



### Current Affairs - July to December 2017

Month  Type














- **861** Current Affairs were found in **Last Six Months** for Type - **National**

(Showing **645** Important Ones)


#### National

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 2 day *International Conference on Yoga for Wellness* held in New Delhi. It is 3rd International Conference on Yoga.
- ▶ 2 day Korea festival showcasing Korea's rich art, culture and heritage held by Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) in Gurugram (Haryana).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival will be organized in November 2017 in Shillong (Meghalaya).
- ▶ 2nd Iranshah Udvada Utsav, a Parsi cultural festival organized in Gujarat.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 FICC.
  - ✎ 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 Jiv Van 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 Mangement (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 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, Sonapat (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 Govrment 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 operations 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 Kawrpuichhuah 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) partnered 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 been 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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 necessary.
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 Managing 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 'Culture 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 govt's 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 govt 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 govt 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-aunthenticated 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 governemnt 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 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 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](http://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 Suplied 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 lenthg 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, Gontinagar, 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 e-NWR 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. ▶ Telegnana 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 Cyclone 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](http://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.

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