow and lend money, without use of an official financial institution as an intermediary.
149. ▶ Government raised import duty on crude palm oil to 30 % from 15 % and refined oil to 40 % from 20 %, to curb cheaper shipments and boost local prices for supporting farmers and refiners.
150. ▶ Government reconstituted 6 Cabinet Committees after recent ministry reshuffle.
- ✎ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is inducted as full time member of Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committees on Economic and Political Affairs.
 - ✎ Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan are included in Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
 - ✎ Cabinet Committees Constituted under Transaction of Business Rules (TBR) 1961 are -

- ✎ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Accommodation (CCA).
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA).
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA).
- ✎ Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).











151. ▶ Government reduced Basic Excise Duty rate on Petrol and Diesel by Rs. 2 per litre, to contain impact of rising international prices of crude petroleum oil and keep petrol and diesel Prices under control. Revenue loss on account of these reductions in excise duty is about Rs. 26,000 crore annually.
152. ▶ Government ruled that Banks importing gold and precious metals will have to pay 3 % tax under GST which can be claimed as input tax credit.
153. ▶ Government saved around INR 57,000 crore in 2016-17 through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme under which subsidies are given directly to beneficiaries.
 - ✎ In 2017-18, beneficiary base rose from 10.71 crore in 2013-14 to 35.62 crore. Total of 485 schemes have been identified for DBT.
 - ✎ LPG subsidy scheme 'Pahal' alone accounted for Rs 29,769 crore savings, followed by 14,000 crores savings in Public Distribution System (PDS).
154. ▶ Government tasked ICICI Bank with enabling online payments at 470 mandis integrated with national portal of electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).
 - ✎ e-NAM was launched in April 2016 to revolutionise agri markets by bringing in better price discovery and transparency to enable farmers to get better remuneration for their produce.
 - ✎ ICICI Bank will enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) on the e-NAM portal for making cashless payments.
155. ▶ HDFC Bank Removed Services Charges on Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and the National Electronics Funds Transfer (NEFT) Online transactions to promote digital economy. HDFC Bank also limited availability of cheque book to 25 Cheques per year.
156. ▶ HDFC Bank has retained its No.1 position in BrandZ India Top 50 report 2017, with its brand value doubled from \$9.4 billion to \$18 billion since 2014. Others in top 5 are - Airtel, State Bank of India, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank.
157. ▶ HDFC Bank launched *SmartUp zones* in its branches across India, to become preferred banker for the start-up community. An exclusive area inside the branch premises of HDFC Bank (SmartUp Zones) will be dedicated to start-ups and trained bank staff will offer tailor-made banking and advisory solutions to entrepreneurs.
158. ▶ HDFC Bank surpassed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become country's 2nd most valued firm in terms of market valuation on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
 - ✎ Reliance Industries is India's most valued firm with market cap of Rs. 533818.72 crores.
159. ▶ HDFC Life Insurance Company launched service bot *Neo* that uses artificial intelligence for customer service. It is second bot put in operation by HDFC Life after SPOK, which was an email answering bot for customer queries.
160. ▶ HDFC has sold its realty brokerage business 'HDFC Realty' and its digital real estate business 'HDFC Red' to online advertisements platform Quikr, for approx 350 crores.
161. ▶ HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) launched mobile app *Trade Transaction Tracker* to help customers track status of their trade transactions on a real-time basis. It will provide global view of import and export documentary transactions across markets in single app.
 - ✎ HSBC recently appointed John Flint as its next CEO.
162. ▶ Home Ministry will examine Structure and Operations of Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) before giving it security clearance.
 - ✎ GSTN is IT backbone of Goods and Service Tax (GST). It is a not for profit and private limited company incorporated in 2013.
 - ✎ Government holds 24.5% equity in GSTN. It has been set up primarily to provide IT infrastructure and services to the Central and State Governments, tax payers and other stakeholders for implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST).
163. ▶ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) signed agreement with Indian microfinance industry association Sa-Dhan to develop digital ecosystem for India's unbanked segment.
164. ▶ ICICI Bank announced a new home loan scheme that offers borrowers benefit of 1% cashback on every EMI, for entire tenure of loan (15 - 30 years). Cashback will be accrued from first EMI and will given to customer after completion of 36th EMI.
165. ▶ ICICI Bank became first bank to enable customers to open a Public Provident Fund (PPF) account online, eliminating the need for furnishing paper documents.

166. ▶ ICICI Bank committed assistance of INR 10 crores to Indian Armed Forces in 2 equal tranches. First tranche will support post-graduation education of widows of soldiers and education for their children. Second program will provide financial assistance for marriages of daughters of ex-servicemen.
167. ▶ ICICI Bank launched India's first voice-based international remittance service to enable non-resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to any bank in India. Now, an NRI customer can instantly initiate a remittance to India with just a simple voice command to Apple's virtual voice assistant, Siri, on their iPhone/iPad, using ICICI Bank's Money2India app.
168. ▶ ICICI Bank launched instant credit cards enabling its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner, initially available for some pre-qualified customers who can apply for card online and generate card details and start shopping using it instantly.
- ✎ The credit limit is up to Rs 4 lakh, based on pre-checked bureau scores.
169. ▶ ICICI Bank will be selling personal loans of up to Rs 15 lakh through its ATMs. Using data from credit information companies, ICICI Bank will pre-qualify select customers for personal loans. Such customers will get a message on ATM screen after completing a transaction, informing about their eligibility for personal loans. Such customers can avail 5 year personal loan of upto Rs 15 lakh and amount will be credited instantly to their account.
170. ▶ ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launched new website *PlanYourGoal.com* to help users plan their investments according to their future financial goals. It guides users to plan their big spends, tax investments and corpus required during retirement.
171. ▶ ICRA Management Consulting Services (IMaCS) launched four fixed income indices, to create more depth in Indian debt market.
- ✎ Four indices - ICRA Gilt Indices, ICRA Liquid Indices, ICRA Corporate Bond Indices and ICRA Composite Debt Indices. It would help asset managers and financial services companies make objective analysis and provide benchmarking of debt portfolios.
172. ▶ IDBI Bank has disengaged Moody's Investors Services (Moody's) to rate its bond programmes, terminating all contracts with Moody's pertaining to various issues made under its MTN (medium term note) Bond Programme.
173. ▶ IDBI Bank launched 'Project Nishchay' in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to accelerate its turnaround program and improve financial performance.
174. ▶ IDFC Bank partnered with digital payments company Zeta, to launch *IDFC Bank Benefits* as a payment solution for corporates that digitizes employee spends and claims, making the process simple, real-time and paperless.
175. ▶ In 3rd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Review by RBI, Repo rate has been cut by 25 basis points. New Monetary Policy rates stand at-
- ✎ Repo Rate - 6.00 %
 - ✎ Reverse Repo - 5.75 %
 - ✎ Bank Rate - 6.25 %
 - ✎ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25 %
 - ✎ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 - ✎ SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 20 %
176. ▶ Income Tax Department clarified that cash sales of agricultural produce by a cultivator to a trader for less than 2 lakh rupees will not attract tax under Income Tax Act and PAN is not needed for them.
177. ▶ Income Tax Department imposed INR 7900 crores penalty on tax demand of same amount on a unit of Li Ka-shing's CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd, over its decade-old sale of mobile phone business in India to Vodafone India. Vodafone in 2007 acquired 67% stake in mobile-phone business owned by Hutchison Whampoa (now part of CK Hutchison).
178. ▶ Income Tax Department launched *online chat* service for taxpayers so that they can seek answers to their basic queries and doubts relating to direct tax issues. Experts and independent tax practitioners have been deputed to answer the general queries of a taxpayer.
179. ▶ India Government Mint (A Unit of *Security Printing and Minting Corp of India*) launched India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard –Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201).
- ✎ BND-4201 is reference material for gold of '9999' fineness (gold that is 99.99% pure with impurities of only 100 parts-per-million). It will be beneficial to the consumers and public at large to ensure purity of gold.
 - ✎ BND-4201 is developed through collaboration between IGM, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), National Physical Laboratory (New Delhi) and National Centre for Compositional Characterisation of Materials (Hyderabad).
180. ▶ India Index Services and Products Ltd (IISL) launched the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index. It will track the performance of 100 large-cap and 150 mid-cap companies listed on National Stock Exchange (NSE). Base date for index is April 1, 2005 and base value is 1000.
181. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will become operational in all 650 districts of the country by April 2018 to facilitate financial inclusion.
- ✎ Payments Banks may accept Deposit upto INR 1 Lakh. IPPB will offer Interest Rates Upto 5.5%.
 - ✎ Other Payments Banks in India - Paytm PB (upto 4 %), Fino PB (upto 4 %), Airtel PB (Upto 7.25%)

182. ▶ India Signed World Bank loan agreement of USD 250 million for *Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project*.
183. ▶ India signed \$220 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for improving connectivity as well as transport efficiency and safety on State Highways of Rajasthan.
184. ▶ India signed \$300 Million Loan Deal with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Promote Further Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal and improve quality of public service delivery in state.
185. ▶ India signed \$318 million Loan agreement with World Bank for Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project to promote climate resilient agriculture technologies, improve water management practices, and increase market opportunities for small and marginal farmers.
186. ▶ India signed Financing Agreement for IBRD loan of US\$ 119 million for *Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity (OHEPEE) Project*.
187. ▶ India signed Financing Agreement with world bank for USD 125 million for *Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project*.
- ▶ World Bank also approved USD 825 million loan for Pakistan, for upgrading its energy and public finance sectors.
188. ▶ India signed Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement with World Bank for USD 24.64 Million for “Ecosystems Service Improvement Project”.
189. ▶ India signed US\$ 329 million Loan agreement with Beijing (China) based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for Gujarat Rural Roads Project.
190. ▶ India signed USD 40 Million Loan agreement with world bank for Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project.
191. ▶ India signed a Loan agreement worth \$100 Million with World Bank for increase solar generation capacity through establishment of large-scale parks in India.
- ▶ It Includes Grant Agreement for USD 2 million for *Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project* and IBRD/CTF loan of USD 98 million.
 - ▶ It will help in government’s plan to install 100 Gigawatts (GW) of solar power out of a total renewable-energy target of 175 GW by 2022.
192. ▶ India signed a loan deal worth \$76 million with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to upgrade environment management plan at Alang-Sosiya ship recycling yards in Gujarat.
193. ▶ India’s GDP growth declined to 5.7 % in Q1 (April - June) of FY 2017-18, with growth in manufacturing sector declining rapidly. This is slowest quarterly GDP growth since January-March quarter in 2014. GDP Growth was 7.9 % Strong in Q1 of FY 2016-17 and 6.1% in Q4 of FY 2016-17.
194. ▶ India’s YES Bank and European Investment Bank (EIB) released announced co-finance programme of \$400-million for renewable power generation in India (50 - 50 %).
195. ▶ India’s YES Bank received \$150 million funding from USA government and Wells Fargo to increase lending to support women entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises in India.
196. ▶ India’s Yes Bank signed MoU with British Bank *Santander* to promote India-UK trade and business opportunities.
197. ▶ Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX) launched world’s first diamond futures contracts to provide exporters with a hedging tool, enabling companies involving in cut and polished gems business to better hedge price risks. ICEX has started trading in 1 carat/100 cent contracts and eventually in future will add 50 cent and 30 cent contracts.
- ▶ Note that India is a global diamond polishing hub where 14 out of every 15 rough diamonds in the world are polished.
198. ▶ Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology organized 15th Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) Conference in New Delhi with theme *Building Trust in the Digital Economy*. It is first ever APCERT conference held in India.
199. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Projections -
- ▶ International Rating Agency Fitch lowered 2017-18 growth projection to 6.7%, from 6.9%.
 - ▶ Morgan Stanley predicts Indian economy to witness cyclical growth recovery, with real GDP growth likely to accelerate from 6.4% to 7.5% in 2018 & to 7.7% in 2019.
 - ▶ Global investment bank Nomura predicted India’s economy to register a 7.5 % growth rate in 2018.
 - ▶ As per *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018* report by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)UN, Indian economy will grow by 7.2 % in 2017-18 and will go up to 7.4 % in 2019.
 - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India’s GDP forecast for the current fiscal by 0.3% to 6.7 %. It also revised GDP outlook for next fiscal beginning from March 2018 to 7.3% from 7.4%.

200. ▶ Indian Government signed \$65.5 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on Western Coast in Karnataka. It is 2nd Tranche of a \$250 million financing facility under Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program.
201. ▶ Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired London-based Brilliant Basics for GBP 7.5 million.
202. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad) developed *tGST* app to ease up process of GST calculations for Commercial Taxes Department of Telangana.
203. ▶ Indian Navy's Band participated in International Military Music Festival "Spasskaya Tower" held in Moscow (Russia). A 66-member Indian Navy band also joined historic Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the UK.
204. ▶ Indian Overseas Bank started offering *Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)* services introduced by National Payments Corporation of India. BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers inter-operable online bill payments to customers. IOB is among 4 government banks (apart from Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India) to get approval from RBI for providing BBPS services.
- ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) recently received final nod from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit and operate Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
 - ▶ BBPS pilot project started on 31 August, 2016 with 8 BBPS operating units, which now stands at 24 certified units.
205. ▶ Indian e-commerce firm Flipkart received investment of \$2.4 Billion from Japan's SoftBank Vision Fund, world's largest technology-focused investment fund. This is as biggest ever private investment in an Indian technology company.
- ▶ Flipkart is now world's 3rd most funded private company with almost \$7 billion capital raised so far. Top 2 are both ride hailing platforms – Chinabased Didi Chuxing (\$15 Billion) and US based Uber (\$12.9 billion).
206. ▶ Indian online payments firm BillDesk-owned Hatio Innovations launched cryptocurrency exchange 'Coinome' in India offering trading of Bitcoin and Bitcoin Cash.
- ▶ Coinome allows users to register via an instant e-KYC process by using Aadhaar number.
 - ▶ Unlike many other cryptocurrency exchanges, Coinome is an open order book cryptocurrency exchange which enables direct deals between buyers and sellers just like conventional stocks and commodities exchanges.
207. ▶ India's top 50 brands report by WPP Plc and Kantar Millward Brown -
- ▶ HDFC Bank remains India's Top Brand for 4th year in a row. Airtel is 2nd and State Bank of India is 3rd.
208. ▶ IndusInd Bank acquired Micro-lender *Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd* for \$2.4 billion. It will boost IndusInd's presence in microfinance lending and rural banking.
209. ▶ IndusInd Bank and e-Wallet Firm MobiKwik launched co-branded wallet 'IndusInd MobiKwik' that allows its customers to pay at the MobiKwik merchant network using their accounts, with a 'Direct Debit Feature'.
210. ▶ Information and Broadcasting Ministry approved Merger of Direct-to-home (DTH) operators Dish TV India (owned by Zee Group) and Videocon d2h. Merged entity will be *Dish TV Videocon Limited* and will serve combined subscriber base of 29 million users.
211. ▶ Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani along with venture capitalist Sanjeev Aggarwal has launched a \$100 million venture fund called *Fundamentum* to back mid-stage startups that solve unique Indian problems in consumer technology space.
212. ▶ Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) will exit infrastructure and private equity funds management business, called *IDFC Alternatives* that has assets worth \$2.6 billion. IDFC is currently engaged in merger discussions with Shriram Group.
213. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approve online non-life insurance company Acko General Insurance Ltd. and it will start operating in December 2017. It will sell multiple insurance products through online channel.
214. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) launched a Central Database of all Insurance Sales Persons in country, Named as *Envoy*.
215. ▶ Insurance firm Bajaj Allianz launched India's first ever insurance cover for individual victims of cyber crime. Under this, insurance cover (1 Lakh to 1 Crore) will be provided against online fraud, identity theft, cyber-stalking and extortion, phishing and malware attack.
216. ▶ International Finance Corporation (Member of World Bank Group) invested \$10 million in Indian Power Sector startup firm Power2SME.
- ▶ IFC will also invest USD 50 million (about Rs 320 crore) in realty firm Mahindra Lifespace Developers industrial park projects.
217. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) released Financial System Stability Assessment (FSSA) and Financial Sector Assessment (FSA) respectively. Second comprehensive Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) for India too has been conducted during 2017.
- ▶ FSAP is a joint program undertaken by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) to comprehensively assess and conduct in-depth analysis of a country's financial sector. FSAP has been conducted since September 2010 in 29 countries (including India) at interval of every five years.
218. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggested a 3-pronged approach for structural reform in India that includes -

- ✍ Addressing banking and corporate sector weaknesses
 - ✍ Continued fiscal consolidation through revenue measure
 - ✍ Improving efficiency of labour and product markets.
219. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF)', World Economic Outlook (July 2017 Update) -
- ✍ India - GDP growth rate will be 7.2% for 2017-18 (up from 7.1% in 2016-17). India's growth would accelerate to 7.7% in 2018-19. India's economy will still be the fastest growing among large economies. World Bank also predicted 7.2 % GDP Growth rate for India in current Year and also stated that India will remain World's 4th Fastest Growing Economy.
 - ✍ Global economic growth rate will be 3.5% in 2017 and 3.6% in 2018.
 - ✍ China's - projected to grow by 6.7% in 2017 and 6.4% in 2018.
220. ▶ International investment firm *KKR & Co* became first foreign investor to fully own an asset reconstruction company (ARC) in India, as it received an approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start an ARC.
221. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Bank launched *Sahafat Finance Scheme* as a special financial scheme for journalists of state, to avail financing between 50000 - 3 Lakh for buying cameras, laptops, tablets and books.
222. ▶ Karnataka Bank in association with PNB MetLife launched *Met Loan and Life Suraksha (MLLS)* as a single premium plan covering loan liability of a customer.
223. ▶ Karnataka Bank launched *KBL-Image Debit Card*, that will enable its cardholders to personalise their Debit card with an image of his/her choice.
224. ▶ Karnataka Bank partnered with Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd for its transformation project 'KBL Vikaas'.
225. ▶ Karnataka Bank updated interest rates on savings bank account balances -
- ✍ Under 1 lakh - 3%.
 - ✍ 1 Lakh to 50 Lakh - 3.5 %
 - ✍ 50 Lakh to 1 Crore - 4 %
 - ✍ Above 1 crores - 5%
226. ▶ Karur Vysya Bank became First Private Sector Bank to roll out an Aadhaar Enrollment Centre, at its Nelson Manickam Road Branch in Chennai.
227. ▶ Kerala Government signed a MOU with Intel and UST Global for exploring possibility of transforming the state into an electronic hardware manufacturing hub. Additionally, Cab Aggregator Ola partnered with Microsoft To choose Microsoft as its preferred cloud provider.
228. ▶ Kolkata based *Srei Infrastructure Finance* signed MoU with Russia's Vnesheconombank to create a \$200 million IT and Innovation Fund.
229. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) launched *Smart Banking 24x7* e-lobbies in Mumbai, that will give customers freedom to complete banking transactions at any hour of day.
230. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank and Fintech Firm *Zeta* launched multi-wallet digital prepaid solution for salaried employees named *Paymint*. Paymint's single digital interface will enable firms to manage multiple reimbursements and allowances offered to employees including meal vouchers, medical reimbursements etc.
- ✍ Kotak Mahindra Bank also tied up with Samsung Pay to enable its credit and debit cardholders to tap and pay using Samsung smart phones at merchants. It uses the Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST) that enables consumers to make in-store payments without need for a physical card.
231. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank launched an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance service - *Kotak Remit* for both customers and non-customers. It offers a paperless process that enables users to register online using Aadhaar and PAN numbers, and initiate remittances instantly.
232. ▶ Law ministry approved Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2017 to empower government to confiscate property of economic offenders and defaulters who flee India.
- ✍ A fugitive economic offender is any individual against whom warrant for arrest in relation to economic offence has been issued and person has left India to avoid criminal prosecution.
233. ▶ Lok Sabha passed Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2017 to replace Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 and amend Banking Regulation Act 1949 to insert provisions for handling cases related to stressed assets or non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks.
- Key Features -
- ✍ It enables Central government to authorize Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution process, as per Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
 - ✍ It empowers RBI to issue directions to banks for resolution of stressed assets from time to time.

-  It inserts provision to make above provisions applicable to the SBI and its subsidiaries and also Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
234. ▶ Lok Sabha passed Companies (Amendment) Bill 2016 to amend Companies Act 2013, to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies and help improve the ease of doing business in India. Threshold for easy compliance scheme has been raised to Rs 100 crore from Rs 20 crore, making more companies eligible for simple compliance regime.
235. ▶ Lok Sabha passed National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill 2017 that amends NABARD Act 1981. Key features -
-  Capital of NABARD is increased to INR 30000 crores from 5000 crores. Government is also allowed to increase it to over INR 30000 crores in consultation with RBI.
 -  Government must hold at least 51% capital share of NABARD. and .04% shares of NABARD held by RBI (valued 20 crores) will be transferred to Government.
236. ▶ Madhya Pradesh, which was first state to switch to January-December financial year from existing April-March cycle starting 2018, has put plan on hold till Central Government shifts to January-December fiscal cycle.
237. ▶ Maharashtra is top contributor in first 5 months since rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in July 1, 2017. Uttar Pradesh is ranked 2nd in terms of total GST Collection (CGST+IGST+SGST+CESS). Govt has so far received approx 3.7 Lakh Crores as GST Collections till Nov 30, 2017.
-  Also, Central Government has released INR 24500 crore compensation to states to make up for revenue loss on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation. Karnataka got maximum compensation (Rs 3271 crore) followed by Gujarat (Rs 2282 crore) and Punjab (Rs 2098 crore). This compensation comes from cess (on top of the highest tax rate of 28 %) on luxury, demerit and sin goods.
238. ▶ Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha today Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase reach of Philately (*collection and study of postage stamps*). SPARSH stands for *Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby*.
-  Under this, annual scholarships will be given to children of Standard VI to IX with good academic record and pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.
 -  Every Postal Circle will select a maximum of 40 scholarships representing 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX. Amount of Scholarship will be Rs. 6000 per annum.
239. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industries has set up Contact@DGFT online service for effective resolution of foreign trade-related issues of importers and exporters. It will enable traders to raise all trade related matters to Directorate or other agencies of Centre and States.
240. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry will shut down over 100-year-old Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D), government's procurement arm. Now public procurement of goods and services will be managed by Government's e-market platform (GeM).
241. ▶ Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution brought into effect Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 that replaces Bureau of Indian Standards Act 1986.
-  It aims to help in ease of doing business, enhance 'Make In India' campaign and ensure availability of quality products and services to consumers.
 -  BIS Act 2016 establishes BIS as the National Standards Body of India for the purpose of standardization, marking and certification of articles and processes. It has broaden BIS's ambit and allows central government to make it mandatory for certain notified goods, articles, processes, etc to carry standard mark.
242. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed MoU for automatic and regular exchange of tax information, to curb menace of shell companies, money laundering and black money.
243. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will roll out Condonation of Delay Scheme to provide a three-month window for defaulting companies and their director to submit their annual filings. It will be operational from January 1 to March 31, 2018.
244. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directed all NGOs, individuals and business entities receiving foreign funds to open accounts in any of 32 designated banks (including one foreign) within a month, as per MHA powers under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) 2010.
-  These accounts will be integrated with central government's Public Financial Management System (PFMS), to provide higher level of transparency and hassle-free reporting compliance.
245. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MHUA) ordered review of Floor Space Index (FSI) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) norms in mega cities.
-  FSI is ratio of building's total floor area to size of piece of land on which it is built. It will be taken up in all 53 cities with population above 1 million.

246. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs announced that 30.76 lakh houses for urban poor have been sanctioned so far since launch of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Scheme in June 2015.
247. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Start-up Sangam initiative to develop new business models, marketing plans, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups. For this, 10 oil and gas PSUs have setup Rs. 320-crore venture capital fund to encourage start-ups based on innovative ideas in energy sector.
248. ▶ Ministry of Shipping extended period of Coastal Berth scheme of flagship Sagarmala Programme for three years upto March, 2020. Its scope was also expanded to cover capital dredging at Major Ports and preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for coastal berth project.
- ▶ Ministry of Shipping also undertook projects worth INR 2302 crore for financial assistance under Coastal Berth Scheme.
249. ▶ Mobile Wallet Firm Paytm tied-up with ICICI Bank to launch *Paytm-ICICI Bank Postpaid* short-term credit facility to ICICI customers using Paytm App. Current Borrowing Limit is INR 20000, to be repaid in 45 days.
- ▶ Paytm also acquired undisclosed stake in Urja Money Pvt. Ltd, that evaluates creditworthiness of people seeking loans to buy two-wheelers., under Brand name *CreditMate*.
250. ▶ Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI kept policy rates unchanged with current values -
- ▶ Repo Rate - 6.00 %
 - ▶ Reverse Repo - 5.75 %
 - ▶ Bank Rate - 6.25 %
 - ▶ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25 %
 - ▶ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 - ▶ SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 % (**Changed from 20 %**)
251. ▶ Moody's Investors Service upgraded India's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa3 and changed outlook on rating to stable from positive. India's rating has been upgraded after a period of 13 years, that was last upgraded in January 2004 to Baa3 (from Ba1).
- ▶ Moody's also upgraded ratings of 9 Indian PSUs -
 - ▶ BPCL, HPCL, IOC and Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) -upgraded to Baa2 from Baa3.
 - ▶ ONGC's rating upgraded to Baa1 from Baa2.
 - ▶ NTPC, NHPC, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and GAIL India upgraded to Baa2. As Per CRISIL, NHAI reforms resulted in doubling of daily highways construction rate from 12 km to 23 km in 2017.
252. ▶ Moody's affirmed Baa3 rating on SBI's senior unsecured debt (issued via its London branch) and (P)Baa3 rating on its senior unsecured medium-term note (MTN) program. Baa3 denotes lowest rating in investment grade on long-term corporate obligation, which carries moderate risks.
253. ▶ Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) and Mahindra Agri Solutions signed MoU to provide agriculture related price information, through their recently launched mobile application *MyAgriGuru*.
254. ▶ Multi-Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) launched India's first commodity options in Gold. with bi-monthly duration. The option will also have existing gold kilo futures contract as its underlier.
- ▶ Options are an instrument that gives buyer right to buy or sell an underlined at present price on a future date. They are of two types: puts (right to sell) and calls (right to buy).
255. ▶ Multilateral funding agency ADB approved USD 300 million loan for carrying forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal.
- ▶ West Bengal for the first time in 2012 received a USD 400 million from ADB.
256. ▶ NPA report by by CARE Ratings -
- ▶ With NPA Ratio of 9.85 %, India is ranked 5th on list of countries with highest non-performing assets (NPA) levels. Only countries with More NPAs than India are Greece (36.67%), Italy (16.35%), Portugal (15.52%), and Ireland (11.85%).
257. ▶ NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) signed loan agreement for Rs. 3,000 crore with ICICI Bank for partially funding its capital expenditure, with tenure of 15 years.
258. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) acquired 7% stake in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for INR 900 crores from IDBI Bank. NABARD now holds 10% Stake in SIDBI.
- ▶ NABARD also sanctioned amount INR 273 crore to Andhra Pradesh Government for Rural Water supply, Road and Bridge projects. These funds have been sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
259. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned loan of Rs.119 crore for Haryana to construct 7 bridges and improvement of one rural road project in five districts.
260. ▶ National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned Loan of INR 1349.55 crores to Rajasthan government for creation of rural infrastructure in the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

261. ▶ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved merger between Aircel and Reliance Communications wireless business and sale of Reliance's tower business to Canada's Brookfield. RCom and Aircel will not have to get permission from Supreme Court before filing their merger plea. Merged entities will be called as 'Aircom' and both will have 50% equity stake.
262. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) created National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC) for attracting domestic and foreign investment for highways projects. It will focus on engaging with global institution investors, developers, construction companies and fund managers for building investor participation in road infrastructure projects.
263. ▶ National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE) will merge with Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX) to form India's third biggest commodity exchange.
- ▶ This is first merger in commodity exchange space in India. In merged entity, ICEX will hold 62.8% stake and NMCE will own the rest.
 - ▶ New exchange will offer a wide range of contracts and will also offer world's first diamond futures contract, which has already received approval from SEBI.
264. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) approved *Spice Digital Ltd.* for processing bill payments under Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU).
- ▶ NPCI launched a pilot project for BBPS with eight BBPS operating unit, Spice Digital was one of them.
265. ▶ New Gross State domestic product data by Central Statistics Office, with 2011-12 as base year -
- ▶ Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh were fastest expanding State economies in 2015-16. Arunachal Pradesh's gross State domestic product (GSDP) expanded 16.5 % and that of Jammu and Kashmir 14.7 %. National growth rate remained 8 %.
 - ▶ Top 5 - Maharashtra (16.6 lakh crores), Tamil Nadu (9.4 lakh crores), Gujarat (9.013 Lakh Crores), Uttar Pradesh (9.012 Lakh crores).
266. ▶ Odisha government's Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection and State Bank of India signed MOU for integration of SBI e-Pay with State's cyber treasury to facilitate revenue collection from citizens through digital banking platform.
- ▶ Odisha government also launched portal for Open State Government Data Platform at odisha.data.gov.in, to share data with people.
267. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to raise crude oil production by 4 metric tonne (MT) and double natural gas output by 2020, inline with Government's aim to cut country's oil imports by 10% from 77% in 2013-14. by 2022.
268. ▶ PNB (Punjab National Bank) customers will have to pay charges for depositing cash above Rs. 5,000 (down from 25000 Currently) in a non-base branch even if it is located in same city. Customer will have to pay Re 1 per Rs 1,000 for above Rs 5,000 cash deposit or part thereof with a minimum of Rs 25 per transaction.
269. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank rolled out Paytm FASTag to enable electronic toll fee collection on highways across the country, in line with the government's move to make FASTag mandatory on every new vehicle sold from December 1. The Paytm FASTag - which is a simple and reusable tag based on radio-frequency identification technology (RFID) that can be placed on a vehicle's windscreen.
270. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank unveiled 3000 'Paytm Ka ATM' outlets that allows customers to open Saving Accounts and deposit/withdraw money from their bank accounts.
271. ▶ Paytm partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a RuPay-powered digital debit card for its Payments Bank users. Customers will be able to transact at merchants accepting credit / debit cards.
272. ▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will conduct State specific APY mobilization Campaigns under name *People First*, to Increase APY Outreach.
- ▶ Campaign is being launched from Uttar Pradesh with over 17,000 APY touch points (Including banks and post offices).
273. ▶ Power transmission utility Powergrid received loan of USD 500 million from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its various projects.
274. ▶ Private Bank *Yes Bank* established a Medium Term Note (MTN) programme to raise USD 1 billion by issuing debt securities in international capital markets to eligible investors.
275. ▶ Private Sector's Axis Bank and Government Owned Indian Bank reduced interest rate on savings bank accounts to 3.5 % for deposits up to Rs 50 lakh (4 % on deposits of above Rs 50 lakh). It has come after SBI slashed interest rate on savings accounts to 3.5% on balance of under INR 1 crore.
276. ▶ Private Sector's Federal Bank obtained RBI approval to open representative offices at Kuwait and Singapore.
277. ▶ Private life insurance company *Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance* signed bancassurance agreement with Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank, for marketing its various life insurance products to Bank's customers.
- ▶ As name depicts, *Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance* is Joint venture of Canara Bank, HSBC and Oriental Bank of Commerce.
278. ▶ 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 also recently updated its BHIM Yes Pay app and integrated 3 other products of National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)– RuPay Virtual Card, BharatQR and Bharat Bill Payment Service (BBPS) in addition to other payment infrastructures like UPI and IMPS.
- 279. ▶ Public Procurement Portal 'MSME Sambandh' has been launched by Giriraj Singh (Minister of State (IC) for MSMEs), aimed at monitoring implementation of Public Procurement from MSEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises.
- 280. ▶ Public procurement portal Government eMarketplace (GeM) and industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have signed a MoU to establish GeMSamvad, a GeM -Industry forum. GeMSamvad aims to create awareness about online purchase of goods and services by government agencies and departments.
- 281. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance have signed an agreement for the distribution of insurance products through the branches (*Bancassurance*).
- 282. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) will block all Maestro debit cards from 31st of July 2017 if card holders do not replace it with a more secure EMV chip based card by end of July.
- 283. ▶ RBI Stated that out of 56 regional rural banks (RRBs), Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank recorded net profit of more than Rs 150 crore during 2016-17. Overall, 49 RRBs recorded net profit in 2016-17.
- 284. ▶ RBI asked banks to provide doorstep banking facilities to senior citizens who are more than 70 years of age and differently-abled persons by December 2017. RBI also asked banks to provide a minimum of 25 cheque leaves every year for a savings bank account free of charge.
- 285. ▶ RBI imposed penalty of Rs. 3 crore on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- 286. ▶ RBI issued guidelines to banks will provide funds to women self-help groups, SHGs, in rural areas at 7 % under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in the current fiscal (2017-18).
- 287. ▶ RBI issued revised directions on Customer Protection in case of authorised / failed online Transactions -
 - It aims at Limiting Liability of Customers in unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions.
 - In cases of negligence caused by the customer by sharing of payment credentials, the customer is liable to bear the entire loss.
 - Customers will be entitled to zero liability when authorised transaction occurs due to contributory fraud/negligence/deficiency on part of bank irrespective of whether or not unauthorised transaction has been reported by customer.
 - If Fault is at Third Party End -
 - If customer reports to bank within 3 days - All amount involved will be credited to their accounts within 10 days by bank.
 - If customer reports to bank within 3 - 7 days - All Amount or INR 25000 (whichever is less) within 10 days by bank.
 - If customer reports to bank after 7 days - as per bank's policy.
- 288. ▶ RBI's 5th Bi-Monthly Policy Review for FY 2017-18 -
 - RBI Kept Key policy rates Unchanged. However, It increased SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) by 50 Basis points, to 20 % (From 19.50).
 - Current Monetary Policy Rates -
 - Repo Rate - 6.00 %
 - Reverse Repo - 5.75 %
 - Bank Rate - 6.25 %
 - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25 %
 - CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 - SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - **20 %** (Increased from 19.5 %)
 - Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India -
 - It has 6 Members - RBI Governor Urjit Patel (Chairperson), Viral A Acharya, Michael Patra, Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua, Ravindra H. Dholakia.
 - RBI also allowed overseas branches of Indian banks to refinance external commercial borrowings (ECB) of AAA-rated private and public sector companies.
 - Currently, Indian banks are allowed to fund dollar loans but are not allowed to refinance these borrowings abroad.
 - Due to this, companies sought refinance only through foreign lenders. Now, Indian banks can also participate in refinancing and can earn a higher return on their funds abroad.
 - This will also benefit the borrowers as improved liquidity in refinance market will reduce cost of borrowing, .
- 289. ▶ Rajasthan State Government has set up Automatic Service ATMs, 'E-Mitra Plus' at 9900 Atal Seva Kendras and 2500 urban location across state, to enable people to access 380 various government services and over 100 services of private sector.
- 290. ▶ Rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) classified Indian Banking sector under 'Group 5' of its Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA), along with Spain, Italy, Ireland, Panama, Poland, Bermuda, Peru, South Africa, Qatar and UAE.

- ▶ As per S&P, risk of rising economic imbalances for banks in India is 'low' on account of good franchise, extensive branch networks and large domestic savings base.
 - ▶ However, issue of massive non-performing assets (NPAs) in Indian banking system needs to be addressed.
291. ▶ Ratings firm *Crisil* and *Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)* signed MoU to launch *CriSidEx* - a sentiment Index for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Index will provide insights into employment, business environment and foreign trade trends in MSME sector. *CriSidEx* will be compiled on basis of real-time, ground-level information procured directly from MSMEs.
 292. ▶ *Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd* signed agreement with *Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)* for INR 300 crore loan.
 293. ▶ *Reliance Communication* received final approval from Department of Telecommunication (DoT) for its merger with *Sistema*. It will extend validity of RCom's spectrum portfolio in highly valued 800 and 850 MHz band in 8 major telecom circles across country for 12 years period (2021 to 2033).
 294. ▶ *Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)* for the first time crossed Rs 5 lakh crore in market capitalisation. RIL is second firm to cross Rs 5 lakh crore in market capitalisation and is also currently most valued company in India. *Tata Consultancy Service (TCS)* was first company to hit Rs 5 lakh crore in market capitalisation milestone in July 2014.
 295. ▶ *Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)* became first Indian company to cross Rs 6 trillion market capitalization after its shares surged over 75% and hit a fresh lifetime high with current market cap of INR 6.02 trillion. Recent rally in stocks was due to 15% tariff hike by its telecom arm *Jio* that is expected to improve company's profitability.
 296. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to sell and market new pension scheme (NPS). Profit Making NBFCs with asset size of Min 500 crores are now permitted to sell NPS after registration with pension regulator.
 297. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that *Masala bonds (rupee-denominated overseas bonds)* will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), thereby freeing up more investments by FPIs. Current limit for investment by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in corporate bonds is Rs 244323 crore (including masala bonds of 44,001 crores).
 298. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved directions for peer-to-peer (P2P) lending. P2P lending is online mechanism which raises loans for people who need to borrow, from people who want to invest.
 - ▶ Recently RBI notified that peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms would be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
 - ▶ RBI has now stated that aggregate exposure of a lender to all borrowers and Aggregate loans taken by a Borrower shall not exceed 10 lakh, across all P2P Platforms.
 - ▶ Exposure of a single lender to the same borrower is capped at Rs. 50,000. Tenure of the loan should not exceed 36 months.
 299. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has Put penalties on *Yes Bank* and *IDFC Bank* -
 - ▶ *Yes Bank* - 6 crore penalty for misreporting data on non-performing assets. *Yes Bank* reported Its NPAs to be INR 748.9 Crores as of March 2016 while RBI stats tell that its is 5.5 Times more than this figure. *Yes Bank* has also been penalized for failing to report a security incident involving its ATMs on time.
 - ▶ *IDFC Bank* - 2 crore penalty for breaching regulations on giving loans. RBI said That *IDFC Bank* failed to comply with regulations pertaining to sanction/renewal of loans and advances.
 300. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked co-operative societies not use the word 'Bank' in their names as it violates Section 7 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
 301. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up Supervisory Colleges for 6 Scheduled Commercial Banks which have sizeable international presence - *State Bank of India*, *ICICI Bank.*, *Bank of India*, *Bank of Baroda*, *Axis Bank* and *Punjab National Bank*.
 302. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed INR 3 crore penalty on *IndusInd Bank* for violation of Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms.
 303. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalty of INR 5 crore on *Syndicate Bank* for non-compliance with its directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, Cheque Purchase or Discounting and Bill Discounting.
 304. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) compulsory for companies having with Loans of Rs 5 crore. Banks will capture this number in Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database that captures details of loan above Rs 5 crore.
 - ▶ LEI number will help banks in monitoring the aggregate exposure of corporate borrowers. Firms can obtain their LEI code from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd. (LEIL).
 - ▶ LEI is a global reference number that uniquely identifies every legal entity or structure that is party to a financial transaction. It is a unique 20 digit alphanumeric code that is assigned to a legal entity.
 - ▶ LEI system has been set up Global authorities to enable identification and linking of parties to financial transactions in order to manage counterparty risk.
 305. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rationalised merchant discount rate (MDR) to increase the number of non-cash transactions.

- ✎ Fee charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card payment services is referred to as merchant discount rate (MDR).
- ✎ MDR has been rationalised on basis of merchant turnover rather than existing slab rates based on the transaction value.
- 306. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its 2017 list of the Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) and added private lender HDFC Bank Ltd as a D-SIB. Now, HDFC has joined State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI bank, that are tagged as D-SIBs or too-big-to-fail for consecutive 3rd year.
- 307. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) simplified Foreign Exchange Management Regulations to ease up norms for foreign investors to invest in India-
 - ✎ All 93 amendments have been put under one notification. New regulation combines earlier two regulations on foreign investments - FEMA 20 (investment in Indian company or partnership or in a limited liability partnership) or FEMA 24 (investment in a partnership firm).
 - ✎ Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)
 - ✎ FEMA was passed by Parliament in 1999 and so far was amended 93 times. It replaced FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulations Act), 1973 that become incompatible after economic reforms and pro-liberalization policies of Government.
- 308. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio for NBFCs has increased to 5 % at end of March 2017 from 2.9 % in March 2012.
 - ✎ Bad loans of NBFCs amount to around Rs.74,230 crores. However, compared to banks, NBFCs reported a fairly higher Return on Assets.
 - ✎ Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of NBFCs has declined in recent years. Still, it was higher than the prescribed regulatory level of 15 %.
 - ✎ Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) OR Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is ratio of a bank's capital to its risk. It marks bank's ability to absorb a reasonable amount of loss.
- 309. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will pay INR 30,659 crore dividend to government for year ended June 30, less than half of what it paid in 2016 (65,876 crores).
- 310. ▶ Reserve Bank of India increased limits for investment by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) for the January-March 2018 quarter by Rs 6,400 crore in Central Government Securities (G-Secs) and Rs 5,800 crore in State development loans (SDLs).
 - ✎ From January 1, 2018, revised investment limit for FPIs in G-Secs will be Rs 2,56,400 crore against existing limit of Rs 2,50,000 crore.
 - ✎ RBI also granted license for operating a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) to Global mobile payments company OBOPAY.
- 311. ▶ Reserve Bank of India opened a branch in Dehradun (Uttarakhand) to ease up Related financial transactions for State government. Earlier, state government had to do financial transactions through Kanpur (UP) branch of RBI.
- 312. ▶ Reserve Bank of India rejected HDFC Bank's plea to declassify its parent Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) as a foreign institutional investor (FII), impacting HDFC Bank's fundraising program from qualified institutional placement (QIP).
- 313. ▶ Reserve Bank of India will introduce 100 rupees coin to mark 100th birth anniversary of AIADMK founder M G Ramachandran, weighing 35 grams.
- 314. ▶ Reserve Bank of India will soon allow inter-operability among prepaid payment instruments (PPI) like e-wallets (Paytm, Mobikwik etc.). It will enable users to transfer funds from one mobile wallet to another as per vision for Payment and Settlement Systems in country.
 - ✎ RBI also announced fresh KYC guidelines for PPIs (Prepaid Payment Instruments). With these guidelines to complete full KYC formalities, mobile wallet user can now send-receive money between wallets of different companies and banks seamlessly through Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
 - ✎ E-Wallet firms have been instructed to ensure KYC compliance of existing users by December 31, 2017.
 - ✎ Users who do not have stipulated KYC in place, will be allowed to keep only up to Rs 10,000 in wallets post deadline.
 - ✎ No credit facility will be provided to such users, if KYC is not completed within next 12 months.
- 315. ▶ Reserve bank of India (RBI) allowed Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to hold more than 26% post-conversion of debt into equity in companies undergoing restructuring.
- 316. ▶ SBI (State Bank of India) slashed interest rates given on savings bank accounts from 4 % to 3.5 % on deposits below Rs. 1 crore.
- 317. ▶ SBI Collaborative Innovation Centre (CIC) launched 2nd edition of its Hackathon named *Digitize For Bank* and to be held in first half of November 2017. It focuses on 4 Cognitive themes - Facial Recognition, Signature Recognition, Voice based Authentication and Cheque Truncation Value Enhancers. It aims to bring out solutions based on digital technologies to counter challenges faced by Banking sector.
- 318. ▶ SBI Foundation granted INR 10 crore for conservation and restoration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSTM) of Mumbai over 3-5 years.

319. ▶ SBI Life Insurance received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India for an IPO (Initial Public Offering) of up to Rs 8,400 crore (\$1.3 billion). SBI owns 70.1 % of SBI Life Insurance and BNP Paribas Cardif holds 26 % stake.
- ✍ SEBI also allowed ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company to launch its approx INR 6,000 crores initial public offer (IPO).
320. ▶ SBI will raise INR 8000 crores through various sources, to meet Basel III capital norms.
- ✍ Indian Banks have to comply with global capital norms under Basel III by March 2019, 3 months later than internationally agreed time frame by January 2019.
321. ▶ SEBI announced that listed companies not following the norms with regard to Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) would face penalty as INR 5000 / Day. If non-compliance continues for over 1 year, amount of fine per day will double to 10,000.
- ✍ As per MPS Norms, Any listed company must have at least 25 % as public shareholders and 75 % can be held by promoters.
322. ▶ SEBI capped cross-holding in credit rating agencies (CRAs) at 10 % and also raised minimum worth requirement to INR 25 crore from current 5 crores.
323. ▶ SEBI reorganised its committee on Market Infrastructure Institutions (MII) that advises it on reviewing norms related to stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depository participants. Now the panel will be headed by former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi.
324. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed Rs 2,423 crore fine on PACL Ltd, as highest ever Sebi penalty on a defaulter for illegal fund mobilisation through various schemes.
325. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) raised investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in central government securities to over 1.91 lakh crore from January 2018.
- ✍ Current investment limit for FPIs is 1.89 lakh crore rupees. It aims to push inflow from overseas investors in Indian capital markets.
326. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised framework for *block deals* on stock exchanges by providing two separate trading windows of 15 minutes each and increasing minimum order size to Rs 10 crore.
- ✍ Earlier, a trade with a minimum quantity of 5 lakh shares or minimum value of Rs. 5 crore, executed through a single transaction was referred to as 'Block Deal'. Buyers and seller were allowed to enter Block Deal Orders only during first 35 minutes of continuous trading session i.e. from 9:15 am to 9:50 am.
327. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will bring Initial Coin Offerings (ICO) under its existing legal framework.
- ✍ Recently, popularity of crypto currencies (bitcoin, ethereum etc) has increased rapidly and number of entities looking at raising funds through ICO. RBI believes that these instruments are securities and so SEBI should be regulating body. But crypto-currencies are neither 'commodities derivatives' nor 'securities' under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956.
 - ✍ Initial Coin Offering (ICO) -
 - ✍ Its an unregulated means of crowd funding for project via use of cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin etc. ICOs are not controlled by any legal entity, unlike IPOs that are regulated by SEBI.
 - ✍ In ICO, rights of ownership are offered to investors in form of digital coins in exchange for legal tender or other cryptocurrencies.
 - ✍ China's Central Bank recently banned ICO as dubbed it as an illegal public finance mechanism used for issue of securities and money laundering.
328. ▶ Singapore Based DBS Bank received RBI approval to convert its existing India franchise to a locally incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India.
329. ▶ Singapore's DBS Bank lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for current fiscal (FY 2017-18) to 6.6 % from the previous 6.8 %.
330. ▶ Smallest paper denomination note from India of INR 1, completed 100 years of existence, since it was first printed on November 30, 1917, with photo of King George V.
331. ▶ Solar energy services company Freyr Energy tied up with Axis Bank to offer term loans ranging from Rs 5 to 50 lakh for up to 5 years, for solar rooftop installations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
332. ▶ South Indian Bank tied up with Peregrine Financial Group (PFG) Forex for remittance facility for Indian expatriates from Australia. Under this, NRIs can enjoy fast remittance services using SIB's Express facility.
333. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) and Carlyle Group acquired 26 % stake of American Financial major GE Capital in SBI Card. SBI Card is operated through two joint-ventures - SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBICPSL) and GE Capital Business Process Management Services (GECBPMSL).
334. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched *SBI Realty* as a dedicated portal to help home buyers to choose flats from its 3,000 approved projects across country (over 9.5 Lakh Home Units).
335. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched FTSE SBI Bond Index series in partnership with global index provider FTSE 100, which will give tools to investors from India, the UK and globally to analyse India's government bond market, and drive growth in market.








336. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched its first ever chatbot called *SBI Intelligent Assistant or SIA*, which would be powered by AI and will assist customers. It has been developed by Artificial intelligence banking platform Payjo.
337. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) signed agreement with Escorts Ltd to finance farmers for purchase of Escorts tractors under name *Powertrac and Farmtrac*.
338. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) waived off account closing charges for Savings accounts that are over an year old. Earlier, SBI levied closure charges of Rs 500 for its savings account customers.
339. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) will lend 2317 Crore rupees (\$357 million) to 6 companies for 575 megawatts of grid-connected rooftop solar projects under a World Bank programme. SBI already has given approx 12000 Crore as loans in Solar Sector.
- ▶ India aims to raise renewable energy capacity to 175 gigawatts (GW) by 2022, from 57 GW currently. Solar Energy accounts for 100 GW in that target.
340. ▶ State Bank of India Online Funds Transfer Fee Rates Reduced -
- ▶ IMPS -
 - ▶ INR 0 for fund transfer up to INR 1,000.
 - ▶ For More Funds, charge will be Rs 5 for fund transfer in range 1,000 to 1 lakh and Rs 15 for transactions of Rs 1-2 lakh.
 - ▶ NEFT / RTGS -
 - ▶ 75 % Reduction in Fees attached with all NEFT / RTGS Fund Transfers.
 - ▶ GST of 18 per cent on Processing fee is applicable on all financial transactions.
341. ▶ State Bank of India has launched a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative *SBI Gram Seva*, which will work in areas of health, education, environment and rural infrastructure. SBI Foundation will partner with NGOs to carry out CSR initiatives under which it adopt 5 villages each from 10 village panchayats with each village getting around Rs 2.40 crore over 3 years.
342. ▶ State Bank of India has slashed Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) charges up to 80 %. New IMPS service charges are -
- ▶ No charges for transactions under Rs 1000.
 - ▶ INR 1 - Between 1000 - 10,000
 - ▶ INR 2 - Between 10001 - 100000
343. ▶ State Bank of India launched a new product to provide a short-term working capital demand loan to MSME clients, called SME Assist. It would offer loans to MSME customers on basis of their input credit claims under Goods and Services Tax (GST).
344. ▶ State Bank of India launched a unified integrated app called YONO (You Need Only One), that offers all kinds of financial and lifestyle products from 14 categories.
345. ▶ State Bank of India lowered Minimum Average Monthly Balance (MAB) requirement in a savings account to Rs 3,000 from Rs 5,000 and also revised downwards penalties for not maintaining such balance.
346. ▶ State Bank of India will create a 15,000-sqft innovation center in Navi Mumbai, investing around Rs 100 crore. It will be largest innovation center by any financial services company in India.
347. ▶ State Bank of India will raise INR 2,000 crores by allotting Basel-III compliant bonds to various investors. It will allot 20,000 AT1 Basel-III compliant non-convertible, perpetual, subordinated bonds in the nature of debentures. Bonds will carry a coupon rate of 8.15% per annum with a call option after 5 years.
348. ▶ Substantial increase observed in number of Income Tax Returns(ITRs) filed, with over 2.8 Crore ITRs filed as compared to 2.26 Crore ITRs last year.
349. ▶ TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) announced that Reliance Communications will shut down voice call service from 1st December 2017 and its customers can move to other networks by the end 2017.
350. ▶ Tata AIA Life launched Chatbot *Eazy Connect* that will extend online customer service to social media platforms. It will be available through social media platforms and is developed to respond to most frequently asked queries.
351. ▶ Tata Power became first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India. QR code linked to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will be printed on electricity bills and customers can scan QR code with BHIM app or any other UPI linked app and pay bills..
352. ▶ Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Governor E S L Narasimhan launched first regional language version of 'GST Rate Finder' App in Telugu.
- ▶ English version of *GST Rate Finder* was launched in July 2017 and now telugu version is first regional language version of this app.
353. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has cut mobile termination charges (MTC) by 57% to 6 paise per minute (currently 14 paise per minute) with effect from October 1, 2017. MTC would be completely cut by January 1, 2020.
- ▶ MTC is paid by operator whose subscriber makes a call to the operator whose subscriber receives the call.
 - ▶ This will lead to reduction in call rates and will benefit subscribers further.
 - ▶ This decision has originated from a dispute between Reliance Jio and other top telecom operators.

354. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended 40% reduction in carbon emissions in telecom networks by 2022-23 considering 2011-12 as base year in order to make telecom sector greener.
355. ▶ Travel Bookings Firm *Yatra* acquired corporate travel service provider Air Travel Bureau (ATB, India's largest corporate travel services provider).
356. ▶ UN Agency International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) approved USD 30 million soft loans for 4th phase of North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP).
357. ▶ Uber launched *Uber for Business* model to enable new use cases like daily commute, late-night rides home from work, between-office transportation and much more. This organisations targeted service would help businesses save costs as they can ensure that employees travel within company policy.
358. ▶ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd (subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services) has been given scheduled bank status by RBI. Currently, Ujjivan SFB has 65 branches in 10 states / UTs.
359. ▶ Union Bank of India launched Bilingual (Hindi and English) Android app *Union Sahyog* to digitise customer-facing banking services such as missed call/SMS-based services, Internet banking, deposit and loan product information, online account opening and online loan application etc.
360. ▶ Union Bank of India signed *Bancassurance* agreements with *Bajaj Allianz General Insurance* and *Cholamandalam MS General Insurance* for distribution of their insurance products. Similar Bancassurance tie up has been signed between DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance Company and Dhanlaxmi Bank.
361. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE's) second largest bank, Emirates NBD started operations in India by opening a branch in Mumbai. It is Emirates NBD's fifth international branch.
362. ▶ United Bank of India (UBI) received SEBI's approval for issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,000 crore by way of institutional placement.
363. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government launched 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' Scheme, a free household power connection scheme for the poor in the state.
364. ▶ Visa tied up with Andhra Pradesh government for Digital Dhan Sankalp project to develop Visakhapatnam into India's first 'less cash' city.
365. ▶ World Bank approved a loan worth USD 40 million for a tourism project in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
366. ▶ YES Bank launched *YES GST* program for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) to help them get familiar with GST taxation system.
367. ▶ Yes Bank signed MoU with Innovation Centre Denmark – India (ICDK India), to bring financial technology innovations and startups from Denmark to India, and facilitate entry of Indian startups in Denmark.

 YES Bank also signed bancassurance agreement with Reliance General Insurance.

Top

International

1. ▶ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) become first Indian Oil Marketing Company (OMC) to enter lubricant market in Myanmar.
2. ▶ India's Essar Ports signed 30-year concession agreement with Government of Mozambique to develop a 20 million tons per annum (MTPA) coal terminal at Beira Port as part of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project. First phase will be developed at a cost of \$275 million.
3. ▶ UNESCO World Heritage Committee's 41st session held in Krakow (Poland) -
 -  During this session, 21 new sites have been included into UNESCO's World Heritage List. The 5.5 km walled city area in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) has been declared India's first World Heritage City by UNESCO. Historic Centre of Vienna (Vienna) is also included in List.
 -  Apart from this, UNESCO World Heritage Committee has amended list of world heritage sites in danger -
 -  West Bank city of Hebron has been included in list, triggering a new Israeli-Palestinian spat at international level.
 -  Australia's Great Barrier Reef has been removed from List.
 -  Gelati Monastery of Georgia has been removed from List.
4. ▶ 2 Democratic lawmakers, Ami Bera and Frank Pallone introduced a legislation in USA House of Representative to support India's permanent membership to UN Security Council.
5. ▶ 2017 Global Liveability Report compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -
 -  10 most liveable cities - Melbourne (1st), Vienna (2nd), Vancouver (3rd), Toronto (4th), Calgary (5th), Adelaide (6th), Perth (7th), Auckland (8th), Helsinki (9th) and Hamburg (10th). Melbourne has topped the list For seventh consecutive year
 -  No Indian City named in top 10 Cities' List.

Least Liveable Cities - Damascus (Syria), Lagos (Nigeria), Tripoli (Libya)

6. ▶ 2017 Global Retirement Index (GRI) by French asset management company Natixis Global -

India has been ranked Last (43rd) among 43 Countries in List.

Top 3 - Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland.

7. ▶ 2017 Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index by Australian Centre for Financial Studies (ACFS) -

India has ranked 28th out of 30 countries. India's overall index value in 2017 is 44.9, which marks an improvement over index value of 43.4 in 2016.

Denmark has retained the top spot in this index for sixth consecutive year.

8. ▶ 2017 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung -

India - Ranked 116 out of 157 nations.

Top 5 -Sweden (1st), Denmark (2nd), Finland (3rd), Norway (4th), Czech Republic (5th).

Bottom 5 - Madagascar (153), Liberia (154), Congo (155), Chad (156), Central African Republic (157)

BRICS - Brazil (56), Russia (62), India (116), China (71), South Africa (108)

Neighbours -Bangladesh (120), Nepal (105), Pakistan (122), Sri Lanka (81)

9. ▶ 2018 *World Economic League Table* report released by Centre for Economics and Business Research (UK) -

India will overtake UK and France to become fifth largest economy in 2018, and will further move to 3rd spot by 2032.

China is likely to overtake USA as world's largest economy by 2032.

Russia will fall to 17th place among world's largest economies by 2032, from 11th place in 2017, mainly because of low commodity (oil) prices in international market and its excessive reliance on energy sector.

10. ▶ 2nd India-Afghanistan air cargo route linking Kabul to Mumbai inaugurated at Hamid Karzai international airport in Kabul, to boost export of fresh fruits and medicinal plants from Afghanistan. First air corridor between both countries linking Kabul-New Delhi was inaugurated in June 2017.

11. ▶ 5 Day youth film festival of Nordic-Baltic European nations started at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

Nordic-Baltic countries are *Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden*. They are tied together geographically and historically through trade, culture and many other value systems.

12. ▶ *Feminism* is named as Merriam-Webster's Word of the year 2017.

Feminism word has its roots in the Latin language, where it was used for "woman" and "female" in 14th century English.

Other Words of The year 2017

Populism - Cambridge Dictionary.

Kwaussie - Australian National Dictionary.

13. ▶ *Government at a Glance 2017* report by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) -

Indian government is ranked 3rd most trusted government in world, with 74 % Indians trusting their current PM Modi led Government.

List is topped by Switzerland, followed by Indonesia.

14. ▶ *The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017* (149 countries) -

India ranks 100th in this list of prosperity.

Top 5 - Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden.

15. ▶ *World's Top 15 Cities* list by Noted magazine Travel + Leisure (T+L). India's Udaipur (Rajasthan) has been featured in the list. Top 5 are -

1	San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
2	Charleston, South Carolina, USA
3	Chiang Mai, Thailand
4	Kyoto, Japan
5	Florence, Italy

16. ▶ A consortium of chinese firms is Constructing Bangladesh's first eco-friendly thermal power plant with ultra-modern clean coal technology, near sea port in Payra town in Patuakhali district of Bangladesh. Estimated cost of the project is USD 1.56 billion.

17. ▶ A global treaty that bans nuclear weapons was adopted at United Nations by 122 Nations, with Netherlands voting in against.

None of 9 countries that possess nuclear weapons - USA, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel took part in negotiations or vote. Nuclear states argue Nuke Weapons serve as a deterrent against a nuclear attack and say they remain committed to nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Treaty will be open for signature to Nations at UN Headquarters in New York (USA) on September 19, 2017. It will enter into force 90 days after 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession has been deposited.

Current Nuclear Stockpile of nations is approx -

- ✍ Russia - 7000
- ✍ USA - 6800
- ✍ France - 300
- ✍ China - 270
- ✍ UK - 215
- ✍ Pakistan - 130
- ✍ India - 120
- ✍ Israel - 80
- ✍ North Korea - 2 to 3

18. ▶ A new representative body US- India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is being set up to enhance business relations between India and USA. Mukesh Aghi will serve as a USISPF President while Gaurav Verma will serve as Chief Operating officer.
19. ▶ A painting of Christ by Italian Renaissance painter Leonardo da Vinci is sold for USD 450 million, breaking all previous records of artworks sold or auctioned. Previously, Highest price ever for a work of art at auction was USD 179.4 million for Pablo Picasso's painting 'Women of Algiers (Version O)' in May 2015. While, highest sale price for any artwork was USD 300 million for Willem de Kooning's painting 'Interchange'.
20. ▶ A team of researchers led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen discovered wreckage of World War II warship USS Indianapolis 18000 feet below the surface in Pacific Ocean, after 72 years of its drowning by Japanese Soldiers.
21. ▶ A tomb belonging to a royal goldsmith who lived more than 3500 years ago has been discovered in Luxor (Egypt).
22. ▶ ADIA (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)) became first institutional investor in India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)'s Master Fund and a shareholder in NIIF's investment management Company. ADIA invested approx 1 Billion USD in NIIF.
23. ▶ According to Country Report on Terrorism released by US State Department -
 - ✍ Countries that faced highest number of terrorist attacks in 2016 - Iraq (2,965 terrorist attacks), Afghanistan (1,340), India (927), Pakistan (734), Philippines (482), Nigeria (466).
24. ▶ According to Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, Hui Ka Yan (chairman of Chinese real estate giant Evergrande Group) is now Asia's richest man with net worth of \$41.1 billion. Asia's second and third richest persons are Tencent Holdings Chairman Ma Huateng (\$39.1 billion), Alibaba Group Chairman Jack Ma (\$38.9 billion).
25. ▶ According to OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026,
 - ✍ India will be world's largest milk producer by 2026, with 49 % Increase from current Milk output.
 - ✍ World's population will increase from 7.3 to 8.2 billion, with India's population growing to 1.5 from 1.3 billion. India will overtake China as most populous country by 2026.
 - ✍ Global production of wheat will increase by 11% with registering largest Increase in Production - 15 million metric tonnes.
26. ▶ According to OECD-FAO's Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 report, India is world's third-biggest exporter of beef (Cattle Meat) after Brazil and Australia.
27. ▶ According to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s Trade and Development Report (TDR) 2017, India and China at their current levels of growth will not serve as "growth poles" for global economy in near future.
 - ✍ Global Growth will reach 2.6% this year, well below pre 2008 financial crisis average of 3.2%.
 - ✍ India's Growth will slow down to 6.7% in 2017 from 7% in 2016.
 - ✍ China's Growth has been retained at 6.7%, same as in 2016. China's estimated debt-to-GDP ratio is 249%, so it needs to introduce measures to contain its rising debt as domestic demand could be squeezed, with adverse consequences.
28. ▶ According to World Energy Access report by International Energy Agency (IEA) -
 - ✍ Half a billion people have gained access to electricity in India since 2000, almost doubling country's electrification rate. It paves way for India to achieve access to electricity for all in early 2020s.
29. ▶ According to a report by United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), island of Tuvalu is least visited country in 2016. Approx 2,000 people visited Tuvalu in 2016, while 1000 people visited it in 2014. Located in South Pacific Ocean, Tuvalu has a population of 11,000 people.
30. ▶ According to global airlines' grouping IATA -
 - ✍ India's domestic aviation sector grew the fastest and India topped domestic growth chart again in September with 15.5 % Growth, compared to 5.7 % Globally. China is at 2nd place.
31. ▶ Adani Power signed 25 year Power purchase agreement (PPA) for net capacity of 1,496 MW with Bangladesh Power Development Board to supply electricity from its upcoming 1,600 MW plant at Godda in Jharkhand.

32. ▶ African Nation Zimbabwe's Parliament amended the constitution to give President sweeping powers to appoint country's top judges without consulting any other institution.
33. ▶ African country *Chad* will released limited edition Lord Krishna silver coin on Janmashtami in commemoration of 5,244th birth anniversary of Hindu God.
34. ▶ African country Burundi became first nation to withdraw from International Criminal Court (Hague, Netherlands) that has authority to prosecute individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
 - ✍ In recent years, 3 African Nations South Africa, Gambia and Burundi expressed their intent to leave ICC citing reason that it focuses too much on African nations.
35. ▶ Agricultural Minister Radha Mohan Singh sent a proposal to United Nations for declaring 2018 as *International Year of Millets*.
 - ✍ Mr. Radha Mohan also stated that total fish production in India remaiend 11.41 million tonnes in 2016-17, makig India 2nd largest fish producing country.
36. ▶ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched promotion of north eastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar. Exports of APEDA scheduled products to Bangladesh during 2016-17 were US \$396.44 million and US \$24.15 million for Myanmar.
37. ▶ Air India launched its direct flight from New Delhi to Copenhagen (Denmark), as 11th destination for Air India in Europe (described as connecting *Maharaja with the Mermaid*'.
38. ▶ Air New Zealand has been named *2018 Airline of the Year* for 5th consecutive year. It is followed by Qantas Airways, Singapore Airlines, Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic.
39. ▶ Airbus Perlan 2 Engineless aircraft has set a new altitude world record for a glider, climbing to 52,172 feet in El Calafate (Argentina)
40. ▶ Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft launched open-source and deep learning interface *Glouon* that will help developers to deploy machine learning models across several platforms. It will give developers a place to prototype, build, train and deploy machine learning models.
41. ▶ American digital payments company PayPal launched domestic operations in India.
 - ✍ Merchants offering PayPal will be able to process both local and global payments through the platform, getting access to PayPal's more than 20 Crore customers across world.
42. ▶ American electric Carmaker TESLA has builds world's biggest lithium-ion battery to be plugged into an Australian state grid, capable of powering 30,000 homes for up to an hour in the event of a severe blackout.
43. ▶ An Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) signed between Green Climate Fund (GCF) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in Delhi, making NABARD second entity from India (after SIDBI) to be accredited as Direct Access Entity (DAE) that will be able to access GCF resources to help safeguard livelihoods of millions of people against climate change impact.
 - ✍ Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a fund established under UNFCCC to assist developing countries in countering climate change. GCF is based in the new Incheon (South Korea) with Howard Bamsey as current Chief.
 - ✍ GCF acts as a centrepiece of efforts to raise Climate Finance under UNFCCC, and raise \$100 billion a year by 2020.
 - ✍ So far, one project from India on "Installation of Ground Water Recharge System" in Odisha has recently been approved by the GCF for \$34 million India has nominated 5 direct access entities for accreditation by GCF - NABARD, SIDBI, YES Bank, IDFC Bank and IL&FS Environmental Services.
44. ▶ Apple and Google respectively took 2 top spots in list of world's 100 most valuable brands, as per report by consultancy group Interbrand. This is the fifth consecutive year with Apple and Google at top of the list.
45. ▶ Arab Nation Jordan, that is 90% desert, has launched *Sahara Forest Project* near Aqaba City to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water. It is funded by Norway and European Union.
46. ▶ Arab Nation Qatar government announced that citizens belonging to 80 countries including India can now enter Qatar without a visa.
47. ▶ As per *Authentic Brands Study* by Cohn & Wolfe -
 - ✍ Indian consumers regard Google as most authentic brand, followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki and Apple.
 - ✍ Amazon tops list globally, followed by Apple.
48. ▶ As per Bloomberg Billionaires Index, India's Mukesh Ambani Became Asia's second-richest man with Worth of Approx 35.7 Billion USD, getting past Hong Kong Businessman Li Ka-shing. Mukesh added \$12.1 billion to his wealth in 2017, mainly owing to Jio Infocom, that roped in Over 11 Crore users in Under an year.
49. ▶ As per Credit Suisse Research Institute's (CSRI) report CS Family 1000 -
 - ✍ India has 108 publicly-listed family owned businesses, 3rd highest in world. With average market capitalization of USD 6.5 billion, India ranks 5th in Asia Pacific and 22nd globally, in terms of average m-cap.
 - ✍ Top 5 countries in terms of number of family-owned companies - China, USA, India, France AND Hong Kong

50. ▶ As per Data by Forbes, based on a recent research by Transparency International (TI) -
- India beats Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan and Myanmar inn terms of corruption, making India most corrupt asian nation with 69 % bribery rate.
51. ▶ As per Data by Twiplomacy (Burson Marsteller research project that tracks use of Twitter by governments and international organizations) -
- USA Prez Donald Trump is most followed leader on Twitter, followed by Pope Francis and Indian PM Narendra Modi.
52. ▶ As per Forbes' Magazine, Chinese e-Commerce Firm Alibaba's CEO Jack Ma is back as Asia's richest man with worth of \$37.4 billion. He is followed by China's Ma Huateng (Chairman of Tencent) with worth \$36.7 billion.
53. ▶ As per HSBC, India ranks 14th in terms of best country for expats to live and work in. The list is topped by Singapore.
54. ▶ As per Latest Data by Zurich based SNB (Swiss National Bank) -
- India is now ranked 88th place in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks. Indians' Money in Switzerland's banks is now only 0.04% of total funds kept by all foreign clients in Swiss banking system.
 - Top 2 - United Kingdom (CHF 359 billion (25%)), US (CHF 177 billion (14%)).
 - BRICS - Russia 19th (CHF 15.6 billion), China 25th (9.6 billion), Brazil 52nd (2.7 billion) and South Africa 61st (2.2 billion).
 - Neighbours - Pakistan 71st place (CHF 1.4 billion), Bangladesh 89th (667.5 million), Nepal 150th (312 million), Sri Lanka 151st (307 million).
55. ▶ As per Report by Tourism Australia, Maharashtra is leading Indian tourist source market for Australia with over 59,000 tourists having visited Australia in year ended June 2017, folowed by Delhi and Karnataka.
56. ▶ As per UK's Department for International Trade, India is now 4th largest foreign investor into UK in 2016-17.
- Top 4 foreign investor into UK in 2016-17 - US (577 new projects), China (160 new projects), France (131 new projects), India (127 new Projects).
 - Australia and New Zeland share the 4th spot with India.
57. ▶ As per consultancy and research firm Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) -
- India will 3rd largest aviation market for departures by 2019, up from 4th place with 131 Million passengers in 2016.
 - USA is largest aviation market with 815 million passengers, followed by China (490 million) and Japan(141 million).
58. ▶ As per data by Bank of Thailand, India has highest unemployment rate in Asia (8%). Thailand's 1.3% employment rate is ranked best in Asia.
59. ▶ As per new discovery, *Mount Hope* is new tallest mountain in British Antarctic Territory (BAT) with height measured at 3,239 meters above, more than 3,184 meters tall *Mount Jackson*.
60. ▶ As per rankings released by *Fortune* Magazine, Qatar is World's Richest Country in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita.

Top 5 Nations -

Rank	Country	GDP Per Capita
1	Qatar	\$124930
2	Luxembourg	\$109190
3	Singapore	\$90530
4	Brunei	\$76740
5	Ireland	\$72630

- India is Ranked 126th with USD 7170 GDP Per Capita.


61. ▶ As per research by Centre for International Development at Harvard University (CID) -
- Economic pole of global growth has moved from China to India and it is likely to remain over India in coming decade. India's exports base now includes more complex sectors such as chemicals, vehicles and certain electronics and India is also well-positioned to continue diversifying into new areas. Study also found decline in China's exports and Its economic complexity.
62. ▶ As per speed tester Ookla, Norway has fastest mobile Internet in the world with 52.6 Mbps speed, followed by Netherlands and Hungary.
63. ▶ Asia Index Pvt Ltd (joint venture of S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE) launched Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) index, to measure exposure to securities meeting sustainability investing criteria.
64. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide USD 152 million to Nepal for implementation and enhancement of its power transmission and distribution.
65. ▶ Assam government signed MoU with Singapore for skilling youth of state. Additionally, Indiana (USA State) and Karnataka signed agreement to establish sister-state ties for cooperation in economic, educational and cultural fields.
66. ▶ Australia and East Timor (Known as *Timor - Leste*) agreed on a maritime boundary and revenue sharing agreement from a natural gas field beneath seabed between them.




67. ▶ Australia became 25th country to recognize same-sex marriage as it passed a bill that changed a 2004 law that stipulated a legal marriage as the one between a man and a woman.
68. ▶ Australia became 35th country to join International Solar Alliance (ISA) initiative jointly launched by India and France. ISA aims to support developing countries to boost their solar production capacity.
- ▶ India through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is contributing \$1 million to ISA fund. ISA aims to mobilize over \$ 1000 billion by 2030 towards promoting solar power on all fronts.
69. ▶ Australia sent its first uranium shipment to India for testing purposes ahead of possible commercial sales. India and Australia signed an agreement for civil nuclear cooperation in 2014 to meet India's growing energy needs.
70. ▶ Australian Government announced that it will establish a national space agency as a part of long term plan to develop Australia's domestic space industry. It will be called ARSE (Australian Research & Space Exploratio).
71. ▶ Australian government will build world's biggest single tower solar thermal power plant (150-megawatt capacity) in South Australia by 2020. Solar thermal technology uses mirrors to concentrate the Sun's light at the top of a tower, heating stored molten salt and heat is used to operate steam turbines.
72. ▶ Australia's last car factory was shut down as USA carmaker GM Holden Ltd closed its plant in South Australia. It marks end of car manufacturing industry in Australia.
73. ▶ Austria's law banning face veils such as burkhas or niqabs came into effect, to promote cohabitation between majority Austrian population and people from third countries living in Austria.
74. ▶ BRICS - themed subway train with carriages representing five member nations started test operations in China's Xiamen city.
- ▶ Indian carriage depicts elephants and yoga.
 - ▶ Chinese carriage is red and displays icons such as the Great Wall and Tian'anmen Square.
 - ▶ Brazilian carriage is green and decorated with images of footballs and football stars.
 - ▶ Russian carriage shows country's ballet and matryoshka dolls.
 - ▶ South African carriage displays pictures of diamonds.
 - ▶ Sixth carriage combines cultural elements from all the five BRICS countries.
75. ▶ BRICS Nations' New Development Bank (NDB) approved 2 development projects in India and Russia with loans of \$400 million -
- ▶ In India, funds procured by means of NDB loan will be used to rehabilitate the Indira Gandhi canal system.
 - ▶ In Russia, loan will be used to build a toll transport corridor connecting M-5 federal highway to Ufa city centre.
 - ▶ New Development Bank is Headquartered in Shanghai (China) with India's K V Kamath as Current President.
76. ▶ Bangkok Bank (Thailand) selected India based iGTB (Intellect Global Transaction Banking - a specialist firm of Intellect Design Arena Ltd) as tech partner to implement a cash management platform and corporate portal.
77. ▶ Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina floated a five-point peace proposal at United Nations to find a permanent solution to Rohingya crisis (Over 430,000 refugees fleeing violence in Bangladesh's Rakhine State from Myanmar since August 2017). These Points Include UN Intervention to ensure safe return of all displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar and implementing Kofi Annan Commission Recommendations immediately.
78. ▶ Bangladesh and USA Armies held Joint Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka.
79. ▶ Bangladesh will open a new diplomatic station in Chennai, to focus on medical tourism and educational centres that drew thousands of Bangladesh citizens to India every year.
80. ▶ Belgium became first country to send a female ambassador (Dominique Mineur) to Saudi Arabia.
81. ▶ Bengaluru based IT Firm Mindtree inaugurated its first international Digital Pumpkin innovation hub in New Jersey (USA).
82. ▶ Bengaluru city signed MoU with C40 cities network to work together to tackle air pollution.
- ▶ C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is grouping of cities aims at tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas.
83. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed agreement with USA's networking solutions provider Coriant to study possibilities of bringing and expanding 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) in India.
84. ▶ Bharti Airtel acquired Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Ltd (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd (TTML) with over 4 crore TTSL customers joining Bharti Airtel. Bharti Airtel will absorb TTSL's CMB operations across country in nineteen circles (17 under TTSL and 2 under TTML).
85. ▶ Bharti Airtel received Ghana's National Communications Authority's approval for merger between Bharti Ghana (Airtel) and Millicom Ghana (Tigo). Merger will result in 2nd largest mobile network operations in Ghana.
86. ▶ Bharti Airtel signed agreement with Millicom International, under which *Airtel Rwanda Ltd* will acquire 100% equity in Tigo Rwanda Ltd.

87. ▶ Bhutan has become the first country to pledge rapid deployment troops to the UN peacekeeping operations, keeping them at the ready for participation in missions within 60 days.
88. ▶ Biggest X-ray laser gun on earth named, European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) in German federal states of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein, will begin operating in September 2017.
- ▶ XFEL will shoot 27000 laser pulses per second, 200 times more per second than next highest-performing gun in California (USA).
 - ▶ 1.5 billion-euro laser replaces its predecessor, FLASH, in Germany.
 - ▶ European XFEL is constructed such that electrons produce x-ray light in synchronisation, resulting in high-intensity x-ray pulses with properties of laser light and at intensities much brighter than those produced by conventional synchrotron light sources.
89. ▶ Bilateral Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan came into force, aiming to strengthen bilateral trade relations between both countries.
90. ▶ Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017 -
- ▶ India ranked 8th most valuable nation brand while USA retained its top position and China took second spot.
 - ▶ In terms of valuation, India's National Brand Value in 2017 is \$2.04 trillion, down by 1% from last year's \$2.06 trillion. However, India's brand rating has improved from 'AA-' to 'AA'.
91. ▶ Brazil Government abolished a vast national reserve in the Amazon to open up area to mining, covering 46000 sq km. This area straddles northern states of Amapa and Para and is believed to be rich in gold, zinc, phosphate, manganese and other minerals.
92. ▶ Britain launched a new plastic 10-pound note featuring Jane Austen (*renowned British Author*), To tackle counterfeiting. Apart from Queen, Austen is 3rd woman (after Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth Fry) to feature on a modern-day British banknote.
93. ▶ British government launched *Grand Trunk Road* project to mark 70th anniversary of India's Partition in August 1947, aimed at bringing British Asians of all faiths and backgrounds together.
94. ▶ Cabinet Approvals-
- ▶ Approved enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years.
 - ▶ MOU with Ethiopia in field of Information, Communication and Media.
 - ▶ MoU with Belarus in the oil and gas sector
 - ▶ MoU with Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development
 - ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a Letter of Intent with Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to extend cooperation in health sector.
 - ▶ Letter of Intent (LoI) with Norway to extend cooperation within health sector through Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for 3 years starting from 2018.
95. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved upgradation of 65 kms of Imphal-Moreh Section of NH-39 in Manipur, a vital link in providing road connectivity up to Thailand and Malaysia.
- ▶ This project is being developed with Asian Development Bank's (ADB) loan assistance under South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Investment Program. It aims at upgradation of road infrastructure in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India (BBIN) to improve regional connectivity.
96. ▶ Cabinet approvals -
- ▶ Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Japan on *Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)*. Under this, India will send 3-lakh youth to Japan for on-job training for 3-5 years.
 - ▶ MOC with Japan on establishing a Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market.
 - ▶ MoU between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Services Commission (Gibraltar) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.
 - ▶ MOU between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Capital Markets Authority (Kuwait).
 - ▶ MoU with Morocco on cooperation in water resources.
 - ▶ Government approved updating status of *International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)* from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and will enable more safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels.
 - ▶ Extradition Treaty with Lithuania to provide legal framework for seeking extradition of economic offenders, terrorists and other criminals from and to Lithuania.
97. ▶ Cabinet approvals -
- ▶ MOU with Spain on cooperation in renewable energy.

- ✎ Establishment of BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BRICS-ARP), as a natural global platform for science-led agriculture-based sustainable development for addressing the issues of world hunger, under-nutrition, poverty and inequality.
 - ✎ India and Somalia signed agreement for transfer of sentenced persons, to deepen humanitarian cooperation between two nations.
 - ✎ Proposal to extend proxy voting to overseas Indians by amending electoral laws has been cleared. NRIs will also be allowed to use option of proxy, which as of now is only available to service personnel.
98. ▶ Canada has been chosen as partner country for 23rd Technology Summit to be held in November 2017 in New Delhi, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
 99. ▶ Canadian government announced to allow Transgender citizens to obtain gender neutral passports, by marking **X** in space of gender on their passports and other identity documents.
 100. ▶ Central American Nation Guatemala announced to move its Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, after USA recently recognized Jerusalem as capital of Israel and announced to move USA's Israeli embassy to Jerusalem.
 101. ▶ Central American country Nicaragua signed Paris Agreement on climate change, leaving USA and Syria as only 2 countries left to sign this global climate pact.
 102. ▶ China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) launched Algeria's first telecommunications satellite, Alcomsat-1, aboard a Long March 3B rocket.
 103. ▶ China and Australia joint military training exercise *Panda-Kangaroo 2017* concluded in Kunming (China).
 104. ▶ China and Pakistan Joint Air Exercise *Shaheen VI* has been organized.
 105. ▶ China and Russia held their large-scale naval exercise *Joint Sea 2017* in Baltic Sea.
 106. ▶ China commissioned its first radar-evading J-20 stealth fighter jets into military service.
 107. ▶ China displayed its first unmanned combat helicopter AV500W for foreign buyers. The aircraft's length is 7.2 meters.
 108. ▶ China has shut down its legal government-sanctioned ivory (*elephant teeth*) trade.
 109. ▶ China launched 2nd Land Surveying Satellite LKW-2 (also known as Yaogan Weixing-32), to be used for remote sensing exploration of land resources. It was launched on board of Long March-2D rocket.
 110. ▶ China launched BeiDou-3 M1 and BeiDou-3 M2 Navigation satellites on board Long March-3B rocket.
 111. ▶ China launched its first cyber court specialising in handling internet-related cases in the e-commerce hub of Hangzhou, amid a spike in number of online disputes.
 112. ▶ China launched remote sensing VRSS-2 satellite for Venezuela by Long March-2D carrier rocket. This is 3rd Venezuelan satellite launched by China after Venesat -1 (2008) and VRSS - 1 (2012).
 113. ▶ China launched world's fastest bullet train *Fuxing* between Beijing and Shanghai at 350 kms per hour, covering 1,250-km in 4 hours and 30 minutes.
 114. ▶ China launched world's first all-electric ship, which can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge. It is 70.5-metre-long and weighs about 600 tonnes.
 115. ▶ China started trial operations of world's biggest automated container terminal at Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai. Terminal covers 2.23 million square metres and has a 2,350-metre shoreline.
 116. ▶ China successfully produced natural gas from methane hydrate (also known as *flammable ice*) in South China Sea (SCS). A drilling platform produced a total of 309,000 cubic metres of natural gas from gas hydrate in 60 days.
 117. ▶ China today launched three remote sensing satellites to improve observation capability to promote commercial use for remote sensing industry. Satellites are Jilin-1 04, Jilin-1 05 and Jilin-1 06.
 118. ▶ China unveiled Asia's largest artificial island-building ship named *magic island maker*, with 140-metre length and capable of digging 6,000 cubic metres an hour.
 119. ▶ China will launch 10 satellites into space over next three years to maintain non-stop surveillance on disputed waterway of South China Sea. It would provide scientific support for China's One Belt One Road initiative and emergency response efforts at sea.
 120. ▶ China's Shanghai will have first Tesla Electric Car factory outside USA. Tesla is headed by Noted Entrepreneur Elon Musk.
 121. ▶ China's Zhejiang Electric Power Company will construct world's tallest power supply pylon in east Zhejiang Province, with 380-metre height. It will get past China's Dabaoshan pylon (370 m).
 122. ▶ Chinese electronics company TCL Corporation will launch a full touchscreen, waterproof Smartphone under BlackBerry name in October 2017.
 123. ▶ Chinese spiritual practice *Falun Gong* celebrated in India, that combines meditation and qigong exercises with a moral philosophy.
 124. ▶ Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2018 by environmental organisation Germanwatch (56 Nations) -
 - ✎ India - Ranked 14th This year, up from 20th Rank Last Year.
 - ✎ Top 5 - Sweden (1), Lithuania (2), Morocco (3), Norway (4), UK (5)

 Bottom 5 - Russia , USA, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia (Last)

 BRICS - Brazil (19), Russia (53), China (41), South Africa (48)


125. ▶ Cross Border Train Service between India & Bangladesh, Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express has been inaugurated.
126. ▶ Cuba began a five-month political transition expected to end with Raul Castro's departure from Presidency, due to his family's dominance in country's political system for 60 years.
127. ▶ Delhi Government signed twin city agreement with Seoul (South Korea), to strengthen cooperation i fields of smart city, e-governance, climate change and transportation.
128. ▶ Denmark launched USA based global alliance to manage Climate change in Copenhagen. It is called Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G).
 -  P4G is supported by China, Indonesia and C40(group of more than 90 large cities of world that represent 25% of global economy).
129. ▶ Disney acquired certain assets of 21st Century Fox (FOXA), for approximately USD 52.4 billion in stocks, with transaction valued at USD 66.1 billion including 21st Century Fox's debt.
130. ▶ East African Nation Kenya has put Toughest laws against use of Plastic Bags, with imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40000.
131. ▶ East African country Zimbabwe banned import of fruits and vegetables to preserve scarce foreign currencies.
132. ▶ Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index 2017 -
 -  Japanese capital Tokyo topped the list of 60 cities. Singapore and Japanese city Osaka ranked second and third.
 -  Indian cities Delhi and Mumbai have been ranked 43rd and 45th respectively.
133. ▶ Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) of India launched UJALA (Unnati Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme in Melaka State of Malaysia. Malaysia became 2nd country after United Kingdom (UK) where EESL launched UJALA scheme. Under this, each household in Melaka will get 10 high quality 9-watt LED bulbs at a cost of only RM 10.
134. ▶ European Parliament approved Its first-ever cooperation deal between European Union and Cuba.
135. ▶ European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) launched to monitor general and provincial polls in Nepal to be held in Nov - Dec 2017, with 3.5 million euros allocated for entire election observation process.
136. ▶ Export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement included India as its 42nd member, during its plenary meeting in Vienna (Austria).
 -  Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, is a multilateral export control regime established to ensure regional and international security by promoting transparency in transfer of arms and dual-use goods and technologies.
 -  This will enhance India's credentials in field of non-proliferation, although, India is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
137. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will lead a ministerial delegation to the ASEAN-India 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas' (PBD) to be held in 2018, in Singapore. PBD 2018 will also mark 25 years of the ASEAN-India partnership.
138. ▶ FIFA lifted ban on Sudan Football Association (SFA), making it eligible to benefit from FIFA development programs.
139. ▶ Facebook rolled out *Watch* video platform to take on Google-owned YouTube. It is a platform for all creators and publishers to find an audience, build a community of passionate fans, and earn money for their work.
140. ▶ Fifty Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan awarded with UN Medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in conflict-ridden South Sudan.
141. ▶ Fiji, Niger, Tuvalu and Seychelles ratified ISA Framework Agreement and became members of ISA framework agreement.
 -  ISA will need the ratification of just 4 more countries to become a recognized inter-governmental body (Total 15 were needed). After which, ISA can embark on its task to channelise \$300 billion in 10 years to promote renewable energy globally.
142. ▶ First *Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index* released by international NGO Oxfam International -
 -  India is ranked **132nd** out of 152 countries.
 -  Top 5 - Sweden (1st), Belgium (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Norway (4th) and Germany (5th).
 -  Bottom 5 - Nigeria (152), Bahrain (151), Myanmar (150), Albania (149), Panama (148).
 -  Neighbours - Pakistan (146), Bangladesh (148), Nepal (81), Sri Lanka (138)
143. ▶ First Israeli satellite for environmental research - *Venus* has been launched from French Guiana (France), as a joint effort by the Israel Space Agency and the French Space Agency (CNES).
144. ▶ First USA crude oil cargo of 1.6 million barrels bought by Indian Oil Corporation reached Paradip Port (Odisha). Indian Oil became placed order of 3.9 million barrel from USA.
145. ▶ First ever *Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - India Music Festival* held at Purana Quila in New Delhi, to celebrate 25 year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
146. ▶ First metro train of Pakistan arrived from China as a gift. It has been called *Orange Line Metro Train service* and will begin operations in December 2017. Also, Pakistan and Iran signed MoU to improve border security.

147. ▶ First project funded BRICS *New Development Bank* has started operations in Shanghai (China), that was set up using \$76 million loan granted to Shanghai Lingang Distributed Solar Power Project from NDB.
148. ▶ First regional centre of New Development Bank has been opened in South Africa. NDB has been set up by India and other BRICS nations with an authorized capital of USD 100 billion. Its headquarters is in Beijing (China).
149. ▶ For the first time, WHO will add gaming disorder to its International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
- ▶ ICD is a diagnostic manual published by WHO that was last updated 27 years ago. 11th edition of the manual is due in 2018.
150. ▶ Forbes Highest Paid TV Actresses 2017 -
- ▶ Modern Family' star Sofia Vergara earned USD 41.5 million (Rs 271 crore), topping the list for the sixth consecutive year.
 - ▶ India's Priyanka Chopra ranked 8th, as she made USD 10 million (INR 65 crore).
151. ▶ Forbes annual list of the highest-paid musicians -
- ▶ Top 3 -
 - ▶ Diddy (\$130m) (USA)
 - ▶ Beyonce (\$105m) (USA)
 - ▶ Drake (\$94m) (Canada)
152. ▶ Forbes' Highest Earning Male Actors List 2017 -
- ▶ Mark Wahlberg (\$68 million)
 - ▶ Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (\$65 million)
 - ▶ Vin Diesel (\$54.5 million)
 - ▶ Adam Sandler (\$50.5 million)
 - ▶ Jackie Chan (\$49 million)
 - ▶ Robert Downey, Jr. (\$48 million)
 - ▶ Tom Cruise (\$43 million)
 - ▶ Shah Rukh Khan (\$38 million)
 - ▶ Salman Khan (\$37 million)
 - ▶ Akshay Kumar (\$35.5 million)
153. ▶ Forbes' Highest Paid Women in Music List 2017 -
- ▶ American singer Beyonce at top with earnings of \$105 million (Rs682 crore).
 - ▶ Top 5 - Beyonce (\$105 million-USA), Adele (\$69 million-ENG), Taylor Swift (\$44 million-USA), Celine Dion (\$42 million-Canada), Jennifer Lopez (\$38 million-USA).
154. ▶ Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes of All Time-
- ▶ Retired American Basketball Legend Michael Jordan is named as highest-paid athlete of all time with \$1.7 billion income, followed by golfer Tiger Woods (\$1.7 billion) and Late American golfer Arnold Palmer at 3rd place (\$1.4 billion).
155. ▶ Forbes' best countries in world for business in 2018 (153 Nations) -
- ▶ UK stayed at top of List, followed by New Zealand and Netherlands.
 - ▶ India is ranked 62nd on list. China ranks 66th.
156. ▶ Forbes's list of *The World's Most Innovative Companies*. 2017 -
- ▶ Top 5 - Salesforce (1st), Tesla Motors (2), Amazon (3), Shanghai Raas Blood Products (4) and Netflix (5)
 - ▶ Indian Companies - Hindustan Unilever Limited (7th), Asian Paints (8th) and Bharti Airtel (78th).
157. ▶ Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers' List -
- ▶ Indian-American California senator Kamala Harris topped the List. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is ranked second in list and Indian-origin stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj ranked 3rd.
158. ▶ Foreign ministers of India, US and Japan held a trilateral meeting in New York on sidelines of 72nd annual session of UN General Assembly. It was attended by Sushma Swaraj on India's Behalf.
- ▶ Miroslav Lajcak (Slovakia) is president of 72nd UN General Assembly.
159. ▶ Fortune Most Powerful Women in Business List -
- ▶ USA - Indian Origin PepsiCo chairman Indra Nooyi ranked at 2nd, led by General Motors chairman and CEO Mary Barra.
 - ▶ Outside USA - Chanda Kochhar (ICICI Bank CEO) ranked 5th and Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma ranked 21st. List is topped by Banco Santander group executive chairman Ana Botin.
160. ▶ Fortune's 'Businessperson of the Year' list -
- ▶ It is annual ranking of world's top 20 heads of companies.
 - ▶ Aditya Puri, Managing Director of HDFC Bank, is the only Indian on (ranked 18th).

📌 Top 3 - Jensen Huang (Nvidia), Jamie Dimon (JPMorgan Chase), Marc Benioff (Salesforce)

📌 Indian Origin Person on list -Ajay Bagga (Mastercard, 6th), Shantanu Narayan (Adobe)

161. ▶ France's lower house of parliament approved new Anti-Terror Law. Now several controversial measures under state of emergency that has been in act for nearly two years have been made permanent.
162. ▶ French Government approved controversial legislation to further strengthen France's anti-terror laws in country.
163. ▶ French Govt. approved banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within country and its overseas territories.
164. ▶ French anti-doping laboratory of Chatenay-Malabry provisionally suspended by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), upon self-reported analytical issues to WADA by laboratory.
165. ▶ German Development Bank KfW signed agreement with India's North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) for Providing \$20 Million of Additional Funding for India's *Pare Hydroelectric Plant* project under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation.
166. ▶ Germany passed Network Enforcement Act law, under which social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube could face a hefty fine of 50 million if they fail to remove hate speech within 24 hours.
167. ▶ Germany will assist Indian Railways to make country's existing rail corridors semi high speed (max speed of 200 km per hour) on existing 643 km Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways.
168. ▶ Global Financial Centres Index 2017 by Z/Yen Partners and the China Development Institute (CDI). It is released twice a year, in March and September, and ranks 92 financial centres. Top 10 -
 - 📌 London
 - 📌 New York
 - 📌 Hong Kong
 - 📌 Singapore
 - 📌 Tokyo
 - 📌 Shanghai
 - 📌 Toronto
 - 📌 Sydney
 - 📌 Zurich
 - 📌 Beijing
169. ▶ Global Human Capital Report 2017 by World Economic Forum (130 Nations) -
 - 📌 Top 5 - Norway (1), Finland (2), Switzerland (3), United States (4), Denmark (5)
 - 📌 Bottom 5 - Mali (126), Ethiopia (127), Senegal (128), Mauritania (129), Yemen (130)
 - 📌 Neighbours - Bangladesh (111), Pakistan (125), Nepal (98), Sri Lanka (70)
 - 📌 BRICS - Brazil (77), Russia (16), **India (103)**, China (34), South Africa (87)
170. ▶ Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2017 report released by Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) -
 - 📌 India ranked 100th position among 119 countries, slipping 3 positions as compared to 97th rank in 2016 GHI.
 - 📌 Neighbours - Nepal (72), Bangladesh (88), Sri Lanka (84) and China (29), Pakistan (106).
 - 📌 BRICS - Brazil (18), Russia (22), **India (100)**, China (29), South Africa (55)
 - 📌 Top 5 - Belarus (1), Bosnia & Herzegovina (2), Chile (3), Croatia (4), Cuba (4)
 - 📌 Bottom 5 - Zambia (115), Madagascar (116), Sierra Leone (117), Chad (118), Central African Republic (119)
171. ▶ Global TB Report 2017, released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) -
 - 📌 India tops list of seven nations, accounting for 64 % of the 10.4 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in 2016.
 - 📌 India is followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa.
 - 📌 Estimated 1.7 million people died from TB in 2016.
172. ▶ Global ranking for least and most stressful cities, by Zipjet (150 Cities) -
 - 📌 Top 5 - Stuttgart (Germany), Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Hannover (Germany), Bern (Switzerland), Munich (Germany)
 - 📌 Bottom 5 - Cairo (Egypt), Dakar (Senegal), Lagos (Nigeria), Kabul (Afghanistan), Baghdad (Iraq) (150th)
 - 📌 India - New Delhi (142), Mumbai (138), Kolkata (131), Bangalore (130)
173. ▶ Google acquired a part of electronics company HTC Corporation's engineering and design teams for \$1.1 billion. Bought team of approx 2000 engineers are the ones that worked on *Pixel smartphones*.
174. ▶ Google launched *Datally* App that will help users understand, control and save on their mobile data. It will enable users to track their data usage in real time, and get personalized recommendations on saving data along with notifications of public Wi-Fi spots available nearby.

 Google also launched *Files Go* app that takes a mobile-first approach to freeing up space, finding files faster and easily sharing them with others, even when offline.

175. ▶ Google launched its version 8.0 of operating system as Android *Oreo*. It boasts of a double faster boot speed, autofill option, and a longer battery life. The new update comes with a Picture-in-Picture feature that allows the user to see two apps simultaneously.

176. ▶ Google will open a research lab focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Beijing (China), its first such centre in Asia.

177. ▶ Google will shut down its high-end smartphone Augmented Reality (AR) platform named *Tango* and will focus on its mass market product *ARCore*. *Tango*, support will stop on March 1, 2018.

 *Tango* was introduced in 2014 and relied on advanced camera hardware to build 3D meshes of spaces.

 It was difficult for Google to get phone manufacturers to build this expensive functionality into their products.

178. ▶ Government approved Joint Interpretative Notes (JIN) on Agreement between India and Bangladesh for Promotion and Protection of Investments. JIN approval will impart clarity to interpretation of existing agreements between India and Bangladesh for Promotion and Protection of Investments (BIPA).


179. ▶ Government approved Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in respect of tax matters between India and BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa).

180. ▶ Government of India will assist Mauritius to develop and set up digital locker services, under DigiLocker (a key initiative of Indian government under its flagship Digital India program).

 This service provides citizens a shareable private space on a public cloud wherein they can store their documents, aimed at paperless governance.

181. ▶ Government restricted imports of gold and silver items from South Korea in a bid to contain rise in inbound shipments of precious metals from South Korea.

182. ▶ Grant Thornton's International Quarterly Business Report (IBR) -

 India remained 7th in *business optimism* index In Jul - Sep 2017 quarter, compared to 2nd slot in previous Quarter.

 Indonesia is at top, followed by Finland and the Netherlands.

183. ▶ Guinea became a member of International Solar Alliance (ISA) as it handed over its instrument accession to India-initiated ISA (headquarters in Gurugram (Haryana)).

 Additionally, International Solar Alliance (ISA) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed Joint Financial Partnership Declaration for cooperation on renewable energy projects around world.

184. ▶ Gulf Nation Qatar announced that it will introduce a minimum wage for workers, amid increasing global scrutiny over its alleged ill-treatment of migrant labourers.


185. ▶ HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) Pledged to provide \$100billion of finance for low-carbon technology and sustainable development by 2025 as part its commitment to tackling climate change and other "green" goals.

186. ▶ Haryana Agriculture University (HAU) and Netherlands government will jointly work on a project to tackle issues like crop residue management, bio-defence strategy, protected cultivation, peri-urban and urban horticulture, floriculture and hydroponic vegetables. An Indo-Dutch Horticulture Centre at Jhajhar would also be set up.

187. ▶ Henley & Partners – Kochenov Quality of Nationality Index (QNI) Report -

 Top 3 - Germany (1st), France and Denmark (Joint 2nd), Iceland (3rd)

 Afghanistan is ranked at bottom of index

 India is ranked 101 among 159 countries

188. ▶ Hinduja Group's Ashok Leyland signed MoU Russian Firm Rosoboronexport for supplying tracked vehicle solutions to armed forces.

189. ▶ Hindustan Shipyard Ltd partnered with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd of South Korea for construction of fleet support ships (FSS) for Navy in both countries.

190. ▶ Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry signed an agreement with Germany's GIZ for technical cooperation in implementation of transport projects in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Kochi (Kerala).

191. ▶ Hurricane Nate has hit Louisiana (USA) with maximum wind speed of 137 kilometres per hour.

192. ▶ IMD Talent Rankings 2017 (63 Nations)

 India ranked 51st (as compared to 54th rank last year). Rankings based on performance in three categories — investment and development, appeal, and readiness.

 Top 5 - Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Finland. Leading Asian economies in rankings are Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

193. ▶ In a major recognition of India's efforts to benchmark global spices trade, the International food standards-setting body *Codex Alimentarius Commission* adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme, paving way for universal

agreement on identifying quality spices in various countries.

- ✎ The member-countries CAC met in Geneva for its 40th session. Codex standards for spices were adopted after India's efforts for the same. Spices have now been included for the first time as commodities with such universal standards.

194. ▶ India & Sri Lanka signed MoU to upgrade Thondaman Vocational Training Centre in Srilanka. India would provide LKR 199 million to upgrade training facility.
195. ▶ India - China Current Military Standoff in Sikkim at Doko-La (called Donglong by Chinese) -
 - ✎ Doko-La region lies at tri-junction of India, China and Bhutan. Tensions escalated when China started Building a strategic road in this region which is claimed by Bhutan as its territory. Both countries have deployed around 3,000 troops each in region.
 - ✎ This area has huge strategic significance for both India and China as it is in close proximity of sensitive Chicken's Neck (Siliguri Corridor), the extremely narrow stretch of land that connects north-eastern region to the rest of India.
 - ✎ India-China Border disputes-
 - ✎ India and China share approx 3,488 km border - Western sector, Middle sector, and Eastern sector. 5 Indian states - Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh share border with China.
 - ✎ Western Sector - India shares about 2152 km long border with China, between Jammu and Kashmir and Xinjiang Province of China. In this sector, there is territorial dispute over Aksai Chin region that was reason for Sino-Indian war in 1962.
 - ✎ During British Empire, 2 borders between India and China were proposed - Johnson's Line and McDonald Line. Johnson's line (proposed in 1865) shows Aksai Chin under India's control whereas McDonald Line (proposed in 1893) places it under China's control.
 - ✎ Middle sector - It is approx 625 km long boundary with states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It does carry much disputes.
 - ✎ Eastern Sector - It is 1,140 km long boundary that runs from eastern limit of Bhutan to a point near the Talu Pass at the trijunction of Tibet, India and Myanmar, called McMahon Line. China considers McMahon Line illegal and claims India's Arunachal Pradesh as its territory.
196. ▶ India Stated to UN General Assembly that there is no possibility of India joining Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear weapon state.
 - ✎ As per NPT, those countries that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before January 1, 1967 are nuclear-weapon states. Note that Pokhran I (Codenamed *Smiling Buddha*) was India's first successful nuclear test that was held on 18 May, 1974.
 - ✎ India advocates maintaining a credible minimum deterrence based on a No-First Use policy. India also committed to not using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.
197. ▶ India and Bangladesh signed pact to connect both countries by waterways, for better movement of passengers and goods.
198. ▶ India and Bangladesh will construct a bridge over Mizoram's Khawthlangtuipui river (also known as Karnaphuli river) to improve trade and communication.
199. ▶ India and China agreed to disengage 2 month old border standoff at Doklam (Bhutan), bringing end to possibilities of an armed conflict Between India and China over the matter.
200. ▶ India and China jointly submitted a proposal to World Trade Organisation (WTO) calling for the elimination of the most trade-distorting form of farm subsidies, known as Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS).
 - ✎ It has come ahead of upcoming 11th Ministerial Conference of WTO (to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina)) in December 2017.
 - ✎ It counters efforts of some countries to target subsidies of developing countries while letting developed countries retain their huge farm subsidies.
 - ✎ Developed countries have more than 90 percent of the global AMS entitlements amounting to nearly US\$ 160 bn. While, Most of developing countries including India and China do not have AMS entitlements.
201. ▶ India and European Union (EU) have established Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) for EU Investments in India. It will help in identifying and solving problems faced by EU companies and investors with regard to their operations in India.
202. ▶ India and Germany signed Govt-to-Govt Umbrella Agreement to formalize an amount up to Euro 200 million for Financial Cooperation in form of loan for project 'Climate Friendly Urban Mobility III' and Euro 11 million Accompanying measures in form of grant for four projects.
203. ▶ India and Germany signed agreement on technical cooperation under Indo-German Energy Programme – Green Energy Corridors (IGEN-GEC). Green Energy Corridor Project aims to synchronise electricity produced from renewable sources (solar / wind), with conventional power stations in grid.
204. ▶ India and Israel Jointly Launched a centre for excellence in floriculture, Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.

- ▶ A similar centre specialising in vegetables such as capsicum, cucumber and tomatoes will be established in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu in January 2018, as part of a 3-year Indo-Israel agricultural partnership.
 - ▶ These centres will develop agricultural practices suitable for that particular geographical region and will share the best practices with local farmers.
205. ▶ India and Pakistan will hold talks on 2 hydropower projects - Kishenganga and Ratle, under 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) at World Bank headquarters in Washington (USA). Water Resources Secretary Amarjit Singh will lead Indian delegation during talks.
206. ▶ India and Spain signed Techno-commercial agreement to provide institutional mechanism for mutual cooperation in field of urban transport and for construction of the three Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
- ▶ 3 RRTS corridors Delhi-Meerut, Delhi – Panipat and Delhi – Alwar will be implemented in 1st phase.
 - ▶ RRTS is first of its kind project in India, with design speed of 180 kmph. It will use state-of-the-art technologies for track structure, rolling stock and signalling system. RRTS corridors will significantly reduce travel time between important NCR towns.
207. ▶ India and US established new two-by-two (2 by 2) ministerial dialogue to enhance strategic coordination maintaining peace and stability in Indo-Pacific region, replacing earlier India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. It will be similar to India-Japan 2+2 dialogue format between foreign and defence secretaries of two countries.
208. ▶ India announced collaboration with Russia to build a nuclear plant in Bangladesh, as first initiative under Joint deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third-world nations. It is also India's first atomic energy venture abroad.
- ▶ Rooppur Nuclear project (capacity of 2*1200 MWs) is Bangladesh's first atomic energy project.
209. ▶ India became biggest importer of U.S. oil refinery by-product 'petcoke', by Importing 8 Million Tonnes of USA's total export of 20 Million Tonnes of Petcoke in 2016.
- ▶ Petroleum coke called as 'petcoke', a U.S. oil refinery by-product, is cheaper and burns hotter than coal. But it also contains more planet-warming carbon and heart and lung-damaging sulfur.
210. ▶ India contributed USD 500,000 to the UN Peacebuilding Fund, expressing hope that more funding by nations will boost efforts by world body to build and sustain peace.
211. ▶ India contributed additional \$1 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund launched to support sustainable development projects across the developing world.
- ▶ Earlier, India contributed \$1 million when the fund was created in on 9 June 2017 (on World Oceans Day 2017) as a partnership between India and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).
212. ▶ India donated 500 metric tonnes of rice to Kingdom of Lesotho, in Southern Africa, which is facing acute food shortage due to famine.
213. ▶ India for first time will import crude oil from USA, as agreed upon during recent visit of PM Narendra Modi to USA.
- ▶ Indian Oil Corp bought 1.6 million barrels of US Mars crude (a heavy, high-sulphur grade) and 400,000 barrels of Western Canadian Select that will be delivered onboard a Very Large Crude Carrier.
214. ▶ India granted US pharmaceutical company *Pfizer* a patent for its pneumonia vaccine *Prevnar 13*. .Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine is used for prevention of pneumococcal pneumonia and invasive diseases caused by 13 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* strains. There are currently 3 types of PCV available on global market - *Prevnar, Synflorix and Pevnar 13*.
215. ▶ India granted aid of USD 500000 to Philippines for rehabilitation and relief efforts in war-torn Marawi City and confronting ISIS. It is first time that India is sending financial aid to another country affected by terrorism.
216. ▶ India handed over *Varuna* off-shore patrol vessel to Sri Lanka as a part of stepping up co-operation between coast guards of 2 nations.
217. ▶ India has been awarded with Certificate of Commendation for its efforts in combating illegal wildlife trade. Award is conferred to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at its meeting in Geneva (Switzerland).
218. ▶ India initiated dumping probe on imports of 'Sodium Nitrite' from Russia, used in industries such as pharma and food processing.
- ▶ If it is proved that dumping has caused material injury to domestic industry, DGAD would impose anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite.
219. ▶ India is planning to launch major connectivity initiative, connecting Chennai with Russian port Vladivostok via sea route with an aim to harness natural resources from Northeast Asia and Western Pacific region. It will enable to transfer cargo between Chennai and Vladivostok in 24 days in comparison to over 40 days currently taken to transport goods from India to Far East Russia via Europe.
220. ▶ India is selected as Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Review & Reforms to look into various issues pertaining to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPSC) at KP Plenary Session in Brisbane (Australia), with Angola chosen as Vice Chair.
- ▶ India was chosen KP Vice Chair for 2018 & Chair for 2019 in last plenary of KP in Dubai in November 2016.
 - ▶ Kimberley Process is joint initiative of governments, industry and civil societies to stem flow of 'conflict diamonds', rough diamonds used by rebel groups to finance wars against legitimate governments.

221. ▶ India launched *Incredible India* campaign in Cairo (Egypt Capital) to woo Egyptian travellers and make them aware of magnificent holiday options in India.
222. ▶ India opened 2nd second Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) in Sharjah (UAE), To provide support and counseling to Indians in distress. It will help overseas Indian community in any matter. Indians may call 80046342 from anywhere in UAE to get help.
223. ▶ India pledged additional US \$100 million towards UN-India Partnership Fund to significantly scale up its support to sustainable development projects across developing world, in addition to US \$10 million already contributed by India to various UN programmes.
✍ India-UN Development Partnership fund was set up as partnership between India and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on 9 June 2017 (World Oceans Day).
224. ▶ India re-elected to Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B" at 30th session of IMO Assembly in London.
✍ IMO is headquartered in London (UK) with Kitack Lim as Current Chief.
225. ▶ India received its first High Horsepower Locomotive with bodyshell of 12000 HP loco from Alstom France at Kolkata port, to be used to haul freight trains at twice the existing speed by 2018 (120 KM/H)
✍ It is first major FDI project in rail sector and each such locomotive costs approx INR 30 crores.
226. ▶ India refused to be a part of Bali Declaration adopted at conclusion of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bali (Indonesia), to show solidarity with Myanmar. It was not adopted because it carried inappropriate reference to violence in Rakhine State from where 1,25,000 Rohingya Muslims fled to Bangladesh.
227. ▶ India remained biggest importer of Ukraine's agriculture products in 2017 so far, importing 11.3 % of \$14.7 Billion worth of exports of Ukraine's Agricultural Produce.
228. ▶ India replaced China as the top retail destination in 2017 as part of global retail development index. Change in ranking was an outcome of four factors increased consumer spending beyond essentials, rising mobile and internet penetration, favorable foreign investment climate and bold action on cashless transaction and GST.
229. ▶ India will be guest of honour during 6th World Government Summit to be held in February 2018 in Dubai (UAE). The summit is first global forum for governments, countries, organizations and private sector leaders interested in industry of the future.
230. ▶ India will provide USD 2.87 million to Afghanistan for renovation of 350 buses that will help in strengthening the public transport system of Kabul (Afghanistan).
231. ▶ India will set up a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at Al Azhar University (Egypt), to high-tech education and skills to youngsters of Egypt.
232. ▶ India will soon join Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC), a newly-constituted forum of central bankers and experts working towards promotion of a robust and transparent foreign exchange (Forex) market. It has been set up under guidance of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). GFXC was established in London during a meeting in May 2017.
233. ▶ India's Numaligarh Refinery that supplies High Speed Diesel to Bangladesh, despatched first diesel consignment of 30 MT to Myanmar through NH 37. It is to enhance hydrocarbon synergy with neighbouring countries as well as promoting India's Act East Policy.
234. ▶ India's TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) ranked 30th in Fortune's annual list of Top 50 companies that are changing the world. TCS's mKRISHI@ App is one of important reasons that got TCS into list, that lets farmers to access customised expert advice, market information and weather data. Top 3 - JP Morgan Chase, DSM, Apple.
235. ▶ India's exposure to US government securities increased sharply to \$135.7 billion, with China at top with \$1.166 trillion, followed by Japan with exposure worth \$1.113 trillion. India is 12th largest holder of US government securities.
236. ▶ India's first high-speed rail training center will be functional in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) by 2020. It is Being constructed over land measuring 4,400 metres at cost of approx INR 600 crores. It will enable testing of bullet trains that will run on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route by 2023.
237. ▶ India-Japan civil nuclear deal came into force, enabling Japan to export nuclear power plant technology as well as provide finance for nuclear power plants in India. It will also assist India in Other nuclear energy activities.
238. ▶ Indian Automobile Major Mahindra opened its new manufacturing plant with an investment of \$230 million in Detroit (USA), Known as world's car capital. It is Detroit's first automotive production facility in 25 years.
239. ▶ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of Health inked MoU with International Vaccine Institute (IVI) to collaborate on vaccine research and development, committing annual contribution of US \$5,00,000 to IVI.
240. ▶ Indian IT Major HCL acquired automation driven data management platform *Datawave* (UK) to accelerate data integration and migration for clients.
241. ▶ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) (Ministry of Earth Sciences) inaugurated Ocean Forecasting System for Indian Ocean countries *Comoros, Madagascar, and Mozambique*, during 3rd Meeting of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning

System for Asia and Africa (RIMES) held in Papua New Guinea.

🔗 Ocean Forecast System will offer, high wave alerts, port warnings, forecast, oil spill advisory services along the ship routes in addition to tsunami and storm surge warnings and help in search and rescue operations.

242. ▶ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) will set up a Centre of Excellence in Kochi (Kerala), to facilitate exchange of research findings and studies in field of fisheries and ocean studies among IORA member countries.

🔗 Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an international organisation consisting of 21 coastal states bordering Indian Ocean. Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius. India's K V Bhagirath is current Secretary General of IORA.

243. ▶ Indian Pharma Company *Natco Pharma* received approval from US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market Lanthanum Carbonate chewable tablets in various strengths. These tablets are used in treatment of patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

244. ▶ Indian Pharma Firm *Dr. Reddy's Laboratories* introduced anti cancer injection drug Melphalan Hydrochloride in USA. Melphalan hydrochloride for injection is indicated for the palliative treatment of patients with multiple myeloma for whom oral therapy is not appropriate.

245. ▶ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind visited African Nations Djibouti and Ethiopia as his first Foreign Visit.

246. ▶ Indian Software services firm Infosys acquired London-based firm Brilliant Basics for Rs 62 crores (£7.5 million).

247. ▶ Indian Space Research Organistaion (ISRO) and USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are working to develop and launch a dual frequency synthetic aperture radar satellite in the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission 2021.

🔗 It will be first radar imaging satellite to use dual frequency and it is planned to be used for remote sensing purposes, to observe and understand natural processes of the Earth.

🔗 NASA will be responsible for development of L-band SAR, a 12m unfurlable antenna & its deployment elements, GPS system and data recorder. ISRO will be responsible for development of S-ban SAR, Spacecraft Bus, data transmission system, Spacecraft integration & testing, launch using GSLV and on-orbit operations.

248. ▶ Indian engineers launched a major project in South Sudan that would improve connectivity between two major cities of South Sudan - Malakal-Melut. It will facilitate UN humanitarian operations in area.

249. ▶ Indian software company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed a pact with National University in Philippines to launch a comprehensive training programme aimed at enhancing the skills of university graduates for the job market.

250. ▶ Indian startup *Kheyti* won prestigious award in Israel for developing an affordable modular greenhouse that aims to give farmers steady & dependable income. It was chosen in MassChallenge Israel contest that saw participation from over 500 companies.

251. ▶ Indonesia banned Islamic organization Hizb-ut Tahrir under a controversial presidential decree, to safeguard existence of Its pluralist state ideology Pancasila and 1945 Constitution.

🔗 Hizb ut-Tahrir has been banned as it compaigns for country to adopt Islamic law and become a caliphateo, that is against Indonesia's unity.

252. ▶ Indonesia named waters in its exclusive economic zone that overlap with China's expansive claim to South China Sea as *North Natuna Sea*. Part of the renamed area falls in China's *nine-dash line* waters extending to south and east of China's island province Hainan.

253. ▶ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) opened world's first low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Oskemen in Kazakhstan. It will be the first of its kind LEU bank not to be under control of any individual country.

254. ▶ International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) launched IBM Blockchain as first international payments network of its kind to Help financial institutions in cross-border payments. IBM partnered with KlickEx Group and Stellar.org, a nonprofit organization that supports an open source blockchain network for financial services.

255. ▶ International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has released *The Paradise Papers* as global investigation that reveals offshore activities of some of most powerful people and companies.

🔗 Among 180 countries represented in data, India ranks 19th in terms of number of names. In all, 714 Indians have been figured in this largest ever black money data leak.

256. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO) released World Social Protection Report 2017-2019, depicting that only 45 % of global population is effectively covered by at least one social benefit, while remaining 55 per cent that is 4 billion people are left unprotected.

257. ▶ International Monetary Fund approved USD 88 billion credit line for Mexico, replacing existing line of credit.

258. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended its Brazilian arm and Honorary Membership of head of Brazil's Olympic committee Carlos Nuzman, amid proven corruption allegations.

259. ▶ International Seabed Authority (ISA) in its 23rd session recently held at Kingston (Jamaica) has extended India's exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed in Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB). Estimated polymetallic nodule resource potential of this area is around 380 million tonnes, containing nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese.

260. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) announced target to support setting up 1000GW of solar energy capacity by 2030 across its member countries, during a ceremony in Bonn (Germany). This target does not take into account renewable energy targets or projects that countries are pursuing on their own as part of their national efforts 16 countries have ratified framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and it will come into force on 6 December 2017.
261. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) became treaty-based international intergovernmental organization, nearly a Month after Guinea became 15th country to ratify it.
- ▶ ISA is first treaty-based international government organisation to be based in India, with its secretariat in campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurgaon (Haryana).
 - ▶ So far, 46 countries have signed and 19 ratified Framework Agreement of ISA International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 - ▶ ISA was launched by India and France in November 2015 during COP-21 of UN Climate Conference in Paris (France).
 - ▶ ISA aims at addressing obstacles to deployment at scale of solar energy through better harmonization and aggregation of demand from solar rich countries by bringing standardization in solar technologies and fostering research and development.
 - ▶ Ministry of External Affairs has set aside US\$2 billion for solar projects in Africa out of India's US\$10 billion concessional Line of Credit (LOC) for Africa. France also pledged Euro 300 million soft loan for solar related projects in ISA member countries.
 - ▶ Australia also announced Joining ISA.
262. ▶ Iran inaugurated first phase of Chabahar port located in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province. Port will bypass Pakistan and will open new strategic transit route between Iran, India and Afghanistan. First phase is expected to increase its cargo handling capacity to 8.5 million tons annually, by over 3 hree times from previous 2.5 million tons.
263. ▶ Iran successfully launched its most advanced satellite-carrying rocket called 'Simorgh' into space, capable of carrying a satellite weighing 250 kilograms (550 pounds).
264. ▶ Iran's key strategic port of Chabahar became operational with First shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan, from Kandla port in Gujarat.
- ▶ Its a major push for India's Afghan outreach as it completely bypasses Pakistan, under 2016 Indo-Afghan-Iran trilateral pact.
 - ▶ Chabahar port is strategically located in Sistan-Balochistan province on energy-rich Iran's southern coast and can be easily accessed from India's western coast.
265. ▶ Iraq PM Haider al-Abadi declared victory in a 3year war by Iraqi forces against Islamic State jihadist group. He claimed that Iraqi forces are in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border.
266. ▶ Israel Parliament passed a controversial law that limits police's ability to recommend charges following their investigations, after criticism that lawmakers were seeking to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu The move was undertaken after widespread criticism and large protests against corruption.
267. ▶ Italy passed a bill making torture a crime under national law, making torture punishable by 4 - 10 years in prison and 12 years for members of security forces.
268. ▶ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched Michibiki-4 satellite (QZSS-4) as 4th satellite in Michibiki series i.e. Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), which is a satellite-based high-precision global positioning system similar to US operated GPS.
269. ▶ Japan approved Aid of Approx 73 Crores INR for Implementation of Advanced Traffic Information and Management System in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
270. ▶ Japan launched Michibiki No. 3 satellite of its new quasi-zenith satellites to improve the global positioning system (GPS) navigation services in Japan.
271. ▶ Japan will offer grant of 8.4 million Yen (Approx 48 Lakh INR) for construction of a vocational training centre for poor women and youth in Rajasthan's Baran district.
272. ▶ Japanese Emperor Akihito will abdicate on April 30, 2019, becoming the first Japanese monarch to leave the post in 200 years. Afterwards, Crown Prince Naruhito will take the post of Japanese emperor.
273. ▶ Japanese PM Shinzo Abe Visited India, arriving in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- ▶ He participated in 12th India - Japan Annual Meeting.
 - ▶ 15 MOUs signed during Mr. Abe's Visit to India, Including -
 - ▶ Disaster Risk Management
 - ▶ Japanese Language Skills Development
 - ▶ India Japan Act East Forum will be established to enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in northeastern region of India.
 - ▶ Arrangement between Postal departments for implementation of cool EMS service, through which fresh food can be sent from Japan to India in cool boxes for Japanese expatriates in India.

✍ India-Japan Investment Promotion Road map to facilitate Japanese investments in India.

✍ MoC between Japanese Trade Ministry and Gujarat State on *Japan-India special programme for Make In India* in Mandal Beachraj-Khoraj.

✍ Civil Aviation

✍ Science and technology

✍ Life sciences and biotechnology.

✍ Sports

✍ India and Japan signed open sky arrangement to allow airlines from both countries to operate unlimited number of flights.

✍ Foundation stone of India's first high-speed rail project (bullet train) project has been laid. This 508km-long Mumbai to Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project will be built at cost of Rs 1.10 lakh crore. It is expected to be completed by 2022. (It was recently advanced by year from earlier deadline of 2023). An INR 600 Crores high-speed rail training centre for first bullet train project will be set up in Vadodara (Gujarat), to become operational by December 2020.

274. ▶ Jet Airways and Air France-KLM partnered to route more traffic through Europe and on to North America.

275. ▶ Joint Army Exercise of Pakistan and Russia, DRUZBA 2017 held in Russia.

276. ▶ Lebanon approved country's first animal welfare bill into law, to ensure that domestic and wild animals will be legally protected from abuse.

277. ▶ Lebanon's parliament approved country's first budget in 12 years, to reform fragile economy and prevent rising debt.

✍ Political crisis gripped Lebanon since the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in 2005, thereby preventing successive government from passing the budget.

278. ▶ Lulu Exchange (a foreign exchange and remittance company set up Kerala based Businessman Yusuff Ali) has acquired Al Falah Exchange Company in UAE for INR 95 crores.

279. ▶ Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. signed MOU with Turkey's Armagan family for acquiring 100% of Erkunt Traktor Sanay (4th largest tractor manufacturer in Turkey) for approx \$70 Million.

280. ▶ Middle Asean Nation Kazakhstan will change its name to Qazaqstan, as part of a transition from Cyrillic to a Latin-based script. A national commission will oversee this transition and will complete it by 2025.

281. ▶ Middle asean Nation Tajikistan banned women from wearing veils and asked women to *stick to traditional national clothes and culture*.

282. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs started Operation Insaniyat to provide assistance to Bangladesh in response to humanitarian crisis being faced by it due to large influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

283. ▶ Morocco launched an earth observation satellite called 'Mohammed VI-A', aboard European consortium Arianespace's Vega rocket from French Guyana Space Centre.

284. ▶ Mount Agung, a volcano in Bali (Indonesia) erupted for the first time in over 54 years.

285. ▶ Mumbai Based Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Turbo acquired INR 3375 crores metro order from Mauritius government to design and build an Integrated Light Rail-based Urban Transit System in Mauritius.

286. ▶ Myanmar will launch its own satellite system MyanmarSat-2 in June in 2019, with 6 C-band and 6 Ku-band transponders.

✍ Myanmar is currently using MyanmarSat-1 on lease system, whereas MyanmarSat-2, will be used on joint ownership system with an undisclosed partner.

287. ▶ NASA launched *Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-M)* aimed at ensuring efficient communication of astronauts at International Space Station with Earth. TDRS-M is last of 13 such satellites that have been launched since 1983.

288. ▶ NASA launched Terrier-Improved Malemute sounding rocket that created colourful artificial clouds visible in skies. Rocket during 8-minute flight had released 10 canisters about the size of a soft drink into space. Canisters deployed blue-green and red vapour that formed artificial clouds visible in the skies of USA.

289. ▶ National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and China's Dalian Municipal People's Government signed agreement to create a platform called Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP) in Dalian.

290. ▶ National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) signed MoU with Finland's Fortum Oyj for developing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in upcoming development projects in India.

291. ▶ National Highway Authority of India awarded its first international project in Myanmar to a joint venture of Punj Lloyd-Varaha, for upgradation of Yagyi-Kalewa section in Myanmar.

292. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and International Road Federation (Geneva) signed Statement of Intent (SoI) to cooperate in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). ITS Policy will be covering Traffic Management, Parking Management, Electronic Enforcement of Traffic Rules and Regulations, Fleet Management and Monitoring, Innovation in field of ITS.

293. ▶ Nepal Electricity Authority signed a joint venture agreement with China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC) to construct 750 MW West Seti Hydropower Project, with expenses estimated at 1.8 billion USD. CTGC will have 75% stake and NEA will hold remaining 25% in JV.
294. ▶ Nepal SBI Bank, a subsidiary of State Bank of India launched its fully automatic digital banking services in Nepalese capital Kathmandu, called sbiINTOUCH. This is first time that State Bank of India has expanded paperless banking system outside India.
295. ▶ Nepal and India will conduct joint head tigers count in protected areas along border in November 2017, using a similar camera tapping method.
296. ▶ Nepal began its first-ever survey to remeasure Mount Everest to check if Its height was altered by 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck in 2015.
- 🔗 Official Height of Mt. Everest is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet), first recorded by an Indian survey in 1954.
297. ▶ Nepal cancelled a \$2.5 billion deal with China's Gezhouba Group Corporation to build Nepal's biggest hydropower plant of 1200 MW Capacity - *Budhi Gandaki hydroelectric project*. The project has been reportedly cancelled amid delays and lack of transparency in processes.
298. ▶ Nepal launched climate-smart snow leopard landscape management plan to safeguard endangered species of snow leopard, as first climate-smart landscape management plan for snow leopard conservation in world.
299. ▶ Nepal signed USD 635 million UN assistance package for 2018-2022 to lay out country's development strategy for next 5 years. The package involves 26 individual UN agencies.
300. ▶ Nepal's Parliament passed a law that criminalises an ancient practice called Chhaupadi that banishes women from home during menstruation and after childbirth.
301. ▶ Nepal's Parliament passed a law that criminalises an ancient practice called Chhaupadi that banishes women from home during menstruation and after childbirth.
302. ▶ New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) imposed fine of USD 225 million on Pakistan's Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for failure to comply with New York laws and regulations designed illicit financial transactions.
303. ▶ Newly established Constitutional Assembly of South American Nation Venezuela announced itself superior to all other governmental institutions, including opposition-controlled congress. It prohibit opposition-held National Assembly and other government bodies from taking any action that would interfere with constituent assembly's laws.
304. ▶ North African country Tunisia abolished decades-old ban on Muslim women marrying non-Muslims.
305. ▶ North Korea successfully launched nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) *Hwasong-15*, said to be North Korea's most powerful Missile Yet. It has operational range of over 5000 KMs.
306. ▶ North Korea successfully test-fired its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) *Hwasong-14* into Sea of Japan. It is North Korea's most successful missile test since its ballistic missile programme gathered pace in 1990s.
- 🔗 To qualify as an ICBM, a missile must have a minimum range of 5,500km.
307. ▶ North Korea successfully tested a hydrogen bomb, placable on an intercontinental ballistic missile. It triggered a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in area, marking it biggest test so far.
- 🔗 In Response, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed new sanctions against North Korea over its sixth and most powerful nuclear test. It was 9th sanctions resolution adopted by UNSC since 2006 over North Korea's missile programs.
308. ▶ Norway became world's first country to shut down national broadcasts of its FM network by completing its transition to digital radio, to allow for better sound quality, a greater number of channels and more functions, at a cost eight times lower than FM radio.
309. ▶ Norway's sovereign wealth fund (Largest in world) just reached value of \$1 trillion for the first time. It means \$189,000 for everyone of 5.3 million Norwaighns. With stakes in over 9,000 companies, it owns 1.3 % of world's market capitalization and 2.3 % in Europe.
310. ▶ Noted Software Firm Microsoft launched *Project Brainwave* as a deep learning acceleration platform for real-time artificial intelligence (AI), amid AI becoming increasingly important . Project Brainwave uses massive field-programmable gate array (FPGA) infrastructure deployed by Microsoft over past few years.
311. ▶ ONGC Videsh Ltd (overseas arm of ONGC) acquired 30 % interest in Namibian Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) 37, from UK's Tullow Oil.
312. ▶ ONGC Videsh will invest \$150 million in exploration to drill more wells in Colombia, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh.
313. ▶ Oman revised tourist visa for people from India, China and Russia in order to attract more tourists from these countries. Oman granted non-sponsored tourist visafor the citizens of India, China and Russia.
314. ▶ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Government at a Glance 2017 report -
- 🔗 India topped The List, indicating that PM Narendra Modi led NDA coalition Government has gained highest trust in world among its people, with score of 73%.

- Top 5 - India (73 %) Canada (62%), Turkey (58%), Russia (58 %) and Germany (55%). US government secured only 30% of peoples' confidence.

- Greece has been placed at bottom of list with score of 13%.

- Number of government jobs as share of total employment remained 18.1% in 2015, compared to 17.9% in 2007. Highest (30%) Government employment is in Denmark.

315. ▶ Oxford Dictionaries declared Youthquake as 2017's Word of the Year, reflecting what it calls a political awakening among millennial voters. Other Words of The year 2017 -

- Populism* - Cambridge Dictionary.

- Kwaussie* - Australian National Dictionary.

- Feminism* - Merriam-Webster's.

316. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Israel -

- It is First Visit of an Indian Head of State to Israel Since Indian Independence. This visit also marks 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relationship between India and Israel.

- 7 Important MOUs Signed -

- To help grow business relationship between both countries, \$40 million Israel India Innovation Initiative Fund (I4F) has been launched.

- Conservation of water in India

- State Water Utility Reform in India India-Israel Development Cooperation- 3-year work program in Agriculture (2018-2020)

- Cooperation in atomic clocks

- Cooperation in GEO-LEO optical link.

- Cooperation in electric propulsion for small satellites.

- A new fast-growing Israeli Crysanthumun flower will now be called 'MODI'.

- Other Highlights

- India assured faster facilitation of OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) cards for Jewish Citizens of Indian origin in Israel.

- Launch of a new Air India flight connecting Delhi/Mumbai with Tel Aviv (Israel) is announced

- PM Modi announced establishment of an Indian Cultural Centre in Israel to enhance people-to-people contacts.

317. ▶ Pakistan allowed depreciation of its Currency (pakistani rupee), after talks with International Monetary Fund. It is believed to help shift foreign currency holdings from commercial banks back to official reserves.

318. ▶ Pakistan inaugurated It's 5th nuclear power plant (C-4 plant) in Mianwali (Punjab). This 340 MW Chasma – IV (C – 4) nuclear power plant is developed in collaboration with China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

319. ▶ Pakistan will up a new hydropower project on Jhelum River, of over 700 megawatts in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), named Azad Pattan Hydropower Project (APHP). Project cost of USD 1.51 billion will be procured from foreign entities.

320. ▶ Palestinian political parties Hamas and Fatah signed reconciliation deal to end a decade-long rift, brokered by Egypt. This was signed to implement a unity agreement that was signed in 2011 but was not put to action.

321. ▶ Passport Index developed by advisory firm Arton Capital -

- Singapore's passport become most powerful in world with Visa-Free Score of 159.

- India secured 75th rank in index with Visa-Free Score of 51.

- Afghanistan stayed at bottom position (94th) while Pakistan sexcond worst (93rd).

322. ▶ People's Bank of China (PBC) banned raising funds through initial coin offerings (ICO), where unregulated means of crowd funding for project are used via use of cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin etc. Ownership or royalties of project is offered to investors in form of digital coins. It allows entrepreneurs create their own digital currencies and selling "coins" on web under ICO route, allowing them to raise millions of dollars quickly.

323. ▶ Peru Government authorized medicinal and therapeutic use of cannabis (marijuana) in country, becoming sixth Latin American country to legalise cannabis.

324. ▶ Poland will quit a precautionary Flexible Credit Line (FCL) from International Monetary Fund (IMF) worth \$9.2 billion, after Polish economy gaining strength recently. Polish budget reported a surplus for January - August 2017 amid rise in revenue from value-added tax.

325. ▶ Powerful Hurrinaces Harvey and Irma struck USA, triggering huge Financial and Human Losses.

326. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind will make his first foreign trip to African Nations Ethiopia and Djibouti in October 2017.

327. ▶ Qatar Airways became first in world to launch double beds in business class sections of Flights from London to Doha in Qatar, called Qsuites.

328. ▶ Qatar approved law for making permanent residency available to some non-citizens like children of Qatari women married to foreigners, people who offered valuable services to the country and those with special skills. This has made Qatar first Gulf Arab state to make permanent residency available to some non-citizens.
329. ▶ Qatar launched a new direct route between Qatar's Hamad Port and Pakistan's port of Karachi.
330. ▶ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2018 -
- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) emerged as top-ranked Indian institute in List with rank 34th. Note that IIT Bombay was ranked 179th in QS World University Rankings. Other top 4 Indian Institutes in List are IIT Delhi (41st rank), IIT Madras (48th rank), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (51st rank).
 - ✍ Singapore's Nanyang Technology University has topped QS Asia University Rankings 2018.
331. ▶ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings : BRICS 2018 () -
- ✍ Top 10 Universities in BRICS Nations -
 - ✍ Tsinghua University (China)
 - ✍ Peking University (China)
 - ✍ Fudan University (China)
 - ✍ University of Science and Technology of China (China)
 - ✍ Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia)
 - ✍ Zhejiang University (China)
 - ✍ Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)
 - ✍ Nanjing University (China)
 - ✍ **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)**
 - ✍ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore**
 - ✍ India Facts -
 - ✍ Top 10 Public Institutions in India
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP)
 - ✍ University of Delhi
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)
 - ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)
 - ✍ University of Calcutta
 - ✍ Private Universities in India
 - ✍ BITS Pilani, Thapar University and Symbiosis International University are Top 3 private universities in India.
 - ✍ O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) entered BRICS Universities list for the first time (ranked 251 - 300).
332. ▶ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is world's 3rd biggest energy company behind Russian gas firm Gazprom and German utility E.ON, according to Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings.
- ✍ Indian Oil Corp (IOC) climbed to 7th position, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) placed 11th and Coal India Ltd ranked 45.
333. ▶ Report by analyst firm Canalys -
- ✍ India overtook USA to become world's second-largest smartphone market, trailing only China.
 - ✍ In the second quarter of 2017, India's smartphone market recovered quickly with shipments growing 23% year-on-year in third quarter to reach over 40 million units.
334. ▶ Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) become first Canadian bank to be added to Financial Stability Board's (FSB's) list of 30 global systemically important banks (G-SIB) deemed 'too big to fail'.
- ✍ Financial Stability Board (FSB) is an international financial body based in Basel (Switzerland). Apart from adding RBC, FSB also removed French bank Groupe BPCE from the list.
335. ▶ Russia and Egypt signed an agreement under which Russia's Rosatom will construct Egypt's first nuclear plant as *Daba nuclear plant*. It will be completed by 2029 with cost of \$21bn.
336. ▶ Russia and Iraq restored commercial airline services for first time since 2004.
- ✍ Russia had suspended flights to Iraq after 2003 US-led invasion pushed Iraq into war.

337. ▶ Russia and USA space agencies (Roscosmos and NASA) will jointly build a *deep space gateway* as first astronaut-tended space station around Moon. It would help prepare for manned missions to deep space destinations including Mars.
338. ▶ Russia launched Angosat-1, first national telecoms satellite for Angola, onboard Zenit-2SB rocket.
339. ▶ Russia launched world's largest and most powerful icebreaker ship, Sibir. It is designed to transport cargo via Northern Sea Route in Arctic Ocean.
340. ▶ Russia liquidated last arsenals of its chemical weapons, 3 years ahead of schedule (2020).
341. ▶ Russia signed agreement with Northern African Nation Sudan to build its first nuclear power plant, to help Sudan solve its energy security problems.
342. ▶ Russia used its veto power to block a UN Security Council resolution to extend work of International inspectors to determine who was behind deadly chemical weapons attacks in Syria that took place on 4 April 2017 in Syria.
343. ▶ Russian government will develop an 'independent internet' for BRICS Nations, that would operate separately from Domain Name System used worldwide, that would continue services in the event of a global internet infrastructure collapse. It would be totally independent of international bodies and international infrastructure, yet still remaining linked to the global internet.
344. ▶ Saudi Arabia and Britain signed framework deal for military cooperation, as Britain seeks to explore lucrative trade deals outside Europe after leaving European Union.
345. ▶ Saudi Arabia approved physical education program at girl's schools. Program will be complaint with stringent Islamic rules and will be implemented in 2017-2018 school year.
346. ▶ Saudi Arabia became first country to give citizenship to a robot, after it named a robot *Sophia* as its Citizen during a business event named Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh.
347. ▶ Saudi Arabia issued a decree that allows women to drive cars. Women are now also allowed to enter national stadiums in national sports events.
348. ▶ Saudi Arabia lifted 35 year old ban on providing licenses to commercial movie theatres, aimed at economic growth and diversification.
349. ▶ Saudi Arabia lifted ban on voice and video calling apps such as WhatsApp and Skype and will make them widely available to users, to improve business confidence as reduce dependence on oil revenues.
350. ▶ Saudi Arabian Oil Firm *Saudi Aramcos* (Known as Aramco) Opened Its India Office named ARAMCO ASIA INDIA in Gurugram (Haryana).
▶ In 2016 Saudi Aramco established its formal business in India through its subsidiary ARAMCO Asia India (AAI). It will focus on crude oil and LPG marketing, engineering & technical services, and other business development activities.
351. ▶ Saudi Arabian government approved practice of yoga as a sports activity. Yoga can now be freely practiced as a sport in Saudi Arabia.
352. ▶ Scientists developed new military watch for Russian army kit, which is capable of resisting high impact and can even survive a nuclear explosion.
353. ▶ Scientists from New Zealand have developed world's first artificial intelligence politician named *SAM*, that can answer queries regarding local issues such as policies around housing, education and immigration.
354. ▶ Scimago Institutions ranking World Report 2017 -
▶ India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is ranked 9th best government organisation in world and overall ranked 75th institution globally.
▶ Ranking of Government Institutions was topped by Chinese Academy of Sciences, followed by Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France) and Helmholtz Gemeinschaft (Germany).
▶ Overall global ranking was topped by Chinese Academy of Sciences, followed by Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France) and Harvard University (USA).
355. ▶ Second Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) by UN telecommunications agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU) -
▶ This Report measures commitment of nations to cyber security.
▶ India has been ranked well at 23rd position out of 165 nations.
▶ Top 5 - Singapore (1st), USA (2nd), Malaysia (3rd), Oman (4th), Estonia (5th).
▶ Equatorial Guinea is the worst performer among all nations with a score of zero.
356. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) signed MoU with European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) for exchange of information concerning Central Counterparties (CCPs) under European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR).
357. ▶ Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal Visited India. 8 MOUs were signed during his visit -
▶ MoU on Modalities for Utilization of India's Housing Grant Component to support Reconstruction of 50,000 Houses.
▶ MoU on Implementation of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in Education, Cultural Heritage and Health Sectors in Nepal

- ✍ MoU for Implementation Arrangement on Cost Sharing, Schedules and Safeguard Issues for Construction of Mechi Bridge under ADB's SASEC Road Connectivity Programme.
 - ✍ MoU on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical and Related Matters
 - ✍ Agreement on Cooperation in Field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment
 - ✍ MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal.
358. ▶ Somalia Government and United Nations (UN) signed UN Strategic Framework for Somalia (UNSF), under which United Nations will support Somalia's development in priority areas over the next four years.
 359. ▶ South Korea banned its financial institutions from dealing in virtual currencies including Bitcoin, in wake of recent surge in Bitcoin price.
 360. ▶ South Korean and USA air forces held *Vigilant Ace* joint exercises.
 361. ▶ Spanish Colony Catalonia declared independence from Spain, following a parliamentary referendum. After this declaration, Spanish government dismissed Catalan President, allowing Spain to directly administer the region.
 362. ▶ Sri Lanka became 163rd nation to accede to anti-personnel mine ban convention, as it agreed for Prohibition of use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.
 - ✍ Convention on Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, commonly referred to as the Mine Ban Treaty or Ottawa Treaty, was adopted on September 18, 1997.
 363. ▶ Sri Lanka formally handed over its southern strategic port of Hambantota to Chinese firm *China Merchants Port Holdings Company (CM Port)* on a 99-year lease. Hambantota port is strategically located right in the middle of vital energy supply lines in the Indian Ocean, connecting the Middle East and East Asia.
 364. ▶ Sri Lanka signed MoU with India to build 1,200 houses in strategically located southern port city of Hambantota. 600 will be constructed in Southern Province while remaining will be built across Sri Lanka, through one model village in each of country's 25 districts.
 - ✍ Hambantota port is located right in middle of vital energy supply lines in Indian Ocean, connecting Middle East and East Asia. Hambantota gained significance recently after Sri Lanka decided to build deep-sea port and airport with huge Chinese loans.
 - ✍ India also provided equipment and vehicles worth USD 585,000 to University of Jaffna in Sri Lanka.
 365. ▶ Sri Lanka signed a US \$1.1 billion deal to sell a 70% stake of Hambantota port (*A deep-water port in the southern tip of Sri Lanka*) to China's China Merchants Port Holding Co. (CMPort) Under a 99-year lease agreement. CMPort will be only responsible for commercial operations, while SLPA will handle port's operations, security and services.
 366. ▶ Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissioned Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) SURAKSHA gifted by India at Colombo port, as first OPV of Sri Lankan Coast Guard.
 367. ▶ Sri Lankan Navy commissioned SLNS Sayurala, an India-built state-of-the-art Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV), first-ever purchase from a foreign ship builder, to boost its search and rescue capabilities.
 368. ▶ Standard Chartered Bank launched a Multi-currency Forex Card for overseas travelers. The card will allow customers to load up to 20 widely used currencies on 1 card with an online reload facility during overseas travel.
 369. ▶ Sweden hosted large scale war exercise named *Aurora*, with NATO.
 370. ▶ Swedish defence firm SAAB and Indian conglomerate Adani group signed collaboration agreement, mainly aiming at a contract for single-engine fighter jets for Indian Air Force.
 371. ▶ Switzerland unveiled world's steepest funicular railway link to alpine resort of Stoos. It rises 743 metres along gradients as steep as 110% and has a track length of 1720 metres. It has been built at cost of INR 333 crores.
 372. ▶ Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp of Germany signed MoU for creating 50:50 Joint Venture as one of Europe's largest steel companies.
 373. ▶ Tech Firm Apple acquired music recognition app Shazam, for approx \$400 million.
 374. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed letter of intent (LoI) with Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) deepen cooperation. It was signed during ITU-TRAI Asia-Pacific Regulators' Roundtable jointly organised by International Telecom Union (ITU) and TRAI in New Delhi.
 375. ▶ Telecom services provider Bharti Airtel and SK Telecom of Korea partnered for leveraging the SK Telecom's expertise to build advanced telecom network in India.
 376. ▶ Tencent became first Chinese company to be valued at more than \$500 billion in Asia. Alibaba is Asia's second-highest-valued firm at \$474 billion.
 377. ▶ Term *Fake news* has been named the word of the year by Collins dictionary due to its widespread use around the world. Note that it has been heavily used and popularised by USA President Donald Trump.
 378. ▶ Three Indian entrepreneurs - Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal and Vinod Khosla have been included in Forbes's special list of world's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds'.

379. ▶ Times World University Rankings 2018 -

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru retained top position among Indian Universities, although its global position fell to IISc 251-300 band. IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur are in 501-600 band, IIT Bombay in 351-400 club and IIT Kharagpur and IIT Roorkee retained their positions in 501-600 bracket.

Top 10 - Oxford University (UK), Cambridge University (UK), California institute of Technology (USA), Stanford University (USA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), Harvard University (USA), Princeton University (USA), Imperial College London (UK), University of Chicago (USA), ETH-Zurich (Switzerland).

380. ▶ To expedite skill development in North East region of India, Singapore will set up a Skill Development Centre in the region.

381. ▶ Top 150 universities on Global University Employability Ranking 2017 published by Times Higher Education -

1	California Institute of Technology	United States
2	Harvard University	United States
3	Columbia University	United States
4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States
5	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
6	Boston University	United States
7	Stanford University	United States
8	Technical University of Munich	Germany
9	University of Tokyo	Japan
10	Yale University	United States

Indian Universities in List -

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru (29th)

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (145th)

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (148th)

382. ▶ Travel guide company Lonely Planet ranked Chile as Most worth visiting country in 2018, followed by South Korea and Portugal. Seville of Spain was ranked as number one city in most visit worthy cities.

383. ▶ Turkey Approved a controversial legislation to let state - approved clerics (Muftis / Civil Servants) to conduct and register marriage ceremonies. It will pave way for child marriages.

384. ▶ Turkey opened its largest military base in Africa, in Mogadishu (capital of Somalia) to train Somali Soldiers.

385. ▶ Twitter officially increased number of characters in tweets from 140 to 280, except tweets in Japanese, Chinese and Korean languages that can convey more information in a single character.

386. ▶ Typhoon Haitang struck China's eastern Fujian Province with continual rain blows on different parts of the region.

387. ▶ Typhoon Tembin struck Philippines, causing huge human and financial losses.

388. ▶ UAE begun collecting new *sin* taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks, with tobacco and energy drinks taxed at 100 % and soft drinks at 50 %.

All six members of Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to begin collecting so-called VAT taxes. GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

389. ▶ UAE, UK, US and French armies participated in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi (UAE), named as *Flag4*.

390. ▶ UK government extended a pilot student visa scheme to 23 more universities under which Indian and other non-EU students will get six months time to find a job after finishing their course (upto 13 months duation). Scheme was introduced last year on a pilot basis in four British universities - Oxford, Bath, Cambridge and Imperial College London.

391. ▶ UN announced end of 13 year old military peacekeeping mission in Haiti, that helped maintain order in Haiti through 13 years of political turmoil and disaster.

392. ▶ UN will mark 100th Birth anniversary of South African Social Reformer Nelson Mandela (July 18, 2018) with a high-level meeting on world peace, named as *Nelson Mandela Peace summit*.

393. ▶ UNICEF released its report *The State of the World's Children*, with theme *Children in a digital world*. Report states that India's girls and women are at risk of becoming further marginalised in society and at home if they remain digitally illiterate.

394. ▶ US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced USD 1 million support for Ending Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic in India and to raise TB awareness to help India in its fight against TB.






USAID also announced its first impact bond across globe by launching 'Rajasthan Development Impact Bond (Utkrisht Impact Bond) aiming to reduce number of mother and baby deaths by improving quality of maternal care in Rajasthan's health infrastructure.

395. ▶ US Consulate General, Kolkata launched *Youth for Business-Y4BIZ*, a support programme for young entrepreneurs in eastern region of India.

396. ▶ US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved first gene therapy treatment that uses patient's own immune cells to fight acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, that may bring new approach to treatment of cancer and serious and life-threatening diseases.
- ▶ Gene therapy was identified as CAR-T cell therapy (CTLO19) or tisagenlecleucel and now is called Kymriah, completely different as compared to present immunotherapy drugs called *checkpoint inhibitors* that treat variety of cancers by helping body's natural T cells better spot tumors.
 - ▶ CAR-T treatment is not a pill or chemotherapy. It uses gene therapy techniques not to fix disease-causing genes (cells) but to turbocharge T cells, immune system cells that cancer can evade.
397. ▶ US Navy commissioned world's largest aircraft carrier - *USS Gerald R Ford*.
- ▶ USS Gerald R. Ford is named after 38th President of USA Gerald Ford and is built by Newport News Ship Building Company.
 - ▶ This massive 1,106-foot-long carrier displaces 100,000 tons fully loaded and is powered by 2 new generation nuclear reactors.
398. ▶ US Trade and Development Agency signed MOU with Airports Authority of India, to support a 20-year master plan aimed at expansion of operational capacities of Kolkata and Lucknow international airports.
399. ▶ US and UAE Armies begun joint military exercise in Abu Dhabi, with name *Iron Union 5*.
400. ▶ US media company Meredith Corporation acquired US Based Publishing Brand *Time Inc.* for USD 2.8 billion. Time Inc. is a multinational mass media corporation owns over 100 magazine brands including *Time, Sports Illustrated, Travel + Leisure, Food & Wine, Fortune, People, InStyle, Life, Golf Magazine, Southern Living, Essence, Real Simple, and Entertainment Weekly*.
401. ▶ US-India Business Council (USIBC) launched a collaborative initiative for Women Entrepreneurs titled 'Women for Women Innovators, Social Leaders & Entrepreneurs' (WISE), launched during USIBC's Road to GES event 'Creating the Foundations of Innovation'.
- ▶ WISE will be led by Country Head of Intel, Nivruti Rai and will comprise prominent female business person like Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Vanitha Narayanan and Amita Vyas.
402. ▶ USA Army Opened Its First permanent base in Middle Eastern Nation Israel.
403. ▶ USA Congress authorised \$700 million in Coalition Support Fund (CSF) to reimburse Pakistan for activities carried out in support of US operations in Afghanistan.
404. ▶ USA Navy tested world's first-ever active Laser Weapons System (LaWS), aboard USS Ponce amphibious transport ship. LaWS operates within an invisible part of electromagnetic spectrum and absolutely silent and incredibly effective.
405. ▶ USA President Donald Trump announced to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition. USA became 1st country to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, since foundation of Israel in 1948. USA will also move its Israel Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- ▶ Israel has always regarded Jerusalem as its capital, while Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as capital of a future Palestinian state.
 - ▶ Later, United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution that stated this US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as 'null and void'. The resolution was moved by Turkey and Yemen.
406. ▶ USA President Donald Trump scrapped an amnesty programme introduced during Obama's term that granted work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as Children. It is likely to impact over 800,000 undocumented workers including more than 7000 Indian-Americans.
407. ▶ USA Supreme Court ruled that travel ban imposed on six Muslim countries (*Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen*) by Prez Donald Trump can now go fully into effect. New ban also bars travellers from North Korea and Venezuela.
408. ▶ USA and Australia jointly test-fired a hypersonic missile capable of moving at a speed 8 times faster than sound as part of a \$54-million research project - *Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation Program (HIFiRE)*.
409. ▶ USA and Israel withdrew from UNESCO, accusing UNESCO of "anti-Israel bias".
410. ▶ USA announced grant of nearly USD 500,000 for organisations that work to promote religious freedom in India and Sri Lanka.
411. ▶ USA approved sale of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) anti-missile defence system to Saudi Arabia at an estimated cost of \$15 billion (Rs. 98,000 crore). It includes 44 THAAD launchers and 360 missiles along with fire control stations and radars.
412. ▶ USA central bank 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 banks. This action comes 2 months after Fed also fined BNP Paribas USD 246 million over similar violations.
413. ▶ USA lifted economic and trade sanctions against Sudan that were put in 1997, in response to Sudanese Govt's efforts to end hostilities in conflict areas, improve humanitarian access and maintain cooperation with USA in regional conflicts to tackle terrorism.
414. ▶ USA rolled out pre-approved expedited entry clearance for low-risk Indian travellers under its Global Entry programme (GEP).
- ▶ India became 11th country whose citizens are now eligible to enroll in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) initiative.
 - ▶ Under this, International GEP member traveller can enter in US through automatic kiosks, rather than queuing up to clear immigration check by meeting an immigration officer at selected airports.

415. ▶ USA successfully tested Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system in Alaska by launching a ballistic missile over Pacific Ocean, after North Korea conducted an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) test that could possibly hit USA.
416. ▶ USA urged other members of Nuclear Suppliers Group to support India's membership bid to NSG that controls international nuclear trade.
417. ▶ USA will install radar systems in independent nation *Palau*. It is located in south-west of Guam, the US territory that North Korea has threatened to target.
418. ▶ USA will issue a 4 level travel advisory to its citizens from January 2018, based on a four- level classification system with clearly recommended actions. Four levels will be -
- ▶ Level one – exercise normal precautions
 - ▶ Level two – exercise increased caution
 - ▶ Level three – reconsider travel
 - ▶ Level four – do not travel
419. ▶ USA withdrawn itself from a United Nations pact to improve handling of migrant and refugee situations deeming it 'inconsistent' with policies.
420. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) in Mid-2020, as a next-generation space telescope to provide largest picture of universe ever seen, with same depth and clarity as Hubble Space Telescope.
421. ▶ Unicity International (USA) launched world's first ever Genomeceutical (gene controlling) range of products to India. DNA contains DNA undergoes a process called transcription or gene expression that creates a "messenger" molecule, telling body to make a specific protein.
422. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia formed new economic and partnership group named *Joint Cooperation Committee*, separate from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- ▶ JCC will coordinate between UAE and Saudi Arabia in all military, political, economic, trade, cultural and other interest of 2 countries.
 - ▶ It will be headed by *Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.
423. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched its first space programme aimed at sending four Emirati astronauts to International Space Station within 5 years.
424. ▶ United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that considers right of peoples to self-determination as a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights.
425. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released Global Education Monitoring Report 2017-18, expressing concern over school textbooks in many countries glorifying war and military heroes rather than teaching peace and non-violence. As per the report, just 10% of the textbooks across the world explicitly teach the need for conflict prevention and resolution.
426. ▶ United Nations General Assembly approved regular budget of \$5.397 billion for 2018-2019, marking 5% cut (286 million dollar) as compared to budget for 2016- 2017.
427. ▶ United Nations selected Dubai (UAE) as data hub for Middle East North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region, due to city's integrated initiatives to mine and manage its data.
428. ▶ Vanuatu (South Pacific island nation) became first nation to accept bitcoin in exchange for citizenship. Vanuatu's citizenship program costs \$200,000 USD, meaning that at current prices the residency program costs less than 42 bitcoins.
429. ▶ Venezuela will launch a new virtual currency to ease country's economic crisis, triggered by falling oil revenue and plummeting value of bolivar, its existing currency. New crypto-currency *Petro* will allow country to advance in issues of monetary sovereignty, to make financial transactions and overcome the financial blockade.
430. ▶ Victoria became first Australian state to legalise assisted dying (euthanasia), as lawmakers voted to allow terminally ill patients the right to request a lethal drug to end their lives from June 2019.
431. ▶ WHO released first tranche of emergency funding of \$175,000 to provide lifesaving healthcare to vulnerable Rohingya muslims population in Bangladesh.
432. ▶ Women Entrepreneur (WE) Cities Index 2017 study released by Dell -
- ▶ India's Bengaluru ranked 40th out of 50 cities and Delhi ranked 49th.
 - ▶ Top 5 - New York (USA), Bay Area (US), London (UK), Boston (US) and Stockholm (Sweden).
433. ▶ Word 'populism' is announced as Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2017. It is defined as *political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want*.
434. ▶ World Bank allocated \$8 billion for infrastructure projects under China's Silk Road initiative.
- ▶ Purpose of Silk Road initiative is to create an economic corridor connecting China with Asia, Europe and the rest of world.

- ✎ Silk Road project has two components - Silk Road Economic Belt (land-based connectivity) and Maritime Silk Road (ocean based connectivity).
- 435. ▶ World Bank announced \$1.15 billion development policy loan for Egypt to support its economic reform programme, with \$500 million from World Bank Group, \$150 million from Britain and \$500 million from African Development Bank.
 - ✎ Additionally, International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved \$ 44.5 million credit for Madagascar, to support the country's economic recovery.
- 436. ▶ World Bank will end its financial support for oil and gas exploration after 2019, in response to growing threat posed to climate change.
- 437. ▶ World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business index' 2017 (190 Nations) -
 - ✎ India - India Improved 30 positions to rank 100th amongst 190 countries, Ranking India among top 10 improvers in 2017.
 - ✎ Top 5 - New Zealand (1), Singapore (2), Denmark (3), South Korea (4), Hong Kong (5)
 - ✎ Bottom 5 - Somalia (190th), Eritrea (189th), Venezuela (188th), South Sudan (187th), Yemen (186th)
 - ✎ Neighbours - Bangladesh (177), Nepal (105), Pakistan (147), Sri Lanka (111)
 - ✎ BRICS - Brazil (125), Russia (35), China (78), South Africa (82)
- 438. ▶ World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2017-18 (137 Nations) -
 - ✎ Top 5 - Switzerland (1st), United States (2nd), Singapore (3rd), Netherlands (4th) and Germany (5th)
 - ✎ Bottom 5 - Mauritania (133), Liberia (134), Chad (135), Mozambique (136) Yemen (137)
 - ✎ BRICS - China (27th), Russia (38th), **India (40th)**, South Africa (61st) and Brazil (80th).
 - ✎ Neighbours - Bangladesh (99), Nepal (88), Pakistan (115), Sri Lanka (85)
- 439. ▶ World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index 2017 (144 Nations) -
 - ✎ India - India came down 21 places to ranked **108** in 2017 List, due to less participation of women in economy and low wages.
 - ✎ Top 5 - Iceland (1), Norway(2), Finland (3), Rwanda (4), Sweden (5)
 - ✎ Bottom 5 - Iran (140), Chad (141), Syria (142), Pakistan (143), Yemen (144)
 - ✎ BRICS - Brazil (90), Russia (71), India (108), China (100), South Africa (19)
 - ✎ Neighbours - Bangladesh (47), Sri Lanka (109), Nepal (111), Pakistan (143)
- 440. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) for first time has formulated clinical guidelines on responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused. These guidelines provide first line support to child or adolescent in response to the disclosure of sexual abuse.
- 441. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) released report *Non-communicable Disease Progress Monitor 2017*, as a measure of status of implementation of 19 indicators of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in WHO's 194 Member States.
 - ✎ Costa Rica and Iran are best performing countries, with each achieving 15 of 19 indicators. They are followed by Brazil, Bulgaria, Turkey and UK.
- 442. ▶ World Health Organisation Central African Nation Gabon as *Polio-free*.
- 443. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) declared Somalia free of polio as it had not recorded any case of polio disease in last 3 years.
- 444. ▶ World Inequality Report 2018 by World Inequality Lab based at the Paris School of Economics (France) -
 - ✎ Deregulation and related economic reforms in India since 1980s have led to significant increase in inequality. Inequality is increased to such an extent that In 2014, India's top 1% of earners grabbed 22% share of national income, while bottom 50% managed to get only 15% share.
 - ✎ Globally, since 1980, richest 1% earners have captured twice as much as the poorest 50% of world population.
- 445. ▶ World Migration Report 2018 by *UN International Organisation for Migration* -
 - ✎ Indian diaspora is the largest in world, with 1.5 crore Indians living abroad India also receives highest amount in remittances (\$68.91 billion last year).
 - ✎ Largest migration corridor is from India to UAE, where 3.5 million Indians were residing in 2015.
 - ✎ USA is top destination for migrants, with 46.6 million migrants moving to USA in 2015.
- 446. ▶ World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017 -
 - ✎ India is third in world in number of nuclear reactors being installed with 6 reactors. China is leading at 20. Total operational units across the world are 53 currently.
- 447. ▶ World Payments Report 2017 by Capgemini and BNP Paribas -
 - ✎ China is ahead of India in digital payments space with 38 Billion Transactions in 2015, as compared to 4.5 Billion Digital Transactions in India in 2015. India had 25 billion non-cash transactions for 2017-18..
 - ✎ China will have growth of 36 % in digital transactions during 2016-20 while India will grow at average 26.2 % during the period.
 - ✎ Globally, Debit cards account for 46 percent of non-cash transactions followed by credit cards with 19.5 percent in 2015.

448. ▶ World Trade Organization (WTO) formed a panel to look into Qatar's complaint against measures imposed on it by UAE for Qatar's alleged financial support for militant groups.
449. ▶ World breastfeeding week 2017 is being celebrated from 1st - 7th August 2017 with theme *Sustaining Breastfeeding Together*.
450. ▶ World skills competition 2017 held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) -
 Indian team consisting of 28 competitors won 2 medals and 9 Medallions of Excellence in key skills. Mohit Dudeja won a silver for Patisserie and Confectionery and Kiran won a bronze for Prototype Modelling.
451. ▶ World trade in goods is estimated to grow at a higher 3.6 % in 2017, compared to earlier estimate of 2.4 %. This change was mainly due to intra-regional shipments picking up and a recovery in import demand in North America.
452. ▶ World's first camel hospital opened in Dubai (UAE).
453. ▶ World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2017 by Forbes -
 CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar is most powerful woman in India, 32nd globally.
 List is topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, making it her 7th consecutive year at top and 12th overall. She is followed by UK Prime Minister Theresa May (rank 2).
454. ▶ World's deepest lake - Lake Baikal (Russia) is reportedly undergoing its gravest crisis in recent history.
 It Holds 23 % of world's unfrozen fresh water. It is as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and includes over 3,600 plant and animal species.
 Since past few years, it has been crippled by a series of damaging phenomena such as disappearance of the omul fish, rapid growth of putrid algae and death of endemic species of sponges across its vast 3.2 million-hectare area.
455. ▶ World's first Saola breeding centre is being built in Vietnam. 's central region for . Saola, a critically endangered hoofed mammal is identified by two parallel horns with sharp ends, which can reach 51 centimetres in length and are found on both males and females.
456. ▶ World's first floating windfarm has been put on trial in Scotland, to unlock ocean's potential for generating renewable power. The project is called *Hywind*, costing approx £200m. It will bring power to 20,000 homes.
457. ▶ World's largest airplane (by wingspan) Stratolaunch successfully completed its initial engine tests in USA, designed for launching for sending satellite-carrying rockets into low-Earth orbit. Its wingspan measures 118 m between ends. It weighs about 227,000 kg and can carry nearly 250,000 kg between two fuselages. It has operational range of approximately 2,000 nautical miles.
458. ▶ World's largest data center - *Kolos facility* is being developed by a US-Norwegian partnership in Ballangen, a small town in Northern Norway. It will draw on a record-setting 1000 megawatts of power.
459. ▶ World's longest glass bridge opened in Shijiazhuang (China). It lies 218 meters above hanging between the two cliffs in Hongyagu Scenic Area in Pingshan county, with 488 Meters length and capacity to hold 2000 people.
460. ▶ World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge (*Europe Bridge*) opened in Randa (Switzerland). It measures 1,620 feet (494 Metres) long and rises as high as 278 feet above Grabengufer ravine.
461. ▶ World's oldest emoji discovered on 3700-year-old pot in Turkey by archaeologists working on a site in Southern Turkey. The site depicts era of *Hittites*, an ancient civilisation that existed in north-central Anatolian region.
462. ▶ Writer Preeti Shenoy has been honoured with Indian of the Year Award by Brands Academy, a reputed branding company in India.
463. ▶ Zimbabwe's military seized control of nation by placing longtime leader Robert Mugabe under house arrest.

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Meetings

- ▶ 11th meeting of Conference of the Parties to Vienna Convention and 29th Meeting of Parties to Montreal Protocol held in Canada -
 During this, UN Environment pledged \$540 million to developing countries to continue their work in phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals, for 3 years starting from 2018. Funds will be provided through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of Montreal Protocol, which has disbursed over \$3.7 billion to developing countries since 1991 for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals.
- ▶ 14th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi (October 06, 2017). EU was represented by European Council President Donald Tusk. 3 MOUs were Signed on this occasion -
 Implementing Arrangement for Indian Researchers hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe
 Finance Contract of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2-Line R6 for Euro 300 million out of total loan of Euro 500 million
 Joint Declaration between International Solar Alliance and the European Investment Bank
- ▶ 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit-2017 (GES 2017) held in Hyderabad (Telangana) -
 It was jointly organized by NITI Aayog and USA Government.
 Theme for 2017 GES is *Women First, Prosperity for All*.

4. ▶ 105th Indian Science Congress will be held at Manipur University in Imphal (Manipur) in March 2018. The venue has been changed from Osmania University (Hyderabad) earlier.
5. ▶ 10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) held in Kathmandu (Nepal) with theme *Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia*.
6. ▶ 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health held in New Delhi with theme *Investing in Adolescent Health—the Future is Now*.
7. ▶ 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties 12 (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Held in Manila (Philippines) with theme *Their Future is Our Future – Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People*. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that India will host next CMS Conference of the Parties 13 (CMS COP13) in 2020.
 - ▶ 34 species of vultures including 4 from India on their migratory routes were awarded highest protection by Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) 2017 held in Manila.
8. ▶ 13th Asia-Europe (ASEM) foreign ministers' meeting Held in Naypyidaw (Myanmar).
9. ▶ 14th SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Law conference and 11th SAARC chief justices conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka).
10. ▶ 19th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meetings held in Hyderabad (Telangana).
 - ▶ RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (*Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam*) and six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (*Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand*).
11. ▶ 21st World Congress of Mental Health organized in New Delhi, in association with World Federation for Mental Health. Theme of conference is '*Partnerships for Mental Health*'.
12. ▶ 22nd World Petroleum Congress held in Istanbul (Turkey), attended by Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas) on India's Behalf.
13. ▶ 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began in Bonn (Germany). India is being represented by Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), who inaugurated Indian Pavilion at Conference of Parties (COP) 23 with theme *Conserving Now, Preserving Future*.
14. ▶ 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP-24) meet held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) with theme *Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development*.
15. ▶ 25th National Children Science Congress (NCSC-2017) held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat) with theme *Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development* with special focus on persons with disabilities.
16. ▶ 2nd World Congress on Marxism will be held in Peking University in Beijing in May 2018 with theme *Marxism and the current world and China*
17. ▶ 3 Day Organic World Congress 2017 organized by International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) and OAFI at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida (UP).
 - ▶ OWC is organized every 3 years in different countries with last edition held in 2014 in Turkey. 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states showcased 4,000 varieties of seeds.
18. ▶ 3 day International Hindu Conference held in Kathmandu (Nepal), with theme *Emerging spiritualism: Renaissance of Hinduism*.
19. ▶ 39th Bi-annual General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) held in Paris (France). It was attended by Prakesh Javedkar (Minister of Human Resource Development) on India's Behalf.
 - ▶ India has been re-elected to UNESCO's Executive Board. European Nation Finland has been elected to UNESCO's Executive Board after 20 years.
20. ▶ 42nd World Congress of International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) organised by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) in New Delhi with Theme *Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead*.
21. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 will be hosted by India in New Delhi in November 2017.
22. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 (GCCS 2017) hosted by New Delhi with theme *Cyber4All*.
23. ▶ 61st IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) General Conference held at Vienna (Austria). It was attended by Sekhar Basu (Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission & Secretary in Department of Atomic Energy) on India's Behalf.
24. ▶ 7th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Seoul (South Korea) with Theme *Innovative Partnership for Inclusive Prosperity*.
25. ▶ 8th Conference of SAARC Nations' Speakers and Parliamentarians held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on India's Behalf.

26. ▶ 8th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held in Manila (Philippines), attended by V.K. Singh (Minister of State for External Affairs) on India's Behalf.
 - ✎ MGC is an initiative by India and five ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications. It is named after Ganga and Mekong which both are civilisational rivers.
27. ▶ 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress & Expo 2017 Organized in New Delhi, with Theme *Renewable Energy: What Works*.
28. ▶ 9th CMS Vatavaran global film festival on environment and wildlife held in New Delhi with Theme *Conservation 4 Water*.
29. ▶ 9th BRICS Summit 2017 in Xiamen (China) with Theme *BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future*. Documents signed -
 - ✎ Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation
 - ✎ BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation(2017-2020)
 - ✎ BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Co operation.
 - ✎ MoU between BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation.
 - ✎ Five banks of BRICS Nations (*Brazilian Development Bank, Vnesheconombank, Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank and Development Bank of South Africa*) established credit lines in national currencies and cooperate on credit ratings. Also, New Development Bank (NDB) approved 1.4 billion US dollar loans for sustainable development projects in India, Russia and China.
 - ✎ China will give \$76.4 million for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at BRICS countries' New Development Bank.
30. ▶ 9th Meeting of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in Kyrgyzstan. Home Minister Rajnath Singh Attended on India's Behalf.
31. ▶ ASEAN–India (Association of Southeast Asian Nations-India) Connectivity Summit (AICS) held in New Delhi with theme *Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century*.
32. ▶ An International Peace Conference held in Imphal (Manipur), to promote peace and harmony in the North Eastern region of India.
33. ▶ An international conference to draw attention towards adverse effects of global warming in Hindu Kush mountain range - *Resilient Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions towards a Sustainable Future for Asia* organized in Nepal in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).
34. ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Da Nang (Vietnam) with theme *Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future*.
 - ✎ APEC is 21 Pacific Rim countries Grouping. APEC summit for 2018 will be held in Papua New Guinea.
35. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in Russian port city of Vladivostok, to attend 3rd Eastern Economic Forum. Eastern Economic Forum includes representatives from Russia, Pacific Region and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
36. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Visited USA for participating in G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C. He also participated in Annual Meetings of World Bank and IMF in Washington D.C.
37. ▶ First 5-day *International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2017)* started in Jaipur (Rajasthan), organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in partnership with World Bank, and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
38. ▶ First International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness 'Arogya 2017' Organized in New Delhi, with theme *Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH*.
39. ▶ First edition of WINGS 2017 - *Sab Uden, Sab Juden* Expanding Regional Connectivity Event hosted in New Delhi.
40. ▶ First ever Conference of Partners NGOs organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi with theme *Implementation of Policies, Schemes and Programmes for Women and Children: Challenges and Way Forward*.
41. ▶ First ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India - *India Mobile Congress 2017* held at Pragati Maidan, Led by Department of Telecom and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI),.
42. ▶ First-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BITFM) was held at Parvasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi, organized by Ministry of AYUSH.
43. ▶ Global Clubfoot Conference organised by CURE India and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi. Clubfoot is one of most common orthopaedic birth defects where one or both feet are rotated inwards and downwards.
44. ▶ Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) Conference held in New Delhi, jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), World Bank and United Nations Development Programme with Theme *Peoples' participation in wildlife conservation*.
 - ✎ During this, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) unveiled 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031, aimed at improving wildlife conservation. First action plan was released in 1983 to 2001 and 2nd from 2002 to 2016.

45. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 4 day First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) in New Delhi. Main exercise will comprise of Table Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR).
46. ▶ India and USA will co-host Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) at Hyderabad (Telangana) from 28-30 November, 2017.
47. ▶ India will conduct first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (DMEx-2017) in October 2017 in New Delhi.
48. ▶ India will host 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health in October 2017 with theme *Investing in Adolescent Health : the Future is Now*.
49. ▶ India will host 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB at Mumbai in June 2018, with Theme *Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration*.
 - ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) also approved its first Loan to China as USD 250 million loan aimed at reducing its dependence on coal by building a natural gas distribution network for villages.
 - ▶ AIIB is headquartered in Beijing (China) with Jin Liqun and President.
50. ▶ India will host Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017, world's largest conference on cyber space and related issues in New Delhi in November 2017. GCCS will take place outside Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations for the first time. Theme for 5th GCCS 2017 is *Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace*.
51. ▶ India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) signed IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries, during 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban (South Africa).
 - ▶ Each country will contribute US \$1 million annually to this fund which is managed by UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.
 - ▶ Meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on India's behalf.
52. ▶ India-ASEAN Youth Summit 2017 held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). It marks 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership with theme *Shared Values, Common Destiny*.
53. ▶ Indian Government and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organized International Conference on *Consumer Protection for South, South East and East Asian Nations* with theme *Empowering Consumers in New Markets* in New Delhi. India didn't invite Pakistan and North Korea to attend the same.
54. ▶ International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)'s Global Conference and General Assembly 2017 held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). During it, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) retained its seat as Director on Global Board of ICA, for 2nd time in a row.
55. ▶ International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organized ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2017 Held in New Delhi with Theme *Heritage and Democracy*.
56. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s 15 day meeting started in Geneva (Switzerland).
57. ▶ International Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Forum (Summit 2017) held in Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek, Attended by Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan on India's Behalf.
58. ▶ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Moscow (Russia) to attend 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB. He reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. The conference focused on eliminating TB across globe by 2030.
59. ▶ Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers Held in China's Beijing (attended by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar) and 2nd Meeting of BRICS Culture Ministers held in Tianjin (China).
60. ▶ Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan visited Astana (Kazakhstan) to co-chair 13th Meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) with Kazakhstan.
61. ▶ Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi Visited Argentina for attending 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Buenos Aires.
62. ▶ Ministry of Culture and National Geographic Society hosted 4th international conference on *Dialogue of Civilizations – IV* in Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira. It was initiated by NGS in 2013 to promote knowledge about 5 ancient literate civilizations of world - Egypt, China, Mesopotamia, South Asia and Mesoamerica.
63. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest, and *Climate Change (MoEFCC)* organized Business and Climate Change Summit 2017.
64. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with USA will host 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES 2017) in Hyderabad (Telangana) in November 2017 with theme *Women First, Prosperity for All*. This is the first time GES is being held in South Asia.
65. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Germany, after 3-day visit to Israel.
 - ▶ In Germany, he attended 12th G20 Summit held in Hamburg (Germany) with theme *Shaping an Inter-connected World*. 5 BRICS nations also had an informal meeting on sidelines of G20 Summit in Hamburg (Germany). Note that 9th BRICS Summit will be held in September 2017 in Xiamen (China).





66. ▶ PM Narendra Modi will be first Indian Prime Minister in past 20 years to attend annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos (Switzerland), to be held in January 2018.
67. ▶ South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) organized *Across Barriers-International Business Women's Summit* at Kathmandu, (Nepal).
68. ▶ UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference 2017 held in Vancouver (Canada).
69. ▶ UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP23) held in Bonn (Germany), presided over by Government of Fiji.
 - ✎ It concluded with countries putting in place a roadmap for 'Talanoa Dialogue', a year-long process to assess countries' progress on climate actions. Talanoa is a traditional approach used in Fiji and other Pacific islands to engage in an inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue to resolve differences without putting any blame on any one.
 - ✎ Next UNFCCC Climate Change Conference will be held in 2018 in Poland.
70. ▶ United Nations conference on nuclear energy held at Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), to engage in dialogue on role of nuclear power in meeting future energy demand, contributing to sustainable development and mitigating climate change. Iran has boycotted the conference.
71. ▶ World Youth Forum 2017 held in Egypt with Minister of State (IC) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore attending on India's Behalf.

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National

1. ▶ Government also asked Odisha government to enhance its rural road construction target under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from 7,000 km to 10,000 km during the current fiscal year.
2. ▶ 1.5-mw small hydropower plant in Biaras Drass of Kargil became first project to be commissioned under *Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative (LREI)*, developed at cost of approx INR 17 crores.
3. ▶ 10 Days long Traditional festival of Losar celebrated in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir to mark beginning of New Year in this Himalayan region.
4. ▶ 10th Slum Yuva Daud flagged off at Khichripur in New Delhi as part of Adopt a Slum campaign of the Sports Ministry and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.
5. ▶ 15th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) for Documentary, Short and Animation films will be held in January – February 2018, to be organized by Films Division of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B).
6. ▶ 19 acres of land housed around 70 government office buildings in Chattisgarh's Raipur is being converted into India's first micro forest to create an oxy-zone, aimed at creating an oxyzone in midst of packed houses in Highly populated Raipur city.
7. ▶ 2 day *International Conference on Yoga for Wellness* held in New Delhi. It is 3rd International Conference on Yoga.
8. ▶ 2 day Korea festival showcasing Korea's rich art, culture and heritage held by Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) in Gurugram (Haryana).
9. ▶ 2030 Water Resources Group (2030WRG) will help Maharashtra Government raise \$270 million from Green Climate Fund, which will be invested in integrated watershed programmes such as Jalyukt Shivar Yojana.
 - ✎ GCF is a new fund under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and 2030WRG is hosted by the International Finance Corporation. It is a public-private-civil society collaboration for water resources reform in developing economies.
10. ▶ 20th International Children's Film Festival (ICFFI) will be held in Hyderabad (Telangana) in November 2017. It will be hosted by Telangana government jointly with CFSI (Children's Film Society of India) and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
11. ▶ 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival will be organized in November 2017 in Shillong (Meghalaya).
12. ▶ 2nd Iranshah Udvada Utsav, a Parsi cultural festival organized in Gujarat.
13. ▶ 3 Government PSUs - *National Aluminium Company (NALCO)*, *Hindustan Copper (HCL)* and *Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL)* signed MoU to form a joint venture *Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)* -
 - ✎ *KABIL* will identify, explore, acquire, develop and process minerals overseas for commercial use and to meet domestic supply needs. It will deal with 12 strategic minerals that are not available in India or available in a very low quantity.
14. ▶ 3-Day World Food India 2017 Organized in New Delhi with Theme *Transforming the Food Economy*, Inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi
 - ✎ Purpose is to transform food economy and double farmers' income by establishing India as a preferred investment destination for global food processing industry. This is first such grand event hosted by India in Food processing sector.
 - ✎ PM Modi launched "Nivesh Bandhu", an Investor Facilitation Portal in Food Sector.
 - ✎ Germany, Japan and Denmark are partner countries to World Food India, while Italy and the Netherlands are the focus countries.
 - ✎ Team of 50 chefs created a world record by cooking 918 kg "khichdi" live at the World Food India 2017 event, led by Noted Chef Sanjeev Kapoor.

- ▶ MoU worth INR 10, 000 Crore signed between Government and Patanjali Ayurved Limited.
 - ▶ Telangana Government launched its 'Food Processing Policy'
15. ▶ 3rd India International Science Festival (IISF-2017) held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in October 2017, organised by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
 - ▶ During IISF 2017, New Guinness World Record for Largest Biology Lesson has been created with 1049 students participating.
 16. ▶ 3rd India International Science Festival (IISF-2017) will be held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in October 2017, organised by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
 17. ▶ 3rd Women of India Organic Festival held at Dilli Haat in New Delhi, aimed at promoting women entrepreneurs and farmers in organic sector.
 18. ▶ 44th Indian Handicrafts and Gifts (IHGF) - Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida (UP), by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
 19. ▶ 4th North East Connectivity Summit will be held in Nagaland in September 2017 and 5th North East Connectivity Summit 2018 will be held in Arunachal Pradesh.
 20. ▶ 5 States (*Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh*) and a UT (*Puducherry*) formally adopted Centre's Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative, an Online Market platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and agencies of Government. It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement of goods and services and eliminate corruption.
 21. ▶ 5 day annual Konark dance festival started in Odisha, near famous Sun Temple of Konark.
 22. ▶ 5th biennial State Ranking Survey by hospitality consulting firm Hotelivate and World Travel & Tourism Council-India Initiative (WTTC-II) -
 - ▶ Delhi is the top tourist destination of India. Followed by Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.
 23. ▶ 600-year-old Walled City in Gujarat's Ahmedabad has been formally accorded status of India's first World Heritage City by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
 - ▶ Walled city was founded in 15th century by Ahmed Shah of Gujarat Sultanate, on eastern bank of Sabarmati River. It presents rich architectural heritage from sultanate period.
 - ▶ It is India's first city to get World Heritage status, 3rd in Asia after Bhaktapur (Nepal) and Galle (Sri Lanka). India now has total 36 World Heritage Inscriptions 28 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site.
 24. ▶ 6th Edition of 4-day international textile and apparel fair named *VASTRA* organized in Jaipur (Rajasthan).
 25. ▶ *Bandhan Tod* app launched by Bihar Government as a unique initiative of Gender Alliance's strategy to end child marriage and dowry in state.
 26. ▶ *No helmet, no petrol* campaign came into force in Andhra Pradesh, with CM Chandrababu Naidu allocating INR 10 crores for equipment to implement it.
 27. ▶ *Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017* held in Ahmadabad (Gujarat), India's 1st World Heritage City.
 28. ▶ MSME Minister of State (Independent Charge) Giriraj Singh launched MSME Delayed Payment Portal *MSME Samadhaan* at URL <http://msefc.msme.gov.in>. It will enable MSME entrepreneurs to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments by Concerned Government Departments.
 29. ▶ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched *Divyang Sarathi* mobile app for easy dissemination of information to 'Divyangjans'.
 30. ▶ A Supreme Court Bench (led by Chief Justice J.S. Khehar) pronounced that individual privacy is a fundamental right protected by Constitution. It Comes under various fundamental freedoms in PART III of Indian Constitution. With this now India has total seven fundamental rights. Which are -
 - ▶ Right to equality
 - ▶ Right to freedom
 - ▶ Right against exploitation
 - ▶ Right to freedom of religion
 - ▶ Cultural and Educational rights
 - ▶ Right to constitutional remedies
 - ▶ Right to Privacy
 31. ▶ Aadi Perukku Festival celebrated in Tamilnadu, marking begining of month of Aadi. During this month, Thai and Aadi sun changes directions so it is celebrated Aadi Perukku festival celebrated in Tamilnaduin that way.

32. ▶ According to report by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), population estimation of Asian elephant in India is around 27,312. It was first-ever synchronised all-India Elephant Population census that covered 1.10 lakh square kilometres and spanned four regions of - northeast, south, east-central and north.
-  Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054).
33. ▶ According to state-wise analysis of state of women entrepreneurship in India by Sheatwork -
-  Tamil Nadu has highest number of women entrepreneurs in India, followed by Kerala and West Bengal.
34. ▶ Agricultural Festival *Dree* celebrated by Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
35. ▶ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) developed *Hortinet* mobile app for farmers to facilitate registration, testing and certification of certain fruits and vegetables.
36. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with Government of Uttarakhand, to accelerate development of civil aviation infrastructure in Uttarakhand and assess several issues confronting the same.
37. ▶ All India Institute of Ayurveda has been set up on a budget of Rs 157 crore as first medical institute under AYUSH ministry to hold National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) accreditation. Oct 17 also marks 2nd Ayurveda Day of 2017.
-  Kerala Government will organise an international seminar and Global Ayurveda meet in Kochi in February 2018.
38. ▶ Amazon India signed MoU with Telangana Department of Handloom and Textiles, to train and enable weavers and artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon customers across country.
39. ▶ American e-commerce company Amazon opened its largest fulfillment center (FC) in India at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad (Telangana).
40. ▶ American tech firm Oracle opened its first 'Digital Hub' in Asia Pacific region in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
41. ▶ An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) and CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), to provide for time and frequency traceability services to ISRO by CSIR-NPL.
42. ▶ An MoU signed by Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya under 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' programme, to boost cultural ties.
43. ▶ An Olive workshop on *Olive Research and Development in India* organized by Department of Agriculture and Corporation & Farmers Welfare at ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture Srinagar.
44. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu declared Friday as *Day of Helping Hand*, when he will meet with poor and underprivileged people and hear their grievances and try to resolve them.
45. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government along with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) is planning to set up a gaming and e-learning hub, as first of its kind in Asia-Pacific region.
46. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government announced new programme *Jala Siriki Haarati*, aimed at offering prayers to water bodies and to create awareness among public regarding water preservation.
47. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government released *People First* mobile grievance redressal app, to enable people to register complaints about government services and schemes by dialing 1100.
48. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government announced that transgender community can avail government schemes and Andhra Pradesh will be declared ODF by March 2018.
49. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. providing pension of INR 1500 to transgenders (above 18 years age) in state. Among other states, Kerala and Odisha have already introduced pension schemes for transgenders.
50. ▶ Andhra Pradesh assembly passed Kapu reservation bill that will provide Kapu community with 5 % quota in education and employment in state. Kapu community has 27 % population in state. Now total Reservation in AP has passed 50%, triggering need for central govt nod.
51. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU with Alphabet Inc's X (Google X) to bring Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) technology to India, to provide high quality & affordable digital services through internet under state government's Fiber grid project.
-  This association with X labs to implement FSOC in Andhra Pradesh is first in world to provide wireless internet connection at higher speed of up to 20 Gbps and to a distance of up to 20kms.
52. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU with USA-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) to build India's first Hyperloop system, aimed at connecting Amaravati and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh by covering 35 km in just 5 minutes.
53. ▶ Andhra Pradesh state Government will build 5.4 lakh affordable houses in urban areas of State under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in next 15 months.
54. ▶ Andhra Pradesh's Eastern Power Distribution Company (EPDCL) and Southern Power Distribution Corporation of AP (SPDCL) became first state-owned distribution companies in India to accept payments through Bharat QR, As part of 'Vizag less-cash city' initiative by Visa and Andhra Pradesh government.
55. ▶ Annual Tribal cultural Festival Odisha - Parab-2017, held in Koraput.

56. ▶ Annual 'Balijatra' festival held in Odisha on banks of river Mahanadi.
57. ▶ Archaeologists discovered an ancient Buddhist site dating back to 1st century AD, in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
58. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly approved creation of a new district - *Kamle*, as 23rd district of state.
59. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh became 2nd Northeast state (after sikkim) to be officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Overall, it is 5th to be declared ODF State, after Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Haryana.
60. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh civil secretariat became first secretariat in country to be fully covered under Wi-Fi Local Area Network (LAN) coverage.
61. ▶ As per *Rise of the Millennials: India's Most Valuable Celebrity Brands* report by Duff & Phelps -
 - ▶ Cricketer Virat Kohli named as India's top-ranking celebrity brand in 2017, with brand value of \$144 million. He replaced actor Shah Rukh Khan.
62. ▶ As per Central Government's draft on Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules 2017, only BS-VI compliant vehicles will be registered after 30th June, 2020. It is in line with earlier order by Central Government for implementation of Bharat Standard-VI compliant cleaner transport fuels across India by April 2020 and in Delhi by April 2018.
63. ▶ As per Government data, India's food grain production increased by 8.7% to a record high 273.38 million tonne during 2016-17, better than previous best of 265.04 million in 2013-14.
64. ▶ As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Uttar Pradesh is at top in number of cyber crimes in India, followed by Maharashtra. 12,317 cases of cybercrimes were reported in India in 2016, annual increase of over 6 %.
65. ▶ As per an agreement between Uttar Pradesh and South Korea Government, *Ayodhya Mahotsav* would be held in Seoul and Gimhe cities of South Korea in 2018, depicting its cultural heritage. In return, a 'Korea Festival' will be held in Lucknow and Ayodhya in 2018.
66. ▶ As per data from Central Pollution Control Board -
 - ▶ Varanasi (UP) is most polluted Indian city among 42 cities, with Air Quality Index (AQI) of 491 on 500-point scale.
 - ▶ Gurugram (Haryana) is 2nd most polluted with an AQI of 480. Delhi at 468, Lucknow at 462 and Kanpur at 461.
67. ▶ As per report by Coeus Age Consulting -
 - ▶ Madhya Pradesh emerged as top state in terms of digital initiatives with score of 100.1, followed by Maharashtra (99.9) and Andhra Pradesh (99.8).
68. ▶ As per reports, Parali I island (Lakshadweep) has disappeared due to coastal erosion and another four such islands in Lakshadweep sea are shrinking fast.
69. ▶ Assam Government extended term of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and declared entire state a Disturbed Area for six more months. This is first time that a state government has extended AFSPA and Disturbed Area provision on its own. Previously, AFSPA provisions were always extended by Central Government.
70. ▶ Assam Government rolled out 647 schemes entailing an investment of Rs 24.57 crore for development of world's largest river island Majuli.
 - ▶ Assam Government also launched a web portal *Assam Darpan* where details of government schemes and projects would be available to the people. URL - <https://as.cmdashboard.nic.in>
71. ▶ Assam Government will launch *Scheme for Compassionate Family Pension (CFP)*, in place of Compassionate Appointment. It is being done as Compassionate Appointment didn't serve objective due to practical difficulties (Including Under qualification and other issues of compassionate Appointee).
72. ▶ Assam Govt. launched skill development training centres across state, to carry forward central Govt.'s vision for skilling the youth of nation through 'Skill India' programme.
73. ▶ Assam State Government and Isha Foundation signed MOU for rejuvenation and conservation of rivers. Isha Foundation is led by spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.
74. ▶ Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) launched Majuli Sustainable Tourism Development Project (MSTDP) to encourage carbon-free tourism experience in the country's largest river island, Majuli. Objective is to create an environmental protocol for tourism industry in the island.
 - ▶ Assam government also recently announced Majuli as *first carbon neutral district* in India.
75. ▶ Assam government has set up a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Cell for implementation of DBT across various schemes, to coordinate efforts at the state level in taking DBT initiative forward.
76. ▶ Assam government signed MoU with Google India to take Internet connectivity to remote areas. Google will provide Internet connection to 26,000 villages and 1,500 tea garden areas to increase digital literacy. Gujarat government also signed MoU with Google for 'Digital Gujarat' movement.

77. ▶ Assam government will provide skill development training to around 30,000 surrendered militants and over 24000 Assamese youth under Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojna.
78. ▶ Assam government will raise a new Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) for better protection of one-horned rhinos in Assam. Local youths hailing from the fringe areas of the Kaziranga national park will be considered for recruitment into proposed force.
79. ▶ Assam government would celebrate 'Lachit Divas' at various state capitals in India from 2018, to promote ideals of Lachit Borphukan – the legendary general of Assam's history.
 - ▶ Lachit Borphukan was a commander and Borphukan in Ahom kingdom known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh I to take back Kamrup.
80. ▶ Assam passed Industrial Disputes (Assam Amendment) Bill 2017 regarding lay off of employees. It enables employers to lay off up to 300 employees without prior permission from government. Government also increased compensation of a labourer from 15 days salary to up to 60 days salary, in case of lay off.
81. ▶ Assam state Assembly passed PRANAM(Parental Responsibility And Norms for Accountability and Monitoring) bill, making it mandatory for state government employees to take care of their parents and needy siblings. Assam is the first state to approve such a legislation. Government will deduct 10-15 % of salary of employee and give it to the parents for their survival, if not taken care by employee.
82. ▶ Assam state government will set up a well-equipped skill city with a capacity of 10000 training seats in state, to give skill development training to 30000 former militants as announced earlier. Assam government will upgrade employment exchanges to Modern Career Centres.
83. ▶ Assam will host its first Global Investors Summit in Guwahati in February 2018, to attract more investments.
 - ▶ State government of Assam has also launched a new Tourism policy, to increase tourist inflow in state, effective from January 2018 to December 2022.
 - ▶ Assam Government also launched a new Information Technology (IT) Policy under which IT Startups will be provided financial support ranging 1.2 Lakh to 2.5 Lakh Per employee depending on type of operations and headcount.
84. ▶ BSE Institute Limited (subsidiary of BSE) signed MOU with DLT Labs to set up the India's first state-of-the-art Block Chain Lab in Mumbai. It aims to provide knowledge driven, in class education and training in the field of financial technology, with a special emphasis on Block Chain.
85. ▶ Bangalore International Airport (Kempegowda International Airport) will be India's first airport to have complete Aadhaar-enabled entry and biometric boarding system by December 2018.
86. ▶ Bangalore International Airport Ltd and private helicopter service *Thumbby Aviation* partnered to launch HeliTaxi services from Bengaluru Airport, Making Bengaluru Airport first in India to get HeliTaxi service.
87. ▶ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) completed work on 4000 MW Yadadri supercritical thermal power project of Telangana State Power Generation Corporation, valued at approx INR 20,400 crores. It is highest value order ever placed in power sector in India.
88. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed MoU with Chinese gear maker ZTE to work on Pre5G and 5G wireless systems to make a virtual network architecture of a 5G ecosystem for research and commercialization in India.
 - ▶ BSNL also signed MOU with Aeris Communications to provide packaged Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and services to small, medium businesses and public sector undertakings (PSUs) in India.
89. ▶ Bicentenary (200th anniversary) celebration of Paika Rebellion of Odisha (1817) organised by Ministry of Culture in New Delhi.
 - ▶ Paika Rebellion of 1817 is an armed rebellion against British colonialism, in response to tinkering of revenue system by British in 1803. At that juncture, Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, military chief of King of Khurda, led the army of Paikas and forced the British to retreat.
90. ▶ Bihar Government approved *Safe City Surveillance* scheme for curbing eve-teasing, harassment and other crimes against women at public places.
91. ▶ Bihar Government approved reservation for persons with disabilities in government jobs and educational institutions. Cabinet also approved establishment of a state advisory board for empowerment of 'Divyangjan' as envisaged in Act.
92. ▶ Bihar Government will set up *State Ayush Society* to promote usage of alternative medicine in state.
93. ▶ Bihar government will enforce retirement of non-performing educational personnel above age of 50 years, in view of poor performance of academics in state.
94. ▶ Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed world's highest motorable road in cold desert of Ladakh, at over 19000 Feet and 54 KM Length, under *Project Himank*. It will boost troop movement along Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern sector.
95. ▶ Brand Trust Report India Study 2017 ranked Patanjali as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand and most attractive brand.
96. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ Establishment of National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST, to ensure that benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services are passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in prices. It has been done soon after recent sharp reduction in the GST rates of a large number of items of mass consumption.
- ✎ Agreement with Belarus on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
- ✎ MOU with Poland for promotion of Civil Aviation Cooperation.
- ✎ CCEA approved continuation of sub schemes Under ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) till Nov 30, 2018 with outlay of over INR 41,000 crores. Approved Schemes include -
 - ✎ Anganwadi Services
 - ✎ Scheme for Adolescent Girls
 - ✎ Child Protection Services
 - ✎ National Crèche Scheme
- ✎ Cabinet approved increase in carpet area of houses eligible for interest subsidy under Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for Middle Income Group (MIG) under Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana (Urban).
 - ✎ Increasing carpet area in MIG I category of CLSS from existing 90 sq.m. to up to 120 sq.m. Under MIG-I, 4% interest subsidy is provided to beneficiaries with annual income between 6 - 12 lakh on loan of up to Rs 9 lakh.
 - ✎ Increasing carpet area in MIG II category of CLSS from 110 sq.m. to 150 sq.m. Under MIG-II, beneficiaries with annual income 12 - 18 lakh get an interest subsidy of 3% on loan of up to Rs 12 lakh.

97. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ MoU with Philippines on agriculture and related fields.
- ✎ MOU with Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Kyrgyzstan for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- ✎ Joint Interpretative Declaration with Colombia regarding Agreement for Promotion and Protection of Investments.
- ✎ Appointment of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) for Subordinate Judiciary in country, under J P.Venkatrama Reddi.
- ✎ Following proposals of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion are approved -
 - ✎ Development of Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre at Dwarka (Delhi) at an estimated cost of INR 25703 crore by 2025.
 - ✎ Incorporation of a new Government company as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for implementation of project with 100% equity from Government through Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- ✎ Creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) as a Society registered under *Indian Societies Registration Act 1860* as a premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions. NTA will be given a one-time grant of 25 crores from Government and will be financially self-sustainable after 1st year.
- ✎ Continuation of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) with Outlay INR 23050 crores approved for programme for 14th Finance Commission (FFC) period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
 - ✎ 14th Finance Commission is headed by Y V Reddy.
- ✎ Government revised House Building Advance (HBA) rules for Central Government Employees -
 - ✎ Total amount of advance that a central government employee can borrow has been revised up to 34 months of basic pay (max 25 lakhs), compared to earlier limit of INR 7.50 lakhs.
 - ✎ Amount for expansion of house is revised to max INR 10 lakhs or 34 months of basic pay (whichever is least), compared to earlier limit of INR 1.80 lakhs.

98. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ Philippines on co-operation and mutual assistance in customs matters.
- ✎ India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development.
- ✎ India - Russia Agreement on cooperation in combating terrorism and organized crime.
- ✎ Continuation of the scheme on Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) for another 3 years (FYs 2017-18 to 2019-20) , providing aid of INR 18 crore to Institute to make It self-sustainable by end of 2019-20.
- ✎ Govt approved setting up of 15th Finance Commission Under Article 280 (1) of Constitution, to be enacted from 01-04-2020. Currently, 14th finance commission (headed by Y V Reddy) is active.
- ✎ Schemes Expansion (Total Outlay of 3636.85 Crores) -
 - ✎ Expansion of schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development under Umbrella Scheme *Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women*, with outlay of Over 3500 Crores between 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- ✍ New Scheme *Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra* has been approved, which will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realize their full potential, through Mahila shakti kendras in 115 backward districts.
- ✍ Expansion under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to all 640 Districts, based on successful implementation in 161 districts, for a pan India coverage from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

99. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✍ MoU with Cuba and Italy for cooperation in field of Health and Medicine.
- ✍ Establishing India's First National Rail and Transportation University at Vadodara , to skill its human resources and build capability.
- ✍ New skill development scheme named *Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)*, covering entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector. It has outlay of INR 1300 crores from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It aims to provide demand driven, placement oriented skilling programme to incentivize the efforts of industry in creating jobs in organized textile and related sectors.
- ✍ MoU with Myanmar for developing Myanmar's Rakhine state. India will take up building prefabricated housing in Rakhine State, to meet immediate needs of returning people. India has pledged \$25 Million for this purpose.
- ✍ Railways Ministry planned to make all stations 100% LED lit by March 2018.
- ✍ Extension of term of Commission to examine issue of sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by 12 weeks (upto 2 April, 2018). Commission is headed by G. Rohini.
- ✍ Auction of 683 private FM radio frequencies in 236 cities across country under Phase III of FM radio privatization. It aims at expanding FM reach in remote cities and generate over 10,000 jobs.

100. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✍ MoU with Myanmar for the Conservation of Earthquake-Damaged Pagodas at Bagan.
- ✍ MOU with Israel on *India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)*. India and Israel will make contribution of US \$4 million (Rs.25 crore) each for Fund, both equivalent amount, annually for 5 years. The fund will be governed by joint Board which will consist of 4 members from each country.
- ✍ MoU with Brazil for cooperation in Zebu Cattle Genomics and Assisted Reproductive Technologies.
- ✍ Joint issue of 2 Commemorative Postage Stamps on India-Canada: Joint Issue on theme "Diwali".

101. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✍ MoU with Italy for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
- ✍ Investment cooperation and facilitation treaty with Brazil.

102. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✍ National -
 - ✍ Creation of one circle office of Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) for carrying out functions of Commission of Metro Railway Safety.
- ✍ Economy -
 - ✍ Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) applicable on all debit card/BHIM UPI/ Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions upto and including a value of 2000 will be borne by Government for 2 years starting 1st January 2018, by reimbursing it to banks.
 - ✍ Continuation of *Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)* scheme with funding pattern of 90:10 till March 2020 with outlay of 5300 crores. It would enable completion of ongoing projects.
 - ✍ New Central Scheme *North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)* also approved from 2017-18 with 100% funding from Central Government to fill up gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors till March 2020. NESIDS will strengthen health care, education facilities, tourism and employment opportunities in region.
 - ✍ Approved special package for employment generation in leather and footwear sector, involving implementation of Central Scheme *Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme* with expenditure of INR 2600 Crores from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
 - ✍ Continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission (NAM) from 01-04-2017 to 31-03-2020 with outlay of 2400 crores over 3 year period.
 - ✍ Second Financial Restructuring of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) - Conversion of Non-Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares (RPS) amounting INR 4079 crores held by President of India, into Compulsorily Convertible Non-Cumulative Preference Shares (CCPS). It will raise net worth of KRCL.

- ✎ Capital Investment Subsidy of Rs.264.67 crore to four industrial units located in North Eastern Region (NER) including Sikkim, under Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CCISS) 2007 of North East Industrial Investment and Promotion Policy (NEIIPP).

- ✎ Foreign -

- ✎ MOU with Colombia in field of agriculture and fisheries.

- ✎ Agreement with UNESCO on establishment of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography in Hyderabad.

103. ▶ Cabinet Committee of Security (CCS) approved implementation of umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) for 2017 - 2020 It is biggest ever internal security scheme in country and has financial outlay of INR 25,060 crore out of which Central Government share will be Rs.18,636 crore and states' share will be Rs.6,424 crores.

104. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved 2 Schemes - Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) to boost Skill India Mission.

- ✎ SANKALP is INR 4455 crores central scheme (with 3300 crore loan from World Bank). SANKALP envisages setting up of over 50 Trainers and Assessors academies with self-sustainable models. It will leverage institutions for training the trainers in both long & short term VET thereby bringing about convergence. It will develop a skilling ecosystem that will support the country's rise in the Ease of Doing Business index.

- ✎ STRIVE is a INR 2200 crore central scheme with half of outlay as World bank loan assistance. STRIVE will develop mechanism for delivering quality skill development training by strengthening institutions - State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Sector Skill Councils, ITIs and National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) etc.

- ✎ Both these schemes are being implemented to meet need for a national architecture for promoting convergence, ensuring effective governance and regulation of skill training and catalysing industry efforts in vocational training space.

105. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved surveying 48,243 Line Kilometer (LKM) 2D seismic data for appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins where limited data is available.

- ✎ Sedimentary basin is a low area in the Earth's crust, of tectonic origin, in which sediments accumulate. India has total 26 sedimentary basins covering area of 3.14 Million Sq Km (MSK). 48% of total sedimentary basin area (about 1.502 MSK) does not have adequate geo-scientific data.

- ✎ project will be implemented by Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and is to be completed by 2019-20.

106. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) extended period Special Industry Initiative for J&K" (SII J&K)- Udaan Scheme till December 2018. UDAAN Scheme is national integration scheme with goal to mainstream J&K youth with rest of country.

107. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved closure of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited (ANIFPDCL) in Port Blair, to help stop unproductive loans to ANIFPDCL from Gol and would enable a more productive utilization of assets.

108. ▶ Cell for IPR Promotions & Management (CIPAM) under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) launched social media campaign to promote Indian Geographical Indications (GIs) with Has tag #LetsTalkIP, to make more people aware about importance of Intellectual Property Rights.

- ✎ A Geographical Indication is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin., eg. Darjeeling Tea, Mahabaleshwar Strawberry, Blue Pottery of Jaipur etc. GIs are important as they are an integral part of India's rich culture and collective intellectual heritage.

109. ▶ Central Government approved assistance of INR 10,000 crores to fund 107 irrigation projects in drought-hit Vidarbha and Maratha regions of Maharashtra.

110. ▶ Central Government approved combined development of phase II and phase III of Harohalli industrial zone in Ramnagara district of Karnataka at cost of INR 1,561 crores. It is expected to generate 23,500 jobs.

111. ▶ Central Government received 260 applications from foreign scientists for Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty scheme. Out of these, 70 will be shortlisted for this year.

- ✎ Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty scheme is a project by Department of Science and Technology and intends to select 1,000 scientists every year at Public funded academic institutions and national laboratories.

- ✎ Selected scientists will co-guide and mentor students as well as will help in developing collaborative programmes.

- ✎ Scientists selected under VAJRA will be paid US \$15,000 in first month and US \$10,000 per month for next 2 months. They will work in India for a minimum of a month and a maximum of three months.

112. ▶ Central Government sanctioned INR 275 crores for establishing a Global Centre for Security and Counter-Terrorism in Jaipur (Rajasthan).

113. ▶ Central Government sanctioned INR 75 crore for setting up Meghalaya's First Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) bottling plant, with annual capacity of 13000 metric tonnes.
114. ▶ Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) signed Agreement with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru for Development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for parts of Karnataka.
115. ▶ Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) joined hands with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) to identify Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ), an area in sea where fishes are seen in abundance, under project *Samudra*. It is aimed at helping fishermen easily locate fish without wasting time and fuel.
116. ▶ Central Water Commission (CWC) has signed MoUs with IIT Roorkee and MNNIT Allahabad to support dam rehabilitation efforts of various implementing agencies and CWC.
117. ▶ Chandigarh Administration launched smart city cards, in collaboration with Bank of India. It can be used to make payments for various government utilities and at retail merchants, fuel stations. It will also be a valid ID Proof.
118. ▶ Chennai (Tamil Nadu) became Third Indian City to be Included United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) Creative Cities Network for Contribution in Music.
 - ▶ Now, UNESCO Creative Cities Network has gone up to 180 cities in 72 countries.
 - ▶ India's Jaipur (added as City of Music) and Varanasi (City of Crafts and Folk Art) were added in 2016.
119. ▶ Chennai Metro Rail Limited introduced free bicycle ride scheme for its customers to provide 100-hours of bicycle ride free of cost every month. There are 10 cycles in each of the stations and people can gain access to them at any time of the day.
120. ▶ Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched *Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shram Anna Sahayata Yojna*, under which nutritious meal will be provided to laborers at price of INR 5.
121. ▶ Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CGECB) ordered closure of 1200 MW thermal power plant of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) in Korba district, due to ash slurry water from damaged ash dam polluting water of a Belgiri nullah passing near plant that drains into Hasdeo river.
122. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government flagged-off 'Cancer diagnosis Ambulance', fitted with ultra-advanced equipment to detect cancer. Patients will be treated free-of-cost.
123. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government imposed ban on bursting of firecrackers in six of its cities - Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai, Durg, Raigarh and Korba.
124. ▶ Chhattisgarh High Court ordered state government to grant books and uniform instead of cash to Below Poverty Line (BPL) students studying in private schools under Right to education, in place of current arrangement of providing INR 650 per year as cash grant.
125. ▶ Chhattisgarh become first state to award citizenship to Minority Hindus from Other nations, as it offered citizenship to 51 Hindu families who had migrated from Pakistan several years ago and have been living on outskirts of Raipur.
126. ▶ Chhattisgarh government banned use of chlorinated plastic and Polyvinyl Chloride -PVC, to conserve and improve environment.
127. ▶ Chhattisgarh topped list in issuance of soil health cards among all states with over 43 lakh soil health cards (SHCs) to farmers in past 2 years and 7.90 lakh samples of soil were collected and examined during this period.
128. ▶ Coffee output in India stayed at record 3.50 lakh tonnes in 2017-18, compared to 3.12 lakh tonnes in 2016-17.
129. ▶ Committee set up for technical and safety standards of India's first pod taxi project or Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) invited fresh bids for strictest safety standards on lines of those prescribed in USA. It is meant for a 12.3-km stretch from Delhi-Haryana border on NH 8.
 - ▶ PRT or pod taxi is an advanced public transport using automated electric pod cars to provide taxi-like demand responsive feeder and shuttle services for small groups of travellers.
130. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) penalized Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for INR 52 Crores for Anti-Competitive conduct through abusing dominant position in sport for imposing restriction that deny access to market for organization of Professional Domestic Cricket League/ Events.
131. ▶ Congress Government launched subsidized food scheme named *Indira Canteen* scheme in Bengaluru (Karnataka). In This, Breakfast available for Rs 5, lunch and dinner for Rs 10.
132. ▶ Dabur India has tied up with e-commerce Firm Amazon for online Ayurveda marketplace which will house all ayurvedic brands and products of country.
133. ▶ Delhi Assembly passed two amended Bills - Minimum Wages (Delhi) Amendment Bill 2017 and Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSIT) Bill 2017.
 - ▶ NSIT Bill 2017 gives University status to Netaji Subhash Institute of Technology.
 - ▶ Minimum Wages Amendment Bill 2017 hikes minimum wages of workers and puts strict penalties on employers failing to pay minimum wages to workers. It enhances penalty for non-payment of minimum wages from INR 500 to 50000 and increased jail term of 3 years.

134. ▶ Delhi Development Authority (DDA) signed MoU with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) for preparation of Master plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041.
135. ▶ Delhi Government approved setting up Delhi Village Development Board (DVDB) for civic works in 300 rural and urban villages of Delhi. It will subsume Delhi Rural Development Board (DRDB) that carried related works so far.
136. ▶ Delhi Government launched a mobile application through which Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes, minorities, and handicapped persons can apply for employment loans. Action will be taken against officers who fail to take action on loan requests in stipulated time.
137. ▶ Delhi Metro became world's first completely 'green' Metro system after secured platinum rating for adherence to green building norms for its 10 residential colonies from Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
138. ▶ Delhi Police partnered with cab Aggregator UBER to intensify safety of women in city, enabling Passengers to access Delhi Police's women safety mobile application 'Himmat' via Uber's Mobile application.
139. ▶ Delhi government constituted state Names Authority as a separate body mandated to name government roads and institutions under state purview. It will be headed by deputy CM Manish Sisodia.
140. ▶ Delhi government will launch accident victim policy which will cover all hospital expenses of victims of road accidents, acid attacks or burns. There is no upper limit on the cost of treatment and all victims irrespective of residence, and even foreigners will get free treatment in any Delhi hospital, if accident happens in Delhi.
141. ▶ Delhi police will be the first state police in India to get *super cop belt*, a specially designed belt widely used by Police in various Foreign Lands. It will help cops to keep things like Gun, Mobile Pouch, Security Batten, Wireless Set Pouch & ammunition pouch.
142. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) signed agreement with Anna University to establish India's 2nd Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR) in Anna University, Under World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.
 - ▶ TISC aims to stimulate a dynamic and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development.
 - ▶ India's First Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) has been set up at Patent Information Centre (Punjab).
143. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (Ministry of Commerce & Industry) signed agreement with Punjab State Council of Science and Technology to establish India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Patent Information Centre (Punjab), under World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.
144. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) allowed Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) manufactured *Dornier 228* for civilian flights, the 19-seater aircraft that was till now used only by defence forces. It became first 'Made in India' plane to be used for commercial flights.
145. ▶ Drug price regulator National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped the prices of orthopaedic knee implants upto 70% lower than current market rates. It came after World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that osteoarthritis will be 4th largest cause of immobility in globally by 2020.
146. ▶ Eastern Railways brought into service, the first rake of upgraded Sealdah – New Delhi 'Swarna' Rajdhani, under *Project 'Swarna'* that gives a free hand to Zonal Railways to develop and create aesthetic and passenger friendly coach interiors on running rakes of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains.
147. ▶ Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) will procure 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) from Tata Motors, as world's largest single electric vehicle procurement. Tata Motors quoted lowest price of Rs 10.16 lakh exclusive of GST in the competitive bidding. Procurement will be in Phases - 500 e-cars in first phase in November 2017 and remaining 9,500 EVs in second phase.
148. ▶ Environment Ministry accorded environmental clearance for Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project in Telangana.
 - ▶ Project is estimated to cost Approx INR 80499 crores and is proposed to be completed in three years.
 - ▶ Project aims to provide drinking water facility for Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Submergence area is estimated to be about 13706 hectares.
149. ▶ Environment Ministry approved 3 projects for climate change adaptation in *Rajasthan, Gujarat and Sikkim* for funding under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC).
 - ▶ Sikkim - Addressing issue of water security which are directly identified as climate resilience building interventions under SAPCC.
 - ▶ Rajasthan - Bolstering water security in villages under Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan.
 - ▶ Gujarat - Enhancing adaptive capacity of natural resource dependent communities to climate change in targeted villages of Kachchh district.
150. ▶ FSSAI CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal inaugurated Nestle Food Safety Institute in Manesar (Gurugram), as first such institute in India. Nestle already runs a similar Institute each in China and Lausanne, Switzerland.
151. ▶ FY 2017 - 18 Winter Session passed Bills -

- ✎ Lok Sabha Passed Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill 2017, that seeks to amend Central Road Fund Act 2000.
 - ✎ Under CRF Act 2000, cess levied and collected on high speed petrol and diesel is distributed for development of rural roads, national highways, railways, state roads and border area roads.
 - ✎ CRF (Amendment) Bill 2017 seeks to allocate 2.5 % of funds collected to accelerate development and maintenance of national waterways by reducing equal percentage from share of national highways. It aims at generating INR 2300 crore revenue for national waterways.
- ✎ Parliament passed Companies (Amendment) Bill 2017 to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies and help improve ease of doing business. Bill provides for over 40 amendments to Companies Act 2013.
- ✎ Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill 2017, to declare IIMs as institutions of national importance and extend greater autonomy to them, by restricting government’s role in their functioning.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill 2017, to make it easier for government to acquire immovable property for “national security and defence purpose”. It amends Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act 1952 and changes rules for payment of compensation.
- ✎ Rajya Sabha passed *Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) Bill 2017*, to establish IIPE Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) as an institution of national importance. It aims to provide high quality education and research focussing on all aspects and themes of petroleum, hydrocarbons and energy. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha Earlier.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill 2017, amending GST (Compensation to States) Act 2017 and replaces an Ordinance promulgated in Sep 2017. The amendment increases maximum rate at which Compensation Cess can be levied from 15 to 25% on motor vehicle for transport of not more than 13 persons (mostly luxury vehicles).
- ✎ Parliament passed National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Amendment Bill 2017, to amend National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act 2011. It extends deadline for relocating slum dwellers and Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters, regulating street vendors, unauthorised colonies in Delhi and calls for creating policy for farm houses constructed beyond permissible limits.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill 2017 declaring instant triple talaq illegal and criminalises it with up to three years in jail for husband. Bill will now will be sent to Rajya Sabha for passage.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2017 to pave way for tightening loopholes in existing code and to make resolution process more effective. It Bill amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016. Main Features Include -
 - ✎ It Bill prohibits certain persons from submitting a resolution plan in case of defaults.
 - ✎ A penalty of minimum Rs 1 lakh and maximum Rs 2 crore has been proposed for contravening any of the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
 - ✎ It allows asset reconstruction companies, banks and alternative investment funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India to bid for insolvent companies.
- 152. ▶ Finance Ministry launched Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), a pension scheme exclusively for senior citizens aged min 60 years. Under this, senior citizens will get guaranteed interest of 8% for 10 years depending upon investment made by them.
- 153. ▶ First Namami Barak festival held at Silchar in Assam, to pay tribute to River Barak and to showcase its potential to emerge as hub of trade and commerce.
 - ✎ Assam government also inaugurated its air ambulance services for people, equipped with emergency medical equipment to take care of patients.
- 154. ▶ First e-court of Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated in Srinagar, as first paperless court of Jammu and Kashmir. It will use digitised case records, thus paper usage and space requirements would be reduced to a great extent.
- 155. ▶ First phase of national optic fibre network Project called *Bharat Net* will be completed by December 2017, providing internet access (2 to 20 Mbps speed) to 100,000 gram panchayats. It was announced in ‘i-Bharat 2017’ conference organised by FICCI in New Delhi.
 - ✎ BharatNet is Government’s ambitious rural internet connectivity programme which is implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL). It is world’s largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre.
- 156. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched *FoSCoRIS* as an online platform to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling. It will help in verifying compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses as per government norms.
- 157. ▶ Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) has been declared as an *Institute of National Importance* under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, by virtue of Footwear Design & Development Institute Act 2017.
 - ✎ FDDI can now award degrees and will now have autonomy to design its courses as per the requirement of the industry.

Presently, FDDI imparts skill based graduate and post graduate courses in footwear, leather goods, retail and management to around 2500 students across eight campuses over India.

158. ▶ Forbes India Celebrity 100 list 2017 -

Actor Salman Khan topped the list, With earnings of INR 233 crores.

Shah Rukh Khan 2nd with earnings of 170 crores, cricketer Virat Kohli 3rd with 100.72 crore earnings.

159. ▶ Forbes Magazine released its India Rich List 2017. Top 10 Richest Indians are -

Mukesh Ambani - \$38 billion. Reliance Industries Chairman Mr Ambani topped the list for 10th Consecutive year.

Azim Premji - \$19 billion.

Hinduja brothers - \$18.4 Billion

Lakshmi Mittal - \$16.5 Billion

Pallonji Mistry - \$16 Billion

Godrej family - \$14.2 Billion

Shiv Nadar - \$13.6 Billion

Kumar Birla - \$12.6 Billion

Dilip Shanghvi - \$12.1 Billion

Gautam Adani - \$11 Billion

160. ▶ Former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched Mission-24, a programme to improve quality of life in Mumbai's poorest wards through collaborative efforts in next 24 months.

161. ▶ Foundation stone for India's first Industrial Training Institute exclusively for Divyangjans laid at Dibrugarh (Assam). It will have sixty seats for three different trades with 20 seats per trade.

162. ▶ GAIL India placed orders for 2,100 km of Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project.

Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project (also known as JHBDPL project) originates at Jagdishpur (Uttar Pradesh). The main trunk of pipeline ends to Haldia (West Bengal) and Dhamra (Odisha).

Pipeline passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. Cost of project is Rs. 12,940 crore and is to be completed by 2019.

163. ▶ GE Aviation (USA) and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) partnered to manufacture, assemble, integrate and test aircraft components in India, including CFM International LEAP engine (considered world's leading jet engine).

164. ▶ Gabriel Chundan won 65th edition of Nehru Trophy Boat Race held at Punnamda Lake in Kerala.

165. ▶ Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) by Child development NGO *Plan India* -

Goa is at top, followed by Kerala and Mizoram.

Bihar is at bottom with Uttar Pradesh as second worst.

Index is developed after analysing situation of girls and women in on the basis of Health, Education, Protection and Poverty.

166. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -

11th Annual MedTech Summit of Biodesign Programme (Department of Biotechnology) today in New Delhi.

6th *International Tourism Mart* held in Guwahati (Assam).

22nd conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) held at New Delhi.

First International Conference on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences SAICON 2017 held in Delhi. Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore stated that -

Under *Khelo India*, national school games would be organised from January 31 to February 8 in 2018 for under 17 age group. Top 1,000 athletes from this event will be entitled to Rs 5 lakh scholarships for eight years. 1,000 more athletes will be added each year for creating a pool of young talent.

School Games will be followed by College Games for under the age group of 21 years.

Khelo India programme will be launched at cost of INR 1756 crore for 2017-18 to 2019-20.

National Conference on PDS (Public Distribution System) Reforms held in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).

Shared Value Summit 2017 held in New Delhi with theme *Equity and Empowerment*.

7th International Groundwater Conference held in Delhi, with theme Groundwater Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges, and Climate Change Adaptation.

First Meet of 15th Finance Commission held in New Delhi, under Chairmanship of N.K. Singh.

India and Japan held first meeting under the newly established 'India-Japan Act East Forum' in New Delhi, aimed at identifying specific projects for economic development of the North-Eastern region of India.

New Delhi Hosted *Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage*, as part of celebrations of 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC.

- UN Women and Facebook held an event in Mumbai named *We The Women* to empower and recognise magnificent contribution of women in our society

167. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)

- 19th International Workshop on Physics of Semiconductor Devices (IWPSD-2017) held in New Delhi.
- 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit held in New Delhi, aimed at building consensus on strategies and a unified vision for achieving universal financial inclusion in India.
- Three day media workshop on Climate Change Reporting in Himalayas organised in Kohima (Nagaland).
- 54th meeting of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) programming committee held at SAARC secretariat in Kathmandu (Nepal).
- CSR Summit for Pioneering Cochlear Implant Surgery held in New Delhi.
- 90th Annual General Meeting of FICCI held in New Delhi.
- 49th Annual Conference of the Society of Nuclear Medicine – India (SNMICON) held in New Delhi.
- World Conference on Vedas (Vishwa Ved Sammelan) held in New Delhi.
- 2nd edition of Serendipity Arts festival is held in Goa, bringing together 7 art forms.
- National Workshop on Role of Sakhi One Stop Centres (OSCs) in Strengthening Multi Sectoral Response to Violence held in New Delhi.
- 3rd World Telugu Conference held in Hyderabad (Telangana).
- International Herbal Fair held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).
- Global Partnership Summit (GPS) 2017 held in New Delhi, organised by India Center Foundation (ICF).
- 1st national-level training of trainers programme to sensitise Central Ministries and Departments on utilisation of Sendai Framework for developing action plans for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) held in New Delhi, organised by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-Global Education and Training Institute (UNISDR-GETI).

168. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 11 - 20) -

- NITI Aayog in partnership with USA government organized India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit at Dantewada (Chhattisgarh), To promote spirit of entrepreneurship in tribal youth.
- International Buffalo Symposium 2017 held in Nepal.
- Andhra Pradesh's first Hot Air Balloon Festival held in Araku Valley.
- 12th North East Business Summit held in New Delhi.
- Andhra Pradesh AgTech Summit 2017 held in Visakhapatnam with American Tech Firm Microsoft Co-Funder Bill Gates as Chief Guest.
- Karnataka State Government launched ambitious project to install Wi-Fi facility in 2500 gram panchayats across state by end of 2017. It was announced at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017.
- 12th Biennial International Conference & Exposition of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG) India held at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- Conference *Build The Ship – 2017* held in Cochin. Shipping and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari -
 - Laid foundation for INR 970-crore International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) for Cochin Shipyard Limited.
 - Launched Center of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) as a start up in skill development for maritime and shipbuilding sector, to have campuses at Vishakhapatnam and Mumbai. It is being set up by Shipping Ministry with Siemens under Sagarmala programme.
- International Seminar on Indian Space Programme - *Trends and Opportunities for Industry* organized in Delhi by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Antrix Corporation and FICCI.
- Indian National Bar Association (INBA) organised *Bar Leadership Summit on Reforms in the Indian Legal Sector* in New Delhi

169. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 21 - 30) -



- International Gita Mahotsava 2017 held in Kurukshetra (Haryana).
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas organised a consultative workshop on New National Policy on Biofuels & Pradhan Mantri Jivani Yojana (VGF for 2nd Generation Ethanol Bio Refineries) in New Delhi.
- 12th meeting of Standing Committee of Inter-State Council held in Delhi.
- International Ambedkar Conclave, organised by Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians in New Delhi.
- 1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health held in New Delhi.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare observed Vasectomy Fortnight to raise awareness about male sterilisation and to promote the participation of men in family planning.
- Conference of all Commanders of Eastern Air Command held at Shillong (Meghalaya).

- ✍ Inaugural edition of Proffer Hackathon held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – New Delhi. Proffer is a blockchain startup founded by graduates of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard. During it, Researchers from Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) won a special recognition prize from NITI Aayog.
 - ✍ Zurich (Switzerland) based global think-tank Horasis' first Asia Meet held in Kolkata (West Bengal).
 - ✍ Aadi Mahotsav, a celebration of the spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce Organized in New Delhi, with theme *A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce*.
 - ✍ 7th *Kathakar: International Storytellers Festival* held at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi.
 - ✍ Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh chaired 22nd meeting of Board of Management (BOM) of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) in New Delhi.
 - ✍ India-Myanmar media interaction programme held in Imphal (Capital of Myanmar).
170. ▶ Geographical Indication Registry (GIR) gave Geographical Indication (GI) tag to traditional Etikoppaka toys (Etikoppaka Bommalu) from Andhra Pradesh, made by artisans in Etikoppaka village located on banks of river Varaha in Visakhapatnam district.
 171. ▶ Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) granted geographical indication (GI) status to Gobindobhog rice, a speciality from Burdwan district of West Bengal. It derives its name from principal ingredient usage in preparation of offerings to Govindajiu, family deity of Setts of Kolkata.
 172. ▶ Global Conglomerate Siemens opened its first digital factory in India in Thane, (Maharashtra). Its Siemens' third digital factory globally after one each in Germany and China.
 173. ▶ Global e-Commerce Firm Amazon partnered with Akshaya Patra Foundation to implement Karnataka Government's Ksheera Bhagya Scheme. Under this, school children of city would be provided a glass of milk each five days a week.
 174. ▶ Goa CM Manohar Parrikar launched *Jai Kisaan App* as a farmer engagement app containing features and functions to fulfill the needs of the farmer community.
 175. ▶ Goa Government approved Solar Power Policy, under which State Government will look to generate 150 MW of solar power by 2021.
 176. ▶ Goa Government has set up GST facilitation centres in ward offices across state, to assist taxpayers in resolving their technical issues related to migration to GST - *registration, amendments, return filing and payments*.
 177. ▶ Goa Legislative Assembly passed Goa, Daman and Diu, Preservation of Trees Act 1984. It seeks to reclassify coconut as a tree and ensure legal protection to it.
 178. ▶ Goa government executed MoU with Central Government and Nobel Media (Sweden) to hold *Nobel Prize Series – India 2018 (Science Impacts Life)* in February 2018, along with a month-long exhibition brought from Nobel Museum, Sweden.
 179. ▶ Google launched recruiting app *Hire* for small and medium sized businesses that integrates with G Suite, to compete with Microsoft-owned LinkedIn. *Hire* is an efficient app for managing recruitment process from identifying talent to managing end-to-end interview process.
 180. ▶ Government approved Proposal for Completion of balance works of North Koel Reservoir Project in Bihar stalled since 1993 has been approved. Under revived project, storage of water in Mandal dam to be constructed under it will be restricted at lower level than envisaged earlier to reduce submergence and to protect Betla National Park and Palamau Tiger Reserve. 24 MW power project as part of the original design also has been scrapped.
 181. ▶ Government declared urban Maharashtra open defecation free (ODF) under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Maharashtra is third big state after Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh to become Open Defecation Free in urban areas.
 182. ▶ Government allowed Reliance Aerostructure to develop Dhirubhai Ambani Aerospace Park at Mihan SEZ in Nagpur (Maharashtra).
 183. ▶ Government announced that installation of bio-toilets in all passenger trains will be completed by March 2019.
 184. ▶ Government approved Highway and Shipping Projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore for the state of Tamil Nadu.
 185. ▶ Government approved INR 7000 crores for construction of permanent campuses of six new Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) - Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwad (Karnataka), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) and Goa.
 186. ▶ Government approved National Medical Commission Bill 2017, to replace Medical Council Act 1956 and bringing reforms in medical education sector. It will replace existing apex medical education regulator Medical Council of India (MCI) with 25-member National Medical Council (NMC).
 187. ▶ Government approved Uttar Pradesh government's proposal to rename Mughalsarai railway station as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) station.
 188. ▶ Government approved creation of a single corpus fund known as Madhyamik and Uchchta Shiksha Kosh (MUSK), in which all secondary and higher education cess will be credited and utilised for government's schemes in education sector.
 - ✍ MUSK will be operationalised as per present arrangements under Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) wherein the proceeds of cess are used for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Schemes.









- ✎ Expenditure on ongoing schemes of the HRD Ministry will be initially incurred from the gross budgetary support (GBS) in any financial year and expenditure will be financed from MUSK only after GBS is exhausted.
- 189. ▶ Government approved disinvestment of 5% of its 89.32 % Stake in NLC India Limited through Offer for Sale (OFS) mechanism, expecting to raise INR 750 Crores.
- 190. ▶ Government approved enhancement of age of superannuation of Medical Officers of Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles from 60 to 65 years.
- 191. ▶ Government approved establishment of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh). It will be named as IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) and will be set up at campus of National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC).
 - ✎ For this purpose, Agreement has been signed between India and IRRI Philippines. Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) will be also established in Varanasi.
- 192. ▶ Government approved merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Press Units (GIPs) into 5 GIPs located at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri in New Delhi, Nashik (Maharashtra) and Temple Street (Kolkata, West Bengal).
- 193. ▶ Government approved norms for establishing equivalence of posts in Government Organizations (PSUs), for claiming benefit of OBC reservations. This will ensure that children of lower category workers in PSUs and other institutions can get benefit of OBC reservations and will prevent treatment of children of OBC individuals in senior positions as non Creamy Layer by wrong interpretation of income.
 - ✎ Cabinet also approved increase in Creamy Layer ceiling of OBCs from Rs 6 lakh per annum to Rs 8 lakh per annum, with increase in Consumer Price Index.
- 194. ▶ Government approved revamped Khelo India programme for period 2017-18 to 2019-20, aimed at mainstreaming sport as tool for development.
 - ✎ Pan India Sports Scholarship scheme - It will cover 1,000 most talented young athletes each year, with Each athlete receiving annual scholarship of INR 5 lakh for 8 consecutive years.
 - ✎ Sports Universities - 20 universities across country will be promoted as hubs of sporting excellence.
 - ✎ National physical fitness drive - It will cover about 20 Crore children in age group of 10-18 and will support their fitness related activities.
- 195. ▶ Government approved setting up India's first mega coastal economic zone (CEZ) at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Maharashtra. It will stretch along north Konkan region spread across Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nashik and Raigarh.
 - ✎ CEZs are spatial economic regions comprising group of coastal districts or districts with strong linkage to ports in region to tap into synergies with planned industrial corridor projects.
- 196. ▶ Government approved setting up National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with 3 year budget of INR 9046 crores -
 - ✎ It will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide nutrition related interventions across Ministries.
 - ✎ All districts will be covered in a phased manner - 315 districts in 2017-18, 235 districts in 2018-19 and remaining districts in 2019-20.
 - ✎ Outlay of INR 9046 crores will be funded by Government Budgetary Support (50%) and 50% by IBRD or other MDB. Government support would be 60:40 between Centre and States/UTs, 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% for UTs.
 - ✎ NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
 - ✎ NNM would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).
 - ✎ Govt. also launched a contest inviting people to design a logo and suggest a tagline for *National Nutrition Mission*, with a prize money of INR 1 lakh to winner of contest.
- 197. ▶ Government approved setting up a Commission under article 340 of Constitution to examine issue of sub-categorization of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- 198. ▶ Government doubled Child Care allowance from Rs 1500 to Rs 3000 for women employees with disabilities, payable will child is 2 years old and shall be payable for maximum of 2 eldest surviving children. Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) also issued orders for the reimbursement of children education allowance, which will be Rs 2,250 per month.
- 199. ▶ Government extended 2nd phase of BharatNet project that aims at covering remaining 1.50 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPS), with expenditure of Rs.42,068 crores.
 - ✎ Government modified strategy of BharatNet project for providing broadband connectivity to all Gra Panchayats by March 2019.
 - ✎ Government is still working on completing phase I of project for which deadline was March 2017. It was able to lay optical fibre in nearly 1 lakh GPs, however, only 22,000 GPs are provided Internet connectivity as of now due to equipment procurement issues.
- 200. ▶ Government extended waiver of IRCTC Online ticketing service charges (INR 20 - 40 Per Ticket) till March 2018, that was announced in Sep 2016 to promote digital transactions after demonetization last year.








201. ▶ Government finalised a new policy for cadre allocation for IAS, IPS and other officers. Now, officers of these services will choose cadres from a set of zones instead of states. Existing 26 state cadres have been divided into 5 zones now.
202. ▶ Government for first time approved 3 infrastructure proposals to address infrastructure problem under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES). Projects are - *Integrated Cargo Terminal at Imphal Airport, Modernisation of infrastructure facility for marine exports in Karnataka and construction of a Standard Design Factory building at Cochin Special Economic Zone.*
 - ▶ TIES replaces *Assistance to States for creating Infrastructure for the Development and growth of Exports (ASIDE)* scheme to enhance export competitiveness by bridging gap in export infrastructure. It is being implemented from FY18 till FY20 with budgetary allocation of 600 crores.
203. ▶ Government gave green clearance for a greenfield airport project at Hirasar near Rajkot in Gujarat at cost of INR 1400 crores.
204. ▶ Government has merged Ministries of *Urban development* and *Housing and urban poverty alleviation*. Merged Ministry will be known as *Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)*. With this, Central Government now has 51 ministries.
205. ▶ Government has set Minimum Export Price of onion at 850 dollars per tonne to ensure its availability in domestic market.
206. ▶ Government has undertaken drive to rationalize 38 Labour Acts by framing 4 labour codes viz *Code on Wages, Code on Social Security, Code on Industrial Relations and Code on occupational safety, health and working conditions*. It will ease up the process by synchronizing various labour Laws.
 - ▶ Code on Wages Bill 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha recently and It repeals 4 existing Laws - Minimum Wages Act 1948, Payment of Wages Act 1936, Equal Remuneration Act 1976 and Payment of Bonus Act 1965.
207. ▶ Government inaugurated India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for skilling in Smart Cities at New Delhi, aiming to bring momentum in skilling through collaborative efforts.
208. ▶ Government laid Foundation stone of India's biggest Global Skill Park was laid in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). It park will come up on 37 acre land allotted in Narela Shankari area of Bhopal, with support of Singapore's Institute of Technical Education and Education Services (ITEES).
209. ▶ Government launched *Aarambh* Mobile App for Road Maintenance, aiming to use GIS based mapping for making road inventories, condition surveys, and producing cost estimates etc. for preparation and monitoring of annual road maintenance plans.
210. ▶ Government launched *Swachh Survekshan-2018* to rank all 4,041 cities and towns of country in terms of cleanliness with slogan *Swachhata Ki Jyot Jagi Hai*.
211. ▶ Government launched *e-RaKAM* portal as a joint initiative by MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation. It is a digital initiative that aims to bring together farmers, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers on a single platform to ease selling and buying process of agricultural products.
212. ▶ Government launched Diploma in Elementary Education programme for in-service untrained elementary teachers, developed by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and specifically designed for untrained teachers working in primary and upper primary schools country.
 - ▶ It will be last opportunity for such teachers who have not done teacher training courses. Parliament earlier extended deadline to December 2019 for untrained teachers to get qualified.
213. ▶ Government launched SECURE Himalaya, a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
214. ▶ Government launched Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and expanded coverage of Postal Life Insurance (PLI) in a bid to provide affordable life insurance services to people particularly those living in rural areas.
 - ▶ Under SBG Yojana, at least one village (min 100 households) will be identified in each of revenue districts of country to cover all households of identified village with minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each. Coverage of all households in identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is primary objective of this scheme.
 - ▶ Expansion of PLI will no more be confined to government and semi-government employees only, but will also be available to other professionals. Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced in 1884 and is one of oldest life insurance schemes.
215. ▶ Government launched a 15 days door-to-door campaign for for early diagnosis, detection and treatment of tuberculosis. Through this, health department workers, ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) and TB supervisors will make door-to-door visits to find TB patients and give them free medical treatment till they are cured.
216. ▶ Government launched phase 2 of BharatNet project to connect 1.5 lakh gram panchayats with high-speed broadband by March 2019.
 - ▶ Bharat Net (formerly *National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)*) launched by Government in October 2011, to deploy high-speed optical fibre cables across rural areas of India to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats in India. Project cost of BharatNet is estimated to be around 45000 crore, out of which Rs. 11200 crore have been used for the phase 1.

- Under Phase One, 1 lakh gram panchayats will have broadband connectivity by end of 2017.
217. ▶ Government of Chhattisgarh has set a target of planting over eight Cr plant saplings by end of August 2017, under *Harihar Chhattisgarh* campaign.
218. ▶ Government released Swachta Ranking 2017 of Higher Educational Institutions -
- ▶ University - O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat (Haryana)
 - ▶ Colleges - Kongu Arts and Science College, Erode (Tamilnadu)
 - ▶ Technical institutions - Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore (Tamilnadu)
 - ▶ Government institutions - G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand)
219. ▶ Government released grant-in-aid of 51.3 crores to State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, for rescue and relief operations required on account of flash floods.
220. ▶ Government ruled that all mobile phones unlinked with Aadhaar numbers will be deactivated after February 2018.
221. ▶ Government will club phase I and phase II of Ken-Betwa inter linking river (ILR) project, upon demands raised by Madhya Pradesh Govt.
- ▶ Cost will now be revised, which was initially 18,000 crore (Phase 1), and 8000 crore (Phase 2).
 - ▶ Ken-Betwa Inter Linking project aims to transfer surplus water from Ken River to the Betwa basin through concrete canal to irrigate India's worst drought-prone Bundelkhand region.
 - ▶ It will benefit Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in terms of meeting irrigation, drinking water and electricity needs of people across 6 districts in the MP & UP.
222. ▶ Government will observe 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi from 2 October 2019 to 2 October 2020. For this, Government constituted a National Committee headed by PM Narendra Modi.
223. ▶ Government will provide up to Rs 60000 crore to Maharashtra in next 2 years for river-linking and irrigation projects to tackle the recurring water crisis.
224. ▶ Government will safeguard fast-eroding Majuli island in Assam (world's largest riverine island) using research carried out on floating Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat (B4) labs along Brahmaputra River.
225. ▶ Government's Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issued alert on spread of new malware "Locky Ransomware" that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them.
226. ▶ Govt initiated formulating comprehensive 'safe-city' plans for women in eight metropolitan cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Hyderabad.
227. ▶ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani announced setting up of 16 new Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) townships in Gujarat, aimed at attracting 15000 industrial units and 1 lakh jobs.
228. ▶ Gujarat Government has announced State Garments and Apparel Policy-2017 aimed at make Gujarat number 1 in textile which produces more of cotton. Women workers will get Rs 4,000 subsidy, while their male counterparts will get Rs 3,500.
229. ▶ Gujarat Government launched *Gyakunj e-class project* aimed at producing world-class students through interactive e-classes. Outlay of project is 36 Crores and 550 schools are covered In first phase.
230. ▶ Gujarat Govnment inaugurated Birsa Munda Tribal University in Rajpipla, a tribal-dominated town in Narmada district of Gujarat.
231. ▶ Gujarat Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections 2017 -
- ▶ Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won Majority by winning 99 of Gujarat's 182 seats. Rival party Congress got 77 seats. BJP got 49.1 % Votes while Congress got 41.4%.
 - ▶ BJP will form Government in Gujarat for 6th Straight Term.
232. ▶ Gujarat became First State to Implement Coal Utilisation after it issued tender for power developers to receive cheap coal marked for state in return for selling coal-based power at less than Rs 2.82 a unit. Through auction, coal allocated to state government's power generating stations will be transferred to more fuel-efficient private power plants. It will reduce cost of fuel for distribution companies and ensure effective distribution of domestic coal.
233. ▶ Gujarat government announced 4 % reduction in VAT (Value Added Tax) on petrol and diesel, becoming first state to cut VAT on fuel.
- ▶ Now, petrol and Diesel will get cheaper by Approx INR 3 / Litre across Gujarat.
 - ▶ Note that recently central government has cut central excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 2 and also asked state governments to cut VAT on the fuel products by 5 % to bring down fuel prices.
234. ▶ HRD Ministry will remove no-detention policy from Right to Education Act 2009 from next academic year.
- ▶ Under this, no child is detained or held back in any class or expelled till completion of elementary education covering classes 1 to 8.
 - ▶ As per records, this policy has resulted in improvement in enrollments but has brought down academic standards.
235. ▶ Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Minister of Food Processing Industry) laid foundation stone for First Maize (**मक्का**) based Mega Food Park in Kapurthala (Punjab).

236. ▶ Haryana Government renamed Amin village in Kurukshetra district to Abhimanyupur. Abhimanyu, son of Arjuna, was warrior prince in Mahabharata.
-  Amin village is believed as site on which Kauravas had resorted to 'Chakravyuh' formation as a part of war strategy. Abhimanyu was trapped in 'Chakravyuh', but fought bravely till his last breath.
237. ▶ Haryana Government will provide ration cards for nomadic tribes living in different parts of Haryana, to provide identification to them as permanent residents.
238. ▶ Haryana Government will set up *PGs (Paying Guests) for cattle* under which people in urban areas will be able to rear their own cattle and produce quality milk for their personal consumption. Under this, State Government will mark upto 100 acres of land that will have 2 types of dairies – *Traditional Dairies* and *PGs for cattle*.
239. ▶ Haryana Govt. launched Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana from Karnal district. Under this, farmers will be compensated by state government, whenever market prices of the stipulated produce go below mentioned prices (applicable for tomato, onion, potato and cauliflower).
240. ▶ Haryana food and drugs administration department banned mixing of liquid nitrogen with any drink or food article, under section 34 of Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS) 2006. It came after a cocktail accident (due to mixing of liquid nitrogen in cocktail) at Gurgaon pub in April 2016 burnt a hole in a man's stomach.
241. ▶ Haryana government announced lifetime monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for 'Hindi Satyagrahis' and those from state who were jailed during Emergency (21-month period from 1975 to 1977).
242. ▶ Haryana government signed MoU Worth INR 20000 Crores with an integrated trade facilitation services organisation - Verbind - to set up a logistics and trading hub in state. State will assist the organisation in obtaining necessary approvals and clearances with reference to projects from relevant departments, in line with existing rules and regulations.
243. ▶ Haryana government will establish an organ and tissue transplant organisation (SOTTO) at Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak.
244. ▶ Haryana topped preliminary rankings of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) for this year with score of 69 %, followed by Telangana (68.46 %). Commerce and Industry Ministry will release final rankings in January-February 2018.
245. ▶ Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda unveiled National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Malaria Elimination (2017-22). It has set malaria elimination deadline as 2027, three years ahead of global deadline (2030). NSP is based on 2016 National Framework for Malaria Elimination framed with support of WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030.
246. ▶ Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) approved projects worth INR 2,066 Crores for IITs Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kharagpur, Kanpur and NIT Suratkal. These funds would be used to improve research infrastructure in these institutions to further improve their global standings.
247. ▶ Himachal CM Virbhadra Singh inaugurated first phase of 65 MW Kashang Hydel Project in tribal Kinnaur district. It is a 195 MW project (three units of 65 MW each).
248. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government will provide monthly honorarium of INR 2500 to 'Jal Rakshaks'. Additionally, Qualified Jal Rakshaks with ITI diplomas will be given quota for pump operators and fitters and Those with matric and 12 years of experience will be inducted against post of Chowkidar and pump attendants.
249. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government approved *Heritage Tourism Policy 2017 & Mukhya Mantri Rural Road Repair Scheme* along with other welfare initiatives.
250. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections 2017 -
-  Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won Majority by winning 44 of Himachal Pradesh's 68 seats. Rival party Congress got 21 seats. BJP got 48.8 % Votes while Congress got 41.7%.
251. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government implemented Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) to provide top-up coverage of Rs 30,000 per senior citizen to all existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) smart card holders, in addition to basic coverage of INR 30,000 in Trust and Society mode.
252. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government launched first-of-its-kind in Nation electric bus service in ecologically fragile 51 km – long stretch between Manali and Rohtang Pass.
253. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath flagged off commercial operatios of Lucknow Metro, on 8.5-km corridor from Transport Nagar to Charbagh.
254. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired first meeting of the newly constituted Islands Development Agency (IDA) that was set up on June 01, 2017. 10 islands in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep have been identified for holistic development in first phase.
255. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated *YUVA – Skill Development Programme*, an initiative by Delhi Police under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.








256. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at National Conference on Child Labour organised in New Delhi, aiming to achieve target of child labour free society
257. ▶ Home Ministry has formed two new divisions to exclusively deal with emerging security challenges such as radicalization and cyber crime - *Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Radicalization (CTCR)* and *Cyber and Information Security (CIS)*.
- ▶ CTCR is modified version of the Home Ministry's internal security-II division. It will focus on tracking and assessing the online reach of global terrorist outfits and devising strategies to counter their propaganda.
 - ▶ CIS division will monitor online crimes and threats, including cyber fraud and hacking, and suggest ways to minimize and fight them.
258. ▶ Home Ministry merged National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), to improve administrative efficiency and optimal utilisation of resources for development works related to policing.
259. ▶ Home Ministry opened two Zorinpui and Kawrpuihuah immigration check posts along borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh respectively.
260. ▶ Home Ministry will soon grant citizenship to nearly 1 lakh Chakma and Hajong refugees, who came from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1960s and are living in northeast. Chakmas and Hajongs were residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in erstwhile East Pakistan and had fled after their land was submerged by Kaptai dam project in 1960s. Chakmas are Buddhists by faith and Hajongs are Hindus.
261. ▶ Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry will conduct National Assessment Survey (NAS) for students of class 3, 5, and 8 on November 13, 2017. Approx 30 lakh students will be assessed in 2017-18, making it world's largest sample survey of student learning achievement.
262. ▶ Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that Paika rebellion (Paika Bidroha) of 1817 will be named as First War of Independence against British Rule in history books from next academic session. Earlier, 1857 Sepoy Mutiny was regarded as First War of Indian Independence.
- ▶ Paikas were traditional landed militia under Gajapati rulers of Odisha. Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, military chief of King of Khurda led army of Paikas forcing East India Company (British) forces to retreat in 1817.
263. ▶ Hurun India Rich List 2017 -
- ▶ Mukesh Ambani retains the richest Indian title for sixth year (worth of 257,900 crores).
 - ▶ Patanjali Ayurved CEO Acharya Balkrishna named among India's top 10 richest people for first time, with wealth of over 70000 crores.
264. ▶ Hyderabad High Court directed Telengana government not to grant licence, to establish liquor retail outlets in scheduled areas without resolution of gramsabha.
265. ▶ Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) is ranked No. 1 in Airports Council International's (ACI) service quality survey in category of 5 to 15 million passengers per annum.
- ▶ GMR Hyderabad International Airport also recently signed MOU with Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB) and Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB) to promote tourism.
266. ▶ IIT-Kharagpur signed MoU with *Samsung* for setting up of a digital academy that will train students on Internet of Things (IoT) through Tizen-based operating systems, commonly used by the company for its mobile phones and home appliances.
267. ▶ Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise for Jute (Jute – ICARE) was launched in 2015 to popularize better agronomic practices and recently developed microbial-assisted retting among farmers intensively in a few blocks in West Bengal and Assam on pilot basis. It Resulted in increase of earnings of jute farmers by over INR 10,000 per hectare.
268. ▶ India Road Assessment Programme (IndiaRAP) launched by FedEx Express to rate highways' safety levels and to eliminate most unsafe roads. It aims to make Indian roads safer and curb fatalities. It will be hosted by Asian Institute of Transport Development.
269. ▶ India declared itself free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1 and H5N8).
270. ▶ India launched its first petroleum Research & Development (R&D) facility for testing high-end BS-VI quality fuel emissions in Faridabad (Haryana). This facility is designed to test all types of fuel products, to ensure that it meets superior BS-VI norms to be implemented by April 2020.
271. ▶ India signed Contract for lending of € 300 million for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6, with European Investment Bank (EIB).
- ▶ Bangalore Metro Phase II is to be jointly financed by European Investment Bank (€500 million) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (€300 million). Project includes total length of 72.095 km and 61 stations (12 underground).
272. ▶ India started producing Civet Coffee as most expensive coffee in world in Karnataka.
- ▶ It is made from feces of a species of cat called 'Civet Cat'.
 - ▶ One kilogram of this coffee sells for Rs.8000 in India and at Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000 in abroad.

273. ▶ India will get its first runway on a 'sea bridge', as Airports Authority of India (AAI) will extend Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport by building an RCC platform on the beach and shallow area which will allow bigger ATRs to operate on island.
274. ▶ India will host 51-day Long 8th International Theatre Olympics in February 2018. It will be first ever Hosting of greatest carnival of theatre in world by India. It be organised by National School of Drama (NSD) and Union Culture Ministry.
275. ▶ India will invite 10 leaders of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as Chief Guests for 2018 Republic Day celebrations. Republic Day 2018 would be the first Republic Day event that will have so many leaders as the chief guests.
276. ▶ India's *Taj Mahal* is ranked 2nd best UNESCO world heritage site in world, by travel portal TripAdvisor, after Cambodia's Angkor Wat.
277. ▶ India's Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) partenred with with Egyptian Exchange (EGX) for cooperation in exchange of information across business areas.
278. ▶ India's First Madame Tussauds Wax Museum opened in Delhi with 50 wax models of Indian and international celebrities. Delhi centre is 23rd museum for Madame Tussauds which has centres in major cities across globe.
279. ▶ India's largest floating solar power plant inaugurated at Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad (Kerala), with capacity of 500 kilowatts (KW).
 It consists of 1,938 solar panels with a capacity of 260 watts, a 500 kilo volt ampere (KVA) transformer and 17 inverters.
 Unique feature of this plant is anchoring mechanism to maintain plant with alteration of water level.
280. ▶ India's largest telecom services provider Bharti Airtel partnered with leading global cyber security company Symantec Corp, to serve growing cyber security requirements of businesses in India.
281. ▶ Indian Army developed Humraaz mobile application, that allows serving soldiers to track details like postings and promotion.
282. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with Rajasthan State Government to improve infrastructure for their posts near the India-Pakistan border.
283. ▶ Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) incubator *Center for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE)* announced *AGRI UDAAN - Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 2.0* as a 6 month program to help innovative startups in scaling up their operations in agri value chain for effective improvement in agriculture.
284. ▶ Indian Naval Academy (Ezhimala) conducted 4th annual *Dilli* seminar with theme *India and Southeast Asia – Maritime Trade, Expedition and Civilisation Linkages*.
285. ▶ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched India's first Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station at a petrol pump in Nagpur, in collaboration with cab aggregator Ola.
286. ▶ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will invest INR 52,000 crores in expanding Paradip refinery in Odisha and setting up petrochemical complex after Odisha State Government agreed to restore part of tax incentives and give INR 700 crore per annum of an interest-free loan for 15 years.
287. ▶ Indian Railways announced *ePaylater* scheme, enabling people to book now & pay later for tickets booked under tatkal quota on IRCTC website. Users may pay the fare within 15 days, with a service charge of 3.5 %.
288. ▶ Indian Railways has signed its first EPC (engineering, procurement, construction) contract with Larsen and Toubro (L&T) for electrification of railway lines, valuing INR 1050 crores.
289. ▶ Indian Railways installed Asia's largest Solid State Interlocking (SSI) system in Kharagpur (West Bengal), which will enable station masters to set 800 different routes for trains in a few minutes.
 Interlocking railway signal prevents conflicting movements of trains.
 New technology has beet set up at cost of 39 Crores and replaces pre-1989 route relay system that only allowed operators to set maximum 423 routes.
290. ▶ Indian Railways launched India's first solar powered diesel multiple unit (DEMU) broad gauge train with a 1600 Horse Power (HP) Engine. Train will run from Sarai Rohilla in Delhi to Farukh Nagar in Haryana.
 Solar energy system fitted in DEMU train would result in saving 5.25 lakh litres of diesel per train over 25 years. It will also help in reducing 1350 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) per train over 25 years.
291. ▶ Indian Railways launched Project Saksham as its largest time-bound *upskilling* exercise for its 13 lakh employees. It will start in January 2018 and go on till September 2018. Railways Ministry also advanced target for completion of installing human waste discharge free Bio-toilets in coaches to December 2018, compared to deadline of September 2019.
292. ▶ Indian Railways launched Rail SAARTHI (*synergised advanced application rail travel help and information*) mobile application to cater to various passenger requirements including ticket booking, inquiry, on-board cleaning and ordering meal on a single platform.
293. ▶ Indian Railways launched RailCloud, a virtual server with an inbuilt security system that will enable faster connectivity at a reduced cost.
 RailCloud works on Cloud Computing system, an emerging technology for faster and on demand commensurate deployment of server resources which results in reduced cost.
 RailCloud has been developed by rail PSU RailTel as part of Railways strategic IT initiative, IR—OneICT.
 NIVARAN (*Grievance Portal*) Became First IT application to be hosted on RailCloud.







-  Cashless treatment Scheme in Emergency (CTSE) also launched to provide Comprehensive Health Care Facilities through in-house health Institutions, supplementing with referrals to recognized hospitals whenever necessar.
294. ▶ Indian Railways launched main arch of world's highest bridge on the River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district which will provide direct connectivity to Kashmir Valley. This bridge with height 359 metres above bed of the River Chenab and will be 30 metres higher than Eiffel Tower in Paris.
295. ▶ Indian Railway's first set of solar plants with capacity of 5 megawatt peak (MWp) launched on roof tops of Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Anand Vihar and Delhi railway stations by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, as part of National Solar Mission in which Railways plans to commission 1000 MWp solar plants across its network.
296. ▶ Indian city of Ahmedabad (Gujarat) has been declared as India's first World Heritage City by UNESCO, recognising heritage value of walled city's unique heritage.
297. ▶ Indian government will organize a global food fair in Delhi in November as *World Food India 2017*, to provide a platform to Indian farmers and manufacturers to showcase their products and explore partnerships with foreign companies.
298. ▶ Indian railways will be running steam hauled tourist train "Fairy Queen" between Delhi Cantonment and Rewari on second and fourth Saturday of every month till April 2018. Fairy Queen was built in 1855 and is the World's oldest steam locomotive as certified by Guinness Book of Records in 1998.
299. ▶ India's Zero Hunger Programme through interventions in farm sector will be launched on occasion of World Food Day (October 16, 2017). It consists of organisations of farming system for nutrition, setting up genetic gardens for biofortified plants and initiation of 'Zero Hunger' training.
-  A genetic garden for biofortified plants contains germplasm of naturally biofortified crops through plant breeding. It has plants and crops that help supplement micro-nutrient deficiencies, including iron, zinc, vitamin A and iodine among others.
-  Programme will be launched in 3 districts – Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Koraput (Odisha) and Thane (Maharashtra).
300. ▶ India's first Centre for Animal Law has been established at NALSAR University of Law (Hyderabad), inaugurated by Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi. It will create curriculum on animal welfare laws, including developing topics for research.
301. ▶ India's first Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) will be built in Andhra Pradesh, aimed at for providing facilities and amenities for manufacturing mobiles and allied products.
302. ▶ India's first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) under Hybrid Annuity Mode will come up in Haridwar (Uttarakhand) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
-  It is a step towards realizing dream of Nirmal Ganga as first ever Hybrid Annuity-based model being applied in sewerage sector under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.
-  Under this, concessionaire responsible for maintenance of project will be paid based on performance in phased manner. It will ensure continued performance of sewage infrastructure assets created due to better ownership, accountability and optimal performance.
-  Hybrid Annuity Model was approved in January 2016 with 100% central sector funding. Under this - development, operation and maintenance of STPs will be undertaken by Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created by winning bidder at local level.
-  Yes Bank committed Rs 156 crore to fund first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to be constructed at Varanasi under Hybrid Annuity-PPP Model. YES Bank signed deal with Essel Infraprojects in this regard.
303. ▶ India's first and only design university - *World University of Design* opened at Sonapat (Haryana). WUD is India's first university dedicated to education in creative domain.
304. ▶ India's first railways disaster management village will come up near Bengaluru (Karnataka) by December 2018, where situations like trains falling into rivers and coaches catching fire will be replicated and mock rescue operations will be carried out in real time.
305. ▶ India's first-ever broad gauge air-conditioned AC EMU suburban train flagged off by western railway (from Mumbai's Borivali station).
306. ▶ India's 'first' mobile food testing laboratory enabling on-the-spot food safety tests is launched in Goa, as first ever 'Food Safety on Wheel' mobile laboratory in India. The vehicle is equipped to conduct on-the-spot tests to check food quality and curb adulteration.
307. ▶ Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) announced exemption of fees for its transgender students of all programmes.
308. ▶ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as first Information Utility (IU) under IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations 2017. S. Ramann is appointed as Managind Director of NESL.
309. ▶ International Migration Outlook report 2017 released by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
310. ▶ International NGO *Safe Water Network* partnered with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to launch water ATMs, providing safe water access in Hyderabad. The initiative is supported by USAID under Urban WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Alliance Partnership and funded by Honeywell India.
311. ▶ International poetry festival *Mystic Kalinga* organized in Bhubaneswar Odisha.

312. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Government Hosted first ever 'Cultrue of Cruise' cultural programme at Dal Lake (Srinagar), aimed to bring artists from various fields on one stage.
313. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Govt Observed *Heritage Week* from November 19 to 25, 2017 to generate awareness on preservation of state's ancient culture and environment.
314. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir government launched central gov't SAUBHAGYA (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) with an aim to provide free electricity connections to poor people in state. SAUBHAGYA initiative was launched by Central Govt in Sep 2017 to provide electricity to 4 crore families across India by December 2018.
315. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir government will State's first Eco-Park on over 34 acres of land reclaimed from encroachers in Rajouri district.
316. ▶ Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das inaugurated India's largest fresh water aquarium *Ranchi Machchli Ghar* in Ranchi. It is spread in over 36,000 sq feet area with 58 fish tanks.
317. ▶ Jharkhand Government launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana, aimed at developing villages of freedom fighters in state.
318. ▶ Jharkhand approved Jharkhand Freedom of Religion Bill 2017, that seeks to bring stringent anti-conversion law in place under which forceful or allurements induced religious conversion will be a non-bailable criminal offence.
319. ▶ Kacheguda Railway Station in Hyderabad (Telangana) is named first Energy Efficient 'A1 Category' Railway Station of Indian Railways, as it achieved 100% energy efficiency by replacing conventional lights with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting and other measures.
320. ▶ Karnataka Assembly passed *Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill 2017*, aimed at eradicating inhuman evil practices propagated and performed in name of black magic by conman to exploit the common people.
- ▶ Karnataka Assembly also approved Reservation for SC / ST in Promotions in State Civil Service Jobs as it passed *Karnataka Extension of Consequential Seniority to Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation Bill 2017*.
321. ▶ Karnataka Department of Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology (BT) signed MoU with Finland, called Karnataka-Finland Innovation Corridor.
322. ▶ Karnataka Government approved a policy that seeks to provide legal protection to transgender community and thereby safeguard them from social and sexual exploitation. Aim is to remove stigma attached to transgender community and integrate them into mainstream of society.
323. ▶ Karnataka Government has launched clouding seeding Project Varshadhari in Bengaluru under which an aircraft will spray chemicals to induce rainfall. Flight for cloud seeding – BQ-100 Beechcraft will spray Silver Iodide, Sodium Chloride and Potassium Chloride to condense water particles.
324. ▶ Karnataka Government launched *Mathru Purna* scheme aimed at providing nutritious meals to about 12 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers in state. Counselling and other maternity benefits will also be provided at Anganwadi centres under scheme.
325. ▶ Karnataka Government launched *Nava Karnataka 2025 or Vision 2025* for charting out a development roadmap for next seven years, covering 13 sectors identified for rapid development.
326. ▶ Karnataka Government signed MoU with Microsoft to empower smallholder farmers with technology-oriented solutions that will help them increase income.
327. ▶ Karnataka Government signed MoU with software giant Microsoft to develop a unique "farm price forecasting model, as a first-of-its-kind initiative in country. It will aid farmers from states to predict farm prices in advance and deal effectively with the unpredictable market.
328. ▶ Karnataka Govt approved *Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (KESDM) Policy 2017-22* to promote electronic design and manufacturing in state.
- ▶ State gov't also passed a diluted version of law that aims to regulate pricing and certain policies at private hospitals and medical establishments in state.
329. ▶ Karnataka High Court struck down rules laid out by central gov't in 2014 that mandated pictorial health warnings to cover 85% of tobacco product packaging space, holding that they violated Constitutional norms.
- ▶ However, 40% pictorial health warning rule, which existed prior to amendment rules, will remain in force.
330. ▶ Karnataka became 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.
331. ▶ Karnataka government appointed K Ratna Prabha as new chief secretary of Karnataka.
332. ▶ Karnataka government banned pillion riding on two-wheelers with less than 100 cc engine, in view of safety of pillion riders that are often victims of road accidents.
333. ▶ Karnataka government launched *Elevate 100* scheme to identify and nurture innovative start-ups. It aims to identify 100 most innovative start-ups in state and elevate them to higher success.
334. ▶ Karnataka government merged existing 7 health schemes to launch a unified health scheme *Arogya Bhagya*, aiming at *Treatment First and Payment Next*.

335. ▶ Karnataka government partnered with Intel company *Mobileye* to launch a project for automotive safety called *Automotive Safety Innovation*, which will create a repository of road and traffic information.
336. ▶ Karnataka government will provide free education for all girls from Class 1 to graduation level in all public and aided private schools and colleges from next academic year.
337. ▶ Karnataka's capital Bengaluru has become first Indian city to have its own logo. The with red and black logo is part English and part Kannada.
338. ▶ Kerala Government formulated a trauma-care scheme, under which all emergency care and treatment will be provided to accident victims free-of-cost for first 48 hours.
339. ▶ Kerala Government launched *G-Ride* app as a digital ride sharing platform. It will aim at bringing down number of vehicles used by people.
340. ▶ Kerala Tourism Department launched a 3 year long Continuous Tourist Survey (CTS) 2017-2020 to improve tourism in state, in collaboration with *Datamation Consultants*.
341. ▶ Kerala Tourism department launched campaign called *Yalla Kerala* (Yalla means lets go). to target tourists from Arab Nations (Saudi Arabia, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar).
342. ▶ Kerala government approved proposal of state Startup Mission (KSUM) to accord sabbatical leave to faculty members of all colleges who intend to establish startups. An expert panel headed by Saji Gopinath will select 10 faculty members for implementation of project.
343. ▶ Kerala government began e-waste disposal project in its state schools with about 12500 kg being disposed on a single day, as an initiative of Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) and Clean Kerala Company.
344. ▶ Kerala government raised minimum age for liquor consumption from 21 to 23 years.
345. ▶ Kerala government will set up stray dog zoos to keep them off streets in the State.
346. ▶ Kerala hosted 5th edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE) literary festival with tolerance as core theme.
347. ▶ Kerala will soon open India's first transgender-exclusive clinics at government medical colleges across state.
348. ▶ Kochi (Kerala) will host 5th *Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017*.
349. ▶ Kolkata (West Bengal) for first time hosted international Puppet festival named *PUN (Puppets Unite Neighbours) International Puppet Festival*.
350. ▶ Kolkata Police imposed ban on public display of weapons in Kolkata, till 1 January 2019.
351. ▶ Labour commission of Karnataka certified formation of *Karnataka State IT/ITES Employees Union (KITU)* under Trade Union Act 1926, and Karnataka Trade Unions Regulations 1958.
352. ▶ Launch of IRSO's eight navigation satellite IRNSS-1H onbaord PSLV-C39 from Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh) has been unsuccessful.
- ▶ Heat shield did not separate as a result of which satellite did not complete the 4th stage.
 - ▶ IRNSS-1H was being sent to space to replace India's first navigation satellite IRNSS-1A (launched in July 2013) as its three rubidium atomic clocks on board had stopped functioning.
 - ▶ Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is an independent regional system developed by India on par with the US-based GPS, Russia's Glonass and Galileo developed by Europe. It offers wide services like terrestrial and marine navigation, disaster management, vehicle tracking and fleet management visual and voice navigation for drivers. It was named "Navic" (Navigation with Indian Constellation) by PM Narendra Modi.
353. ▶ Leaders of 10 ASEAN Nations will be chief guests for Republic Day 2018 of India.
- ▶ AESAN Nations (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) - Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos, Brunei.
354. ▶ Lok Sabha passed *Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill 2017* to amend *Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) 2009* to extend deadline for teachers to acquire minimum qualifications for appointment. Inadequately qualified teachers as on March 31 2015, working after enactment of RTE Act 2009 will have to acquire minimum qualifications by March 31, 2019 to hold their jobs as teachers.
355. ▶ Lok Sabha passed Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership (IIIT-PPP) Bill 2017 to allow 15 IIITs established on a PPP model to grant degrees and get statutory status. IIITs will also be given status of *Institute of National Importance*, Like IITs and NITs.
- ▶ Government initiated opening 20 IIITs with private partnership of which 15 are already operational, at Cost of INR 128 crores each. Centre contributed 50% of amount, states 35% and private partners remaining 15%.
356. ▶ Lok Sabha passed Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill 2017 to -
- ▶ Declares IIMs as institutions of national importance and empower these institutions to attain standards of global excellence in management, management research and allied areas of knowledge.

-  It also grants complete administrative, academic and financial autonomy to these B-Schools and allow them to grant degrees.
357. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Assembly passed Dand Vidhi (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak 2017 that will enable death sentence for rapists of girls 12 years or below. Madhya Pradesh became first state to legalise death sentence for rapists.
358. ▶ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched *Single Click Pension Delivery* scheme where money will go directly into account of approx 35 lakh beneficiaries. He also honoured elderly who completed age of 100 years with *Shataayu* award.
359. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced measures for welfare of women in State, including financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakh for remarriage of widows.
360. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government inaugurated a community toilet for third gender, in Mangalwara area of Bhopal. This is the first community toilet for exclusive third gender usage in India.
361. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government launched *Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna* for farmers, to lend money to farmers at 0 % interest.
362. ▶ Madhya Pradesh State Government approved INR 7546-crore project for linking Narmada River with Parvati River, aimed at create irrigation facilities on 2 lakh hectares of agriculture land in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.
363. ▶ Madhya Pradesh partnered with Nagaland and Manipur, to strengthen cultural relations between them Under *Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat* scheme. It aims to bolster sentimental bonds between people of different states.
364. ▶ Madhya Pradesh's school education department is implementing *Hamari Shala Kaisi Ho* and *Shala Siddhi Karyakram* in all government schools of the state in order to provide qualitative education to students.
365. ▶ Madras High Court ruled that Vande Mataram should be sung in all schools and colleges across Tamil Nadu atleast once in a week and in government and private offices atleast once in a month.
366. ▶ Madras high court (Tamilnadu) banned use of pictures of living persons on banners and hoardings in Tamil Nadu, aimed at maintaining clean environment and also ensure that there were no unnecessary drawings on buildings and residential places.
367. ▶ Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) approved State government's application to increase height of planned Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Statue from 192 Metres to 210 Metres, making it Highest statue in world.
-  Currently, Spring Temple Buddha statue (208 metres) in China is highest in world.
368. ▶ Maharashtra Government and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetables (subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board) signed lease agreement to set up a state-of-the-art milk and milk products processing plant.
369. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved Industrial Policy for Women Entrepreneurs, considering a woman or a group of women who have financed 100% for project and hired minimum 50% women employees as women entrepreneurs.
-  Under this, a woman entrepreneur would get financial assistance from state government in the range of Rs 15 lakh up to Rs 1 crore for capital investment in project at subsidized rate of interest up to 5%.
-  For projects headed by women entrepreneurs, electricity will be supplied at a subsidized rate of Rs 1-2 per unit instead of Rs 7-8 per unit charges for industries.
-  Maharashtra is first state to have such policy exclusively for women entrepreneurs.
370. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved climate change adaptation policy that will focus on developing environment-friendly villages and cities.
371. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched *Maharashtra Mission 1 Million* initiative under which over 10 lakh students across state will be encouraged to play football.
372. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched MahaDBT and MahaVASTU portals to streamline process of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
-  MahaDBT portal is an Aadhaar-aauthenticated electronic mechanism that will enable direct transfer of benefits for over 40 schemes implemented by various departments.
-  MahaVASTU is an Online Building Permission Management System with an electronic workflow for sanctioning building approvals with full transparency.
373. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched 'MahaLabharthi' web portal that will help people get information about all government schemes at URL <https://www.mahalabharthi.in>. It works on basis of personal, educational and professional information provided by a person while registering.
374. ▶ Maharashtra Government will adopt Clinical establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, to ensure minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them.
375. ▶ Maharashtra State Government and Tata Trusts entered into a tie-up for social development initiatives in Chandrapur district, to focus on livelihood, digital literacy, data driven governance and child protection.
376. ▶ Maharashtra become first state to provide women an injectable contraceptive for free, Medroxyprogesterone acetate (a birth-control hormone).

377. ▶ Maharashtra government would raise INR 25,000 crore project on 800 acres at Heti (Kundi) village in Vidarbha, in association with Ayurveda Products Brand Patanjali. Patanjali will purchase 10,000 cows to develop a breeding centre and to carry out dairy and allied activities.
378. ▶ Maharashtra government approved revised *Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree* scheme that benefits families with yearly income under INR 7.5 lakh. It aims at improving skewed girl child ratio in state and was launched by state government on April 1, 2016 in place of 'Sukanya' scheme.
379. ▶ Maharashtra government banned packaged water bottles in government offices, to become plastic-free state from March 2018.
380. ▶ Maharashtra government will offer cash rewards to gram panchayats and urban local bodies for making their respective areas plastic-free, with First prize being INR 5 lakh.
381. ▶ Maharashtra govt has set up of a Gender Budget Cell for better implementation of various schemes of Women and Child Development (WCD) by other government departments. It will enable coordination between various departments for effective implementation of schemes.
382. ▶ Maharashtra's women commission signed agreement with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for rescue and rehabilitation of women who are victims of sex trafficking, acid attack and domestic violence.
383. ▶ Mahindra and Mahindra celebrated *Mahila Kisan Diwas* and launched *Prerna* programme to empower women working in agriculture sector. It is first launched in Odisha, aiming to impact lives of over 1,500 families across 30-plus villages.
384. ▶ Manipur's Nungthaang Tampak village has emerged as India's 2nd and North East's 1st 100 % computer literate village. Kerala's Chamravattom village is the country's first 100 % computer literate village.
385. ▶ Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple (Madurai (TN)) adjudged best 'Swachh Iconic Place' in India, owing to high level sanitation and tourist friendly arrangements in the temple.
386. ▶ Meghalaya Election Department entered Limca Book of Records for formation of the biggest human logo comprising young voters in state. It was part of Mission Unite (U and I towards Enrolment) as part of Special drive to enroll left out voters in age group 18 - 21 years.
387. ▶ Meghalaya Government launched flagship program *Livelihood Intervention and Facilitation of Entrepreneurship* (LIFE), aiming at state's 2144 villages in 2017 - 18. It will focus on capacity building of SHGs (Self-Help Groups).
388. ▶ Meghalaya became first state to operationalize a *Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act 2017*, a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.
389. ▶ Microsoft launched *Kaizala* productivity designed to enhance collaboration and communication experience for Indian enterprises. It will enable organizations to interact with people within organization and outside like partners and vendors more conveniently.
390. ▶ Microsoft signed an agreement with National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) to offer Microsoft Aspire School Program (MASP) Pro Plus to over 55,000 member schools in India. It aims to equip schools with technology and innovative learning solutions.
391. ▶ Microsoft tied up with Telangana Government to use its artificial intelligence-based MINE (*Microsoft Intelligent Network for Eyecare*) platform to screen children for eye problems and prevent avoidable blindness.
392. ▶ Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched Common Food Processing Incubation Center for Shallots (Small Onions) in Chettikulam village in Perambalur District of Tamil Nadu.
- ▶ Perambalur is the hub for small onions (Shallots) cultivation in over 8000 hectares producing around 65,000 to 70,000 tonnes every year. Farmers reported massive losses due to conventional methods of handling and storage.
393. ▶ Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs M Venkaiah Naidu released new version of National Housing Bank's NHB RESIDEX, that captures movements in prices of residential real estate prices.
394. ▶ Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha launched DARPAN *Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India* Project to improve quality of service, add value to services and achieve "financial inclusion" of un-banked rural population. It aims of financial inclusion for rural population and it is targeted to complete the project by March 2018.
395. ▶ Minister of Railways announced various decisions for Transformation of Indian Railways -
- ▶ Highest priority to passenger safety - Eliminating 5000 unmanned crossings by 2018, Shift to LHB coaches from ICF coaches, Use of MTRC (Mobile Train Radio Communication) and TPWS (Train Protection & Warning System). RPF staff will not be allowed to check tickets, which is the function of TTEs.
 - ▶ Transforming through technology - Use of mobile apps for monitoring passenger services, wi-fi connectivity and increase speed of around 700 trains, GPS based tracking of rail movement.
 - ▶ Energy efficiency - Complete electrification by 2022 to save INR 10,000 crores.
 - ▶ Faster Redevelopment of stations
 - ▶ Railway Stations with less trains to be developed as Multi-utility centres
 - ▶ Focus on welfare of field staff - Improving working conditions of Group D employees that work hard is to ensure track safety.

-  Railways will work with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to devise safety mechanisms to make travel by trains safer.
396. ▶ Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change *Harshvardhan* launched 2 useful apps on occasion of Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences.
-  *Sagar Vani* app -
-  It will provide ocean information services of ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) directly to end user, to remove delay in dissemination of valuable information.
-  *India Quake* App -
-  It will provide Earthquakes related information compiled by National Centre for Seismology (NCS) directly to end user, to remove delay in dissemination of valuable information. It will also help in reducing panic amongst people during an earthquake. For example, if an earthquake occurs in Afghanistan and is strongly felt in Delhi, then people in Delhi will know in less than 2 minutes that earthquake has actually occurred in Afghanistan and not in Delhi.
397. ▶ Minister of State (IC) for Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh announced *North East Rural Livelihood Project* as an exclusive rural Livelihood scheme for North-eastern states. It aims at helping tribals and lower socioeconomic groups, Initially in Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. Assistance will be provided to over 10000 Self Help Groups (SHGs).
398. ▶ Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju inaugurated Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, Culture & Heritage (RIWATCH) Museum at Roing in Arunachal Pradesh.
399. ▶ Minister of State for Minority Affairs (IC) & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated first Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centre in Hyderabad (Telangana) -
-  Government will establish Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres in 100 districts of country, aimed at implying employability skills in youth belonging to Minority communities.
400. ▶ Ministries of Power and Textiles partnered under SAATHI (*Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries*) Initiative Under which Power Ministry's PSU Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) would provide energy efficient Powerlooms, motors and Rapier kits to small and medium Powerloom units at no cost. This will result in energy and cost savings to unit owner and he may repay to EESL over a 4 - 5 years.
401. ▶ Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) sanctioned INR 200 crores for flood affected reconstruction works in the 4 North Eastern States - Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
402. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation released Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2017 to assess progress Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India, undertaken by Quality Council of India (QCI). It covered 4626 villages across nation.
-  Report stated that 62.45% of the households have access to a toilet and Sanitation Coverage has increased from 39% in October 2016 to 66% in August 2017.
-  Big States - Kerala, Haryana and Gujarat are top performers while Bihar (30% coverage) and Uttar Pradesh (37%), Jharkhand (37%) are worst performers in terms of rural sanitation.
403. ▶ Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will launch Deep Ocean Mission by January 2018 to spur research activities in ocean science and develop technology to harness ocean resources.
404. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has set up an internal expert committee to advise government on a policy on artificial intelligence (AI).
405. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched *Wood is Good* Campaign under Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus). It was launched during conference on *Sustainable landscapes and forest ecosystems: Theory to Practice* held in New Delhi.
406. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests gave stage-I forest clearance for construction of Kaleswaram Lift Irrigation project stage-one in Telangana. Ministry approved about 3,200 hectares of forest land for project,
-  Thus project aims to irrigate 7,38,851 hectares of land in upland areas of former undivided districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal, Medak, Nalgonda and Rangareddy Its estimated cost is over Rs 80,500 Cr.
407. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched *Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali* campaign aimed at reducing adverse environmental conditions especially pollution in country after post Diwali celebrations due to excessive bursting of crackers.
408. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2016, that will replace Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2010 to address issues related to conservation and development of wetlands in a comprehensive manner. Highlights of new rules -
-  Wetlands shall be conserved in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' for maintaining their ecological integrity.
-  Rules prohibit any diversion to natural water inflows and outflows of wetland.

- Wetland Authority will be set up by State Governments or UTs (headed by State Chief Minister) to deal with wetland conservation, regulation and management.
409. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched SAMEEP (Students and MEA Engagement Program), as an outreach mission that aims to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across country and also to look at diplomacy as a career option. SAMEEP aims to familiarise school and college students in India about functioning of MEA.
410. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched country's first Videsh Bhavan by assimilating all Regional Passport Offices and allied departments under a single roof at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai (Maharashtra). It will cut operating costs and increase efficiency.
411. ▶ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched daily regimen for TB patients under *The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP)*, updating frequency of regimen for treatment of tuberculosis (TB) from 3 weekly to daily.
- ▶ Daily FDC anti-TB drugs will be made available free of cost to private pharmacy / practitioners to dispense to TB patients.
412. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHMI), that aims to reduce disability and death related to cardiovascular disease (CVD). It also aims to strengthen CVD component of Health Ministry's National Program for Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS).
413. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched 2 new free contraceptives *Antara* and *Chayya* in 10 states under Mission ParivarVikas. Antara is injectable contraceptive (effective for 3 months) where Chayya is contraceptive pill (effective for 1 week).
414. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released Operational Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Family Participatory Care (FPC) for improving newborn health.
- ▶ FPC is an important concept of health care as it provides partnership between health care staff and families in care of sick newborns admitted in Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU). FPC are needed as Sick and newborn are highly vulnerable and require careful nurturing in order to survive neonatal period and first year of life.
415. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed MOU with Government of West Bengal to set up a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine at Kolkata.
416. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will move a proposal before Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for taking over Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which is currently under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).
- ▶ BCAS is responsible for forming policies related to security of all commercial flights. Security agencies at airports, including Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), local police and Intelligence Bureau (IB) are bound by regulations passed by BCAS.
- ▶ After BCAS is taken over by MHA, CISF will assume larger role in airport security. It will help in better coordination and monitoring, since CISF, IB and state intelligence all report to MHA.
417. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Development approved construction of 30,000 affordable houses in Maharashtra's Sholapur district for urban poor on private land under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). It is first such project to be taken up on private land under PMAY(U).
- ▶ Earlier approved projects for affordable housing projects were built on lands belonging to state government / municipal corporations.
418. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched country-wide Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat scheme to distribute LPG connections among rural areas where conventional fuel is used for domestic purposes.
419. ▶ Ministry of Power launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) in Manipur, aiming to include 1.75 lakh households of state under this scheme. Government will provide financial assistance for strengthening power infrastructure, under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) that was launched in September 2017.
420. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will implement *Value Engineering Program* to promote use of new technologies, materials and equipment in highways projects executed either under Public Private Partnership (PPP) or public funding mode.
- ▶ VEP aims to ensure that roads or bridges and other assets get constructed much faster, are structurally stronger and more durable.
- ▶ MoRTH also reconstituted nine-member National Panel of Experts (NPE) for approving proposals for use of new technologies, material and equipment in highway sector. It will be chaired by SR Tambe.
421. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways made FASTag mandatory for all new four-wheelers from December 1, 2017, amending Central Motor Vehicle (CMV) Rules 1989 as per Motor Vehicles Act 1989.
- ▶ FASTag is device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from savings account linked to it. It is affixed on windscreen of vehicle and enables commuter to drive through toll plazas, without stopping for cash transactions.
422. ▶ Ministry of Rural Development will launch Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY), a sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). AGEY aims to provide alternative source of livelihood to members of Self Help

Groups (SHGs) by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.

423. ▶ Ministry of Science & Technology launched National Biopharma Mission as first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India. Under this mission, ministry also launched Innovate in India (i3) program to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in sector.
- ▶ Innovate in India (i3) program i3 is a flagship program of India that will witness an investment of \$250 million with \$125 million as a loan from world Bank. It is committed to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions.
 - ▶ It will strive to increase India's global biopharmaceutical market share from current 2.8% to 5%.
424. ▶ Ministry of Science & Technology launched Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana to implement appropriate S&T interventions for sustainable development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand.
- ▶ Under This, Department of Science and Technology (DST) will adopt few clusters of villages in Uttarakhand and transform them to become self-sustainable in time bound manner.
425. ▶ Ministry of Shipping renamed Kandla Port Trust (Gujarat) as Deendayal Port Trust, using powers conferred on it under Indian Ports Act 1908.
426. ▶ Ministry of Shipping will expand Logistics Data Bank (LDB) project to southern region, that is So far being used only in western part since its launch at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Mumbai) in July 2016.
- ▶ LDB project uses Information Technology to make logistics sector more efficient. Under this, every container is attached to a Radio Frequency Identification Tag (RFID) tag and tracked through RFID readers. LDB project covers entire movement of containers through rail or road till Inland Container Depot and Container Freight Station.
427. ▶ Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Maruti Suzuki India signed MoU to support Skill India Mission in automobile industry, to provide high employment potential trades related to automobile and manufacturing industry to youth under Skill India Mission.
428. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development launched an online platform 'SHe-box (Sexual Harassment Electronic Box) to enable women employees of the Central government to file complaints related to sexual harassment at work place.
429. ▶ Ministry of tourism organized tourism festival named *Paryatan Parv*, to draw focus on benefits of tourism and showcase the cultural diversity of country.
- ▶ Tourism Ministry gave Letters of Intent (LoI) to seven shortlisted companies for adopting 14 monuments under Adopt a Heritage Scheme at closing ceremony of 'Paryatan Parv' held in New Delhi.
430. ▶ Mizoram's Dampa Tiger Reserve now holds highest number of clouded leopards in Southeast Asia with population density of clouded leopards being 5.14 per 100 sq km.
431. ▶ MoU signed between Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Council (THSC), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) AND Airbnb (community-driven hospitality company), to promote entrepreneurship under Government's Skill India Programme.
432. ▶ Mumbai Metro launched India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo' which will help commuters pass the AFC gates using their mobile phones.
- ▶ Additionally, Lucknow metro will be India's first metro network to offer free drinking water and toilet facilities and will have its own FM radio station.
433. ▶ Music video prepared by Telangana Jagruthi to celebrate 9 day Bathukamma festival has been released.
434. ▶ NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog approved 6 transport proposals of transport ministry to improve public transport. It includes high-tech mass rapid transportation technologies such as *metrino, hyperloop, pod taxis, stadler buses, hybrid buses* and *freight rail road*.
435. ▶ NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog partnered with 3 states each to radically transform their Health and Education sectors under its Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) initiative. Shortlisted states for health sector are Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka while Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha are selected for transforming their education sector.
436. ▶ NITI Aayog launched Ease of Doing Business report based on an Enterprise Survey of 3,500 manufacturing firms across India, to assess business regulations and enabling environment across India from firms' perspective. Major findings -
- ▶ Economic Performance and Reforms - More economic activity and better performance in several business indicators are correlated.
 - ▶ Improvements over time - Younger firms (established after 2014) report more favorable business environment as they take less time in obtaining approvals than older firms
 - ▶ Informational gaps - States need to enhance awareness of steps being undertaken by them to improve ease of doing business. For Exaple, only 20% of start-ups use single window facilities introduced by state governments for setting up a business. Even only 41 % of experts know about such facilities.

- ✎ Labor regulations as bigger constraint for labor intensive firms - Labor intensive sectors that create comparatively more jobs per unit of capital investment, are more constrained by labor related regulations
 - ✎ Barriers to firm growth - The experience of firms with fewer employees is different from that of larger firms. Sometimes, large firms face more regulatory barriers than smaller firms.
437. ▶ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (*government's flagship program to promote innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide in schools, universities and industry*), has selected additional 1500 Schools for establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), taking number of schools under mission to 2441 across India.
- ✎ ATLs aims to be innovative play workspaces for students between Grade VI to Grade XII, which stimulate innovations combining science & technology.
438. ▶ NITSER (National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research) Amendment Bill has been passed in Rajya Sabha, to introduce 2 new Institutions namely Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati and IISER Berhampur in Second Schedule of NITSER Act 2007.
439. ▶ Nagaland Assembly passed a resolution revoking provisions of 33 % reservation for women in urban local bodies.
440. ▶ Nagaland became first North Eastern state to launch Point of Sale (PoS) for electricity bill payment, launched at Kohima Electrical Sub-division-1.
441. ▶ Nagaland has been declared as *disturbed area* for 6 more months under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere without any prior notice to civil administration.
442. ▶ Naresh Kumar Gupta has been appointed as Lokayukta (Ombudsman) of Madhya Pradesh.
443. ▶ National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) launched a joint venture company to set up an aluminium park at Angul (Odisha) with Investment of INR 180 crores. Odisha currently contributes about 54% of India's total aluminium smelting capacity.
444. ▶ National Book Trust (NBT) launched Har Haath Ek Kitaab (One Book for Every Hand) scheme, that allows people to make donations to children between age 6 - 12 in the form of books with a simple method. NBT has tied up with e-Commerce site Smapdeal for this purpose.
445. ▶ National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) in Tamil Nadu as world's largest combustion research centre to understand combustion.
- ✎ NCCRD is supported by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and has been established at cost of INR 90 crores.
 - ✎ It will provide impetus to research in 'Alternative Energy and Environmental Protection' by focusing on effective utilisation of combustion as means of thermo-chemical energy conversion.
446. ▶ National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) launched a web portal (ncertbooks.ncert.gov.in) to enable schools and individuals to place orders for their books online. Portal will ensure better distribution of NCERT textbooks across country.
447. ▶ National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) launched its own *quality mark* logo for dairy products in country, aimed at bringing improvement in entire value chain from producer to the consumer to ensure availability of safe and quality of milk and products.
448. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) declared Amarnath Shrine as *silence zone* and prohibited religious offerings like chanting of hymns, and ringing bells beyond the entry point. It is aimed at protecting eco-sensitive Amarnath cave shrine.
- ✎ NGT also imposed complete ban on plastic items like carry bags, plates and cutlery in towns located on banks of the River Ganga in Haridwar and Rishikesh.
449. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed that only 50,000 pilgrims will be allowed to visit Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu to avoid any unwanted incidents.
- ✎ NGT directed state government of Delhi to seize 10-year-old diesel taxis without any delay as they cause air pollution.
 - ✎ NGT Directed Amarnath Shrine Board to submit a status report by December 2017, about reasons for not providing proper infrastructure facilities to pilgrims travelling to Amarnath Shrine.
450. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched countrywide Free Eye Check-up Campaign and distribution of spectacles for truck drivers as their Poor vision increases risk of collisions.
- ✎ NHAI also launched its new website AND Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) Mobile App for better monitoring of NHAI projects.
451. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will soon get powers to approve highway projects with construction cost of more than Rs 1,000 crore to ensure faster implementation of Bharatmala programme.
- ✎ Such projects are currently approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and are often delayed.
 - ✎ Bharatmala programme envisions 44 economic corridors across country at cost of at least Rs 5 lakh crore. It involves constructing 24,000km of fresh highways.

452. ▶ National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) (Ministry of Women and Child Development) launched intensive training program for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Master Trainers in New Delhi. It aims to train 20000 EWRs covering 50 EWRs from each district by March 2018.
453. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has launched Mentor India Campaign, a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders for guiding and mentoring students at Atal Tinkering Labs. Under this, NITI Aayog is looking for leaders who can spend one to two hours a week in Atal Tinkering labs, to enable students learn future skills of computational thinking.
454. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog suggested establishment of judicial performance index (JPI) to check delay in finalisation of cases in lower judiciary (district and subordinate courts). It was suggested As part of “Three Year Action Agenda (2017-20) recommendations for reforms to expedite justice delivery system. Note that approx 3 crore cases have been pending for years in lower courts.
455. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog’s SATH (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital) Program was launched in Assam. SATH program aims to provide structured support to Assam in identifying key health priorities and implement solutions towards transforming the health and improving the well-being of people of state.
456. ▶ National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped prices of 51 essential medicines, as it notified ceiling prices of 36 medicines and revised ceiling prices of 15 medicines within range 6 to 53%.
457. ▶ National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Andhra Pradesh State Government to develop technologies relating to banana production.
458. ▶ National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) signed MoU with Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) to encourage start-up in manufacturing & technology driven sectors.
459. ▶ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Google launched Android Skill Development Programme to impart mobile app development training on Android and Web platform and improve quality of mobile app development ecosystem in India.
460. ▶ Nationwide health campaign to sensitise women about early screening and the preventive care for cancer has been launched with Theme *Nurturing the Nurturer*. It is launched by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with Apollo Hospitals.
461. ▶ New Delhi-based *The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)* is ranked 2nd among world’s best climate think tank by International Centre for Climate Governance (ICCG) in category *2016 Top Climate Think Tanks in the Rest of the World-Absolute Global Rankings*. It was announced during ICCG’s 23rd annual conference of European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) in Athens (Greece).
462. ▶ New Metro Rail Policy has been approved, based on Make in India and with several key features -
- ▶ Policy promotes private investments across a range of metro operations making PPP component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects.
 - ▶ It will be Necessary to provide last mile connectivity to metro Stations through feeder services, Non-Motorised Transport infrastructure like walking and cycling pathways and para-transport facilities.
 - ▶ To ensure that least cost mass transit mode is selected for public transport, new policy mandates evaluation of other modes of mass transit like BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit System), Light Rail Transit, Tramways etc Setting up Urban Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA) has been made mandatory which is to prepare Comprehensive Mobility Plans for cities.
 - ▶ Policy stipulated a shift from present ‘Financial Internal Rate of Return of 8%’ to ‘Economic Internal Rate of Return of 14%’ for approving metro projects, in line with global practices.
 - ▶ New policy empowers States to make regulations and set up permanent Fare Fixation Authority for timely revision of fares.
 - ▶ Policy envisages private sector participation in O & M of metro services in different ways -
 - ▶ Cost plus fee contract - Private operator is paid a monthly/annual payment for O&M of system. Operational and revenue risk is borne by the owner
 - ▶ Gross Cost Contract - Private operator is paid a fixed sum for duration of the contract. Operator to bear O&M risk while the owner bears the revenue risk.
 - ▶ Net Cost Contract - Operator collects complete revenue generated for services provided.
 - ▶ At present, metro projects with a total length of 370 kms are operational in 8 cities - Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai, Jaipur and Gurugram.
463. ▶ Newton will be India’s official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at Oscars 2018, starring Raj Kumar Rao and directed by Amit Masurkar.
- ▶ It was chosen by Film Federation of India’s selection committee headed by Telugu producer C V Reddy.
464. ▶ Niti Aayog announced to set up a special women cell, to extend support to women start-ups and entrepreneurs.

465. ▶ Niti Aayog will set up a Methanol Economy Fund worth Rs 4,000-5,000 crore to promote production and use of clean fuel, by converting high ash content coal into methanol and such a plant is expected to be set up by Coal India. Methanol can be used as an energy producing fuel, transportation fuel and cooking fuel.
466. ▶ North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) will commission important hydro-electric projects in Arunachal Pradesh in 2018 - 600 MW Kameng Hydro Electric Project and 110 MW Pare Hydro Electric Project.
467. ▶ Nuakhai Agriculture Festival observed by people of Western Odisha, aimed at welcoming new rice of season. It is also observed in adjoining areas of Simdega in Jharkhand
468. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik dedicated to nation the state's longest bridge and named it after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The 2.88 km bridge connects Barang on outskirts of Bhubaneswar with Judicial Academy Chhak in Cuttack.
▶ Odisha Government will also set up an international standard sports city in state.
469. ▶ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated computerisation of PACS (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies) and launched RuPay Kisan Credit cards.
▶ Odisha is first state to implement an integrated Core Banking Solution Project for farmers, to ensure transparency. It will cover all 3 tiers of short term cooperative credit structure - state cooperative bank, district central cooperative banks and 2,708 primary agriculture cooperative societies.
470. ▶ Odisha Government inaugurated Purvasha Folk and Tribal Art Museum at Barkul near Chilika, to promote the cultural heritage of Odisha.
471. ▶ Odisha Government is creating 1.2 lakh acre land bank across state for allocation to industrial sector in order to avoid repeat of Posco Chaos. Companies need pay only base premium upfront for land and annual rent for rest of 90 years lease period.
▶ Posco (South Korea based world's fourth-largest steelmaker) signed agreement with Odisha government to set up a 12-million-tonne-capacity steel project in Jagatsinghpur district. It was biggest FDI in India at that point with worth \$12 billion. However, POSCO surrendered the land due to its inability to start work on the project, amid land acquisition issues.
472. ▶ Odisha Government is preparing 2nd phase of State Climate Change Action Plan (SCCAP) for next five years with an outlay of Rs. 31667 crores. First phase of SCCAP was implemented from 2010-11 to 2015-16 and based on it, 102 action points in 12 major sectors have been identified.
473. ▶ Odisha Government launched *Sampurna (Sishu Abond Matru Mrityuhara Purna Nirakaran Abhijan) Yojna* for pregnant women. Under this, government will provide INR 1000 as transport cost for pregnant women to travel to hospital.
474. ▶ Odisha Government launched a grid-connected rooftop solar programme through net-metering system at State Secretariat in Bhubaneswar, aimed at harnessing renewable solar capacity through people's participation to further strengthen grid and benefit public.
475. ▶ Odisha Government will launch *Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (DAMON)* as a special programme to prevent spread of malaria in remote areas of Ganjam district.
476. ▶ Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) and Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES) signed a MoU for skill development in State.
477. ▶ Odisha approved establishment of Handlooms and Handicrafts Development and Promotion Council in capital Bhubaneswar, to improve growth of handlooms and handicrafts sectors.
478. ▶ Odisha government and Facebook launched 'SheMeansBusiness' programme to train women entrepreneurs in state under Project Mission Shakti.
479. ▶ Odisha government approved launching first Odia language university for post-graduation in literature and linguistics among other subjects. It will be established in Bhubaneswar and will also carve out ways to make Odia script more adaptable to technology.
480. ▶ Odisha government imposed 7 month ban on sea fishing, to protect Olive Ridley sea turtles, as breeding season of endangered marine animals is approaching.
481. ▶ Odisha government launched *Arpana* Portal for online processing of applications for pension revision in respect of pre-2016 pensioners.
482. ▶ Odisha government launched a scheme to boost fish production named *Fish Pond Yojana*, with provision of 96 crores. It aims to create additional 2,200 hectare of fresh water aquaculture farming with 50 per cent financial assistance to farmers.
▶ Odisha government also released approx 365 crore rupees for rain-hit farmers in 19 districts of State.
483. ▶ Odisha government will launch *Nabakrushna Choudhury Seccha Unnayan Yojana* to provide irrigation facility to about 55,000 hectare of agricultural land across Odisha, named after former CM Nabakrushna Choudhury. It will have an outlay of INR 635 crores over 3 years.
484. ▶ Odisha police will go digital from January 1 2018, as routine work in police stations will be computerised under Criminal Tracking and Networking System (CCTNS), under national e-governance initiative.
485. ▶ Odisha state Govt. splitted tourism and culture departments, renaming cultural wing as *Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department*. It was also decided to set up a 'Heritage Cabinet' to protect the monuments and ancient temples.

486. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) discovered oil in WO-24-3 well located west of Mumbai High fields in Arabian Sea, estimated to hold reserve of 20 million tonnes. Mumbai Oil Field currently produces 205,000 barrels of oil per day (just over 10 million tonnes per annum).
487. ▶ Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated eastern India's first compressed natural gas (CNG) stations in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
▶ Mr Pradhan Also Stated that for Period of April - Oct of FY 2017-18, Iraq has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's top crude oil supplier. Iraq Supplied 25.8 million tonnes (MT) of oil to India in concerned Period, compared to Saudi Arabia's 21.9 MT.
488. ▶ Orange Festival of Music and Adventure held in Dambuk village of Arunachal Pradesh.
489. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Launched 60MW Tuirial Hydroelectric Power Project in Mizoram. It has been constructed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (Neepeco).
490. ▶ PM Narendra Modi announced INR 100 crores corpus to find a permanent solution to Flood issues in North-Eastern states. He also announced INR 2350 crores as an immediate aid, after reviewing flood situations in North Eastern states.
491. ▶ PM Narendra Modi announced investing 90000 crore for building a network of highways and roads in North Eastern region over 2 - 3 years. Out of this, 60000 crore would be spent under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme and 30000 crore will be spent under Bharatmala project.
492. ▶ PM Narendra Modi approved INR 2000 crores for setting up Aadhaar enrolment and updation facilities in around 15,000 post offices by March 31, 2018.
493. ▶ PM Narendra Modi dedicated to nation 11 completed highway projects in Rajasthan, covering a total length of about 873 kilometres and total expenses approx INR 15000 crores.
494. ▶ PM Narendra Modi has laid foundation stone for four sewerage projects under Namami Gange programme and four National Highway projects at Mokama in Bihar with total outlay of approx INR 3700 crores.
495. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 1st phase of Hyderabad Metro Rail project, with 30-km stretch between Miyapur and Nagole. PM Modi also launched mobile app named 'T Savari' for Metro passengers.
496. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr.BR Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) in New Delhi, constructed at cost of INR 195 crores.
497. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Textiles India 2017 as India's first ever mega textiles trade fair at Gandhinagar (Gujarat). This 3 day fair will aims to showcase India as a global sourcing hub and investment destination for manufacturers world-wide.
498. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a memorial for former Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam at his birthplace near Rameswaram (Tamilnadu).
499. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a unique world-class hospital at Swaminarayan Gurukul Vidyapeeth Pratisthanam in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It is an integration of Yoga, Ayurveda, and Allopathy with world-class facilities in all the 3 streams.
500. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of AIIMS Bilaspur and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una.
501. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of four-lane cable-stayed bridge between Okha and Beyt Dwarka with length 2.32 km and to be constructed at cost of INR 962.43 crores.
▶ PM also announced setting up of India's first marine police training institute at Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.
▶ He inaugurated first phase of Ghogha-Dahej Roll-on Roll-off ferry service at Ghogha in Bhavnagar district. It will cut down distance between Saurashtra and South Gujarat by 10 times.
502. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
▶ PMGDISHA is expected to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019 as it aims at imparting digital literacy to citizens in rural areas free of cost.
▶ He also laid foundation stone for Bhadbhut Barrage to be built over Narmada River in Bharuch (Gujarat).
503. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched Sardar Sarovar Dam, (world's second biggest and India's Biggest Dam) on the river Narmada in Gujarat.
▶ It is 1.2-km-long and 163 metres deep. It will irrigate over 18 lakh hectares in state.
▶ Before this, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani had flagged off a statewide *Narmada Mahotsav Yatra* from Surendranagar district.
▶ Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra and Rajasthan will receive water and electricity supplied from dam.
▶ Grand Coulee Dam in USA is world's biggest Dam.
504. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched Umang mobile application as an integrated platform for government to citizen services.
▶ Umang is an acronym for *unified mobile app for new age*. It currently hosts around 162 services from 33 government departments.
505. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released a postage stamp on different aspects of Lord Ram's life at historic Tulsi Manas Mandir Varanasi.
506. ▶ Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture observed that Impact of Climate change on agriculture includes -
▶ Decrease in Productivity of major crops such as wheat, rice, oilseeds, pulses, fruits and vegetables.
▶ Food Security - By 2030, India may need 70 million tonnes more of foodgrains than the expected production in 2016-17.
▶ Projected food demand of 345 million tonnes (MT) by 2030, 30% higher than in 2011.

- ✎ Economic Losses of about \$9-10 billion annually due to extreme weather events.
 - ✎ Improve in Yields - Though most crops will see reduced production, but climate change may also help improve yields of soyabean, chickpea, groundnut, coconut (western coast) and potato (in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh).
507. ▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) enhanced upper age limit for joining National Pension Scheme (NPS) to 65 years (from 60 currently).
508. ▶ Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated first phase of Piped Natural Gas supply system in Bhubaneswar (Odisha). As part of the City Gas Distribution project, 25000 households in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack would get PNG connection by end of 2018 with expenses around 1700 crores.
509. ▶ Petroleum Ministry preponed introduction of BS (Bharat Stage)-VI grade auto fuels in National Capital Territory, Delhi with effect from 1 April 2018 instead of 1 April 2020, Considering serious pollution levels in Delhi and adjoining areas. It is aimed at reducing vehicular emissions and improving the fuel efficiency to reduce the carbon footprints and keep a healthy environment.
510. ▶ President Pranab Mukherjee approved Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2016. Maharashtra is first state to formulate a law to punish social boycott.
511. ▶ President Pranab Mukherjee approved a bill banning hookah bars in Gujarat, provisioning max Jail term of 3 years for violators.
512. ▶ President Pranab Mukherjee approved promulgation of *The Prevention of cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2017* by Governor of Karnataka in pursuance of Article 213 of Constitution.
- ✎ It now legalises Kambala, bullock cart races and bull runs as traditional sports involving animals and exempt them from *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960*.
513. ▶ President Pranab Mukherjee dedicated BML Munjal University to nation.
- ✎ BML Munjal University (BMU) is based in Haryana. It was founded by promoters of Hero Group and is named after group's chairman and founder Brij Mohan Lall Munjal.
514. ▶ President Pranab Mukherjee launched 2 programmes to take education to remote areas with help of technology - *Swayam and Swayam Prabha*.
- ✎ Under Swayam, courses would be offered through digital classrooms with online study material available free of cost in videos
 - ✎ SWAYAM Prabha is set of 32 DTH channels operationalised for telecasting high quality educational content free of charge using the GSAT-15 satellite transponders.
 - ✎ Prez also launched a *National Academic Depository* where verified educational records would be digitally stored by universities or a board to counter forgery. National Digital Library is also launched as large online library containing 6.5 million books.
 - ✎ Prez also inaugurated *Ashiana Annexe* In Dehradun (Uttarakhand), comprising 12 low cost dwelling units to accommodate officers and staff of Rashtrapati Bhavan during Presidential visits to Retreat at 'Ashiana'.
515. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind dedicated 4 Launched projects in Andhra Pradesh - Andhra Pradesh Fibregrid, Andhra Pradesh Surveillance Project, Drone Project and Free Space Optical Communication or FSOC system.
- ✎ Fibregrid - It aims at providing affordable high-speed internet service to every household in state at nominal rates, also termed as Triple Play2.
516. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), featuring maritime patrol aircraft Tupolev-142M.
517. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind 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.
518. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated an ordinance under Article 123 of Constitution to amend Indian Forest Act 1927 to encourage bamboo plantation by farmers in private lands.
- ✎ This ordinance omits bamboo (taxonomically a grass) grown in non-forest areas from definition of trees, exempting it from requiring permits for felling or transportation of bamboo grown in non-forest areas.
519. ▶ President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated Shirdi airport in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra and flagged off inaugural flight of Alliance Air from Shirdi to Mumbai.
520. ▶ President Ramnath Kovind laid foundation stone for link-4 of Saurashtra Narmada Avataran Irrigation Scheme (SAUNI) Yojana .
- ✎ SAUNI is multipurpose project that aims to solve water problems of parched Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi during his tenure as Gujarat CM.
 - ✎ It aims to fill up 115 major dams in Saurashtra by diverting overflow of water from Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River.
 - ✎ Its unique feature is making pipe canals instead of conventional open canals which led to no acquisition of land and less loss of water.
 - ✎ It has network of canals comprising 1,125-km network of pipelines that will help to channel water into farms.
521. ▶ Puducherry Government banned use of plastic packaging materials of less than 51 microns as these were found to be injurious to health.

522. ▶ Punjab & Haryana High Court banned bursting of crackers on New Year's Eve & on Jan 1, as well as during weddings or other celebratory functions in Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh.
523. ▶ Punjab Government approved increase in gross annual income limit for creamy layer of Other Backward Classes and Backward Classes from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh.
524. ▶ Punjab Government approved new transport policy that abolishes system of district transport officers (DTO) and restructures transport department. A special task force has been set up and the state police to crack down on all illegal buses. Permits will be valid for a 5 years from date of issue.
525. ▶ Punjab Government launched flagship *care companion health scheme*, aiming to improve patient outcomes through better family engagement and education.
526. ▶ Punjab State Government notified *Punjab Goods Carriages (Regulation and Prevention of Cartelization Rules), 2017*, banning goods carriage operators from forming cartels in state, aimed at creating a favourable environment for industries and business houses in state.
527. ▶ Punjab government joined hands with World Bank to set up India's first ever official Partition museum at Amritsar.
- ▶ Note that central Government also recently announced to establish National Sports Museum at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
528. ▶ Punjab government launched *Apni Gaddi Apna Rozgar* scheme by flagging off over 100 uber MOTO bikes. Under this, state government will provide commercial two wheelers and four wheelers to unemployed youth at subsidized rates.
529. ▶ Punjab government will merge 800 primary schools (*with less than 20 students*) with schools nearby. It aims to improve utilisation of teaching staff in state.
530. ▶ Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) observed during November 19 - 25, 2017 -
- ▶ November 19 - National Integration Day.
 - ▶ November 20 - Welfare of Minorities Day.
 - ▶ November 21 - Linguistic Harmony Day.
 - ▶ November 22 - Weaker Sections Day.
 - ▶ November 23 - Cultural Unity Day.
 - ▶ November 24 - Women's Day.
 - ▶ November 25 - Conservation Day.
531. ▶ R.K. Singh (Minister of New and Renewable Energy (IC) launched *Saubhagya* Web-Portal at URL – <http://saubhagya.gov.in>, as a platform for monitoring household electrification progress, which would disseminate information on Household Electrification Status.
532. ▶ Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) signed MoU with National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) for redevelopment of 10 railway stations on global standards - Tirupati, Nellore, Puducherry, Sarai Rohilla (Delhi), Madgaon, Lucknow, Gomtinagar, Kota, Thane (New) and Ernakulam. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed as a Joint Venture (JV) company between RLDA and NBCC on 50:50 basis.
533. ▶ Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport ranked first in Customer Satisfaction among 49 airports in country with score of 4.84 score out of 5. Raipur airport is followed by Udaipur, Amritsar and Dehradun airports.
534. ▶ Rajasthan Government expanded Annapurna Rasoi Yojna in all 191 urban areas of state and flagged off 50 Annapurna vans in Ajmer. 500 smart kitchen vans have been arranged for scheme.
- ▶ Under this scheme, people can get breakfast for Rs 5 and lunch and dinner for Rs 8 each. The total estimated cost of implementation of the scheme would be around Rs 400 Cr.
535. ▶ Rajasthan Government introduced *The Code of Criminal Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2017* to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in state from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction, replacing Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance 2017.
536. ▶ Rajasthan assembly became first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to state government. It will save time, labour and use of paper in functioning of assembly.
537. ▶ Rajasthan became first State to set minimum educational qualifications for contesting elections to village cooperative societies and various other cooperative bodies, amending State Cooperative Societies Rules 2003.
- ▶ Required educational qualifications - Class 5 to 8th for members of governing boards of various cooperative societies, 8th for primary committee members, 10th for district-level committees and graduation for state level committees.
 - ▶ Rajasthan will also be first state to establish Recruitment Board by Cooperative Committees, to ensure more and efficient employment in cooperatives.
538. ▶ Rajasthan became first state to incorporate skill development programme in higher education as Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in collaboration with state's Department of College Education has prepared 16 courses for entrepreneurship and skill

development for colleges in state.

539. ▶ Rajasthan become first state to launch free email addresses in Hindi (in Devanagari script) for its residents, to ensure maximum participation of people towards e-governance and that maximum facilities are available in vernacular language.
540. ▶ Rajasthan government and HPCL will form a joint venture company - *HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL)*, for Barmer petroleum refinery and petrochemical complex. State government will have 26% and HPCL will have 74 % of partnership. Refinery would be set up in 4,813 acres of land and 270 MW power would be generated from waste petcoke generated from refinery.
541. ▶ Rajasthan government announced 1 % reservation for Gujjars (retaining their Other Backward Classes status) and 4 other communities (Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Rebari and Gadaria).
542. ▶ Rajasthan government announced Rs 20000 crore farm-loan waiver and waive as it agreed to waive of loans for farmers up to INR 50000.
543. ▶ Rajasthan government launched *Dishari* mobile app that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations.
544. ▶ Rajasthan government passed *Backward Classes (reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions in State and of Appointments and Posts in Services under State) Bill* to increase reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 21 to 26 %.
545. ▶ Rajasthan government will introduce 'Guru-Shishya' (student-teacher dialogue) programme to address problems faced by students in various colleges in all districts. It will college students to an discuss their issues and problems related to their institutes, with their teachers.
546. ▶ Rajasthan government will recognise political prisoners held in jails during emergency period (1975 - 1977) as 'Loktantra Sainani', by changing name of Rajasthan MISA and DIR Bandi Pension Rules 2008 to Rajasthan Loktantra Sainani samman Nidhi 2008.
547. ▶ Rajasthan govt. increased age limit for applying for government jobs from 35 to 40 years.
548. ▶ Rajasthan's Chief Electoral Officer Ashwini Bhagat launched Election Commission's web-based project ERO-Net, using which voters can register their names on electoral rolls.
 - ▶ It replaces Electoral Roll Management System (ERMS) software that could not identify multiple entries of a voter.
549. ▶ Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & *Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System*
 - ▶ e-NWRs would have no chances of any tempering, mutilation, fudging, loss or damage and with no possibility of any multiple financing.
 - ▶ e-NWRs will save expenditure in logistics as stocks could be traded through multiple buyers without physical movement and can be even split for partial transfer or withdrawal.
550. ▶ Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and Cement Corporation of India signed MOU to set up 2 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum) Fly Ash and Blast Furnace Slag based Cement Plant in Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) as a Joint Venture in 2 phases of 1 million tonne capacity each.
551. ▶ Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice AND Electronics & Information Technology inaugurated *NIC-CERT* of National Informatics Centre, aimed at checking enhancing threats and vulnerabilities that are inherent part of increasing cyberspace. It was needed as in recent years, exponential growth in cyber attacks leading to concerns of data theft has been observed by Government.
552. ▶ Reliance Energy launched digital assistance robot ELEKTRA, that provides automated responses to customers for their queries and requests.
553. ▶ Reliance Jio Infocomm launched Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system as world's longest 100 Gbps technology-based submarine system. It stretches over 25,000km from Marseille (France) to Hong Kong, with 21 cable landings across Asia and Europe.
 - ▶ A submarine cable system is a cable system that consists of telecom and internet cables, which are laid on the seabed between land-based stations. These cables carry telecommunication and data signals across stretches of oceans.
 - ▶ AAE-1 is a combination of leading telecom service providers from Europe, Middle East and Asia. It will link with other cable systems and fibre networks to deliver direct access to all global markets.
554. ▶ Restored Royal Opera House in Mumbai received Award of Merit from 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
555. ▶ Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Ministry announced assistance of INR 200 crores to assam for repairs of National Highways damaged due to heavy rains and INR 400 Crores for dredging work in Brahmaputra river.
556. ▶ Rural Development Ministry and State Governments have completed ranking of 50000 Gram Panchayats (selected under 'Mission Antyodaya') on three broad parameters of physical infrastructure, human development and economic activities.
 - ▶ Mission Antyodaya aims to create 50000 poverty-free gram panchayats.
 - ▶ Gram Panchayats have been selected by State Governments on the basis of social capital and have been grouped under 5000 clusters.

557. ▶ Samsung partnered with Uttar Pradesh State Government for *Smart Healthcare Programme*, which will include setting up 20 healthcare centres to offer affordable and quality healthcare to patients from the economically and socially weaker sections of society.
558. ▶ Sep 25, 2017 - Birth Anniversary of Social Reformer Deendayal Upadhyaya. Known for his role in shaping up present day Bharatiya Janata Party. Uttar Pradesh government released 100 inmates from various jails of state on this occasion. PM Narendra Modi launched SAUBHAGYA scheme On this occasion. With details -
- ▶ Saubhagya (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana) aims at bringing electricity for every household in country by March 31, 2019. No price will be charged for the poor to get an electricity connection and the government will bear expected INR 16,320 crores cost of giving electricity connections to the 4 crore households in country. Electricity connections will be given to APL (Above Poverty Line) families for Rs 500, which will be payable in 10 equal monthly instalments.
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi also inaugurated *Deendayal Hastkala Sankul* trade facilitation centre and Crafts Museum for handicrafts at Varanasi. It will facilitate weavers/artisans/exporters in promotion of handlooms and handicrafts in domestic and international markets.
 - ▶ He also flagged off Varanasi-Vadodara as country's third Mahamana Express.
559. ▶ Seven North-East Indian states will launch Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) to focus on select urban areas and other pockets where immunization coverage has been low. Under it, Government aims to reach every child under 2 years and pregnant women with all available vaccines under Universal Immunization Programme by 2018.
560. ▶ Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari flagged off cargo movement on Pandu-Dhubri route (on National Waterway 2) along Brahmaputra River in Assam, reducing logistics cost and save 300 km road travel. Central Government has sanctioned Rs 1250 crore for overall development of inland water transport of Assam.
561. ▶ Shri Harmandir Sahib (Punjab, also known as *Golden Temple*) has been awarded as most visited place in world by Book of World Records (London).
562. ▶ Sikkim will get its first airport by end of November 2017, located over 30 kilometres from capital Gangtok.
- ▶ Airport has been built at approx INR 300 crores and was supposed to completed in 2012, but faced repeated delays. It is at an altitude of 4,700 feet, and will be among 5 highest Indian airports.
563. ▶ Smriti Irani inaugurated Jharkhand's first textiles manufacturing and export unit 'Orient Craft Ltd'.
564. ▶ Social network Facebook unveiled 2 programmes designed for individuals and start-ups - Facebook Digital Training and Facebook Startup Training Hubs, aiming to train about five lakh people in India on digital skills by 2020.
565. ▶ Standard & Poor's (S&P) kept its sovereign rating for India unchanged at 'BBB-', with outlook for the nation as 'stable'. BBB- rating is the lowest investment grade and just one notch above junk status.
- ▶ Note that recently another rating agency, Moody's upgraded India's sovereign ratings to Baa2 with outlook for the nation as 'positive'.
566. ▶ State government of Assam will distribute 13 lakh Soil Health Cards among farmers.
- ▶ Soil Health Card Scheme is launched by Government of India in February 2015. Under this, government issues soil cards to farmers which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilisers required for the individual farms to help farmers to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs.
567. ▶ State government of Bihar released INR 1935 Crores to undertake relief operations in flood affected areas of state.
568. ▶ State government of Madhya Pradesh appointed a four-member food commission headed by Rajkishore Swain, in accordance with National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013. It has come in line with supreme court's recent announcement that National Food Security (NFS) Act 2013 has not been implemented properly and has been postponed by various states.
569. ▶ Student- scientist connect programme *Jigyasa* has been officially launched in Delhi, jointly by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
570. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) directed governments of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Haryana and Rajasthan to ban use of petroleum (pet) coke and furnace oil in the industries with an aim to fight air pollution.
- ▶ Supreme Court also fined 2 lakh on Environment Ministry for not fixing pollution emission standards of Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide for 34 categories of industries as per as Previous SC Order.
571. ▶ Supreme Court allowed Government to replace oversight committee set up to supervise functioning of Medical Council of India (MCI) with a fresh panel of five eminent doctors.
- ▶ Oversight committee was set up by SC in May 2016 to oversee MCI's functioning. It was led by former Chief Justice R.M. Lodha.
572. ▶ Supreme Court asked Union government to formalise appointment of election commissioners through law.
- ▶ SC stated that there is expectation in Constitution that Election Commissioners, who are charged with important duty of conducting free and fair elections must be appointed through a process formalised by a law enacted by Parliament.
 - ▶ At present, there is no transparency in the eligibility, criteria required for a person to be appointed as an election commissioner.

573. ▶ Supreme Court imposed ban on use of 5 harmful heavy metals - *lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead* in manufacturing firecrackers due to air pollution caused by them.
574. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that insurance companies will not renew insurance of a vehicle unless owner provides pollution under control (PUC) certificate.
575. ▶ Supreme Court ruled that police cannot arrest accused family without conducting a preliminary inquiry under dowry harassment cases filed under Section 498A of Indian Penal Code (IPC), in view of misuse of anti-dowry harassment law framed in 1983.
576. ▶ Supreme Court will set up a nine-judge bench to decide whether *Right to Privacy* in India can be defined as a fundamental right under Constitution or not.
577. ▶ Swedish home furnishing major IKEA launched its first experiential centre *Hej HOME* in Hyderabad (Telangana), ahead of opening its first store in India in 2018 in Telangana.
578. ▶ Tamil Nadu Government laid foundation stone for an aerospace park at Kanchipuram district to be set up in 245 acres and at cost of Rs 198 crores.
579. ▶ Tata Power Solar Systems has commissioned India's first rooftop solar carport at 70000 sq. mtr. Unity One Mall, in Delhi. Electricity generated through this solar carport is estimated to set off 438 tons of carbon emission annually and will make the mall self sufficient in terms of energy requirement.
580. ▶ Tata Steel established India's largest Coke Dry Quenching (CDQ) facility, capable of handling 200 metric tonnes per hour, at its steel plant in Jajpur district of Odisha.
- ▶ CDQ is a heat recovery system to cool hot coke from coke ovens. It is most energy-efficient and environment-friendly facility in steel production where hot coke removed from coke ovens at a temperature of 1,000 degree Celsius is cooled and kept dry with inert gas.
581. ▶ Telangana Forest Department re-introduced endangered species *mouse deer* in forests of Nallamalla in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) at Nehru Zoological Park (Hyderabad).
582. ▶ Telangana Government and World Resources Institute (WRI) launched *Smart Streets Lab* program aimed at carving out innovative road and women safety solutions in Hyderabad.
583. ▶ Telangana Government has set up 'We-Hub' on the lines of T-Hub for promoting women entrepreneurs in state, funded under Atal Innovation Mission. T-Hub is partnership between Telangana govt with 3 premier academic institutes and private sector leaders.
584. ▶ Telangana Government initiated an INR 2000 crores project to modernize Sriram Sagar project that has potential to serve several districts in state.
585. ▶ Telangana State Assembly passed Several Bills -
- ▶ Prevention of Dangerous Activities (Amendment) Bill, 2017
 - ▶ Road Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2017
 - ▶ Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Act 2017 to give instant licenses to shops and commercial establishments.
 - ▶ State Govt also declared Urdu as state's second official language.
586. ▶ Telangana government developed a mobile application named 'Urban Genie' that will help urban citizens in finding certified technicians and workers to provide household services.
587. ▶ Telangana government imposed a cap on weight of bags carried by school children in order to prevent any physical disorders. Max Permissible weight is -
- ▶ Class 1 & 2 => 1.5 kg
 - ▶ Class 3 - 5 => 2-3 kg
 - ▶ Class 6 -7 -> 4 kg
 - ▶ Class 8 - 9 => 4.5 kg.
 - ▶ Class X => 5 kg.
588. ▶ Telangana government launched grievances redressal portal called *Janahitha*, as a fast and single window facility for all public grievances.
589. ▶ Telangana will be First Indian state to have eco-friendly bridges for easy movement of tigers, over a canal cutting across tiger corridor linking Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra with forests in Telangana's Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.
590. ▶ Telangana will be first state to build India's first university exclusively for Dalit students in 2018.
591. ▶ Telangana will present a separate agriculture budget for state from next year (2018 - 19), aiming to boost Agriculture sector with more focus and funds.
592. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended delicensing of chunk of spectrum in few bands to facilitate smooth roll-out of machine-to-machine (M2M) communications.

- ✎ Unlike person-to-person (P2P) communication, M2M technologies involve communication between two devices. It acts as basis for automated information exchange between machines and enables wired and wireless devices to talk to each other using sensors.
 - ✎ M2M communications can be deployed in new-age infrastructure projects and various industry verticals such as smart cities, smart grids, smart homes, smart transportation and smart health sectors.
593. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) upheld basic principles of an open and free internet in its recommendations on *Net Neutrality*.
- ✎ Net neutrality means that telecom service providers must treat all internet traffic equally, without any regard to the type, origin or destination of the content or the means of its transmission.
 - ✎ Proponents of net neutrality hold that all traffic on internet should be treated equally i.e. service providers should allow access to all content without favouring any particular product or website.
594. ▶ Telecom equipment provider Vihaan Networks Limited (VNL) signed MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to launch Relief 123 service to provide disaster management in India. Relief 123 service is an integrated disaster response solution for first responders and public safety agencies.
595. ▶ Telegana Government will Implement Telugu as a compulsory subject from 1 - 12th, from next academic year.
596. ▶ Tendu Leaf Bonus Festival organized in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. During it, approx 247 crores of bonus has been distributed to tendu leaf collectors of Bastar and Bijapur.
597. ▶ To prevent adulteration and revenue leakage, Assam government has decided that country liquor would be grain-based, undergo chemical tests and be branded and make it mandatory for bottles to sport a hologram as in the case of IMFL.
598. ▶ Traditional *Mera Houchongba* festival celebrated in Manipur, symbolizing brotherhood and unity among indigenous communities in State. A Regional conference of north east labour ministers and officials also held in Imphal (Manipur).
599. ▶ Traditional Bonderam festival held in Divar Island of Goa.
600. ▶ Traditional Indian Sweet Rasgulla got Geographical Indications (GI) Tag, credited to West Bengal. This ended a 3 year long rift among Odisha and West Bengal and originator of Rasgulla.
601. ▶ Traditional International *Lavi fair* held in Rampur (Himachal Pradesh).
- ✎ Lavi Fair has been an important point of trade between India and Tibet for centuries.
602. ▶ Traditional festival Mera Houchongba celebrated in Manipur, promotes brotherhood and unity among indigenous communities. It was celebrated at Manipur Royal palace (Sana Konung) in Imphal.
603. ▶ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) signed MoU with e-commerce firm Amazon for selling tribal products online, to promote various tribal products. TRIFED already has tied-up with Snapdeal.
604. ▶ Tribal Sports Meet 2017 held in Odisha as a first-of-its kind event in country to promote sports among tribals in Odisha, with *Olly* as official mascot.
605. ▶ Tropical Cycone OCKHI Hits South Indian States Kerala and Tamilnadu, causing heavy rains and tides.
606. ▶ Tripura Government has introduced Child Care Leave (CCL) for women employees with minor children for 730 days in their entire service life.
607. ▶ Tripura became first state to set up family welfare district committees, to deal with fake and biased complaints by women against their husbands and in-laws.
608. ▶ UIDAI partnered with CSC India for launching door step enrolment facility in DELHI for elderly and patients who cannot travel to Aadhar centers.
609. ▶ UNESCO inscribed India's *Kumbh Mela* on its List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, as 14th intangible cultural heritage from India to be listed in UNESCO's list.
610. ▶ UP Government launched Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) website - <http://www.up-rera.in>, putting details of all real estate projects and builders in public domain and accessible for all.
611. ▶ US-based fintech company Mastercard launched its global research and development arm Mastercard Labs in Pune (India), as second Mastercard Labs in Asia-Pacific After Singapore (9th in world).
612. ▶ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched online campaign #IamThatWoman in an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women.
613. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched *mAadhaar* mobile application for syncing Aadhaar data on mobile phones. It will allow users to carry their unique Aadhaar information including name, DOB, address, linked photograph etc. on their smartphones. App will also allow users to lock or unlock biometrics data.
614. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) launched 90 days application process for higher education institutes (public / private) seeking *institutions of eminence* status, aiming to bring more Indian higher education institutions to get into top 100 global rankings in coming

years. Shortlisting will be completed by March-April 2018.

✎ Eligible Institutions will be Top 50 of National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, those securing ranks among Times Higher Education World University Rankings, Shanghai Ranking Academic Ranking of World Universities or QS University Rankings.

✎ 20 Institutions of eminence will be selected (10 public and 10 private, will get provision of INR 10,000 crore over 10 years and will be free from usual regulatory mechanism to choose their autonomous path to become institutions of global repute.

615. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government approved creating India's first Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in trans-Yamuna belt near Allahabad, on over 126 hectares in Meja forest division. Approx 350 blackbucks are estimated to be inhabiting the region.
616. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government approved draft of Uttar Pradesh Control of Organised Crime Act (UPCOCA) to fight land mafia, mining mafia and organised crime in state, on lines of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).
617. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government launched free power connection scheme for BPL card holders in state, initially at 624 places.
618. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government re-named Kanpur and Bareilly airports after freedom fighter Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi and as Nath Nagri respectively.
619. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government will launch 'Pink' air-conditioned buses installed with CCTV cameras exclusively for women, with all women staff.
620. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. will Set up a Research Institute on *Shrimad Bhagvat Gita* in Mathura.
621. ▶ Uttar Pradesh State Government launched a mass marriage scheme called 'Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana'. Under this, social welfare department will conduct mass marriages and will authorize Urban local bodies to organize programmes in this regard. State government also launched Sankalp Seva bus service of 50 buses to connect 6,000 villages.
622. ▶ Uttar Pradesh State Government scrapped *Shravan Yatra* scheme under which elderly citizens could undertake pilgrimage free of cost, started in 2015 by Samajwadi Party government.
- ✎ State government also announced setting up of Cow Protection Committees (Gau Sanrakshan Samitis) in all districts of Uttar Pradesh, to make sure that cow sheds (gaushalas) are operated efficiently.
623. ▶ Uttar Pradesh assembly passed UP Excise (Amendment) Bill 2017, to award death penalty and life imprisonment for spurious liquor dealers.
624. ▶ Uttar Pradesh became first State to endorse Central government's draft bill that makes instant triple talaq a cognisable and non-bailable offence. The draft law provides for 3 year imprisonment and a fine to a man trying to divorce his wife by uttering "talaq" three times.
625. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government ended interviews for selection of candidates for government jobs in all non-gazetted posts of Group B, C and D categories. However, for recruitment of gazetted officers in Class II category, Interview will be a must.
626. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government notified Vrindavan and Barsana towns in Mathura district as *Sacred pilgrimage sites*, making them first 2 places to be notified as teerth sthal in government records.
- ✎ Now, No meat and liquor shops will be allowed in these towns anymore. Aim is to honour sentiments of devotees that who are hurt by operations of liquor and meat shops.
627. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
628. ▶ Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district has been included in National Capital Region (NCR), taking total number of districts in the NCR to 23.
- ✎ NCR Cities get funds at attractive interest rates from National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for infrastructure development.
629. ▶ Uttarakhand Government signed MoU with HP (Hewlett Packard) to provide tele-medicine facilities in remote areas of state.
- ✎ Usage of telecommunication and information technology to provide clinical health care from a distance is referred to as tele-medicine.
630. ▶ Uttarakhand State Government and Swan Cultural Center and Foundation launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham, to provide electricity to far-flung areas.
631. ▶ Uttarakhand government made it compulsory for all government offices to install LED bulbs, to reduce consumption of electricity.
632. ▶ Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu became first woman minister in Mizoram in 30 years (since 1987 state assembly elections).
633. ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation stone for Ranchi Smart City, tagged as country's first 'green-field' smart city. It is coming up on 656 acres of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) land which would be equipped with severa advance tech features..
634. ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation stone to develop Muktyal to Vijayawada waterway stretch on River Krishna as part of National Waterway 4 at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh. The 82-km inland waterway stretch is Phase-1 of National Waterway-4 developed under Sagar Mala project.
635. ▶ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched New Delhi Edition of Marathi daily 'Lokmat'.

636. ▶ WWF-India and Capgemini launched *One Planet Academy* as first environment education portal for students and teachers in India. It is a digital network for schools, teachers and students.
637. ▶ Waste management system in Kerala's Alappuzha has been recognized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of best 5 models across the world for fighting pollution menace, as per UNEP report *Solid approach to waste: how five cities are beating pollution*.
638. ▶ West Bengal Assembly passed *Green University Bill 2017*, to set up an environmental studies university at Hooghly district, making West Bengal the first state to have a university dedicated to environmental studies.
639. ▶ West Bengal Government will set up a Scheduled Caste advisory council to look into development of the Scheduled Caste population in state. It will be first such scheduled caste advisory council in an Indian state.
640. ▶ West Bengal State Government announced life insurance cover amounting to Rs 5 lakh for each of pilgrims coming to upcoming Gangasagar fair, which is held annually on the occasion of Makar Sankranti at confluence of Ganges at Sagra Islands in South 24 Parganas district.
641. ▶ West Bengal government cleared a proposal to rename state as *Bangla* and sent a proposal to Centre for approval. Note that WB government had earlier too sent a proposal for change of name, but it was rejected by central government.
642. ▶ West Bengal will receive Subsidy from world bank to buy 130 electric buses, at a rate of INR 7 Lakh/ Unit.
643. ▶ Women and Child Welfare Minister Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched SHE-Box online complaint Management System for women working in both public and private organizations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
- ✎ It aims at effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (SH Act), 2013.
 - ✎ Once a complaint is submitted to the portal, it will be directly sent to the Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) or Local Complaint Committee (LCC) of concerned employer. WCD will monitor the progress of inquiry conducted by the ICC/LCC.
 - ✎ URL to Portal is - shebox.nic.in
644. ▶ World Quality Congress (WQC) ranked Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) security at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) in Mumbai has been recognised as best service in this domain.
645. ▶ Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) published first ever exhaustive compendium of animal species in Indian Sundarban and threats it faces, titled *Fauna of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve*. As per publication, ZSI estimates that there are 2626 of animal species in sunderbans.
- ✎ Sundarbans is a vast forest in coastal region of Bay of Bengal. it was recognised in 1997 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is Located in delta region of Padma, Meghna and Brahmaputra river basins.

Top

Persons

























1. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 1 - 10) -
 - ✎ King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck Visited India.
 - ✎ Prime Minister of Latvia, Maris Kucinskis Visited India.
 - ✎ President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan Visited India.
 - ✎ Prince of Wales (UK), Charles Philip Arthur George Visited India.
 - ✎ Leo Heller, United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on human rights Visited India. His statement on M K Gandhi - *Now is a critical time to replace the lens of those glasses (Gandhi's glasses) with the human rights lens*, has triggered objections from India's side.
2. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 11 - 20) -
 - ✎ Canadian International Trade Minister *François-Philippe Champagne* visited India to attend 4th Joint Annual Ministerial Dialogue (AMD).
 - ✎ Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France visited India.
3. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 21 - 30) -
 - ✎ Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Visited India.
 - ✎ Finland's Foreign Minister Timo Soini visited India.
 - ✎ Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin Visited India and signed MoU with India for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
 - ✎ Defence Minister of Singapore, Ng Eng Hen visited India for 2nd Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Singapore. During This, India and Singapore signed Agreement for Navy Cooperation that will allow Indian Navy ships logistical support at Singapore's Changi Naval Base located near disputed South China Sea (SCS).

- ✚ First India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue held in New Delhi, attended by Paul Ash, Director of National Cyber Policy Office of New Zealand.
 - ✚ Minister of Culture and Information of Afghanistan, Moh. Rasool Bawari Visited India for India-Afghan Cultural Festival in New Delhi.
4. ▶ *Freedom of Oxford* honour bestowed on Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 1997 by Oxford city has been withdrawn as a reaction to her perceived response to plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Aung San Suu Kyi's name from Junior Common Room in North Oxford (England) has also been removed.
 5. ▶ According to Forbes magazine, Jeff Bezos (Amazon CEO) Surpassed Bill Gates as richest person in world with worth \$90.6 billion, compared to Gates' \$90.1 billion Worth.
 6. ▶ Agriculture Ministry has roped in Actor Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card, crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.
 7. ▶ Arjan Singh, The Sole Marshal of Indian Air Force (IAF) passed away. He was granted honorary rank of Marshal (highest IAF rank attainable).
 8. ▶ Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko visited India, marking 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and India. India and Belarus signed 10 Cooperation agreements during this visit. MOUs Signed for cooperation in Oil and Gas, Agricultural Research and Education, culture, Sports, Vocational Education and Training, Potash Exploration and Scientific Research.
 9. ▶ Bollywood actor Inder Kumar passed away.
 10. ▶ British Author and Harry Potter Character creator JK Rowling has been named world's most highly-paid author with earnings of £72.2m (\$95m).
 11. ▶ Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani overtook China's Hui Ka Yan (*Evergrande Group Chairman*) to become Asia's richest person with total wealth of \$42.1 billion, according to Forbes' real time billionaire's list. Globally, Ambani is at 14th spot.
 12. ▶ China's Noted political prisoner and Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo passed away. Liu was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.
 13. ▶ Facebook Co-founder Eduardo Saverin has become Singapore's richest person with a net worth of \$10.4 billion. Saverin gave up his US citizenship in 2012.
 14. ▶ Frenchman Francois Gabart created new world record for fastest non-stop solo navigation of globe, after completing it in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds. He crossed a virtual finish line drawn between the island of Ushant off France's northwest tip and Lizard Point in southwest England at 0145 GMT.
 15. ▶ Indian Actress Anushka Sharma is named PETA's Person of the Year by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), for helping to protect dogs from fireworks to advocating for horses who are forced to pull carriages in Mumbai.
 16. ▶ Indian PM Narendra Modi Visited Myanmar, After attending 9th BRICS Summit in Xiamen (China). Several MOUs were signed -
 - ✚ Maritime Security Cooperation.
 - ✚ Cultural Exchange Programme for 2017-2020.
 - ✚ Enhancing Cooperation of Upgradation of Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
 - ✚ Sharing White Shipping Information between Navies.
 - ✚ Technical Agreement for providing Coastal Surveillance System.
 - ✚ MoU on Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation.
 - ✚ Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on establishment of MIIT India-Myanmar Center for Enhancement of IT-Skill.
 - ✚ Cooperation in Election Commissions and Press Councils of Both nations.
 17. ▶ Indian origin Person Gina Miller named UK's most influential black person of the year as she won a legal challenge seeking Parliamentary approval for triggering Brexit.
 18. ▶ India's first Olympic swimmer Shamsher Khan passed away. He represented India in 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne (Australia).
 19. ▶ India's gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been conferred an Honorary D.Litt. degree by National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.
 20. ▶ India's two-time Olympic footballer Ahmed Khan passed away. He had played in 1948 and 1952 Olympics.
 21. ▶ Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
 22. ▶ Mahendra Singh Dhoni inaugurated his first global cricket academy in Dubai (UAE), as MS Dhoni Cricket Academy (MSDCA).
 23. ▶ Mark Beaumont (UK) broke world record for cycling around the world as He arrived in Paris 1 day ahead of schedule. He cycled 18,000-miles in 79 days.
 24. ▶ Miroslav Lajcak (Slovakia), President-elect of 72nd United Nations General Assembly visited India.
 25. ▶ Nitasha, a trans woman from Kolkata has been named winner of first Miss Transqueen India Beauty Pageant held in Gurugram (Haryana).

26. ▶ Norwegian Nobel Institute announced that Nobel Peace prize awarded to Myanmar's Aung Sang Suu Kyi cannot be revoked, as demanded by An online petition signed by over 386,000 people on Change.org.
- 📌 Petition calls for revocation of Nobel Peace Prize conferred on Suu Kyi in 1991, over persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims.
27. ▶ Noted Czech Republic tennis player Jana Novotna passed Away. She won Women's Singles Wimbledon in 1998 and was 16-time Grand Slam winner in doubles and mixed doubles.
28. ▶ Noted Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee Kunwar Narayan passed away.
29. ▶ Noted Iranian Mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani passed away. She was only woman to receive Field Medal (equivalent of Nobel Prize for mathematics).
30. ▶ Noted classical singer of the Seniya and Banaras gharanas, Girija Devi passed away. She was known as Queen of Thumri. She was recipient of Padma Vibhushan - India's second highest civilian honour.
31. ▶ Noted historian Satish Chandra passed away, known for his deep work on Mughal Empire. He was also author of NCERT's leading history book *History of Medieval India*.
32. ▶ Noted international sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created world's biggest sand Santa-face with message "world peace" at Puri beach (Odisha). The Santa face is 25 feet tall and 50 feet wide. It is to be placed in Limca Book of World Records.
33. ▶ Noted journalist Bismoy Kumar Mohanty passed way. Known as Owner and Editor of Odia daily *Ajikali*.
34. ▶ Obituaries -
- 📌 Neeraj Vora - Noted actor and Director.
 - 📌 AS Anand - Former Chief Justice of India.
 - 📌 Johnny Hallyday - France's Noted rock star, known as *French Elvis*.
 - 📌 Abi (*Habeeb Ahmed*) - Malayalam actor and mimicry artist
 - 📌 Ja Ra Sundaresan - Noted Tamil journalist.
 - 📌 Shashi Kapoor - Noted Bollywood actor
 - 📌 Purabi Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra sangeet singer
 - 📌 Lalloo Chiba - Noted South African Freedom Fighter of Indian Origin
 - 📌 Adithyan - Noted South Indian music director .
 - 📌 Sukharanjan Sengupta - Noted journalist
 - 📌 Batuk Gathani - Noted Journalist
 - 📌 Lalji Singh - Noted Scientist (pioneer of DNA fingerprinting technology in India.
 - 📌 Keely Smith - Noted American Jazz and Pop Singer.
 - 📌 Bruce McCandless - Noted NASA astronaut (first person to fly in space without tethers)
 - 📌 Banwari Lal Joshi - former UP and Uttarakhand Governor.
 - 📌 Robbie Malinga - Noted South African musician.
 - 📌 Bob Givens - Noted American Animator (creator of Bugs Bunny)
 - 📌 Ashok Kumar Mattoo - Noted sports administrator, served as President of IABF (Indian Amateur Boxing Federation) and was first President of Hockey India.
 - 📌 Partha Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali actor.
 - 📌 Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali singer.
 - 📌 Hoshang Dadiba Amroliwala - First Class cricketer (Mumbai).
 - 📌 Sue Grafton -Noted mystery author (USA).
35. ▶ Pakistani Cricketer Saeed Ajmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
36. ▶ Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam visited India.
37. ▶ Renowned Indian Scientist Professor Yash Pal passed away, Known for his contributions to study of cosmic rays. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 1976 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013.
38. ▶ Robert Mugabe Resigned as President of African Nation Zimbabwe, after recent large scale Military Upset.
- 📌 Mugabe has been ruling Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980. Now, Emmerson Mnangagwa will be appointed as President.
39. ▶ SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi is named 7th among top 10 regulators in world, as per Worlds Most Influential People in Market Structure report (also known as The Exchange Invest 1000 (EI1000)) by Patrick Young & Exchange Invest.
- 📌 List is topped by European Unions Commissioner (Competition) Margrethe Vestager.
40. ▶ Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been voted the Time magazine readers' Person of the Year.
- 📌 Time magazine named *the silence breakers* as its Person of the Year for 2017. It refers to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with #MeToo movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment and assault by powerful public figures in

United States.

41. ▶ Search engine Google celebrated 151st birthday of Cornelia Sorabji with a doodle dedicated to her. She helped open up higher education as well as legal profession to women as She was first woman to graduate in law from India as early as 1892 and first Indian national to attend British University.
42. ▶ Sikh American Gurbir Grewal became first Sikh public prosecutor to be nominated for post of Attorney General of New Jersey, nominated by Governor-elect Phil Murphy.
43. ▶ Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar (country's second-most senior legal officer) has resigned.
44. ▶ Switzerland President Doris Leuthard Visited India. 2 MOUS were Signed in area of Railways -
 - ✎ Exchanging technical cooperation in Railways.
 - ✎ MoU is between Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.
45. ▶ Tourism Australia appointed Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra as first Indian woman Ambassador to encourage Indians to visit Australia. This panel includes people like Chef Sanjeev Kapoor and commentator Harsha Bhogle.
46. ▶ Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, noted expert of Dhrupad tradition of Hindustani classical music passed away.
47. ▶ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released Commemorative coins of INR 100 and 10 denominations on occasion of 101st Birth Centenary of noted Carnatic musician MS Subbulakshmi.
 - ✎ She was first musician to be awarded Bharat Ratna (in 1998). She was also first Indian musician to receive Ramon Magsaysay award (1974) and first Indian musician to perform at UN General Assembly. UN issued stamp In 2016, to honour MS Subbulakshmi.
48. ▶ Vishal Sikka resigned as Managing Director and CEO of Mainstream IT Firm Infosys. Meanwhile, UB Pravin Rao has been appointed as Interim CEO.
49. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 11 - 20) -
 - ✎ PM Narendra Modi Visited Philippines-
 - ✎ He Attended 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila with Theme *Partnering for Change, Engaging the World*.
 - ✎ PM Modi also attended 12th East Asia Summit, 15th India-Asean Summit, ASEAN Business & Investment Summit and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Meetings that were held alongwith.
 - ✎ ASEAN Grouping also observed 50 years of existence this year.
 - ✎ PM Modi also visited International Rice Research Institute in Laguna and inaugurated Resilient Rice Field Laboratory.
 - ✎ PM Modi also met USA Prez Donald Trump, who was on an Official Visit to China, Vietnam and Philippines. India, USA, Japan and Australia held their first official-level talks to focus on keeping India-Pacific region *free and open*.
 - ✎ India and Philippines signed 4 agreements in defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks.
 - ✎ ASEAN -
 - ✎ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organisation 10 Southeast Asian Nations - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Observers - Papua New Guinea, East Timor.
 - ✎ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley visited Singapore.
 - ✎ Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi Visited Argentina for attending 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Buenos Aires.
 - ✎ Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu visited Russia to participate in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Meeting of the Ministers of Member States responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade.
 - ✎ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Moscw (Russia) to attend 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB. He reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. The conference focused on eliminating TB across globe by 2030.
50. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 21 - 30) -
 - ✎ Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Bangladesh to participate in International Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX), first ever operational exercise held under aegis of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in Bangladesh.
 - ✎ Home Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Russia. Russia agreed to assist India to set up a national crisis management centre to handle disaster and other emergency situations.
 - ✎ Nitin Gadkari (*Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) visited United Kingdom. India and UK decided to sign an MoU in urban transport sector for cooperation in policy planning, technology transfer and institutional organisation.

-  Inter-Governmental Mid-Point review meeting of Asia and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 held in Beijing (China). It was attended by Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot, on India's Behalf.
51. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -
-  External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Sochi (Russia) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June 2017.
 -  NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Visited China to attend 3rd Dialogue between India's NITI Aayog and Development Research Council of China (DRC).
 -  Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Buenos Aires (Argentina) to attend 11th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
52. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
-  Minister of State for Culture (IC) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma visited Muscat (Oman) for 2nd UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture.
53. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 1 - 10) -
-  Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu visited Caribbean Nation Cuba to explore bilateral trade and investment opportunities in Latin American and Caribbean regions.
 -  Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan visited Thailand for attending 7th Asian Energy Ministers' Round Table organised by International Energy Forum (IEF) in Bangkok.
 -  Prakesh Javedkar (Minister of Human Resource Development) Visited Paris (France) to attend 39th Bi-annual General Conference of UNESCO.
 -  Minister of State (IC) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore attended World Youth Forum 2017 in Egypt.
 -  Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Germany for 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
 -  Ayush Minister Sripad Naik visited UAE to participate in first International Ayush Conference and Exhibition in Dubai. He Announced that India will provide full scholarship to 100 non-Indian students for studying Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush) in any of public institutions across India.
54. ▶ Visits from India -
-  Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Australia and USA.
 -  Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu visited South Korea to participate in the 7th Asia-Europe (ASEM) Economic Ministers meeting.
 -  Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan visited Kazakhstan to co-chair the 13th meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC).
 -  Maharashtra government signed MoU with South Korea for increasing co-operation in several infrastructure projects, during CM Devendra Fadnavis's visit to South Korea.
55. ▶ Visits from India -
-  Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Vietnam.
 -  Science & Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan visited South Africa to mark 20 years of Science & Technology cooperation between India and South Africa.
 -  Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu visited Sweden to attend *Make in India: Sweden 2017* organized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in Stockholm.
 -  Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Philippines to attend Southeast Asian Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM).
 -  On sidelines of this meet, Mrs. Nirmala Met US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis. India and USA agreed to implement programme for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC).
 -  Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley visited Bangladesh.
 -  Bangladesh signed USD 4.5 billion third line of credit (LoC) agreement with India for its social sector development and infrastructure. The agreement was announced during PM Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in April 2017.
 -  External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Bangladesh. Bangladesh Petroleum Corp and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd signed long-term sales and purchase agreement . BPC will take up to 250,000 tonnes of gas oil each year from NRL for first 3 years. She inaugurated India's new chancery complex in Dhaka.
 -  Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Japan to participate in 6th annual LNG Producers Consumer Conference.



- ✍ Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited South Africa. He inaugurated Gandhi museum on a small piece of land once owned by Mahatma Gandhi in Durban.
 - ✍ Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu visited USA for attending 11th India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) Meeting held in Washington DC.
 - ✍ Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari Visited UAE for India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Partnership Summit in Dubai. It was organized under Business Leaders Forum (BLF), an organisation of business leaders in UAE that was set up by UAE Ministry of Economy, Embassy of India and Consulate General of India.
56. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017)
- ✍ Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba Visited India. During this Visit, India and Cuba signed MoU for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
 - ✍ Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies Visited India. During this visit, India and Italy signed MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
 - ✍ Afghanistan's second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish visited India and attended an international conference on 'Harmony and Memorial of Mother Teresa', in Mumbai.
57. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
- ✍ Russia, India, and China Foreign Ministers' 15th meet held in New Delhi. Visiting Foreign Ministers - Sergei Lavrov (Russia), Wang Yi (China).
 - ✍ Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore Visited India.
 - ✍ Argentine Football legend Diego Maradona visited India and unveiled his huge statue in Kolkata.
 - ✍ Morocco Minister of Health Abdelkader Amara visited India. MOUs -
 - ✍ Health Care.
 - ✍ Water Resources.
 - ✍ Cooperation in Indian Maritime University (IMU) and Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco AND National Ports Agency (NPA) of Morocco.
 - ✍ Cooperation between Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance of Morocco (IFEER) and Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).
 - ✍ Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland Visited India.
 - ✍ 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held in April 2018 in Gold Coast (Australia).
 - ✍ 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue held in New Delhi. Visiting Delegates - Frances Adamson (Australia's Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Shinsuke J. Sugiyama (Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs)
58. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)
- ✍ Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Rogozin visited India. He attended Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) held in New Delhi.
 - ✍ Jordan's External Affairs Minister Ayman Al Safadi visited India.
59. ▶ Visits to India -
- ✍ Tin Aung San, Navy Chief of Myanmar.
 - ✍ Minister of Trade of Indonesia, Enggartiasto Lukita.
 - ✍ US Secretary of Defense James Mattis.
 - ✍ Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. He inaugurated first ever India, US and Afghanistan joint trade and investment show in Delhi.
60. ▶ Visits to India -
- ✍ US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited India. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan also visited India and trilateral discussion of India-USA-Afghanistan held in New Delhi.
 - ✍ French Defence Minister Florence Parly visited India.
 - ✍ India - France joint Naval exercise VARUNA will be held in early 2018.
 - ✍ Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentiloni visited India. It marks 70 years of Diplomatic ties between India and Italy. MOUs Signed are -
 - ✍ Cooperation for Safety in Railway sector, Energy, Cultural Cooperation.
 - ✍ Promoting mutual investments between Italian Trade Agency and Invest India.
 - ✍ Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui Visited India for 12th Session of India-Tunisia Joint Commission Meet in Delhi.

Science

1. ▶ 2 new ant species *Tetramorium krishnani* and *Tetramorium jarawa* discovered in islands of Andaman, named after late scientist K.S. Krishnan of NCBS, and Jarawas – indigenous people of Andaman.
2. ▶ Government launched Noxeno, a nasal foreign body removal device developed by start-up InnAccel Technologies, under Biodesign program. Noxeno is first dedicated tool for anterior nasal foreign body (NFB) removal that allows doctors in any setting to quickly and safely remove objects that people (mostly children aged 2 to 10 years) put into their noses.
3. ▶ 2 new species of Cycas Tree discovered by researchers in Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden (West Bengal), taking Total number of Cycas species found in India to 14. Cycas are among most ancient plants whose fossils date to the Jurassic period.
4. ▶ A Group of USA Scientists has developed an artificial womb that can be used to save extremely premature human babies. Research showed that preterm lambs were successfully maintained in a healthy condition with significant growth for upto a week, using ex-vivo uterine environment (EVE) therapy.
5. ▶ A group of scientists started a new expedition aimed at unlocking secrets of lost continent 'Zealandia', which is mostly submerged and believed to have sunk after breaking away from Australia 60 - 85 million years ago.
 - ▶ Expedition is called Expedition 371 and is funded by National Science Foundation and the International Ocean Discovery Program.
 - ▶ Team includes over 30 scientists aboard JOIDES Resolution, a massive scientific drilling ship. Duration of trip will be approx 2 months.
6. ▶ A new LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) gravitational wave detector will be built in India by 2025 (world's 3rd after 2 in USA).
 - ▶ In 2016, LIGO detectors discovered gravitational waves produced by two giant merging blackholes. LIGO detector in India will help to pinpoint origin of gravitational waves that are detected in future.
7. ▶ A new species of non-venomous aquatic snake named Aquatic Rhabdops has been described as new species from northern Western Ghats in Maharashtra, Goa and North Karnataka. Earlier this species was considered as variant of Olive Forest Snake, first described in 1863.
8. ▶ According to Japanese scientists, delicate mosses found on rocks and trees in cities can be used as low-cost bioindicator to monitor urban pollution and to measure impact of atmospheric change. Mosses respond to pollution or drought-stress by changing its shape, density or disappearing.
 - ▶ Mosses are a common flowerless plant found in all cities especially in damp (humid) or shady locations. It generally absorb water and nutrients from their immediate environments, so it can reflect changes to ecosystems.
9. ▶ According to researchers from University of Southampton (UK), extreme global warming event named Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) that occurred 56 million years ago was driven by massive CO₂ emissions from volcanoes during formation of North Atlantic Ocean.
 - ▶ This caused doubling of CO₂ in less than 25 thousand years because of CO₂ emissions from volcanoes. PETM was most rapid and extreme natural global warming event of last 66 million years and lasted for around 150 thousand years. It increased global temperatures by at least 5 degrees Celsius.
10. ▶ According to study at University of Hyderabad, Castor bean plants can prove very useful in fighting soil pollution as these plants can absorb toxic heavy metals from soil from these polluted areas due to industrial pollution.
11. ▶ According to study by a Group of Indian Scientists, black carbon (BC) ejected by aeroplanes is affecting monsoon, depleting ozone layer and quickening glacier melt.
 - ▶ Earlier it was believed that airborne BC is unlikely to travel upward of 4 km and dissipate and settle down in few months under influence of wind and rain. However, this study shows that such particles exist up to 18 km into the stratosphere, a stable region of the atmosphere.
12. ▶ After successful launch of India's first indigenously developed robot *BRABO*, TATA Motors Owned TAL Manufacturing launched *Robo Whiz*. It will provide students hands-on experience and help develop skills needed for effective use and management of Robotics and Automation Technology.
13. ▶ An unusual breed of fruit bat (discovered in Papua New Guinea) is now officially recognised as a new species. This bat was previously nicknamed 'Yoda' and has now been renamed happy (Hamamas) tube-nosed fruit bat.
14. ▶ As per Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)'s study titled *Thresholds of catastrophe in the Earth System*, Earth's sixth mass extinction may become a reality by 2100 due to increasing carbon pressure on oceans.
 - ▶ In past 540 million years, Earth has seen 5 mass extinction events. By 2100, about 310 gigatons of carbon will have been added to oceans, a potential 'tipping point' for ecological disaster.

15. ▶ As per study, newly found solar system TRAPPIST-1 star is between 5.4 and 9.8 billion years old, twice as old as our own solar system (4.5 billion years). TRAPPIST-1 is a system of 7 Earth-size planets orbiting an ultra-cool dwarf star about 40 light-years away.
16. ▶ Australian Researchers discovered a new water-adapted species of spiders named 'Desis bobmarleyi' in Queensland, named after noted singer and songwriter Bob Marley.
17. ▶ Australian scientists of University of New South Wales (UNSW) discovered a new species of marsupial lion which has been extinct for at least 19 million years. Named *Wakaleo schouteni*, it was a predator about the size of a border collie dog.
18. ▶ Bengaluru-based biotech startup *Bugworks Research* became India's and Asia's first to receive international CARB-X (Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator) grant for its antibiotic research and development.
 - ▶ CARB-X is an international partnership set up in 2016 to focus on innovations to improve diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant infections. It grew out of Barack Obama's 2015 Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) initiative.
19. ▶ Botanical Survey of India (BSI) scientists discovered two new species of Ginger - *Hedychium chingmeianum* (Nagaland) and *Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* (Manipur).
20. ▶ Botanists discovered new species of wild banana named *Musa paramjitiana* in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, named in honour of Paramjit Singh, director of Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
21. ▶ Breakthrough Listen project detected 15 Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) coming from a dwarf galaxy about 3 million light years away from earth, with help of Green Bank Telescope (GBT) in West Virginia.
 - ▶ FRB is brief, bright pulse of radio emission from distant galaxies. It was first detected in 2007 with help of Parkes Telescope in Australia.
22. ▶ CSIR scientists developed an ultra-thin wireless device that mimics plant leaves to produce hydrogen fuel using water and sunlight, paving way for clean energy for powering eco-friendly cars in future.
 - ▶ At present, hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels by steam reforming. In this process large amount of CO₂ is emitted. This new green method of generating Hydrogen from Water may be a great reform in coming times.
 - ▶ When visible light strikes semiconductors, electrons move in one direction and produce electric current. The current almost instantaneously splits water into hydrogen making it one of cleanest forms of fuel as its main byproduct is water.
23. ▶ California Institute of Technology, USA (CALTECH) scientists made world's smallest recreation of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, through a technique dubbed as *DNA origami*. Scientists folded DNA into desired self-assembling structures using 64 tiles, which were 100 nanometers wide.
24. ▶ *Chilesaurus* (Dinosaur species recently discovered in southern Chile) has been reported to be missing link that fills gap between 2 of major dinosaur groups - plant-eating herbivores and carnivores.
25. ▶ China began test runs of world's first track-less train in Zhuzhou city, that runs on virtual track and is being considered *World's First smart train*. This train could travel at the speed of 70 kmph and is called Autonomous Rail Transit (ART).
26. ▶ China launched world's largest human genome research project to document genetic makeup of 1 lakh people, to detect genetic links between health and sickness and use that information to generate precision medicines for future.
27. ▶ China tested its first photovoltaic (solar) highway in Shandong province, becoming 2nd country (after France) to construct a photovoltaic highway.
 - ▶ China's photovoltaic highway is constructed using solar panels with thin sheet of transparent concrete on top of them.
 - ▶ The photovoltaic panels of the highway are built to transfer energy to electric vehicles passing on top of them.
 - ▶ Tested 1 KM segment of solar highway can generate 817.2 KW of electricity and can generate 1 million KW hours of electricity yearly.
28. ▶ China's Three Gorges Corp. started building world's biggest floating solar power plant in Anhui Province, expected to be launched by May 2018.
29. ▶ China's AG600n (also known as Kunlong), world's largest amphibious aircraft took off its first flight from Zhuhai City. It has huge wingspan of 38.8 metres and can land and take off from water.
30. ▶ Columbia University (USA) researchers converted a bacterial immune system into world's smallest data recorder, by modifying an ordinary laboratory strain of human gut microbe *Escherichia coli*, using CRISPR gene-editing method. It enabled bacteria to record their interactions with environment and also time-stamp the events. It has several possible applications such as disease diagnosis, environmental monitoring and basic studies in ecology and microbiology.
31. ▶ Department of Science and Technology (DST) will fund a project to develop quantum computers in order to tap into next big advance in computing technology.
 - ▶ Quantum computer uses principles of quantum physics to increase computational power beyond attainable limits of traditional computer. It employs complex principles of quantum mechanics to store information in 'qubits' (quantum bit) instead of the typical binary 'bits' of 1 and 0.









32. ▶ European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA Researchers discovered that Sun's core is rotating four times faster than its surface, using 16 years of observations from an instrument called GOLF (Global Oscillations at Low Frequency) on a spacecraft called Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO).
33. ▶ Geologists for first time discovered 152 million-year-old fossil of Ichthyosaur, an extinct marine reptile in in Kutch desert region of Gujarat. The specimen belongs to Ophthalmosauridae family of ichthyosaurs that lived in oceans between 165 and 90 million years ago.
34. ▶ Hyderabad based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) developed Improved Samba Masuri (ISM) variety rice with low Glycemic Index (50.99 against normal value of 53 - 70).
 - ✎ Rice with low GI is considered suitable for people with diabetics and it results in slow release of glucose into blood.
35. ▶ ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) completed 3 years in Martian orbit, already having outlived its original lifespan. Mangalyaan was launched on board of PSLV C25 rocket on November 5, 2013 and entered Mars orbit on September 24, 2014.
36. ▶ India has been declared free from infective Trachoma which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye, that causes inflamed granulation on inner surface of lids. It was stated in National Trachoma Survey Report 2014-17 released by Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda.
37. ▶ India's First wave-powered navigational buoy developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), has been deployed at Ennore Kamarajar Port (Chennai) to guide ships in and out of ports. Buoy's ship guiding beacon is powered by wave energy while conventional ones use solar power.
 - ✎ National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) will also build India's first offshore desalination plant about 40km from Chennai coast, with capacity of 10 million litres water / day.
38. ▶ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru researchers developed a highly sensitive and low cost nanometre-scale carbon monoxide (CO) sensor, with potential applications in environmental pollution monitoring. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas and is harmful when inhaled in large amounts.
39. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a niche Earth observation (EO) satellite - *Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS)*, with critical chip called *optical imaging detector array*. Its will allow ISRO to enter operational hyperspectral imaging from earth orbit.
 - ✎ Hyperspectral imaging or hypspec imaging combines power of digital imaging and spectroscopy. It collects and processes information from across the electromagnetic spectrum. It enables distinct identification of objects, materials or processes on Earth by reading spectrum for each pixel of a scene from space.
 - ✎ HySIS satellite of ISRO can see in 55 spectral or colour bands from 630 km above ground. It can be used for a range of applications from monitoring environment, crops, looking for oil and minerals, military surveillance.
40. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up a research centre in Guwahati (Assam) for exploring possibility of using geospatial technology and geographical information systems (GIS).
41. ▶ Indian astronomers from Pune Based Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) identified extremely large supercluster of galaxies located in the direction of constellation Pisces, named as *Saraswati*. Saraswati supercluster is 4 billion light years away from Earth and may contain mass equivalent of 20 million billion suns.
42. ▶ India's First mission to Sun will be launched in 2019, aiming to improve our understanding of dynamical processes of the sun and help resolve some outstanding questions in solar physics. It will be launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on PSLV- XL launch vehicle.
 - ✎ The mission will put 1500-kg heavy class Aditya-L1 satellite into halo orbit around Lagrangian point L1, a point between Sun and Earth.
43. ▶ India's first dedicated space observatory AstroSat along with Chandra and Hubble Space Telescope have detected a massive coronal explosion on Proxima Centauri, sun's closest star neighbour.
44. ▶ India's multi-wavelength space telescope *AstroSat* accomplished difficult task of measuring X-ray polarisation. It did 18 month long study of Crab pulsar in Taurus Constellation and measured variations of polarisation as this highly magnetised object spins 30 times per second. This measurement puts up a strong challenge to prevailing theories of high energy X-ray emission from pulsars.
45. ▶ Indonesian scientists from Lambung Mangkurat University found world's smallest squirrel in Borneo rain forest, named *Bornean pigmy*. It is 73 mm long and weighs about 17 grams.
46. ▶ International Astronomical Union (IAU) named 2 mountain ranges on icy dwarf planet *Pluto* as Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes, after Tenzing (Nepal) Norgay and Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) who were first mountaineers to reach summit of Mount Everest in 1953. These are among 14 other names officially approved for naming 14 geographical features on Pluto.
47. ▶ International Conference of heads of Metrology Institutes held in Sevres (France) decided that measure of kilogram will no longer be pegged to cylinder. From 2019 onwards, it will be set by value of Planck constant in combination with definitions of meter and second.

-  Till now, kilogram is only unit of measures pegged to a real object. But cylinder's weight in kilogram fluctuates due to surface contamination with time, making it tricky to define its exact mass.
48. ▶ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has downgraded conservation status of snow leopard from “endangered” to “vulnerable”, that was continuing since 1972.
-  Species are *endangered* if they are fewer than 2,500 with high rate of decline. Vulnerable Species are those with population under 10,000 and declining at rate of 10% over 3 generations.
49. ▶ Mainstream space agencies in world proposed creation of a climate observatory to combine acquired data and share it with scientists around globe, during *One Planet Summit* in Paris (France).
50. ▶ Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) launched *Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat* Programme, as an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
51. ▶ Ministry of Science and Technology launched SOHUM, an indigenously developed low-cost hearing screening device for newborns. It has been developed by School of International Biodesign (SIB) startup *Sohum Innovation Labs India*. Sohum aims to minimise or reverse hearing loss damage and uses brain-stem auditory evoked response.
52. ▶ NASA is developing Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) as first-ever mission that will deflect a near-Earth asteroid, to be built and managed by John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL).
-  It will work on kinetic impactor technique, that involves sending one or more large, high-speed spacecraft into path of an approaching near-earth object to shift its orbit to defend against future impact.
-  Target for DART is an asteroid called Didymos that will have a distant approach to Earth in October 2022 and then again in 2024. Asteroid Didymos (Greek word for twin) is an asteroid binary system that consists of Didymos A (780 metres), and Didymos B (160 metres).
53. ▶ NASA revealed that a mysterious world called *Planet Nine* does exist in solar system-
-  It might be lingering on icy outer edges of solar system hiding in dark, but stretching out orbits of distant bodies.
-  It is very distant and is 10 times mass of Earth and 20 times farther from sun than Neptune.
54. ▶ NASA rocket named WINDY (Waves and Instabilities from a Neutral Dynamo) will form night-time white artificial clouds visible by residents of Republic of Marshall Islands. It will study a phenomenon that occurs in Ionosphere (Layer of charged particles in upper atmosphere).
55. ▶ NASA will launch SuperTIGER Balloon in Antarctica, to study heavy cosmic particles, collect information on cosmic rays that enter Earth's atmosphere every day.
-  SuperTIGER stands for Super Trans-Iron Galactic Element Recorder (SuperTIGER) and is balloon-borne instrument to study rare heavy nuclei, which hold clues about where and how cosmic rays attain speeds up to nearly the speed of light.
56. ▶ NASA's Cassini spacecraft started its final mission - five ultra-close orbits around Saturn. It would be spacecraft's last mission of its 20-year-long journey, before plunging into atmosphere of Saturn.
57. ▶ NASA's \$3.9 bn Cassini spacecraft ended its 20-year-long journey after Plunging into Saturn's atmosphere. Cassini's mission to Saturn began in 1997, reaching it in 2004.
58. ▶ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered strongest evidence to date for a stratosphere on a planet outside our solar system, WASP-121b. Stratosphere is a layer of atmosphere in which temperature increases with higher altitudes.
59. ▶ NASA's Juno spacecraft became first space probe to successfully complete a flyby into Jupiter's giant storm known as Great Red Spot.
-  Great Red Spot on Jupiter is a massive storm (cyclone) measuring about 16,000 km in diameter. It is largest known storm in solar system.
60. ▶ NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) captured images of 2 significant Solar Flares emitted by Sun, powerful bursts of radiation classified as X2.2 flare and 2nd is X9.3 flare.
-  X9.3 flare was the largest flare in the current solar cycle which began in December 2008 and heading towards 'Solar Minimum'.
-  Solar Minimum is such phase of the solar cycle when these eruptions on the sun are increasingly rare, but they can be intense.
61. ▶ NASA's asteroid-chasing spacecraft Osiris-Rex (*Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer*) successfully swung by Earth to put it on desired trajectory towards near earth asteroid Bennu using Earth's gravity.
-  OSIRIS-REx mission was launched in September 2016 for studying 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid as NASA's first asteroid sampling mission.
62. ▶ NVIDIA unveiled world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) computer designed to drive fully autonomous robotaxis, named Pegasus. It be available to NVIDIA automotive partners in the second half of 2018. It will help to create a new class of vehicles that can operate completely without a driver.

63. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Joint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1) as first of 4 multi-day weather forecasts satellites.
- ▶ JPSS-1 is joint venture between NASA and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). It will be renamed NOAA-20 when it reaches its final orbit. It is designed to monitor weather around world and help improve forecasts.
64. ▶ New species of blind fish “Schistura larketensis” has been discovered in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya. The fish had lost its pigments and eye sight after living in darkness of the cave.
65. ▶ Palaeontologists from University of Portsmouth (UK) discovered remains of humankind’s oldest mammal ancestor — a tiny rat-like creature that lived 145 million years ago.
66. ▶ Paleontologists from Chinese Academy of Sciences discovered approx 300 fossilised eggs of Pterosaurs, a group of extinct winged dinosaur. It is world’s first such mass dinosaur egg discovery.
67. ▶ Researchers at *Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology* have developed a flexible material that generates electricity when stretched or compressed, paving way for smart clothing or self-powered pacemakers -
- ▶ It is a composite material made of polar nanoparticles and an elastomer - silicone and can convert mechanical movements into electrical charges. Trick is internal polarisation that changes while rubber film is being mechanically stressed.
68. ▶ Researchers at UK’s Cardiff University have produced world’s most detailed scan of brain’s internal wiring -
- ▶ Scan shows fibres in white matter called axons (brain’s wiring which carry billions of electrical signals).
 - ▶ Scan showed direction of messaging and also density of brain’s wiring.
 - ▶ This detailed scan of brain’s wiring will help increase understanding of a range of neurological disorders and can be used instead of invasive biopsies.
69. ▶ Researchers discovered new species of Gecko at Chhattisgarh’s Kanger Ghati National Park in Eastern Ghats. Its common name is *Kanger valley rock gecko* and scientific name is *Hemidactylus kangerensis*.
70. ▶ Researchers discovered species of ant in Periyar Tiger Reserve (Kerala), as one of world’s ‘hottest hotspots’ of biological diversity. It has been named *Tyrannomyrmex alii* (or *T. alii*), after eminent myrmecologist Musthak Ali, who is regarded as the India’s ‘ant man’.
71. ▶ Researchers from CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) have developed an ultrasensitive DNA chip based sensor for quick pathogen detection. The sensor can detect *S. pyogenes* bacterium in about 30 minutes, that causes a wide range of diseases.
72. ▶ Researchers from Brunel University (UK) developed first 3D printed wearable ‘battery’ that stacks silicone, glue and gel electrolyte, layer by layer to make a supercapacitor. It stores energy on its surface without chemical reactions and could be used to power smartphones, electric cars, medical implants like pacemakers etc.
73. ▶ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati created an implantable bioartificial pancreas model grown within 3D silk scaffold, that encapsulates insulin-producing beta cells and is capable of naturally producing insulin in sustained manner. After Trials, it can be used for treating people with Type 1 diabetes that arises when body’s immune system kills insulin-producing beta cells.
74. ▶ Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) developed low-cost rapid test that can quickly and accurately detect Zika and dengue viruses from blood. Test is conducted through a strip which contains gold nano particles and antibodies that react to the presence of Zika or dengue virus.
75. ▶ Researchers from US-based Rice University have found new tectonic microplate off Ecuador’s coast in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It has been named Malpelo plate, after a Colombian island and an oceanic ridge it contains. It is overall 57th tectonic microplate to be discovered so far and the first in nearly a decade. Microplates are tectonic plates with an area less than 1 million km².
76. ▶ Researchers from University of British Columbia (Canada) developed earthquake-proof fibre-reinforced concrete that can enhance earthquake resistance of seismically vulnerable structures.
- ▶ Cement Material is made of eco-friendly ductile cementitious composite (EDCC) which combines cement with polymer-based fibres, flyash and other industrial additives, making it highly sustainable.
77. ▶ Researchers from University of California and University of Illinois confirmed existence of new form of matter called excitonium, made up of excitons and exhibits macroscopic quantum phenomena just like a superconductor.
- ▶ Technique called momentum-resolved electron energy-loss spectroscopy (M-EELS) was used by researchers to prove existence of excitonium.
78. ▶ Researchers from University of Tasmania (Australia) discovered rare, living specimens of stromatolites, oldest evidence of life on Earth, deep within a remote and protected World Heritage Area in Australia.
79. ▶ Researchers in UK produced specific human antibodies in laboratory by treating patient-derived B cells with tiny nanoparticles coated with both CpG oligonucleotides and an antigen, paving way for rapid development of new vaccines to treat a wide range of infectious diseases.

80. ▶ Samsung developed world's smallest 8-gigabit DRAM chip, with improved energy efficiency and data processing performance. In these chips, only 1 transistor and a capacitor are required per bit, compared to 4 to 6 in SRAM.
81. ▶ Scientists ETH Zurich in Switzerland successfully created the world's shortest X-ray laser pulse with a duration of just 43 attoseconds.
- ▶ Its significance lies in fact that to fully understand dynamics during a chemical reaction, scientists must be able to study all movements of atoms and molecules on their basic time scale.
 - ▶ Molecules rotate in range of picoseconds, their atoms vibrate in the range of femtoseconds, and electrons move in the range of attoseconds.
 - ▶ This laser pulse is shortest controlled event that has ever been created by humans. Researchers can now observe in high detail how electrons move within a molecule or how chemical bonds are formed.
82. ▶ Scientists at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati developed a 3D cardiac tissue patch using silk protein membranes seeded with heart muscle cells. The patch can be used for regenerating damaged heart tissues and sealing holes in heart.
83. ▶ Scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory (USA) discovered a potential new state of matter that may help explain phenomena like superconductivity. It was discovered in the high-magnetic-field state of the heavy fermion superconductor CeRhIn₅.
- ▶ In new state, material's electrons are aligned in such a way that they reduce symmetry of original crystal. This electronic alignment in a prototypical heavy-fermion superconductor is called *nematic behaviour*, common among superconducting materials in high magnetic fields.
 - ▶ Superconductivity is ability of certain materials to conduct electric current with zero resistance. For a material to behave as a superconductor, critically low temperatures are required. Superconductivity was first observed in 1911 by H. K. Onnes (Dutch physicist)
84. ▶ Scientists at Purdue University in USA (including Karthik Ramani of India) have developed new artificial intelligence (AI) software called *SurfNet* that can create three dimensional (3D) models from 2D photographs. It can be of great use in robotics, object recognition and even self-driving cars.
85. ▶ Scientists at Stanford University (USA) developed a cost-effective and highly sensitive blood test to detect cancer, Called single colour digital PCR. It can detect genetic mutations in minute amounts of DNA released from cancer cells into blood.
86. ▶ Scientists discovered most ancient spiral galaxy known as A1689B11, recorded so far in universe. It was detected using powerful technique that combines gravitational lensing with Near-infrared Integral Field Spectrograph (NIFS) on Gemini North telescope in Hawaii.
- ▶ A1689B11 galaxy was born 11 billion years ago and existed just 2.6 billion years after Big Bang, when universe was only one-fifth of its present age.
87. ▶ Scientists discovered new scorpion species named Schaller's wood scorpion (*Liocheles schalleri*) from at Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura. It has been named in honour of celebrated wildlife biologist George Schaller who has studied wildlife across world.
88. ▶ Scientists discovered new species of frog named Mewa Singh's night frog (*Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi*) in Kozhikode's Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala in Western Ghats.
89. ▶ Scientists discovered new species of glow-in-the-dark shark living 1,000 feet below Pacific Ocean off coast of northwestern Hawaiian islands. It is named *Etmopterus lailae* and belongs to lanternshark family.
90. ▶ Scientists for first time observed Optical polarisation phenomenon (polarised light emitted by rapidly rotating stars), using High Precision Polarimetric Instrument (HIPPI).
- ▶ It was predicted by Indian astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar in 1946.
 - ▶ Optical polarisation phenomenon is a measure of the orientation of the oscillations of a light beam to its direction of travel.
 - ▶ HIPPI was used to detect polarised light from Regulus, one of brightest stars in night sky about 79 light years away. It was observed that Regulus is rotating so quickly with a spin rate of 96.5% of angular velocity (approximately 320 kilometres per second).
 - ▶ Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize for Physics with William A. Fowler for his theoretical studies of physical processes of importance to structure and evolution of stars.
91. ▶ Scientists found that parasite called *Leptomonas seymouri* hosting virus *Lepsey NLV1* may be also responsible for spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis). Earlier it was believed that parasite *Leishmania donovani* (sandfly) alone is responsible for spread of kala-azar.
92. ▶ Scientists from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered a new species of parasitic flowering plant named *Gleadovia konyakianorum* near Tobu town of Mon district in eastern Nagaland, named in honour of Konyak tribe of Nagas.
93. ▶ Scientists from Broad Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in USA developed RNA Editing for Programmable A to I Replacement (REPAIR), a new gene editing tool therapies that can reverse disease-causing mutations in humans.
- ▶ REPAIR can tweak individual RNA 'letters' in human cells without making changes to entire genome and can have profound potential as a tool for both research and disease treatment.

 REPAIR is based on gene editing tool CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) that can be used to modify DNA in cells.

94. ▶ Scientists from Brown University (USA) created first map of water trapped in uppermost layer of Moon's soil, using NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper onboard of India's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft. Map builds on initial discovery of water and related molecule – hydroxyl (consists 1 atom each of hydrogen and oxygen) in lunar soil in 2009.
95. ▶ Scientists from CSIR's National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (Thiruvananthapuram) developed new technique to produce bioethanol from discarded cotton-stalks. It will help produce bioethanol (a clean fuel) from cotton stalk wastes.
 -  It is vital as India has about 9.4 million hectares under cotton cultivation and every hectare generates 2 million tonnes of cotton stalk wastes.
96. ▶ Scientists from Cardiff University (UK) discovered a new way to produce methanol from methane using oxygen from the air. Methanol is an important chemical often used as fuel in vehicles. New technique uses freely available air, inexpensive chemicals and an energy efficient methanol production process.
97. ▶ Scientists from Cornell University (USA) announced that world's 6 smallest spacecrafts dubbed as Sprites ever launched are successfully travelling in low Earth orbit and communicating with systems on Earth.
 -  Sprites were launched on June 23, 2017 by Indian rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) as part of Breakthrough Starshot project designed to test technologies that would eventually be used for interstellar missions. These are smallest spacecrafts to establish contact with ground stations. Sprites are built on a single 3.5*3.5 centimeter circuit board and weigh 4 grams each.
 -  Breakthrough Starshot space program is launched under US \$100 million Breakthrough Initiatives, announced by Yuri Milner and Stephen Hawking to develop and launch practical interstellar space missions. It aims to demonstrate proof of concept for light-propelled spacecraft that could fly at 20 % of light speed. Its main objective is to send one-gram chips to star systems beyond the solar system in search of extraterrestrial intelligence.
98. ▶ Scientists from ETH Zurich in Switzerland developed a 3D-printed soft silicone heart that closely resembles and functions like human organ. It is not exact biological replica of actual, but can help to save lives of people who suffer from cardiac failure.
99. ▶ Scientists from Edinburgh University (UK) uncovered largest volcanic region (91 Volcanoes) discovered on earth so far, under west Antarctica. Largest volcano stands at almost 4000 metres.
100. ▶ Scientists from Florida State University (USA) developed new tool for objectively defining onset and demise of Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM). The new method uses rainfall rates to mark span of ISM at any given location throughout affected region.
101. ▶ Scientists from Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER) Thiruvananthapuram have developed gelator that can suck up oil and congeal it. Gelator is a hydrophobic material with property of oleophilic (oil-loving) and takes up oil when it comes in contact with it. It can be used to recover marine oil spills with a simple, efficient and cost-effective method.
102. ▶ Scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) found a novel way to induce plants to give off dim light by embedding specialised nanoparticles into their leaves.
 -  It has great significance as it will make plants function as a desk lamp, powered by energy metabolism of the plant itself and not by electricity connection.
 -  To create glowing plants, scientists has used to luciferase, an enzyme that gives fireflies their glow. Luciferase acts on molecule called luciferin, causing it to emit light.
103. ▶ Scientists from NASA for first time will chase shadow of moon using two of NASA's WB-57F research jets during upcoming total solar eclipse in USA, to capture clearest ever images of Sun's outer atmosphere (Corona).
 -  It is needed as Corona of sun (gaseous envelope surrounding sun) is heated to millions of degrees, but lower atmospheric layers like photosphere are only heated at a few thousand degrees.
 -  Total solar eclipse will provide rare opportunity for scientists to study the sun's atmosphere. During this eclipse, moon will completely cover the sun and perfectly blocking its light so that faint corona is easily seen against dark sky.
104. ▶ Scientists from New Zealand claimed that vaccine can protect against the sexually transmitted infection gonorrhoea. They found that Men B jab vaccine originally developed to stop an outbreak of meningitis B can protect from gonorrhoea.
105. ▶ Scientists from Northwestern University (USA) created miniature versions of Saturn, complete with rings, by electrifying tiny droplets of fluids.
 -  When a drop of electrically conductive liquid is exposed to an electric field, droplet formes two electrically charged poles that can get pulled towards sources of electric field, taking on cone shapes. If pull is strong enough, tips of the cones can spray jets of droplets. This effect is known as electrospraying.
106. ▶ Scientists from Oregon Health and Science University (USA) successfully edited genes of human embryos to correct defective DNA that cause inherited diseases, using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology to alter human DNA in single-cell embryos, which allows specific

sections of DNA to be altered or replaced.

107. ▶ Scientists from Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) in Germany developed world's Most sharpe and Precise laser, that can be useful for various applications such as optical atomic clocks, radioastronomy, precision spectroscopy, testing theory of relativity and carry out new precision measurements on ultracold atoms.
 - ✎ Theoretically, laser light has only 1 colour, wavelength or frequency. In reality, however, there is always a certain linewidth. This newly developed laser has linewidth of only 10 miliHertz (0.01 Hz), closer to ideal laser than ever before.
108. ▶ Scientists from Thiruvananthapuram based CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) have developed organic filter that allows only near-infrared (NIR) light to pass through it. It was found to absorb light from 300-850 nm (both ultraviolet, visible and part of NIR light) and transmit NIR light from 850-1500 nm.
 - ✎ Its Significance lies in fact that Currently available inorganic filters are expensive and brittle whereas organic filters are easy to process and flexible too. The filter can be used for night vision glasses, night photography. It will also have applications in security and forensics such as identifying blood stains on dark fabric which are invisible to naked eyes.
109. ▶ Scientists from USA developed the world's first plant-based mosquito-borne Zika virus, using proteins derived from Tobacco plant.
110. ▶ Scientists from USA found that curcumin (bioactive component of turmeric) that is widely used in Indian cuisine can treat cancer in children. They found that nanoparticles loaded with curcumin can target and destroy neuroblastoma tumour cells, which commonly affects children aged under 5.
111. ▶ Scientists from USA have discovered an inexpensive prevention therapy against sepsis in new born babies, led by US-based Indian doctor Pinaki Panigrahi.
 - ✎ Globally, over 600000 infants die of sepsis annually (mostly in developing countries).
112. ▶ Scientists from USA's Harvard Medical School for first time encoded a small movie clip in DNA of living bacterial cells and then played it back. They used CRISPR gene-editing technique to encode and retrieve reconstructed frames of a classic 1870s racehorse in motion sequence of photos into genome of common bacteria *E. coli*. Film stored in DNA of bacteria was also well preserved and was intact even in new generation of bacteria.
113. ▶ Scientists from USA's Harvard University have developed a super strong, flexible adhesive material inspired by glue secreted by slugs that sticks to biological tissues without causing toxicity. It is biocompatible and binds to tissues with a strength comparable to the body's own resilient cartilage.
114. ▶ Scientists from University of Cambridge (UK) developed super-stretchy and strong artificial (synthetic) spider silk, almost entirely (98 %) composed of water. Spider silk is one of strongest materials for applications such as making eco-friendly textiles and sensors.
115. ▶ Scientists from University of Cambridge (UK) spotted smallest star discovered so far, named as EBLM J0555-57Ab.
 - ✎ It was identified by SuperWASP, a planet-finding experiment run by several universities. EBLM J0555-57Ab is located about 600 light years away and is slightly larger than Saturn in size.
 - ✎ It is as small as stars can possibly become as it has just enough mass to enable the fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium at its centre.
116. ▶ Scientists from University of Manchester (UK) created world's first *molecular robot - millionth of a millimetre in size*. It is made up of just 150 carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen atoms which are basic building blocks required to form molecules. Such molecular robots can be used for medical purposes, advanced manufacturing processes and even building molecular factories and assembly lines.
117. ▶ Scientists from University of Michigan (USA) developed a new type of neural network chip using reservoir computing system to improve efficiency of teaching machines to think like humans.
 - ✎ Network developed using this system can predict words before they are said during conversation and help predict future outcomes based on present.
118. ▶ Scientists from University of Toronto (Canada) developed an injectable tissue bandage dubbed as *AngioChip*, that can repair damaged hearts. *AngioChip* is a tiny patch of heart tissue with its own blood vessels and heart cells beating with a regular rhythm.
 - ✎ It is useful as Repairing heart tissue destroyed by a heart attack or medical condition with regenerative cells usually requires invasive open-heart surgery which usually poses more risks.
119. ▶ Scientists from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered new frog species in the fast flowing streams in Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is named *Odorrana arunachalensis*.
120. ▶ Scientists in Austria and China made first video call using quantum encryption, that is said to be unhackable. Encryption through quantum networks uses quantum particles to transfer information from one point to another and hacking Attempts would create detectable disturbances in system.
121. ▶ Scientists in UK have developed world's smallest surgical robot called *Versius*, that can mimic human arm and can be used to carry out a wide range of surgical procedures. It can make series of small incisions that will circumvent the need for traditional open surgery.

122. ▶ Tata Motors unveiled India's first Bio-CNG (bio-methane) bus at *Urja Utsav* bio-energy programme organised by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ✎ Biomethane is a naturally occurring gas which is produced by anaerobic digestion of organic matter such as dead animal and plant material, manure, sewage, organic waste, etc.
123. ▶ USA based National High Magnetic Field Laboratory tested world's strongest superconducting magnet 32 T, producing 32 teslas (a unit of magnetic field strength), 33% stronger than previous record.
- ✎ 32 T will allow physicists studying materials to explore how electrons interact with each other and their atomic environment.
124. ▶ USA's NASA discovered 8th planet in Our Solar System, circling Kepler-90, a Sun-like star which is 2545 light-years far from Earth.
- ✎ Newly-discovered planet Kepler-90i was discovered in data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, using Machine Learning from Google.
125. ▶ USA's NASA tested supersonic landing parachute that will be deployed in its Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020, called Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE). Mission will rely on special parachute to slow spacecraft down as it enters Martian atmosphere at over 5.4 kilometres per second.
126. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) approved 2nd extension of Dawn mission at Ceres dwarf planet which is largest object in asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- ✎ During this extension, Dawn will descend to lower altitudes than ever before at dwarf planet. Priority of second extension mission is to collect data with Dawn's gamma ray and neutron spectrometer, which measures number and energy of gamma rays and neutrons.
127. ▶ World's first floating wind farm located in Scotland started generating electricity, using five 6MW turbines procured from Norway. It is expected to generate 135GWh of electricity each year.
128. ▶ World's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells started running in Tangshan (north China's Hebei Province). It marks a big step in application of green energy in public transport as water is only emission of this Tram and it emits no pollutants.
- ✎ It can run for 40 kilometers at a maximum speed of 70 kilometers per hour after being refilled with 12 kilograms of hydrogen.
129. ▶ World's first negative emissions plant under CarbFix Project to turn atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) into stone begun operations in Hellisheidi (Iceland), intended to lock away carbon dioxide by reacting it with basaltic rocks.
- ✎ In CarbFix Project, CO₂ is captured from ambient air, bound to water, and sent 700 meters underground. There, CO₂ reacts with basaltic bedrock using enhanced weathering process and forms solid minerals, creating a permanent storage solution.
130. ▶ World's heaviest bony fish ever caught weighing 2,300 kilograms has been identified in Japan, confirmed by researchers from Hiroshima University. Bony fish have skeletons made of bone rather than cartilage.

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Sports

1. ▶ 10th Asian Airgun Championships Held in Wako, Japan -
- ✎ India won 21 medals at the event Including 6 Gold, 8 Silver and 7 Bronze. Gold Medals are -
 - ✎ Samiksha Dhingra - 10m Air Rifle Women Junior
 - ✎ Mehuli Ghosh - 10m Air Rifle Women Youth
 - ✎ Saurabh Chaudhary - 10m Air Pistol Men Youth
 - ✎ Team Events - 10m Air Rifle Men Youth, 10m Air Pistol Men Youth AND 10m Air Pistol Men
 - ✎ India Secured 4 places for 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games (3rd) to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) - Mehuli Ghosh, Tushar Mane, Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker.
2. ▶ 10th Men's and 5th Women's Senior Asian Kabaddi Championships, hosted by Iran -
- ✎ India won title in both contests, defeating Pakistan in men's and South Korea in Women's titles.
3. ▶ 128-player single-elimination chess tournament named Chess World Cup 2017 held in Tbilisi (Georgia). It was won by Armenian grandmaster Levon Aronian as his second win of this tournament. 7 Indians participated in it, including Former World Champion Vishwanathan Anand.
4. ▶ 13th Commonwealth Wrestling Championships 2017 Orgznied in Johannesburg (South Africa). India won 60 Medals Including 29 Gold Medals at this event.
5. ▶ 14th World Wrestling Championships 2017 held in Paris (France) -
- ✎ India Participated with 24 wrestlers, unable to win a medal.
 - ✎ Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total

1	Japan	6	1	2	9
2	United States	3	3	3	9
3	Turkey	3	1	3	7
4	Georgia	2	0	3	5
5	Armenia	2	0	2	4

6. ▶ 16th IAAF World Athletics Championships 2017 held in London (UK) -

- ▶ 204 Nations Participated in this Major Sports Event. India sent 25 athletes, none of which could secure a medal. Although, Davinder Singh Kang has become first Indian to qualify for final round of javelin throw in World Athletics Championships.
- ▶ Noted Jamaican Sprinter Usain Bolt retired from International Athletics. He is only athlete to complete coveted *Triple - Triple*, after he won 100m, 200m and 400 m relay titles in 2008 (Beijing), 2012 (London) and 2016. In his final 100 m race in IAAF World Athletics Championships 2017, he stayed 3rd with Justin Gatlin coming first.

▶ Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	10	11	9	30
2	Kenya	5	2	4	11
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
4	France	3	0	2	5
5	China	2	3	2	7
6	Great Britain & N.I.	2	3	1	6
7	Ethiopia	2	3	0	5
8	Poland	2	2	4	8
9	Germany	1	2	2	5
10	Czech Republic	1	1	1	3

7. ▶ 1st Indian Sports Honours Awards 2017, jointly launched by Cricketer Virat Kohli and businessperson Sanjeev Goenka. Winners are -

- ▶ Sportsman of the year (Individual sport) – Srikanth Kidambi (Badminton)
- ▶ Sportswoman of the year (Individual sport) – P.V. Sindhu (Badminton)
- ▶ Sportsman of the year (Team sport) – Ravichandran Ashwin (Cricket)
- ▶ Sportswoman of the year (Team sport) – Mithali Raj (Cricket)
- ▶ Team of the year (Men/Women) – Indian Women's Cricket Team
- ▶ Coach of the year – Bisveshwar Nandi (Coach of Olympian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar)
- ▶ Emerging Sportsperson – Female - Aditi Ashok (Golf), Male - Neeraj Chopra (Javelin Throw)
- ▶ Differently abled Sportsperson – Devendra Jhajaria (Male), Deepa Malik (Female)

▶ Jury Honours -

- ▶ Inspirational Honour – Sania Mirza (Tennis)
- ▶ Transformational Contribution to Sport – Abhinav Bindra (Shooting)
- ▶ Keep Walking Honour for Lifetime achievement – Balbir Singh (Hockey)

▶ Popular choice Honours

- ▶ Breakthrough performance – Hardik Pandya (Cricket)
- ▶ Star Sports 'Believe' Honour (Comeback of the year) – Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
- ▶ Spirit of Sport – Yogeshwar Dutt (Wrestling)
- ▶ Player of the year – Sunil Chhetri (Football)
- ▶ Club of the year – Mumbai Indians (Cricket)

8. ▶ 2016–17 Men's FIH Hockey World League Final in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -

- ▶ Australia won their FIH Hockey World League title after defeating Argentina in Final. Third place was grabbed by India.

9. ▶ 2017 AIBA World Boxing Championships held in Hamburg (Germany) -

- ▶ India's only medal was a bronze medal won by Gaurav Bidhuri (ranked 10th).

▶ Medal table

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Cuba	5	2	0	7
2	Uzbekistan	1	3	2	6
3	Kazakhstan	1	2	3	6
4	Azerbaijan	1	0	1	2
5	France	1	0	0	1

	Ukraine	1	0	1
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10. ▶ 2017 ASBC Asian Confederation Women's Elite Boxing Championships held in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) -
 - ▶ Noted Indian boxer MC Mary Kom won Gold Medal in 48 kg category by defeating North Korea's Hyang Mi Kim.
11. ▶ 2017 ATP Finals men's tennis (London (UK)) -
 - ▶ Singles - Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) (*Defeated David Goffin of Belgium*)
 - ▶ Doubles Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
12. ▶ 2017 Aegon International Eastbourne Tennis Title (UK) -
 - ▶ Men's Singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Karolína Plisková (Czech Republic)
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - USA's Bob Bryan AND Mike Bryan
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
13. ▶ 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (5th Asian Indoor Games) held in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) -
 - ▶ India won 40 medals and finished 11th at 5th Asian Indoor Games, Including 9 Gold Medals.
 - ▶ Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Turkmenistan	89	70	86	245
2	China	42	32	23	97
3	Iran	36	23	59	118
4	Kazakhstan	28	28	40	96
5	Uzbekistan	24	33	74	131

14. ▶ 2017 BWF Badminton Super Series Finals held in Dubai (it was final competition of 2017 BWF Super Series) -
 - ▶ Men's Singles - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) (She defeated India's P V Sindhu)
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Markus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - Japan's Shiho Tanaka AND Koharu Yonemoto
15. ▶ 2017 BWF World Championships of badminton held in Glasgow (Scotland) -
 - ▶ India's PV Sindhu won women's singles silver medal. In final match, She lost to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara. Saina Nehwal Won a Bronze Medal.
 - ▶ Men's Singles - Denmark's Viktor Axelsen won by defeating China's Lin Dan.
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - China's Liu Cheng and Zhang Nan defeated Indonesia's Mohammad Ahsan and Rian Agung Saputro.
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - China's Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan defeated Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota
16. ▶ 2017 Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships held in Australia. India will host the 2019 edition of these games. India won 37 medals in current championships held in Australia.
17. ▶ 2017 European Open Men's Tennis 2017 -
 - ▶ Singles - Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France)
 - ▶ Doubles - Scott Lipsky (USA) AND **Divij Sharan (India)**
18. ▶ 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup (India)
 - ▶ England won the Title with Spain as Runners-up. England won the finals by 5-2 Goals.
 - ▶ Brazil Stayed Third. Final match was played in Kolkata. Tournament had total 24 Participant Teams.
 - ▶ Other Honours -
 - ▶ Phil Foden of England adjudged tournament's best player and has been awarded 'Golden Ball'.
 - ▶ Rhian Brewster from England scored most goals (8 goals) and has been awarded, 'Golden Boot'.
 - ▶ Gabriel Brazao (goalkeeper of Brazil) won 'Golden Glove' and Brazil won Fair Play Award.
 - ▶ Other Facts -
 - ▶ Nigeria is most successful team in U17 FIFA World Cups, with 5 titles so far.
 - ▶ FIFA U17 World cup does not has provision of Giving prize money to winners.
 - ▶ It was First FIFA Tournament hosted by India. Matches were played in six stadiums in six host cities - Kolkata, Kochi, New Delhi, Mumbai, Guwahati, Margao.
 - ▶ Jackson Singh Thounaojam Became India's first goal Scorer in FIFA Tournaments as he scored a Header Goal in FIFA U-17 World Cup match against Colombia. India could not win a match though.
 - ▶ Hyundai India were official transportation partner for Tournament.

- Adidas launched campaign #HereToCreate to inspire young football talent in India and to kick start a football revolution.
- Switzerland's Esther Staubli became first female referee to officiate at a FIFA U-17 World Cup Match, when Japan and New Caledonia met in Kolkata.
- Official Mascot was clouded leopard named 'Kheleo' and official ball is called 'Krasava'.
- USA-Based Namit Deshpande became First NRI to Play for India's U17 World Cup Team.

19. ▶ 2017 Laver Cup men's tennis tournament won by Europe, defeating rest of the world. It was held in Prague (Czech Republic).

20. ▶ 2017 Shanghai Rolex Masters Men's Tennis Title -

- Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland)
- Doubles - John Peers (Australia) AND Henri Kontinen (Finland)

21. ▶ 2017 Sultan of Johor Cup Hockey Tournament (Malaysia) -

- Australia won their 2nd title by winning over Great Britain in Final.
- India defeated Malaysia to grab 3rd Place in Tournament.

22. ▶ 2017 Swiss Indoors (Basel) Men's Tennis 2017-

- Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland)
- Doubles - Ivan Dodig (Croatia) AND Marcel Granollers (Spain)

23. ▶ 2017 Tianjin Open Women's Tennis 2017 -

- Singles - Maria Sharapova (Russia). Its her first title since returning from a 15-month doping ban, defeating Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.
- Doubles - Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania) AND Sara Errani (Italy)

24. ▶ 2017 US Open Grand Prix Gold Badminton title -

- Men's singles - **H. S. Prannoy** (India) (Defeated India's Kashyap Parupalli)
- Women's singles - Aya Ohori (Japan) (Defeated Canada's Michelle Li)
- Men's doubles - Japan's Takuto Inoue AND Yuki Kaneko
- Women's doubles - South Korea's Lee So-hee AND Shin Seung-chan
- Mixed doubles - South Korea's Seo Seung-jae AND Kim Ha-na

25. ▶ 2017 WSF-World junior squash championships held in Tauranga (New Zealand). Indian Team finished 6th in girl's team event.

26. ▶ 2017 Western & Southern Open (Cincinnati Open) Tennis 2017-

- Men's Singles - Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria)
- Women's Singles - Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain)
- Men's Doubles - France 's Pierre-Hugues Herbert AND Nicolas Mahut
- Women's Doubles - Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)

27. ▶ 2017 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships (47th) held in Montreal (Canada) -

Medal table

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	3	1	2	6
2	Japan	3	0	1	4
3	Russia	1	3	2	6
4	United States	1	3	1	5
5	Germany	1	0	1	2
	Great Britain	1	0	1	2




















India could not win a medal in the event.

28. ▶ 2017 World Weightlifting Championships held in Anaheim (USA) -

Medal table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Colombia	2	1	2	5
	Iran	2	1	2	5
3	Georgia	2	0	1	3
4	Thailand	1	3	1	5
5	Chile	1	1	0	2
	Vietnam	1	1	0	2

India Ranked 9th Jointly with Chinese Taipei, Romania, South Korea and Spain with 1 Gold Medal Each. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (Manipur) won Gold for India in 48 kg category.

-  During These Championships, India's Gurdeep Singh created three new senior **national** records in +105 kg weight category in snatch, clean and jerk, and the total lift. He couldn't win a medal in the Championships Though.
29. ▶ 2018 Commonwealth Games (21st) will be held on Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.
30. ▶ 2018 winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang (South Korea). Olympics Champions League winner Park Ji-sung will be first South Korean to carry flame for 2018 winter Olympics.
31. ▶ 20th Asia Masters Athletics Championship held in Rugao (China) -
 India finished second with 146 medals, including 37 golds, 43 silvers and 66 bronze. China was at top of list.
32. ▶ 22nd Asian Athletics Championships held at Kalinga Stadium of Bhubaneswar.
 India topped medal tally for first time in the history of Asian Athletics Championships. India's medal tally stood at 29 medals (12 gold, 5 silver, 12 bronze). China came second with 20 Medals (8 gold, 7 silver, 5 bronze). Kazakhstan 3rd with 8 Medals and Iran 4th with 5 medals.
33. ▶ 22nd Commonwealth Games 2022 will be hosted in Birmingham (England).
 Shooting has been excluded from Commonwealth Games 2022 edition.
34. ▶ 42nd Junior (*U-17 and U-19*) National Badminton Championship concludes in Guwahati (Assam) -
 U-19 - Aryaman Tandon and Akarshi Kashyap won in boys' & girls' singles respectively.
 U-17 - Maisnam Meiraba and Akarshi Kashyap won in boys' & girls' singles respectively.
35. ▶ 46th Congress of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) will be held in New Delhi from October - November, 2018. This biennial event will run for four days.
36. ▶ 57th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships organized by Andhra Pradesh Athletics Association at Guntur.
37. ▶ 57th National Open Athletics Championships held at Nehru Stadium in Chennai (Tamilnadu).
38. ▶ 61st National Shooting Championships 2017 held in (New Delhi).
39. ▶ 61st National Shooting Championships held in Trivandrum (Kerala) -
 Anisa Sayyed created new national record in women 25m pistol.
 Jitu Rai created new national record in men's 50m pistol event.
40. ▶ 62nd National Wrestling championship held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh).
 Haryana Remained at top with total 36 Medals in all (men and women) categories.
 Wrestler Sandeep Tulsi Yadav has been handed a four-year ban by Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel of the NADA.
41. ▶ 6th Swimmathon (*India's Premier open water swimming championships*) will be held in Goa in December 2017, organized by Square Off Sports.
42. ▶ 7th Asian Shotgun Championships held at Astana (Kazakhstan)
 Kuwait stayed at top with 5 medals (4 Gold, 1 Silver), followed by China (4 Gold, 1 Bronze) and India stayed 3rd with 7 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver, 4 Bronze).
43. ▶ 7th Edition of Kamada Kinkar Mukherjee Rural Football Tournament held in Murshidabad (West Bengal).
44. ▶ 7th World Dwarf Games held in Ontario province of Canada with approx 400 athletes from 24 countries participating. Indian contingent won record 37 medals (15 G, 10 S and 12 B).
45. ▶ 7th international military games will be held in Wuhan (China), by International Military Sports Council (CISM).
46. ▶ 82nd Senior National Badminton Championship 2017 (Nagpur (Maharashtra)) -
 Women's Singles - Saina Nehwal (defeating PV Sindhu). Nehwal became National Champion for 3rd Time.
 Men's Singles - H.S. Prannoy (defeating Kidambi Srikanth)
47. ▶ AIBA (International Boxing Championships) Youth World Boxing Championships 2017 held in Guwahati (Assam) -
 India led the medal tally with 5 gold medals - Nitu , Jyoti Gulia , Sakshi Choudhury, Shashi Chopra and Ankushita Boro.
 Ankushita Boro won *The Best Boxer* title in World Youth Women's boxing Championship held in Guwahati.
48. ▶ AIFF (All India Football Federation) appointed Ushanath Banerjee as chairman of a special committee that will deal with players' transfer disputes.
49. ▶ ATP World Tour Awards 2017
 Swiss Player Roger Federer won 3 ATP World Tour Awards -
 Selected by fans as ATP WorldTour.com Fans' Favourite for 15th straight year.
 voted by fellow players as winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award
 Comeback Player of the Year.
 Coach of the Year - Neville Godwin

50. ▶ Afghan Off Spinner Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Zadran became youngest ever from Afghanistan to play International cricket and overall 9th youngest to debut in ODI cricket.
51. ▶ Afghanistan won ICC Intercontinental Cup defeating United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, with Ireland ranked 2nd.
52. ▶ Afghanistan won maiden Under-19 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), defeating Pakistan.
53. ▶ Airtel Payments Bank became first payments bank in India to integrate UPI Technology (Unified Payments Interface) on its digital platform. It will allow customers the choice and convenience to facilitate secure digital payments.
54. ▶ Amritpal Singh became first India-born player to be included into Australia's National Basketball League, by basketball club Sydney Kings.
55. ▶ Arab Nation Qatar will host 2022 FIFA Football World Cup, and would be building a stadium shaped like an Arabian skull cap for the event.
56. ▶ Asian Archery Championships 2017, Organized in Dhaka (Bangladesh), with India scoring 9 medals.
 - ▶ Gold - Akash (Recurve Cadet Men), Abhishek Verma (Compound Men) and Compound Women Team
57. ▶ Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Competition Committee chooses Indonesia as host of AFC Under-19 Championship 2018.
58. ▶ Asian Luge Championships held at Altenberg (Germany) -
 - ▶ Germany is a European nation, still it hosted Asian Luge Championships for security reasons.
 - ▶ Sole Indian participant Shiva Keshavan retained his title with a time of 55.60 seconds.
59. ▶ Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships held at Kathmandu (Nepal).
 - ▶ India won 4 medals in this championship - 1 Gold and 3 Bronze.
 - ▶ Bronze - Ajay Singh, S. Nirpupama Devi and Lovepreet Singh.
 - ▶ Gold - Kansom Ormila.
60. ▶ Australia won FIBA Basketball Asia Cup 2017, defeating Iran. While, South Korea clinched the third place. It was held in Lebanon.
61. ▶ Australian fast bowler John Hastings retired from Test and ODI Cricket.
62. ▶ BCCI mandated every cricketer to pass a yo-yo test, like applied by various sports including hockey and football.
 - ▶ In a yo-yo test, players have to pace themselves to and fro between two rows of cones kept 20 metres apart. For every round the player has to sync his sprint with the beeps that are played.
63. ▶ BCCI nominated Mahendra Singh Dhoni for Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award for his contribution to game. He is only cricketer nominated by BCCI for this year's Padma Awards. While, Olympic silver medalist shuttler P.V. Sindhu is recommended for Padma Bhushan title by Sports Ministry.
64. ▶ BWF Para-Badminton World Championships held Ulsan (South Korea) -
 - ▶ India won 10 medals, including 2 golds. Parul Parmar won women's singles and also won women's doubles by pairing up with Japan's Akiko Sugino.
65. ▶ Bangladesh won First ever SAFF U-15 Women's football Championship 2017, defeating India. It was hosted by Bangladesh.
66. ▶ Basel (Switzerland) will become first city to jointly host Badminton and Para-Badminton World Championships in 2019.
67. ▶ Bharat Arun has been appointed Indian Cricket Team's bowling coach until 2019 World Cup.
 - ▶ Sanjay Bangar has been appointed assistant coach and R Sridhar as fielding coach till 2019 ODI World Cup.
68. ▶ Boxing Federation of India (BFI) was recognised as a national body by Indian Olympic Association, removing Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) as its affiliate.
69. ▶ Brazil's Neymar became world's most expensive footballer, after signing an INR 1,680 crores (€222 million) deal with France's Barcelona FC.
70. ▶ Cadet World Wrestling Championships 2017 held in Athens (Greece) -
 - ▶ India's Wrestler Anshu won Gold Medal defeating Japanese Wrestler Naomi Ruike in 60-kilogram weight category.
 - ▶ Sonam Malik won gold by defeating Japanese Wrestler Sena Nagamoto in 56 KG Category.
 - ▶ Besides, Neelam won Bronze in 43-kilogram category.
71. ▶ Chandika Hathurusingha is appointed as new Head coach of Sri Lanka Cricket Team.
72. ▶ China Open Tennis 2017 -
 - ▶ Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Caroline Garcia (France)
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
73. ▶ Commonwealth Shooting Championships and Oceania shooting championships 2017 Held in Gold Coast (Australia) -
 - ▶ India won 20 medals with 6 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze. Gold Medals -

- 🏆 Satyendra Singh won in men's 50m rifle 3 positions.
- 🏆 Heena Sidhu won in women's 10m Air Pistol event.
- 🏆 Shahzar Rizvi won in men's 10m air pistol event.
- 🏆 Pooja Ghatkar won in 10m women's air rifle event.
- 🏆 Prakash Nanjappa won in men's 50m pistol event.
- 🏆 Ankur Mittal won in Men's double trap event.


- 🏆 India will host next Commonwealth Shooting Championships in 2019.
- 74. ▶ Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP) chosen as an associate member of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Now, Puducherry will be allowed to play Ranji Trophy in 2018.
- 75. ▶ Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) won 2017 Fifa Men's Player award and Lieke Martens (Netherlands) won Fifa Women's Player of the year award in London (UK).
- 76. ▶ Delhi Half Marathon 2017 winners -
 - 🏆 Men - Birhanu Legese (Ethiopia).
 - 🏆 Women - Almaz Ayana (Ethiopia).
- 77. ▶ Delhi State Olympic Association will organise Delhi Olympic Games in December 2017. Aim is to promote Olympics and spirit of sports in Delhi. 9 day sporting events will include hockey, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, swimming, karate, wushu and 28 other disciplines. Olympic wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt will be brand ambassador of Delhi Olympic Games 2017.
- 78. ▶ Denmark Open Badminton 2017 -
 - 🏆 Men's Singles - **Srikanth Kidambi (India)**, He Defeated Lee Hyun-il (South Korea)
 - 🏆 Women's Singles - Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
 - 🏆 Men's Doubles Chinese Pair of Liu Cheng AND Zhang Nan
 - 🏆 Women's Doubles South Korean pair of Lee So-hee AND Shin Seung-chan
 - 🏆 Mixed Doubles - Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man AND Tse Ying Suet
- 79. ▶ East Bengal FC won eighth consecutive Calcutta Football League (CFL) title (39th overall), defeating Mohun Bagan FC in Siliguri (West Bengal)
- 80. ▶ Emblems of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named *Winter Dream* and *Flight*, to be held in Beijing (China).
- 81. ▶ England will host International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) 2018 Team World Cup.
 - 🏆 Team World Cup is ITTF's second most noted tournament after World Championships.
- 82. ▶ England won ICC Women's World Cup 2017 with final held at Lord's (London) by defeating India in Final. It was fourth Women's World Cup title for England.
 - 🏆 India captain Mithali Raj named as Captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team by International cricket Council (ICC). Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma were other two Indians included in ICC's team.
- 83. ▶ FIFA has lifted 2 year suspension against Kuwait's football association that prevented It country from participating in international tournaments.
- 84. ▶ FIFA suspended Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) due to being included in corruption and malpractices.
- 85. ▶ Ferrari Racer Sebastian Vettel (Germany) won Hungarian Grand Prix -
 - 🏆 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July

11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix		27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix		3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

86. ▶ Ferrari Racer Sebastian Vettel (Germany) won Brazilian Grand Prix -

 Britain's Lewis Hamilton has already been crowned Formula One world champion 2017.

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
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6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
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8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
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11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	8 October
17	United States Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

87. ▶ First ever Indian squad to participate in the FIFA U-17 World Cup has been announced, with 21 players onboard. FIFA U17 WC will be held in India in October 2017.

88. ▶ Football club Mohun Bagan won 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament, defeating Partha Chakra in Gangtok (Sikkim).

89. ▶ Forbes richest sportsmen 2017 List -

 Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo leads the list, followed by LeBron James (American basketball player) and Lionel Messi (Argentinian Footballer).














 Virat Kohli is only cricketer to feature in Top 100 list.

90. ▶ Former Pakistan Cricketer Misbah-ul-Haq honoured with Honorary Life Membership by England's Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

91. ▶ France has been announced as host of 2023 Rugby World Cup. Note that Next Rugby World Cup is to be held in Japan in 2019.

92. ▶ France won its 10th Davis Cup Tennis title after France's Lucas Pouille beat Belgium's Steve Darcis in Final. It was 106th Edition of Davis Cup and was hosted by France.
93. ▶ Germany won First FIFA Confederation Cup Football title by defeating Chile in St Petersburg (Russia).
94. ▶ Gopi Thonakal became first Indian man to win Asian Marathon Championship, after he won Gold medal at 16th Asian Marathon Championships in China.
95. ▶ Government announced that first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will be held in Delhi, aiming at popularising indigenous games like wrestling, athletics etc. It will also have fun games like Matka Race, Tug of War for senior citizens.
96. ▶ Government approved Olympic Task Force's recommendation of Providing stipend of Rs 50,000 per month be paid to elite athletes preparing for Tokyo Olympic, Asian Games or Common Wealth Games to meet pocket expenses. Government selected 152 elites under TOP scheme.
97. ▶ Government exempted import duty on a wide range of goods and sports items for upcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in India in October 2017. However, importers will have to exports all imported accessories will be re-exported within 3 months of conclusion of World Cup.
98. ▶ Hockey Karnataka won Hockey India's 2nd 5-a-side Senior Men's National Championship 2017, defeating Haryana.
99. ▶ Hong Kong Badminton Open 2017 -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei), defeated India's P V Sindhu
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - China's Chen Qingchen AND Jia Yifan
100. ▶ ICC approved 9 team Test Championship and a 13-team One-Day International league.
- ▶ Test competition will begin after 2019 World Cup and will have 9 teams play six series over two years.
 - ▶ 50-over event will be held in 2020.
101. ▶ IPL Franchise Kochi Tuskers won arbitration case against Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over wrongful termination from Indian Premier League (IPL) and demanded 850 crore compensation from BCCI.
- ▶ Kochi Tuskers' IPL contract was terminated by BCCI in 2011, citing breach of franchise agreement. Kochi Tuskers appealed against this decision.
102. ▶ ISSF Junior World Cup Shotgun held in Porpetto (Italy).
- ▶ India - Shapath Bharadwaj won Bronze in Double Trap Men Junior Event. Additionally, Lakshay Sheoran and Manisha Keer won bronze in mixed team trap competition (a test event). Shapath Bhardwaj (aged 15) also become India's youngest athlete to figure in government's Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme.
 - ▶ Italy dominated with 6 Medals (2 each of Gold, Silver and Bronze).
103. ▶ ISSF World Cup Final 2017 Held in New Delhi -
- ▶ Hosts India finished 7th overall with 1 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze.
 - ▶ Gold - Jitu Rai/Heena Sidhu (mixed team 10m air pistol)
 - ▶ Silver - Sangram Dahiya (men's double trap)
 - ▶ Bronze - Amanpreet Singh (50m pistol).
 - ▶ Medal Tally -
 - ▶ Italy Remained at top in ISSF World Cup Finals Delhi 2017, followed by China
 - ▶ China's Rio 2016 10m air pistol women's champion, Mengxue Zhang and Gengcheng Sui, were crowned Champion of Champions in pistol and rifle respectively.
 - ▶ In Overall ISSF World Cup 2017 (1st Leg in Delhi in Feb, 2nd Leg in Munich (Germany) in May, 3rd Leg in Gabala (Azerbaijan) in June and Finals in Delhi) -
 - ▶ India stayed at 6th with 9 Medals (3 G, 3 S, 3 B).
 - ▶ China at top with 37 Medals, Followed by Italy (15) and USA (10).
104. ▶ ISSF World Shotgun Championships held in Moscow (Russia). India's Ankur Mittal won Silver Double Trap Men (Adult) and Ahvar Rizvi won Silver in Double Trap Men (Junior). India Finished 5th in this championship.
105. ▶ Iceland becomes smallest country ever (3.3 Million Population) to qualify for FIFA World Cup, after topping its qualifying group. FIFA World cup 2018 is to be held in Russia.
106. ▶ India at Miscellaneous Sports Events -
- ▶ India's Aryan Goveas and Arjun Kadhe won doubles title in \$15,000 ITF (International Tennis Federation) Futures tennis tournament, in Cairo (Egypt).

- ▶ Indian Diving Team won 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals in Indonesia Open Aquatic Championships 2017 in Jakarta.
 - ▶ India finished seventh overall in the WSF-world men's team squash championship in Marseille, France.
 - ▶ Indian Junior Girls won 4 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze at Valeria Demyanova Memorial International Boxing Tournament in Ukraine.
 - ▶ India won 10 medals in the first Wushu Sanda Asian Cup in Guangzhou, China.
 - ▶ Indian junior boxers won 11 Medals (Inc. 6 gold) and finished as overall champions at 5th International Sven Lange Memorial Tournament in Germany.
 - ▶ Indian boxers won 3 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze at Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament in Karaganda (Kazakhstan).
107. ▶ India at Recent Sports Events -
- ▶ India won 10 medals (including 2 gold by Jyoti and Vanlalharitpuii) at 6th Golden Glove women's Boxing Tournament in Serbia.
108. ▶ India beat Nepal to win first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament (team championship) held at Guwahati, Assam.
109. ▶ India captain Mithali Raj occupied number one spot in latest ICC ODI rankings for batswomen, followed by Ellyse Perry of Australia and Amy Satterthwaite of New Zealand. Mithali has 753 points. Indian captain Virat Kohli also returned to top of ICC ODI rankings for batsmen with 889 points, best ever by an India batsman.
- ▶ Meanwhile, Indian bowler Jasprit Bumrah also ranked at 1st spot in ICC T20 rankings.
110. ▶ India finished 7th in 6th Youth Commonwealth Games held at Bahamas, with total 11 medals (4 gold, 1 silver and 6 bronze). England topped medal list with 51 medals, followed by Australia (39 medals).
111. ▶ India team (consisting of Pankaj Advani and Laxman Rawat) won Asian Team Snooker Championship in Kyrgyzstan, by defeating Pakistan.
112. ▶ India will host 2023 Cricket World Cup (13th) and 2021 Champions Trophy.
- ▶ ICC World Cup 2019 will be held in England and Wales.
113. ▶ India will host South Asian boxing Championship for first time in Guwahati (Assam) in December 2017.
114. ▶ India won 2017 Asia Cup hockey title by defeating Malaysia in final. Tournament was held in Bangladesh. It was India's 3rd Asia Cup title, after 2003 and 2007.
115. ▶ India won 2017 Women's Hockey Asia Cup by Defeating China in Final. Japan was the Host Nation.
- ▶ With this, India Qualified for 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup (14th edition) to be held in London (England).
 - ▶ Note that 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup (14th) will be held in November - December 2018 in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (India).
116. ▶ India won 2nd South Asian Basketball (SABA) Under – 16 Championship by defeating Bhutan in Kathmandu (Nepal). India qualified for 2017 FIBA Under-16 Asian Championship to be played in Malaysia in later 2017.
117. ▶ India's Mithali Raj became first player in International women's ODI cricket to score over 6000 runs. She achieved this during a ICC Women's World Cup 2017 match at Bristol (UK) against Australia. She went past Charlotte Edwards (England).
118. ▶ India's Shubhankar Sharma won Joburg Open golf tournament to qualify for 2018 British Open.
119. ▶ India's Tejasvi Duduka won women's singles of U.S. Open Grand Slam Carrom tournament.
120. ▶ Indian Badminton Player Lakshya Sen won Bulgaria Open International Series Badminton title, defeating Croatia's Zvonimir Durkinjak.
121. ▶ Indian Badminton Player Samiya Imad Farooqui won gold medal at Under-15 women's singles competition at Asian Junior Championship in Yangon (Myanmar).
122. ▶ Indian Billiards Player Pankaj Advani won his 18th IBSF World Snooker Championship Title, after defeating Iran's Amir Sarkhosh in Qatar.
123. ▶ Indian Boxer Sachin Siwach is named Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year 2017. India also fetched the Best Asian International Technical Official (ITO) award with Lenny D'Gama winning the online poll.
124. ▶ Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli Became Fastest Batsman to score 9000 ODI runs, achieving this in Just 194 Innings. He is also biggest scorer in 200 ODI Innings.
125. ▶ Indian Damneet Singh won India's Only medal (silver in hammer throw) at IAAF World U18 Championships held in Nairobi (Kenya).
126. ▶ Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his eighth Asian Tour title as he won Macau Open 2017. It is his first Asian Tour trophy of the year.
127. ▶ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally awarded rights to host 36th National Games to Goa in November 2017.
128. ▶ Indian U-15 football team won SAFF U-15 Championships held in Kathmandu (Nepal), defeating Nepal.
129. ▶ Indian archer Deepika Kumari won bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Bangkok (Thailand).
130. ▶ Indian batsman Rohit Sharma became first to score 3 double centuries in ODI cricket, after he scored 208 Not out against Sri Lanka in Mohali.
- ▶ India also become first team to register 300+ totals 100 times in ODIs, after posting 392 against Sri Lanka in same game at Mohali.
131. ▶ Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won World Rapid Chess tournament title in Saudi Arabia, beating Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev.


132. ▶ Indian football team qualified for 2019 Asian Cup after winning over Macau in qualifying round. AFC Asian Cup will be held in Jan - Feb 2019 in UAE.
133. ▶ Indian golfer 28-year-old Ajeetesh Sandhu won Asian Tour title at Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) at Taipei.
134. ▶ Indian squash player Harinder Pal Sandhu won Malaysian Squash Tour, as his 21st consecutive international match win in a row.
135. ▶ Indian table tennis player Diya Chitale won silver medal in girls' doubles category of 2017 ITTF World Cadet Challenge in Suva (Fiji).
136. ▶ India's Anupama Ramachandran won World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St. Petersburg in Russia.
137. ▶ International Boxing Association (AIBA) announced that India will host their first Men's World Championship in 2021.
 AIBA Men's World Championships 2019 will be held in Sochi (Russia). 2018 Women's World Championships will be held in Delhi.
138. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced New Zealand Cricketer Corey Anderson as event ambassador for ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 to be held in New Zealand.
139. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced several changes to rules -
 Thickness of edges of bat can't be more than 40mm and the overall depth can be 67 mm at most.
 Change in DRS rule - A review will now not be lost in case of a decision that remains unchanged, solely as the result of an 'umpire's call'. DRS will now also be allowed to be used in T20Is.
 Run outs - If a batsman is running towards crease with forward momentum and grounded its bat behind popping crease but subsequently has lost contact with the ground at the time of the wickets being put down, the batsman will not be run out.
 Boundary catches - airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within boundary, otherwise, a boundary will be scored. Batsman can now be out caught, stumped or run out even if ball bounces off the helmet worn by a fielder or wicket-keeper.
140. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) launched anti-corruption investigation in Sri Lanka Cricket.
141. ▶ International Hockey Federation (FIH) declared that China have qualified for the Hockey World Cup for the first time.
 2018 Hockey world cup (14th Hockey WC) will be held in Bhubaneswar (India).
142. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally announced Paris (France) as host of 2024 summer Olympics and Los Angeles (LOS) as host of 2028 Olympics.
143. ▶ International Olympic Committee banned Russia from 2018 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang (South Korea), over its state-orchestrated doping programme. Note that clean Russian athletes will be allowed to compete under an Olympic flag.
144. ▶ Iran allowed its women weightlifters to compete internationally for the first time, wearing special clothes for Muslim athletes.
145. ▶ Kerala Kings won first T10 Cricket League champion at Sharjah Cricket Stadium (UAE), defeating Punjabi Legends.
146. ▶ Kochi (Kerala) will host BWF World Senior Badminton Championships, being held in India for first time.
147. ▶ Korean Open Badminton 2017 -
 Men's singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
 Women's singles - India P. V. Sindhu. Sindhu Became first Indian to win Korea Open Superseries. She defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan.
 Men's doubles - Mathias Boe AND Carsten Mogensen (Denmark)
 Women's doubles - Huang Yaqiong AND Yu Xiaohan (China)
 Mixed doubles - Praveen Jordan AND Debby Susanto (Indonesia)
148. ▶ Kuldeep Yadav became first Indian spinner to take a hat-trick in ODI cricket, after he took one against an ODI game against Australia.
149. ▶ Los Angeles (USA) formally announced its bid for 2028 Summer Olympics, paving way for Paris to host 2024 Summer Olympics.
 Los Angeles will be hosting games in 2028 for the third time after 1932 and 1984.
 Los Angeles and Paris are in race to host 2024 Games, with winner to be named by IOC on September 13 in Lima (Peru). Now Paris is almost sure to host 2024 as Los Angeles will be hosting 2028 Games.
150. ▶ Mahendra Singh Dhoni became first wicketkeeper in world cricket to do 100 stumpings in One Day Internationals (ODIs).
151. ▶ Meghalaya Government launched *Mission Football* in Shillong, aimed at nurturing Footballing talent in state.
152. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Belgian Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
	Russian Grand Prix	Valteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April


4			
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix		3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

153. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Italian Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -


Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

154. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Singapore Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November


155. ▶ Mercedes Driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won British Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix		30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix		27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix		3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October


17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

156. ▶ Mercedes Driver Valtteri Bottas (Finland) won Austrian Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix		16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix		30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix		27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix		3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November


157. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Japanese Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August

13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

158. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won USA Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	8 October
17	United States Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

159. ▶ Mercedes Racer Serene Valtteri (Finland) won Abu Dhabi Grand Prix -

 Britain's Lewis Hamilton has already been crowned Formula One world champion 2017.

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June

8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
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14	Singapore Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	8 October
17	United States Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	Serene Valtteri (Finland)	26 November

160. ▶ Mohun Bagan FC awards 2017 -

- ▶ Subrata Bhattacharya - Mohun Bagan Ratna
- ▶ Best Football Player of the Year - Balwant Singh
- ▶ Best Cricket Player of the Year - Debabrata Das
- ▶ Lifetime Achievement - Shyam Sundar Mitra
- ▶ India Women's cricket team veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami with a special award

161. ▶ Mumbai batsman Prithvi Shaw will be captain of Indian Side in upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup 2018 in New Zealand.

162. ▶ NECC-ITF women's tennis championship in Pune -

- ▶ Singles - Spain's Georgina Garcia-Perez.

163. ▶ Nagpur's Kanchanmala Pande became the first Indian to secure pole position at World Para-Swimming Championships 2017 in Mexico as she won gold in 200 meter medley event in S-11 category.

164. ▶ Netherlands's Noted Football Player Arjen Robben retired from international football.

165. ▶ New Delhi will host India Open International Boxing Tournament in January - February 2018. For first time, India will field a team in upcoming edition of World Series Boxing, AIBA's professional league. Team will be sponsored by Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

166. ▶ Noted Brazilian Footballer Kaka Retired from Professional Football.

167. ▶ Noted English Footballer Wayne Rooney retired from international football. He is leading Goalscorer of England, with 53 Goals.

168. ▶ Noted Indian Female Boxer M C Mary Kom became first Indian to be picked as International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative for 8th IOC Athletes' Forum to be held in Lausanne (Switzerland).

169. ▶ Noted Indian pacer Ashish Nehra retired from all forms of cricket. He played His last Match as a T20 against New Zealand.

170. ▶ Noted Swiss Female Tennis Player, Martina Hingis announced her retirement from Professional Tennis.

- ▶ She held world No. 1 ranking for 209 weeks during her career, winning 43 WTA singles titles and 64 doubles titles.

171. ▶ Odisha government signed MOU with International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to establish a High-Performance Academy in Bhubaneswar.

172. ▶ Official emblem and slogan for FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 has been launched. Slogan is *Dare To Shine*.

173. ▶ Official logo, mascot and anthem for 2017 AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship to be held in Guwahati (Assam) in Nov 2017 has been unveiled. Official mascot is named Guppy (female version of Assam's one-horned rhino) and anthem is 'Make Some Noise'.

174. ▶ Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) invited Australia to compete at Asiad (Asian Games) in 2022, for the first time. The invite is for selected sports like football and basketball to enable athletes to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

175. ▶ Pooja Kadian won India's first ever gold medal at Wushu World Championships 2017 held in Russia.

176. ▶ Pune International Marathon 2017 -

- ▶ It was held Despite being denied permission by Athletics Federation of India.

- ▶ Winners - Tisasua Basazin

- ▶ Men - Ethiopia's Getachew Beshu.

- ▶ Women's Half Marathon - Ethiopia's Tisasua Basazin.

177. ▶ Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka) became first left-arm spinner to take 400 wickets in Test Cricket. He is 14th overall and second sri lankan after Muttiah Muralitharan to pick 400 test wickets.
178. ▶ Ravichandran Ashwin became Fastest to take 300 Test Cricket wickets (in 54 tests), getting past Australia's Dennis Lillee who achieved this in 56 Tests.
179. ▶ Real Madrid defeated Manchester United to win 2017 UEFA Super Cup Soccer title.
180. ▶ Real Madrid won FIFA Club World Cup 2017 in UAE, defeating Gremio in Final.
- ✎ Real Madrid is first side in the history of FIFA Club World Cup to retain the trophy.
 - ✎ Real Madrid has now won five trophies in 2017 – Champions League, La Liga, Uefa Super Cup, Spanish Super Cup and Club World Cup.
181. ▶ Red Bull Racer Max Verstappen (Born in Belgium and competes under Dutch flag) won Malaysian Grand Prix -
- ✎ 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

182. ▶ Red Bull Racer Max Verstappen (Born in Belgium and competes under Dutch flag) won Mexican Grand Prix -
- ✎ Britain's Lewis Hamilton has been crowned Formula One world champion 2017, fourth world Formula One title for Hamilton.
 - ✎ 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
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19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

183. ▶ Rogers Cup Tennis 2017 (Canadian Open) -

- 🔵 Men's Singles - Alexander Zverev (Germany) (*Defeated Roger Federer (Switzerland)*)
- 🔵 Women's Singles - Elina Svitolina (Ukraine) (*Defeated Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)*)
- 🔵 Men's Doubles - France 's Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut
- 🔵 Women's Doubles - Russia's Ekaterina Makarova and Russia Elena Vesnina

184. ▶ Shakib Al Hasan became first Bangladesh Cricketer to be inducted in the MCC World Cricket Committee under chairmanship of Mike Gatting. Also added to the committee are Suzie Bates, Ian Bishop and Kumar Dharmasena.

185. ▶ Shooting Para Sport World Cup 2017 held in Bangkok (Thailand).

186. ▶ Spain's Rafael Nadal and Garbine Muguruza are named as International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions for male and female categories respectively. This is first time in 19 years that both awards have gone to players from the same country.

187. ▶ Spoterperson Brand List 2017 by Forbes -

- 🔵 Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli ranks ahead of Argentinian Football Star Lionel Messi, with brand value of \$14.5 million and ranks 7th in list.
- 🔵 Tennis legend Roger Federer leads the list with a brand value of \$37.2m.
- 🔵 Brand value is an athlete's earnings (excluding salary and bonus from their sport and all investment income), minus average income of top 10 athletes in same sport.

188. ▶ Star India secured Indian Premier League's media rights with a bid of Rs 16347.50 crore for five-year period 2018-2022, getting past Sony's bid of INR 11050 crores. Note that In 2008, Sony Pictures Network won IPL media rights for 10 years for INR 8200 crores

189. ▶ This year, Chennai will not host India's lone ATP tour tournament - Chennai Open 2017. It will now be held in Pune and called *Maharashtra Open*.

190. ▶ Tyrrell Hatton (UK) became first Golfer to retain the Alfred Dunhill Links Golf Championship title (Scotland).

191. ▶ U23 Senior World Wrestling Championships in Bydgoszcz (Poland) -

- 🔵 India's won 3 silver medals - Bajrang (65 kg Men's Freestyle), Vinod Omprakash Kumar (70 kg Men's Freestyle), Ritu Phogat (Women's 48 kg Freestyle)

192. ▶ US Open Tennis 2017 -

- 🔵 Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain) by Defeating Kevin Anderson (South Africa). It is overall 16th Grand Slam Title for Rafael Nadal.
- 🔵 Women's Singles - Sloane Stephens (USA) by Defeating Madison Keys (USA)
- 🔵 Men's Doubles - Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) AND Horia Tecău (Romania)
- 🔵 Women's Doubles - Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- 🔵 Mixed Doubles - Martina Hingis (Switzerland) AND Jamie Murray (UK)



193. ▶ West Indies Cricketer Chris Gayle become first batsman to hit 100 sixes in Twenty20 Internationals.

194. ▶ Wimbledon Tennis Tournemnt 2017 (UK)





- 🔵 Men's Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland) (*Defeated Croatia's Marin Čilić*). It is federer's 8th Wimbledon and 19th Grand Slam Title.
- 🔵 Women's Singles - Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain) (*Defeated USA's Venus Williams*)

-  Men's Doubles - Lukasz Kubot (Poland) AND Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
-  Women's Doubles - Russian Pair of Ekaterina Makarova AND Elena Vesnina
-  Mixed Doubles - Jamie Murray (UK) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)

195. ▶ World Junior Wrestling Championships 2017 held in Tampere (Finland) -

-  India's Manju Kumari won bronze medal in women's 59kg category.
-  Veer Dev Gulia won bronze medal In men's 74kg freestyle category.

196. ▶ World Para Athletics Championships 2017 held in London (United Kingdom).

-  1074 Athletes from 92 Nations participated in 213 events.
-  India ended at 34th Place with 5 Medals, best ever performance by India in Para Athletics Championships. For India, Sundar Singh Gurjar claimed gold medal in men's javelin throw event. There were 2 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals.
 -  Silver - Sharad Kumar (High Jump), Amit Saroha (Club Throw)
 -  Bronze - Varun Bhati (High Jump), Karamjyoti Dalal (Discus throw)

 Medal Table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	30	17	18	65
2	United States	20	19	20	59
3	Great Britain	18	8	13	39
4	Ukraine	12	6	11	29
5	Australia	11	9	8	28





197. ▶ World U-20 Junior Para Athletics Championships, Held in Notwill (Switzerland) -

-  India stayed at 9th Place in team rankings, with 5 medals (2 Gold, 3 Silver). Gold medals were won by Aamit Kumar (200 m Male) and Behera Jeyanti (400 m Female).
-  USA stayed at top with 18 medals, followed by Iran (9).

198. ▶ Wrestler Satish Kumar has been awarded Rs 25 lakh as compensation by a Delhi court for being wrongly restrained from taking part in 14th Asian Games in Busan (South Korea) in 2002. He was barred due to mistaken impression of having taken performance-enhancing drugs.

199. ▶ Wrestler Sushil Kumar and Boxer Mary C. Kom resigned as *National Sports Observers*.


200. ▶ Yonex French Open Badminton 2017 -

-  Men's Singles - **Kidambi Srikanth (India)**, by defeating Japan's Kenta Nishimoto.
-  Women's Doubles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)
-  Men's Doubles - Lee Jhe-huei AND Taipei Lee Yang (Chinese Taipei)
-  Women's Doubles - Greysia Polii AND Apriyani Rahayu (Indonesia)

201. ▶ Youth World Archery Championship in Rosario (Argentina) -

 Medal table -

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	4	4	3	11
2	South Korea	4	3	1	8
3	Mexico	3	1	3	7
4	Chinese Taipei	2	2	1	5
	Great Britain	2	2	1	5
6	Turkey	1	1	2	4
7	India	1	1	1	3

-  India - Ankita Bhakat and Jemson Singh Ningthoujam won gold in Recurve Event. India also won a silver and a bronze.

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