



### Current Affairs - October to December 2017

Month  Type



- ▶ **1810** Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - All

(Showing **1351** Important Ones)

#### Appointments

- ▶ Ajit Kumar P assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
- ▶ A Surya Prakash has been re-appointed as chairman of Prasar Bharati board for second consecutive term till February 2020.
- ▶ A. P. Maheshwari has been appointed as Director General in Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
- ▶ Acclaimed South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV.
- ▶ Actor Dia Mirza has been appointed UN (United Nations) Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India.
- ▶ Aegon Life Insurance appointed Vineet Arora as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
- ▶ Amardeep Singh Bhatia is appointed as new director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- ▶ Andrej Babis has been appointed as new prime minister of Czech Republic (Europe).
- ▶ Anshu Prakash has been appointed as chief secretary of Delhi.
- ▶ Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as Chief Secretary for Puducherry.
- ▶ Audrey Azoulay (France) elected as new Director General of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).
- ▶ B S Sahrawat is appointed as Director General of National Cadet Corps.
- ▶ Borut Pahor re-elected as President of Slovenia for 2nd term.
- ▶ Britain's Prince Harry is appointed as president of African Parks, a conservation group which manages wildlife areas in Africa.
- ▶ British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding is appointed as Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment, joining fight to save lives and habitats of people and animals by cleaning up air and seas.
- ▶ Buddhist monk Dhammapiya from Tripura has been elected as the secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), during 2nd general assembly of IBC held in New Delhi.
- ▶ D R Soni appointed as chief of Indian Army's Southern Command.
- ▶ Debjani Ghosh has been appointed as first Female President of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).
- ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is elected President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA).
- ▶ Dharendra Pal Singh is appointed as chairperson of University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ▶ Former cricketer Saba Karim is appointed as new General Manager (GM) of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ▶ George Weah (Former footballer) has been elected as new president of Liberia (West Africa).
- ▶ Government appointed Dineshwar Sharma as its Representative to carry forward dialogue with elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - ▶ After this appointment, Supreme Court adjourned hearing of plea (*filed by Delhi-based NGO in 2014*) challenging Article 35A of Constitution by 3 months.
  - ▶ Article 35A of empowers J&K legislature to define permanent residents (PR) of state. It was added through Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 issued under Article 370 of Constitution.
  - ▶ J&K Constitution adopted on November 17, 1956 defines Permanent Resident as person who has been resident of state for 10 years and has acquired immovable property in state. Provision of Permanent Resident bars Indian citizens of other states to settle in J&K and do any personal or professional activities. Therefore, Plea was filed to remove Article 35A of constitution.
- ▶ Government appointed Rajnish Kumar as chairman of State Bank of India for 3 years term, succeeding Arundhati Bhattacharya.

25. ▶ Government appointed U D Salvi as officiating chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT), after Swatenter Kumar Retired Recently.
26. ▶ Government has constituted 15th Finance Commission in pursuance of clause (1) of article 280 of Constitution, to make recommendations for the 5 years commencing on April 1, 2020. It will be headed by N.K.Singh. Currently, 14th finance commission (headed by Y V Reddy) is active.
27. ▶ Hasmukh Adhia Has been appointed as new Finance Secretary of India. He wa previously serving as Revenue secretary.
  - ▶ Additionally, Binoy Kumar has been appointed as Special Secretary in Commerce Ministry.
28. ▶ Henrietta Fore (USA) is appointed as new Executive Director of United Nations Childrens' Fund (UNICEF).
29. ▶ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) appointed Jayant Rikhye as Chief Executive Officer for India.
30. ▶ IPS Officer Abhay has been appointed as Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
31. ▶ IT Firm Infosys appointed Salil S. Parekh as its new CEO and Managing Director.
32. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) appointed Suresh Sethi as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
33. ▶ India' Chakravarthi AVPS has been appointed as global ambassador of World Packaging Organisation (WPO).
34. ▶ India's Dalveer Bhandari has been re-elected as a member of International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands).
  - ▶ For the First Time, Britain will not have any member at ICJ.
35. ▶ Indian National Congress appointed Rahul Gandhi as Party's new President, replacing Sonia Gandhi.
36. ▶ Indian Weightlifting Federation President Birendra Prasad Baishya elected as chairman of two sub-committees of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Ethics Commission AND Anti-Disciplinary Commission.
37. ▶ Indo-British Person Deepak Parekh is named as First *International Ambassador* for London city and will work towards championing London City across the globe.
38. ▶ Jacinda Ardern has been elected as new Prime Minister of New Zealand. She is youngest Prime Minister of NZ in over 150 years.
39. ▶ Jai Ram Thakur has been named as new (14th) Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, after BJP won recent state assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.
40. ▶ M Mahender Reddy has been appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana State.
41. ▶ N C Goel is appointed as new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan.
42. ▶ N Sambasiva Rao has been appointed as Director-General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh.
43. ▶ Nakul Chopra is elected as new Chairman of BARC India (Broadcast Audience Research Council).
44. ▶ Narinder Batra (*chief of International Hockey Federation*) is elected as President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) at its Annual General Meeting in New Delhi.
45. ▶ Nasir Kamal has been appointed as Additional Director General in Border Security Force (BSF).
  - ▶ K.K Sharma is current Director General of BSF.
46. ▶ Neelmani N. Raju has been appointed as Karnataka's first woman Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG and IGP).
47. ▶ New Ambassadors Appointed -
  - ▶ Vinay Mohan Kwatra - Principality of Monaco
  - ▶ Sibi George - Switzerland.
  - ▶ Pooja Kapur - Macedonia.
  - ▶ Manika Jain - Cambodia
  - ▶ N.J.Gangte - Zambia
48. ▶ New Appointments -
  - ▶ C.K. Mishra - Secretary in Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
  - ▶ Injeti Srinivas - Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
  - ▶ Gopal Krishna - Secretary in Ministry of Shipping
  - ▶ Preeti Sudan - Secretary in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
  - ▶ Mahesh Kumar Gupta - Member (Engineering) in Railway Board.
  - ▶ D.K.Gayen - Member (Staff) in Railway Board
49. ▶ New Appointments Approved -
  - ▶ Badri Narain Sharma - Chairman of Newly Formed National Anti-profiteering Authority under GST.
  - ▶ Pradeep Singh Kharola - Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.
  - ▶ Pritam Singh - Director General in National Archives of India.
  - ▶ Raghvendra Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Culture
  - ▶ Upendra Prasad Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
  - ▶ Sandeep Beecha - Chief of Naval War College (Goa)

50. ▶ New Indian Amdassadors Apointed -
  - ✍ Azar A.H.Khan - Turkmenistan.
  - ✍ K. Jeeva Sagar - Kuwait.
51. ▶ New PSU Appointments -
  - ✍ Jatindra Nath Swain as Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India.
  - ✍ Sundeep Kumar Nayak as Managing Director of NCDCI (National Cooperative Development Corporation of India).
  - ✍ Ira Joshi as director general of Doordarshan News.
52. ▶ Nisha Desai Biswal is appointed as President of US-India Business Council (USIBC).
53. ▶ Noted Actor Anupam Kher has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune.
54. ▶ ONGC CMD Dinesh K Sarraf is appointed as new Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
55. ▶ Om Prakash Singh is appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, M Malakondaiah is appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh.
56. ▶ Paul Antony is appointed as next Chief Secretary of Kerala.
57. ▶ Phanindra Sama (Co-founder of RedBus ) has been appointed as Chief Innovation Officer for Telangana state.
58. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 10 days Sangai Festival in Imphal (Manipur), during his visit to 3 North Eastern States - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur. He also opened a 2 day North-East Development Summit in Imphal.
59. ▶ R Hemalatha is appointed as Director of National Institute of Nutrition (Hyderabad).
60. ▶ RBI Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed to Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board of the Bank of International Settlement (BIS), a global financial organisation owned by major central banks from across world. FSI assists financial sector authorities worldwide in strengthening their financial systems.
  - ✍ BIS is based in Basel (Switzerland) with Jaime Caruana as its current Chief (General Manager).
61. ▶ Samiran Panda is appointed as director of National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.
62. ▶ Sangram Singh has been appointed as CEO of Digital Payments firm Freecharge (Owned by Axis Bank).
63. ▶ Sanjeev Kaushik has been appointed as whole-time member of SEBI.
64. ▶ Sarah Clarke has been appointed as Britain's first female *Black Rod* in its over 650-year history, to serve as *Lady Usher of the Black Rod*.
  - ✍ The Black Rod is responsible for controlling access to and maintaining order within UK's House of Lords.
65. ▶ Scientist Vijay Prasad Dimri is appointed as president of 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), to be held in New Delhi in 2020. IGC is a global platform for advancement of earth science.
66. ▶ Sebastian Pinera has been elected as next president of south american Nation Chile.
67. ▶ Sethurathnam Ravi has been appointed as chairman of BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
68. ▶ Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as India's G 20 Sherpa till December 31, 2018 for Development Track of G20.
69. ▶ Shinzo Abe has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Japan for his Third Term. He belongs to Liberal Democratic Party.
70. ▶ Smita Nagaraj has been appointed as Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
71. ▶ Snehlata Shrivastava has been appointed as new Secretary General of the Lok Sabha (and first woman to hold this post). She will succeed Anup Mishra.
72. ▶ South African human rights activist *Kumi Naidoo* has been appointed as new Secretary General of Amnesty International (A non-governmental organization working for human rights).
73. ▶ Sumita Misra is appointed as joint secretary in Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC). PMEAC is currently chaired by Bibek Debroy.
  - ✍ Additionally, Gurbachan Singh is appointed as Director General (Investigation) in National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
74. ▶ Sunil Kumar Chourasia is appointed as Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
75. ▶ Tata Steel Limited appointed T V Narendran as global CEO and MD.
76. ▶ Tulsi Gabbard (first Hindu lawmaker in US Congress) is named as chairperson of World Hindu Congress (WHC) to be held in Chicago (USA) in 2018.
77. ▶ Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Mongolia.
78. ▶ Uma Shankar has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), replacing Meena Hemchandra who retired recently.
79. ▶ Upendra Prasad Singh appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and CEO OF National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
80. ▶ Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.

81. ▶ Vijay Rupani re-appointed as Chief Minister of Gujarat for second term in a row, after BJP's Victory in recent state assembly polls. Nitin Patel has been reappointed as Deputy CM.
82. ▶ Vikram Singh has been appointed as Private Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind for 2 Years.
83. ▶ Vinay Sahasrabudde is appointed as President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
84. ▶ Vineet Chowdhary is appointed as chief secretary to new Himachal government under CM Jairam Thakur.
85. ▶ World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) appointed Indian Person Sunny Verghese as its new chairman. WBCSD is global network of over 200 CEOs who are responsible for a combined revenue of more than \$ 8.5 trillion and 19 million employees.
86. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) appointed Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Chief Soumya Swaminathan at one of 2 newly created Deputy Directors General posts at WHO. This is highest post held by an Indian in WHO.

**Top**

## **Awards**

1. ▶ 12-year old Indian girl Poorvi G B has been awarded *best performer* subtitle at *Little Miss World 2017* pageant held in Greece.
2. ▶ 2017 BBC Sports Awards -
  - ▶ Sports Personality of the Year - British Distance Runner Mo Farah.
  - ▶ Overseas Sports Personality of the Year - Swiss Tennis Player Roger Federer (winner for fourth time)
  - ▶ Sports Personality Team of the Year - England Women's Cricket Team
  - ▶ Sports Personality of the Year Lifetime Achievement - Jessica Ennis-Hill (British track and field athlete)
  - ▶ Sports Personality of the Year Coach - Benke Blomkvist, Stephen Maguire and Christian Malcolm
  - ▶ BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year: Phil Foden (English Footballer)
3. ▶ 2017's *Kalakar Puraskar* instituted by Mandd Sobhann will be conferred on Noted Konkani folk artiste Gopal Gowda.
  - ▶ Kalakar Puraskar honors Konkani artistes from fields of folk arts, theatre, music and dance. Award carries a cash award of Rs 25,000 and a citation.
4. ▶ 27 journalists honored in 12th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards. Award includes a trophy and a reward of Rs 1 lakh.
5. ▶ 30th Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015 and 2016 has been awarded to Carnatic vocalist T M Krishna for his services in promoting National Integration in India.
  - ▶ The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and is bestowed on Oct 31.
6. ▶ 48th International Film Festival of India 2017 (IFFI 2017) held in Goa -
  - ▶ Facts -
    - ▶ Canada was the focus country of IFFI Goa 2017.
    - ▶ *Beyond the Clouds* directed by Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi was opening film this year, while Pablo Cesar-directed Indo-Argentine film *Thinking of Him* was closing film.
    - ▶ Jahnu Barua was chairman of Steering Committee and Vivek Agnihotri was chairman of Film Preview Committee.
    - ▶ World's first Sanskrit 3D film 'Anurakthi' screened during IFFI 2017.
  - ▶ Awards -
    - ▶ Indian film personality of 2017 - Amitabh Bachchan
    - ▶ Lifetime achievement - Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan.
    - ▶ Best film (Golden Peacock award) - 120 Beats Per Minute (French movie) directed by Robin Campullo.
    - ▶ Best director - Vivian Qu for *Angels Wear White* (China).
    - ▶ Special Jury Award - Take-off (Malayalam film-India)
    - ▶ Best Actor (Female) - Parvathy for *Take Off*
    - ▶ Best Actor (Male) - Nahuel Perez Biscayart for *120 Beats Per Minute*.
    - ▶ Best Debut Feature Film Director - Kiro Russo for *Dark Skull* (Spanish).
    - ▶ ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal - Kshitij-A Horizon (Marathi movie) directed by Manouj Kadamh.
7. ▶ 67th edition of Miss World Beauty pageant held in Sanya (China) -
  - ▶ **India's Manushi Chhillar (Haryana) won the Title**, Bringing Miss world Crown back to India After 17 Years (Priyanka Chopra winning in 2000).
8. ▶ *Govardhan Eco Village* set up by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar (Maharashtra) won Green Platinum Award during Green Building Congress 2017 held at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
9. ▶ *Yeraringan* Award has been conferred upon Noted Agricultural Scientist M.S. Swaminathan.
10. ▶ AFC Asian Football Awards -

- ✎ Male Player of the Year - Omar Kharbin (he became First syrian ever to win this title)
- ✎ Men's Coach of the Year - Takafumi Hori (Japan)
- ✎ International Player of the Year - Son Heung-min (South Korea)
- ✎ Women's Player of the Year -Samantha Kerr (Australia)

11. ▶ Aamir Khan Film Dangal chosen as Best Asian Film at 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards, in Sydney.
12. ▶ Actor Anupam Kher received Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award. Saira Banu, who moved Supreme Court seeking a ban on instantaneous ‘Triple Talaq’ among Muslims, is the second recipient of Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award.
13. ▶ Actor Prakash Raj received Kota Shivaram Karanth Huttura Prashasti award in Kota (Udupi district), Karnataka.
14. ▶ Actor Sonu Sood received Punjab Ratan award from State Govt. for his contribution to welfare of people of Punjab.
15. ▶ Actor Trisha Krishnan has been conferred UNICEF celebrity advocate status for child rights, becoming first South Indian actor industry to receive this honour.
16. ▶ Akinwumi Adesina (Nigeria), President of African Development Bank will be honored by 2017 World Food Prize.
  - ✎ Since 1987, World Food Prize is awarded annually by World Food Prize Foundation to recognize contributions in any field related to world food supply.
17. ▶ American author George Saunders won 2017 Man Booker Prize for his novel *Lincoln in the Bardo*.
  - ✎ It is given by *Man Group* (UK) with £50,000 as Prize Money. Man Booker Prize begun in 2005. It is 8th edition of these awards.
18. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu has been honoured with prestigious Golden Peacock Award in 17th London Global Convention, in category of *Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation*.
19. ▶ Andhra Pradesh state government Announced Nandi Awards 2014 - 2016 -
  - ✎ Nandi Awards are given by AP State Government to honor artists in Telugu Cinema, that were discontinued in 2014 when new state Telangana was born. Awards for 3 successive years (2014-16) are announced now.
  - ✎ Nandi Awards 2014
    - ✎ Best Film: Legend
    - ✎ Best Director: Boyapati
    - ✎ Best Actor: Nandamuri Balakrishna
    - ✎ Best Actress: Anjali
  - ✎ Nandi Awards 2015
    - ✎ Best Film: Baahubali
    - ✎ Best Director : S S Rajamouli
    - ✎ Best Actor: Mahesh Babu
  - ✎ Nandi Awards 2016
    - ✎ Best Film: Pelli Choopulu
    - ✎ Best Director : SatishVegesna
    - ✎ Best Actor: Junior NTR
    - ✎ Best Actress: Ritu Varma
  - ✎ Special Awards
    - ✎ NTR National Award -
      - ✎ 2014 - Kamal Hassan
      - ✎ 2015 - K Raghavendra Rao
      - ✎ 2016 - Rajanikanth
    - ✎ BN Reddy State Award -
      - ✎ 2014 - SS Rajamouli
      - ✎ 2015 - Trivikram Srinivas
      - ✎ 2016 -Boyapati Srinivas
    - ✎ Nagireddy and Chaprani State Award -
      - ✎ 2014 -Narayana Murthy
      - ✎ 2015 - Keeravani
      - ✎ 2016 - K S Rama Rao
    - ✎ Raghupati Venkaiah State Award -
      - ✎ 2014 - Krishnam Raju

- 2015 - Eshwar
- 2016 - Chiranjeevi
- Special Jury Award -
- 2014 - Siddala Ashok Teja
- 2015 - P C Reddy
- 2016 - Paruchuri Brothers



20. ▶ Argentinian Footballer Lionel Messi Received Golden Shoe award (*handed to Europe's top goalscorer*) for his 37 Goals in Spanish Football League in 2016-17. It is fourth time Messi has won this title, equalling Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal).
21. ▶ Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane, Australia -
  - ▶ Bollywood movie 'Newton' secured 2 awards with Rajkummar Rao winning best actor award and Mayank Tewari and Amit V. Masurkar secured best screenplay honour. Newton is directed by Amit V. Masurkar.
22. ▶ Awards for Display at 37th IITF (*India International Trade Fair*) Delhi 2017 -
  - ▶ Gold - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
  - ▶ Silver - Ministry of Power
  - ▶ Bronze - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
23. ▶ Bengali writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen won *Author in Bengali language* category at 2nd edition of Big Little Book Awards, under Parag initiative of Tata Trusts to promote children's literature.
24. ▶ Blue Planet Prize (*Noted as Most prestigious award in environmental science*), has been given to German theoretical physicist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber.
25. ▶ Cannes International Festival of Creativity (France) will honour Indians Piyush & Prasoon Pandey with Cannes Lions' Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming 1st Asians to win this award.
26. ▶ Choti Kumari from Bihar won International acclaim for her efforts to uplift Musahar community in Bihar, considered most downtrodden community in state's caste-ridden society. Title was *Women's Creativity in Rural Life Award* and was given by Switzerland-based Women's World Summit Foundation.
27. ▶ Egyptian journalist Khaled el-Balshy won Individual Activist award of *Nelson Mandela – Graca Machel Innovation Awards*. He made several attempts to publicly reveal violations by Egyptian government.
28. ▶ Eric Vuillard's novel *L'ordre du jour* (in English 'Agenda'), story of how German industry and finance backed Adolf Hitler, won Goncourt Prize 2017 award (Top Award in French-speaking world).
29. ▶ FE Best Banks Awards 2015-16 held in Mumbai. Winners -

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

30. ▶ First ever Smita Patil memorial award given to Rekha for her contribution in film industry.
31. ▶ Former PM Manmohan Singh will receive Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2017 for his services as PM between 2004 and 2014. It includes cash prize of INR 25 lakh and a citation.
32. ▶ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which manages brand AMUL, has been awarded as best FMCG in food sector at 5th International Advertising Associations (IAA) Leadership Awards in Mumbai.
33. ▶ Indian Actor Ishaan Khattar won Best Actor award for his debut film 'Beyond The Clouds' at the International Bosphorus Film Festival in Turkey. Film is directed by Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi, and Music composed by A. R. Rahman.
34. ▶ Indian Film Lipstick Under My Burkha (*directed by Alankrita Shrivastava*) won a top prize (*Founder's Award for Sustainability on the Big Screen*) at time Global Sustainability Film Awards 2017 in London.
35. ▶ Indian actor Priyanka Chopra has been honored with 2017 Mother Teresa Memorial Award for her support to social causes such as her recent visit to Syria where she met and interacted with refugee children. She is also UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador.
36. ▶ Indian short film *The School Bag* won Best Short Film Award at South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM). Directed by Dheeraj Jindal, it , tells a Peshawar (Pakistan) based story of relationship between a mother and her 7 year old son.



37. ▶ Indian-American Gitanjali Rao won 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge for inventing a quick, low-cost test to detect lead-contaminated water.
38. ▶ Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana has been crowned Miss International 2017 at an event held in Tokyo (Japan). She also won award for as best dressed contestant.
39. ▶ Israeli Actress Natalie Portman has been awarded Israel's 2018 Genesis Prize (Also called Jewish Nobel Prize), for her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots.
40. ▶ Jaipur and Srinagar Airport won first and second rank in category of 2-5 million passengers in Airport Service Quality (ASQ)-Airport Council International (ACI) survey 2017. Jaipur Airport received award in same category in 2016 as well.
41. ▶ Jitesh Singh Deo from Lucknow (UP) is declared winner of 2017 Mr India pageant.
  - ▶ Footballer Prathamesh Maulingkar won Mr India Supranational title and will compete at Mr Supranational 2018.
42. ▶ Journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh, who was shot dead recently has been posthumously accorded with prestigious Anna Politkovskaya Award, instituted by Reach All Women (RAW) in War. Pakistani activist Gulalai Ismail is also honored for her fight against Islamic extremism.
43. ▶ M K Sanu has been chosen for Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.
44. ▶ Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced 2nd Edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017, beginning in 2016 with 15 Organizations / Individuals as winners. It includes cash prize of 5 lakh for enterprises and individuals and 10 lakhs for organizations and institutes. Winners are -
45. ▶ Miss South Korea Jenny Kim won title of Miss Supranational 2017 at an event in Poland.
46. ▶ Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2017, held in Las Vegas (USA)-
  - ▶ Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters of South Africa won the contest.
  - ▶ Shraddha Shashidhar represented India in this pageant.
47. ▶ Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria has been awarded International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to ensure rights of Syrian refugee children.
  - ▶ He has set up a school together with his family in a Lebanese refugee camp that currently provides 200 children with education.
48. ▶ NSE Entity India Index Services & Products (IISL) launched *Nifty SME Emerge Index* as a new Nifty Index to measure performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) listed on NSE's EMERGE platform (dedicated NSE platform for small companies).
  - ▶ Nifty SME Emerge Index represents about 62 % of full market capitalisation of all SMEs listed on EMERGE.
49. ▶ Nicaraguan author Sergio Ramirez Mercado won 2017 Cervantes Prize, Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor.
50. ▶ Nobel Prize 2017 -
  - ▶ Physics - Rainer Weiss (USA), Barry C. Barish (USA) and Kip Thorne (USA) for decisive contributions to LIGO detector and observation of gravitational waves.
  - ▶ Chemistry - Jacques Dubochet (Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Germany) and Richard Henderson (Scotland) for developing a technique to produce detailed images of life's complex molecular machinery.
  - ▶ Physiology / Medicine - American trio of Jeffrey C. Hall (USA), Michael Rosbash (USA) and Michael W. Young (USA) for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.
  - ▶ Literature - Kazuo Ishiguro (Japan).
  - ▶ Peace - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for its work to draw attention to catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.
  - ▶ Economic Sciences - Richard H. Thaler (USA) for his contributions to behavioral economics. It is also called Sveriges Riksbank Prize (Sveriges Riksbank is Sweden's central bank).
  - ▶ About Nobel Prize -
    - ▶ Established in 1895, in memory of Swedish inventor Alfred Bernhard Nobel.
    - ▶ Prize ceremonies take place annually in Stockholm (Sweden), except peace prize which is held in Oslo (Norway)
    - ▶ Each recipient received US\$1.1 Million.
    - ▶ Among total 835 recipients so far, 12 are Indians (5 Indian citizens and 7 of Indian origin or residency). Rabindranath Tagore was first Indian citizen to be awarded (1913) and Mother Teresa is the only woman in list (1979).
51. ▶ Noted Actor Sharmila Tagore received Lifetime Achievement Award by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi for her contribution in field of cinema.
52. ▶ Noted Author Ruskin Bond presented with Lifetime Achievement Award by Chandigarh Literary Society during 5th Chandigarh Literature Festival.

53. ▶ Noted Bengali poet Joy Goswami will be honored with 31st Moortidevi Award for 2017, for his poetry collection *Du Dondo Phowara Matro*. He is first Bengali poet to get this title.
54. ▶ Noted British Indian Businessman Swraj Lord Paul (Chairman of Caparo Group) has been honoured with Life Time Achievement Award at the 2nd British Asian Achievers Awards organised by Jagatwani a Hindi weekly.
55. ▶ Noted Hindi Litterateur Krishna Sobti has been honored with 53rd Jnanpith Award for 2017. She is 8th women to win this prestigious award.
56. ▶ Noted Hindi writer Mamta Kalia is chosen for Vyas Samman 2017 for her novel “Dukkham Sukkham”. She was selected by selection committee headed by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
57. ▶ Noted Indian Multilingual Actor Mohan Joshi honoured with vishnudas Bhave award for his contribution to theatre. It is conferred with memory of Vishnudas Bhave, founder of Marathi theatre. It comprises a trophy, a citation and a cash prize worth Rs 25,000.
58. ▶ Noted Indian-American Ajay Raju has been honoured with 3rd American Bazaar Philanthropy award for his philanthropic activities in USA.
59. ▶ Noted Malayalam Poet K Satchidanandan selected for 2017 Ezhuthachan Puraskaram award, Kerala government’s highest literary honor.  
 It award is instituted in name of Ezhuthachan, known as father of Malayalam language. It carries cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.
60. ▶ Noted Marathi filmmaker Sumitra Bhave will be honoured with Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Sanman, instituted by Kolhapur International Film Festival.
61. ▶ Noted Novelist T D Radhakrishnan’s is selected for 2017’s Vayalar award.  
 Vayalar Award was instituted in 1977 by Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust in memory of Malayalam poet and lyricist Vayalar.
62. ▶ Noted Scientist G. Satheesh Reddy has been conferred with National Design Award, for his significant contribution towards indigenous design and development of diversified missile systems, guided weapons and avionics technologies.
63. ▶ Noted actor and playwright Girish Karnad will be honoured with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2017. He will receive the award as a playwright.
64. ▶ Noted journalist Manik Banerjee honored by *Life Time Achievement Award* by Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).
65. ▶ Noted journalist Prabha Varma selected for Padma Prabha Puraskaram 2017, by Mathrubhumi daily.
66. ▶ Noted lyricist Javed Akhtar will be honored with Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award 2017. He will receive INR 1 lakh and a memento.
67. ▶ Noted music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik and playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan have been selected for Madhya Pradesh government’s prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award.
68. ▶ Noted writer Namita Gokhale received first Centenary National Award for Literature, conferred by Asam Sahitya Sabha.
69. ▶ Odia poet Rabi Singh is named as winner of Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman 2017 instituted by Odisha Sahitya Akademi.
70. ▶ Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo won Ballon d’Or (title of best footballer of year) for a fifth time, to level Aregetina's Lionel Messi haul.
71. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind Presented Pt. Ramnarayan Sharma National Ayurved Award 2008-2014 to to Jodhpur University’s former Vice Chancellor Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur.
72. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred 3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award on Professor Hiroshi Marui of Japan.
73. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave National award for senior citizens to Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Bindeshwar Pathak.
74. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.
75. ▶ Rajesh Nath (MD of VDMA India) has been conferred *Cross of the Order of Merit* (also known as Bundesverdienstkreuz or Federal Cross of Merit ), highest civilian honour in Germany.
76. ▶ Sahitya Akademi announced its annual awards 2017, recognising literary works of 24 writers in 24 different languages. Prize includes a cheque of Rs 1 lakh.  
 Awards will be conferred during a ceremony on 12 February 2018.  
 Awardees -  
 English - Mamang Dai for *The Black Hill*.  
 Hindi - Ramesh Kuntal Megh won for *Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar*  
 Sanskrit - Niranjana Mishra for *Gangaputradavanam*.  
 Malayalam - KP Ramanunni for *Daivathinte Pusthakam*.  
 Punjabi - Nachhattar for *Slow Down*.  
 Poets -



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

✍ Short Stories -

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

✍ Literary Criticism -

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

✍ Essay - Jagdish Lachhani (Sindhi)

✍ Play - Rajen Toijamba (Manipuri).

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

77. ▶ Singer K S Chitra is selected for 2017 'Harivarasanam' award, awarded by Kerala government for spreading spirit of secularism, equanimity and universal brotherhood.
78. ▶ Six diplomats including an Indian were felicitated with inaugural Diwali 'Power of One' award by UN, on occasion of first anniversary of issuance of a 'forever Diwali stamp' by USA Postal Services.
- ✍ Awardees Include India's Lakshmi Puri (Indian head of the UN Women)
  - ✍ Others- Matthew Rycroft, Nawaf Salam, Maged Abdelaziz, Ion Botnaru, Yuriy Sergeyev.
79. ▶ South African Indian-origin researcher couple Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim honoured with prestigious US award for their contributions in field of HIV/AIDS Research.
80. ▶ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam bags Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2017 for his novel *The Story of a Brief Marriage*. Note that recently he also won \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2017 for the same novel.
81. ▶ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam's *The Story of a Brief Marriage* won \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2017, during Dhaka Literature Fest 2017 (Bangladesh).
82. ▶ Sri Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangam in Tamil Nadu won UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for cultural heritage conservation programme in Awards of Merit category, for its efforts for protecting and conserving cultural heritage.
83. ▶ Star Screen Awards 2017 Winners -
- ✍ Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal)
  - ✍ Best Actress: Konkona Sen Sharma (Lipstick Under My Burkha)
  - ✍ Best Actor: Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
  - ✍ Best Supporting Actor: Rajkummar Rao (Bareilly Ki Barfi)
  - ✍ Best Supporting Actor (Female): Neha Dhupia (Tumhari Sulu)
  - ✍ Best Music Director: Pritam (Dangal)
  - ✍ Best Playback Singer: Arijit Singh (Raees - Zaalima and Jagga Jasoos)
  - ✍ Best Playback Singer Female: Shashaa Tirupati (Kanha - Shubh Mangal Savdhaan)
84. ▶ Tata Literature Live Literary Awards (Mumbai) -
- ✍ Non-fiction - Pankaj Mishra's 'Age of Anger: A History of the Present'.
  - ✍ First Book – Prayaag Akbar's 'Leila' & Pranay Lal's 'Indica: A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent'
  - ✍ Fiction – Easterine Kire's 'Son of the Thundercloud'
  - ✍ Business Book of Year – YV Reddy's 'Advice and Dissent: My Life in Public Service'
  - ✍ Publisher of the Year – Penguin Random House India

 Big Little Book Award – Nabaneeta Dev Sen

85. ▶ UK Govt. presented J.K. Rowling with a Companion of Honor award, as recognition of her services to literature and philanthropy. Rowling is creator of Fictional character *Harry Potter*.
86. ▶ United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is named as recipient of Harmony Foundation's Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2017 with 2017 theme *Compassion Beyond Borders*.









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### **Books**

1. ▶ Actor Amitabh Bachchan launched a book based on Indian cinema in - *Bollywood: The Films! The Songs! The Stars!*, co-authored by S.M.M. Ausaja, Karan Bali, Rajesh Devraj and Tanul Thakur.
2. ▶ Actress Deepika Padukone launched Hema Malini's biography *Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl* written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee.
3. ▶ Book *Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams* containing inspiring words of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has been released. It is co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John.
4. ▶ Book *Journey of Women Law Reforms and The Law Commission of India – Some Insights*, written by Pavan Sharma has been launched by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
5. ▶ Book *The Singing Tree* was launched by an international NGO Orbis India to spread awareness on preventing child blindness. Author of this book is Ken Youngstein.
6. ▶ Indian Writer Ramendra Kumar has been felicitated (Honored ) in Sri Lanka for his contribution to children's literature. His book *Dilemma and other stories* was also released on this occasion.
7. ▶ Noted lyricist Gulzar's debut novel in English named 'TWO' has been released. It examines status of refugees after Partition of India.
8. ▶ Poetry Collection Book *Poetry* written by Vikas Khanna has been launched.
9. ▶ Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched his biography *Trivendra Ek Zindaginama – Khairasain ka Sooraj*.

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### **Committees**

1. ▶ 21-member Committee on corporate governance headed by Kotak Mahindra Bank Chief Uday Kotak submitted its report to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Recommendations Include -
  -  Separation of roles - Roles of chairman and managing director at listed firms should be separated and chairmanship should be limited to only non-executive directors.
  -  Minimum board strength - Should be increased to 6 members and at least one woman should be appointed as independent director.
  -  Independent Directors - At least half of board members to be independent directors at listed companies.
  -  Shareholder meeting and cash flow statement - Top 100 firms by market capitalisation should webcast shareholder meeting and all listed firms should have cash flow statement every six months.
  -  Credit ratings - Updated list of all credit ratings obtained by the listed entity must be made available at one place, which would be very helpful for investors and other stakeholders.
  -  Minimum remuneration - Independent directors must get minimum remuneration of Rs 5 lakh per annum and sitting fee of Rs 20,000-50,000 for each board meet.
  -  Risk management and IT committee - Top-500 listed companies should have risk management committee of boards for cyber security.
2. ▶ 5 member committee headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash has been formed to select editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV).
3. ▶ A Parliamentary Committee under B C Khanduri has been formed to examine operational preparedness of armed forces.
4. ▶ A committee headed by M Vinod Kumar (GST chief commissioner for Karnataka) started review of laws governing Goods and Services Tax (GST).
5. ▶ An Internal Committee has been formed by External Affairs Ministry to examine India-China relations. It will be headed by Shashi Tharoor and will primarily Focus on Doklam and Rohingya Muslims Issues.
6. ▶ Committee headed by T K Viswanathan submitted its report on review of on Section 66A of the IT Act. It was constituted after Supreme Court struck down controversial Section 66A of IT Act in 2015.
  -  Section 66A of the IT Act deals with arrests of people for posting content deemed to be *allegedly objectionable* on Internet.
7. ▶ Delhi Government has set up a panel to look into the functioning of private hospitals and nursing homes, under Kirti Bhushan.

-  Delhi Government also constituted 'Fee Anomaly Committees' in each district to look into complaints of fee hike by private schools in state, on recommendations of Justice Duggal Committee.
8. ▶ Finance Ministry constituted a task force Under Arbind Modi, to review Income Tax (IT) Act 1961 and draft new direct tax law in consonance with current economic needs. Task Force will draft appropriate Direct Tax Legislation keeping in view direct tax system prevalent in various countries, international best practices.
  9. ▶ GST Council constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to make GST composition scheme more attractive, to be headed by Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
    -  Committee will look to make GST Composition Scheme more attractive as only 15.50 lakh businesses out of total 98 lakh GST registered ones opted for composition scheme.
    -  GoM will also revisit tax structure of different categories of restaurants in order to rationalise rates which is Currently 12% on non-AC restaurants and 18% on air-conditioned ones.
    -  GST Composition scheme -
      -  It is an alternative method of levy of tax designed for small taxpayers whose turnover is up to Rs 75 lakh (Rs 50 lakh in case of 8 north-eastern states and hilly state of Himachal Pradesh). Its aims to bring simplicity for small taxpayers as manufacturers have to pay 2% tax on their annual turnover and file returns quarterly. The tax rate is 5% for restaurant services and 1% for traders.
  10. ▶ Government appointed Committee on Haj Policy recommended phasing out Haj pilgrims' subsidy and allowing women devotees above 45 years to travel in a group of at least 4 without a male. Panel was headed by Afzal Amanullah.
  11. ▶ Government constituted a high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER), under Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman in Niti Aayog (Rajiv Kumar Currently).
  12. ▶ Government has set up a 14-member panel to identify and suggest ways to address issues faced in implementation of Insolvency Law, to be headed by Injeti Srinivas. Committee will take stock of implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
  13. ▶ Government has set up a committee headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to address problem of stressed assets in India's power sector, which are around 5.9% of banking sector's total outstanding advances of 4.73 trillion.
  14. ▶ Government has set up a committee tasked with simplification of GST returns filing, to make process convenient for businesses that have minimal transactions. It will be headed by GSTN Chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey.
  15. ▶ Government reconstituted Multi-Agency Group (MAG) to investigate cases relating to recent 'Paradise Papers' data disclosure which is also probing Panama Papers leak. It will be led by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Sushil Chandra.
  16. ▶ Home Ministry formed study group under Rina Mitra, to examine problems faced by people residing near International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir.
  17. ▶ Law Ministry created a panel (Second National Judicial Pay Commission) to recommend new salary structure for 21000 judges of lower courts in India. It will be headed by Former SC judge PV Reddi and will submit its recommendations in early 2019.
  18. ▶ Maharashtra State government formed a panel to study feasibility of merging financially weak District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) with Maharashtra State Cooperative (MSC) Bank, to be headed by Yashwant Thorat.
  19. ▶ Maharashtra government has set up a committee headed by Sudhir Shrivastava (*Additional Chief Secretary (Home)*) to recommend ways to stop custodial deaths.
  20. ▶ National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has set up three member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in 8 states where their population is less than 50%. Committee will be led by George Kurien.
    -  Govt also formed a committee for consultation on matters pertaining to implementation of drug price control order (DPCO) including technicalities involved in pricing and new launches.
  21. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed a 5 member Committee headed by G Rohini to examine subcategorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), to ensure more backward among OBC communities can avail benefits of reservation.
  22. ▶ RBI panel under Chandan Sinha recommended a list of commodities which can be hedged in overseas markets by all Indian residents (including gold, silver, zinc, tin, crude oil and its derivatives, coal, natural gas, tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa).
    -  Panel also recommended that domestic banks should be allowed to offer commodity hedging facility to their customers, on both Over The Counter (OTC) as well as international and domestic exchanges.
  23. ▶ Rajya Sabha Committee headed by Vinay P Sahasrabudhe has recommended body wearable cameras for traffic policemen and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) officials enforcing Motor Vehicles Act, to reduce arbitrariness and corruption by enforcement officials.
  24. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel on external benchmark rate for banks headed by Janak Raj submitted its report. Panel observed that several practices including violation of RBI guidelines, inflating of base rate and arbitrary adjustment of spreads are prevalent among major banks in India.

25. ▶ Reserve Bank of India constituted a 10-member High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India, which will suggest a roadmap for developing a transparent, comprehensive and near-real-time PCR for India. It will be Headed by YM Deosthalee.

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## Days

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

- ✎ On this occasion, Telangana Government signed agreement with Vindhya E-Infomedia, to set up world's first Information and Technology (IT) Campus for differently-abled persons (divyangs), in capital Hyderabad.
  - ✎ On this occasion, Noted communication expert Sarvesh Kumar Tiwari is appointed as President of Para-Sports Foundation (PSF).
  - ✎ On this occasion, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched Deen Dayal Divyangajan Sahajya Scheme in Guwahati, Assam. Under which, every differently abled person in Assam would be entitled to a one-time grant of Rs 5000 for their treatment.
  - ✎ On this occasion, Disability Empowerment Awards was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind on this occasion in 14 categories to 52 individuals and institutions. Some important awards -
    - ✎ Best State in Promoting Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - Chhattisgarh
    - ✎ Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service - Madurai
    - ✎ Best Braille Press Award - Mumbai-based National Association for the Blind.
18. ▶ Dec 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.
  19. ▶ Dec 5 - World Soil Day. 2017 theme is *Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground*.
  20. ▶ Dec 7 - Indian Armed Forces Flag Day.
  21. ▶ Dec 7 - International Civil Aviation Day. 2017 theme is *Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind*.
  22. ▶ Dec 9 - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD). 2017 Theme is *United against corruption for development, peace and security*.
  23. ▶ Disarmament Week celebrated every year from October 24-30, since United Nations founded it in 1978. Aim is to control usage of weapons of mass destruction.
  24. ▶ Nov 01 - World Vegan Day.
  25. ▶ Nov 10 - World Science Day for Peace and Development. 2017 theme is *Science for Global Understanding*.
  26. ▶ Nov 11 - National Education Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, first education minister of independent India.
  27. ▶ Nov 12 - Public Service Broadcasting Day. It marks first and last visit of MK Gandhi to studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. It is also observed as *World Pneumonia Day*.
  28. ▶ Nov 16 - International Day of Tolerance.
  29. ▶ Nov 16 - National Press Day in India.
  30. ▶ Nov 16, 2017 - World Philosophy (Observed Every Year on 3rd Thursday of November).
  31. ▶ Nov 17 - International Students Day.
  32. ▶ Nov 19 - 100th Birth Anniversary of Former Indian PM Indira Gandhi. It is observed as National Integration Day. It is also observed as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.
  33. ▶ Nov 19 - International Men's Day. 2017 theme is *Celebrate Men and Boys*.
  34. ▶ Nov 19 - World Toilet Day. 2017 Theme is *Wastewater*.
    - ✎ On this occasion, world's biggest toilet pot model unveiled at Marora, popularly known as *Trump village* in Haryana.
  35. ▶ Nov 20 - UN Africa Industrialization Day.
  36. ▶ Nov 20 - Universal Child Rights Day with 2017 theme *It's a #KidsTakeOver*.
    - ✎ Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017) from 16th - 20th November, 2017.
  37. ▶ Nov 21 - World Fisheries Day AND World Television Day.
  38. ▶ Nov 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW). 2017 theme is *Leave no one behind: end violence against women and girls*.
  39. ▶ Nov 26 - Constitution Day in India.
    - ✎ It commemorates 26 November 1949, when the Constituent Assembly adopted Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
  40. ▶ Nov 26 - National Law Day in India. a 2 day conference on National Law Day held in New Delhi.
  41. ▶ Nov 29 - UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
  42. ▶ Nov 5 - World Tsunami Awareness Day. 2017 theme is *Reduce the Number of Affected People*. First WTAD was observed across the world in 2016.
  43. ▶ Nov 8 - International Day of Radiology (IDoR). 2017 theme is *Emergency Radiology*.
  44. ▶ Nov 9 - Legal Service Day in India, started by Supreme Court in 1995 to offer help and support to weaker and poor group of sections of people.
  45. ▶ Nov 9, 2017 - Government Observed this day as National Entrepreneurship Day.
    - ✎ On this occasion, 2 MoUs signed between Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Atal Innovation Mission – Niti Ayog and Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University. Haryana Government also signed MoU with Vyakti Vikas Kendra (Art of Living Foundation)

for helping jail inmates to improve their health and reduce physical and mental stress.

46. ▶ Oct 08, 2017 - 85th Indian Air Force Day.
  - ✎ IAF on this occasion launched mobile health App named *MedWatch*. It has features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
47. ▶ Oct 1 - UN International Day of Older Persons. 2017 Theme is *Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society*.
48. ▶ Oct 1 - World Vegetarian Day. It initiates month of October as Vegetarian Awareness Month that ends on November 1 as World Vegan Day.
49. ▶ Oct 10 - World Mental Health Day. 2017 theme is *Mental health in the workplace*. Oct 10 is also observed as World Day against the Death Penalty.
50. ▶ Oct 11 - International Day of Girl Child. 2017 theme is *The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030*.
51. ▶ Oct 13 - International Day for Disaster Reduction. 2017 theme is *Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement*.
52. ▶ Oct 14 - World Standards day. 2017 theme is *Standards make cities smarter*.
53. ▶ Oct 15 - UN International Day of Rural Women.
54. ▶ Oct 15 - UN World Students Day. It Commemorates Birth Anniversary of Noted Indian Scientist and Former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He was known as Missile Man of India and honored with highest Indian Honor *Bharat Ratna* in 1997. UN declared this day in 2010.
55. ▶ Oct 16 - World Food Day. 2017 Theme is *Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development*
56. ▶ Oct 17 - International Day for Eradication of Poverty (IDEP). 2017 theme is *Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies*.
57. ▶ Oct 17 - World Sawfish Day. Scientists announced that sawfish, sighted off Indian coast less than 10 times in over a decade appears to be more threatened than tigers and elephants.
58. ▶ Oct 2 - Birth Anniversary of Noted Leader Lal Bahadur Shastri (2nd Prime Minister of India). He gave famous slogan *Jai Jawaan Jai Kisaan*.
59. ▶ Oct 2 - International Day of Non-Violence, on occasion of Birth Anniversary of M K Gandhi (also referred as Gandhi Jayanti). UN approved this day in 2007.
  - ✎ Andhra Pradesh Government launched Swachh Andhra Mission on this occasion, with Badminton Player PV Sindhu as brand ambassador.
  - ✎ On this occasion, Nepali version of MK Gandhi's autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* released in Kathmandu, translated by Shekhar Giri.
  - ✎ On This occasion, Bihar government launched drive against child marriage and dowry.
  - ✎ On This occasion, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) was conferred with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award.
60. ▶ Oct 2, 2017 - UN World Habitat day (First Monday of October every year). 2017 theme was *Housing Policies: Affordable Homes*.
61. ▶ Oct 20 - UN World Statistics Day. Theme for 2017 is *Better Data, Better Lives*.
62. ▶ Oct 21 - National Police Commemoration Day.
  - ✎ On This Occasion, Uttar Pradesh Government announced to double ex-gratia amount for police officials martyred on duty. Now this amount becomes INR 40 lakh, compared to INR 20 lakh earlier.
63. ▶ Oct 22 - International Stuttering Awareness Day. 2017 Theme is *A World That Understands Stuttering*.
64. ▶ Oct 24 - First International Day of Diplomats celebrated in Brasilia (Brazil). Diplomats of Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey participated in Event, to recognise hard work and sacrifices of diplomats and their families.
65. ▶ Oct 24 - United Nations Day, started in 1948. Oct 24 is Raising Day of Indian Paramilitary Force ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police).
66. ▶ Oct 24 - World Development Information Day (WDID).
67. ▶ Oct 24 - World Polio day.
68. ▶ Oct 27 - Infantry Day. It commemorate sacrifices made by infantry who fought against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947. This was first infantry action by Indian Army after independence.
69. ▶ Oct 27- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. 2017 Theme is *Discover, remember and share*.
70. ▶ Oct 28 - International Animation Day.
71. ▶ Oct 31 - World Cities Day. 2017 theme is *Innovative Governance, Open Cities*. General theme of World Cities Day is *Better City, Better Life*.
72. ▶ Oct 31 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). Observed to commemorate birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel who played important role in unifying India pre-independence.



- 73. ▶ Oct 4 - World Animal Day.
- 74. ▶ Oct 5 - World Teachers' Day. It commemorates signing of 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. 2017 theme is *Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers*.
- 75. ▶ Oct 9 - World Post Day.

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## **Defence**

- 1. ▶ *FIPSPHYSIICON 2017* - Conference on Human Physiology - VII Congress of Federation of Indian Physiological Societies (FIPS) and XXIX Annual Conference of Physiological Society of India (PSI) organised at University of Delhi.
- 2. ▶ 14 day joint training exercise *PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017* between Indian and Kazakhstan Armies commenced at Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh)
- 3. ▶ 14-day long Combined India-UK Military exercise *Ajeya Warrior- 2017* began in Rajasthan.
- 4. ▶ 45 Member Contingent of Indian Air Force left for Israel to participate in exercise 'Blue Flag-17', onboard a C-130J special operations aircraft. Exercise will be conducted in First week of November 2017. This is first time the Indian Air Force is operating with Israeli AF in a multilateral exercise.
- 5. ▶ 5th India-Sri Lanka Joint Army Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 Organized in Pune.
- 6. ▶ 7th Joint Army exercise of Indian and Bangladeshi armies - *Sampriti 2017* began at Vairengte in Mizoram. It will last till Nov 18, 2017.
- 7. ▶ 8th India - Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 held in Belagavi (Karnataka).
- 8. ▶ DRDO successfully test fired Made-In-India Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), capable of deceiving enemy radars making it difficult to be detected. It can strike within 30 KMs and will supplement medium-range surface-to-air missile Akash.
- 9. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accorded acceptance of necessity (AoN) for procurement 111 naval utility helicopters (NUHs) worth Rs 21,738 crore for Indian Navy.
  - ✎ DAC is Defence Ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement. After DAC gives AoN, request for proposal can be issued to firms, seeking their bids.
- 10. ▶ Defence Ministry approved procurement of 260 Software Defined Radios (SDR) for Indian Navy at cost of 490 crores to ramp up surveillance on high seas, Developed by DRDO's Defence Electronics & Applications Laboratory (DEAL). These SDRs will be first batch of indigenously designed and developed software defined radio sets to be procured by any of three services.
- 11. ▶ Defence Ministry launched 'ARPAN Version 3.0' software for Defence Security Corp, developed by Tech Mahindra. It would simplify personal documentation and all issues related to DSC Personnel's progression.
- 12. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested India's first indigenously developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile - *NIRBHAY*. It has operational range of 1000 - 1500 KM.
- 13. ▶ Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) conducted by Army's Andaman & Nicobar Command.
- 14. ▶ Exercise INDRA-2017, First ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces conducted in Eastern Military District of Russia.
- 15. ▶ First India-Myanmar Bilateral Military Exercise 2017 (IMBAX 2017) started at Umroi Joint Training Node in Meghalaya (6 days long).
- 16. ▶ INS Kalvari, first of 6 Scorpene-class submarines has been commissioned into Indian Navy, as a significant success for the Make in India initiative. Submarines are being indigenously built by Mazagaon Dockyard in Mumbai under Project 75 in collaboration with French industrial group DCNS.
- 17. ▶ INS Sukanya Arrived in Indonesia for participating in 30th CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and 3rd Joint Naval exercise between India and Indonesia.
- 18. ▶ India and Oman Navies completed 11th Joint exercise *Naseem Al Bahr* OR *Sea Breeze*.
- 19. ▶ India cancelled a \$500 million deal for procuring Spike ATGM (Anti-Tank Guided Missile) from Israel, keeping in view the fact that importing a foreign ATGM would negatively impact indigenous development of weapon system by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- 20. ▶ Indian Air Force successfully fired BrahMos air version anti shipping missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
  - ✎ BrahMos missile is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of more than 400 kms. IAF is first Air Force in world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category.
- 21. ▶ Indian Army approved huge procurement plans for infantry modernization at a cost of nearly Rs 40,000 crore to replace aging weapons. Under this, Approx 7 lakh rifles, 44,000 light machine guns (LMGs) and nearly 44,600 carbines will be procured.
- 22. ▶ Indian Army launched Integrated Quarter Master Package (IQMP) software application for automating various logistics related functions of an Army Unit, developed by Army Software Development Centre in association with TCS.

- ✎ It will replace numerous legacy applications such as 'Vastra' and 'Quarter Master Package' and will automate all logistics functions of Indian Army at unit level.
- ✎ IQMP will help in effective logistics management and decision making, assisting Indian Army units to be battle ready all time.
- 23. ▶ Indian Army launched an independent and fully-integrated Joint Training Node (JTN) at Umroi cantonment in Shillong, aimed at hosting foreign armies in joint military exercises. It is the first of its kind in eastern command and is different from other joint training centres in Belgaum, Varangte and Bakloh.
- 24. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship *Sujay* (6th (last) in series of 105m Offshore Patrol Vessels) has been commissioned.
- 25. ▶ Indian Coast Guard conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise *Clean Sea - 2017* at sea off Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
- 26. ▶ Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo (Japan).
- 27. ▶ Indian Navy signed contract with Tata Power SED under *Buy and Make* category, through which Tata Power SED will supply Portable Diver Detection Sonar (PDDS) for Indian Navy.
- 28. ▶ Indian and Japan Navies initiated an intensive air anti-submarine warfare exercise in Indian Ocean. It has P-8 I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti Submarine Warfare of Indian Navy and 2 P-3 Orion Anti Submarine Warfare aircraft of Japanese Navy.
- 29. ▶ Indigenously developed Prithvi Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile has been successfully test-fired.
- 30. ▶ Indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan has been commissioned into Indian Navy.
  - ✎ It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs.
- 31. ▶ Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over offshore patrol vessel (OPV) *Vikram* to Indian Coast Guard. It is country's first-ever such defence vessel to be built in a private shipyard.
- 32. ▶ Ministry of Defence (MoD) will raise 3 new tri-service agencies - Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and a Special Operations Division. These will be headed by officers of rank of Major General (equivalent in Navy and Indian Air Force).
  - ✎ Defence Cyber Agency will work in close coordination with National Cyber Security Advisor and It will focus on non-civilian cyber issues, including safeguarding critical infrastructure. It will have over 1,000 personnel.
  - ✎ Defence Space Agency will work closely with ISRO and DRDO for better utilisation and integration of space resources. It will have over 200 personnel.
  - ✎ Special Operations Division will have components of Special Forces of Army, Navy and IAF and will be trained together for various external contingencies.
- 33. ▶ Navy, the Air Force, Coast Guard Initiated *Operation Synergy* as a joint rescue mission to save fishermen stranded in seas after cyclone Ockhi, in Kerala.
- 34. ▶ Odisha and West Bengal held joint coast guard security exercise *Sagar Kavach*, to tighten existing coastal security mechanism.
- 35. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to Submarine Arm of Indian Navy.
  - ✎ President's Colour is highest honour which can be bestowed upon any military unit.
- 36. ▶ Surface to Air Missile AKASH has been tested successfully with indigenous radio frequency seeker.
  - ✎ AKASH missile is being inducted into Army as Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) with range under 25 KM. This is first Surface to Air Missile with indigenous seeker that has been test fired.
- 37. ▶ USA will provide Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) technology to India for aircraft carriers. It will help to launch heavy combat planes from short runway of an aircraft carrier using electromagnetic force, instead of old steam-powered catapults.

**Top**

## **Economy**

1. ▶ *IndiaFirst Life Insurance* launched India's first-ever micro-insurance plan 'insurance khata' for those in informal sector and agricultural labourers with seasonal incomes.
  - ✎ It provides flexibility to pay premium in parts depending on periodicity of income, with minimum premium INR 500.
2. ▶ *Refining and Marketing - Asia* Report by credit rating agency Moody's -
  - ✎ India will surpass China as the fastest-growing product market in Asia for petroleum consumption, growing at 6 % in 2018, as compared to 2.5-3 % Growth rate for China.
  - ✎ In absolute terms, China will still account for nearly half of demand in region.
  - ✎ China and India will be key growth engines within Asia Pacific region, representing over 80 % of sector's expected growth in 2018.

3. ▶ India signed \$200 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank for Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project, to support Assam Government to facilitate agri-business investments and increase agriculture productivity and market access
4. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank received Reserved Bank of India (RBI) approval to operate as Scheduled Commercial Bank.
  - ✎ With this, AU SFB's has been included in 2nd Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act 1934. Now, it can do borrowing and lending with RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF).
5. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank signed MoU with Sahaj e-Village for providing its banking service in remote areas of India.
  - ✎ Sahaj e-Village Limited is an entity of SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and works for bridging digital divide between urban and rural India under flagship of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of Central Government.
6. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to launch an INR 200 crore fund for providing loans to MSMEs. It will fund term loans in the 25 lakh to 2 crore ticket size.
7. ▶ Abu Dhabi Global Market (Abu Dhabi) and Yes Bank have signed MOU to boost cross-border exchange between United Arab Emirates and India. It will enable fintech innovators from Middle East region and India to apply into Yes FinTech programmes and ADGM's Regulatory Laboratory and will get to expand into each other's markets.
8. ▶ According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Maruti Suzuki India is largest passenger cars exporter from India in first half (April-September) of ongoing fiscal with 57,300 units exported in period, followed by Volkswagen and Hyundai.
  - ✎ Additionally, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) left past Bajaj Auto to become 2nd biggest bike seller in India during first half of ongoing fiscal. While Hero MotoCorp continues to top the list.
9. ▶ Agri service solutions provider Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM) tied up with HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank to provide collateral management services, to improve farmers' access to post-harvest credits at affordable interest rates and provide access to scientific storage facilities.
10. ▶ Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched Livestock Disease Forewarning –Mobile Application (LDF-Mobile App) developed by ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (Bengaluru).
  - ✎ NIVEDI will use this app and Monthly Bulletin system to send out early warnings related to pertaining livestock diseases.
11. ▶ Air India received loan worth of Rs 1,500 crore from Bank of India to meet urgent working capital needs.
12. ▶ Allahabad Bank signed agreement with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing NESL's Information Utility Services envisaged under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
  - ✎ Government owned NeSL is first Information Utility entity registered by Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India under IBBI (IU) Regulations 2017.
13. ▶ Andhra Bank launched a new scheme for self-help groups (SHGs) to encourage entrepreneurship, named *Pattabhi Sitaramayya – Self Business Group (PS-SBG)*. Under this, SHGs having five years of association with Andhra Bank and having successfully completed 3 credit rotations with good repayment record, will be eligible for a loan.
14. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU with Mastercard to pave way for digital financial transactions in a secure environment.
15. ▶ As Per Govt Data, GDP Growth Rate for 2nd quarter (July-September) Q2 of 2017-18 remained 6.3 %, as compared to 5.7% in First quarter of FY 2017-18.
16. ▶ As per Data, Direct Tax Collections in first half (April-September) of FY 2017-18 shows growth of 15.8 % over previous year with net direct tax collections at 3.86 lakh crore rupees. These collections are 39.4 % of total budget estimates of Direct Taxes for FY 2017-18.
17. ▶ As per Morgan Stanley, India will be world's fastest-growing large economy by 2026-27 with digitisation providing enhancement of 50-75 bps to GDP growth. India will grow to a 6-trillion-dollar economy and achieve upper-middle income status by 2026-27.
18. ▶ As per a world bank report -
  - ✎ India will maintain its place as top remittances receiving nation with overseas Indians sending in USD 65 billion in 2017, compared to 62.7 Billion USD in 2016.
  - ✎ Other top 5 remittances receiving countries after India - China (USD 61 billion), Philippines (USD 33 billion), Mexico (USD 31 billion), and Nigeria (USD 22 billion).
19. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced to increase annual funding to India to up to \$4 billion from existing \$2.7 billion from next year to accelerate inclusive economic transformation. India is largest recipient of ADB Loans and will get about \$20 billion over next 5 years.
  - ✎ ADB approves \$500 mn loan under *Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme* to improve Over 12000 KM rural roads in West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
20. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved loan of USD 346 million to fund highway upgradation project in Karnataka, to improve 419 km of state highways by upgrading it to two and four-lane highways.

21. ▶ Asian Development Bank approved \$583 million for developing Reliance Bangladesh Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Power Project, including loans and partial risk guarantees for power project being set up for \$1 billion.
22. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) will co-finance a USD 100-million loan for boosting power sector in India.
23. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 335 million loan for an Bangalore Metro Rail Project – Reach 6 (R6).  
  - ✎ India Became 1st Nation where AIIB has approved 1 Billion USD of Financing.
24. ▶ Axis Bank launched an instant international payment services using Ripple's enterprise blockchain technology solution for its customers.  
  - ✎ Though an international offer, Axis Bank is offering facility only to its retail customers in country to receive payments from UAE-based Rak Bank and for its corporate customers to receive payments from Standard Chartered (Singapore).
25. ▶ Axis Bank subsidiary *Axis Securities* became first broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange by registering itself with NCDEX.
26. ▶ BNP Paribas Securities Services teamed up with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to deliver an innovative blockchain based platform named *Corporate Event Connect*. It will provide fast, accurate and secure corporate event announcements to clients around world.
27. ▶ BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) launched BEST (BSE Electronic Smart Trader) as an advanced hosted trading solution built on Thomson Reuters Omnesys NEST platform. It will facilitate smooth trading for BSE customers across multiple exchanges, including BSE, NSE, MCX and NCDEX for a wide range of investment categories like equity, equity derivatives, bonds etc.
28. ▶ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched *Pro-fit* platform that will act as a one-stop solution to all health-record tracking needs of customers.
29. ▶ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company started adoption of digital branch services through its offering *Mosambee*, to add depth to its service offerings.
30. ▶ Bank of Baroda launched digital Supply Chain Finance solution which aims to accelerate working capital loan opportunities for the small and medium enterprises and large corporate clients. BoB's digital Supply Chain Finance solution has been designed to ensure faster approvals, smoother transaction processing and availability of finance to the Small and Medium Enterprises.
31. ▶ Bank of Baroda signed MoU with POORTI (*Platform for Online Ordering and Rural Transformation of India*) Agri Services to help farmers buy agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers and pesticides. POORTI is a platform for buyers and sellers of agricultural inputs.
32. ▶ Based on massive drive undertaken by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), around 2.24 lakh companies have been disqualified till date for remaining inactive for a period of two (2) years or more (Betwe FY 2013 - 14 to FY 2015-16).
33. ▶ Bharti Group Founder Sunil Bharti Mittal announced INR 7000 Donation for social causes, which includes setting up a university that will provide high quality professional education, preferably to socially and financially weaker sections of society.
34. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange's subsidiary, India International Exchange (India INX) received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on framework for listing of debt securities. Indian and foreign issuers will now be able to issue Eurobonds, masala bonds and foreign currency bonds from India INX located at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) city in Gujarat.
35. ▶ Cab *Aggregator Ola* acquired food delivery firm Foodpanda's India business from its German parent Delivery Hero AG in an all-stock deal. Ols will further Infuse \$200 million in Foodpanda's India operations.
36. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved implementation of Special Banking Arrangement (SBA) with SBI (State Bank of India) for INR 10000 crores for payment of outstanding claims on account of fertilizer subsidy in year 2016-17.  
  - ✎ Government is making available P&K fertilizers and Urea to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers and importers. For making funds available to fertilizer companies against subsidy claims, Finance Ministry approved SBA for amount of 10000 crores Government interest liability limited to G-Sec rate.
37. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved revision in price of ethanol under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) at INR 40.85 per litre.
38. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR)* for 2017-18 to 2019-20 with Financial allocation of INR 15,722 crores, aimed at making farming as a remunerative economic activity through strengthening farmer's effort and promoting agribusiness entrepreneurship.  
  - ✎ RKVY-RAFTAAR funds would be provided to the States as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States).
  - ✎ RKVY is continuing scheme from XI Five Year Plan and provides considerable flexibility and autonomy to states in planning and executing programmes for incentivizing investment in agriculture and allied sectors.

39. ▶ Carmaker Maruti Suzuki became India's sixth most valued firm, crossing SBI with market capitalisation of INR 2.74 trillion, marginally ahead of SBI's 2.71 trillion.
- ▶ Reliance Industries is most valued company with market value of 5.8 trillion, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ITC and Hindustan Unilever.
40. ▶ Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) doubled import duty on wheat to 20% from 10% to curb cheap shipments and give positive price signal to farmers in ongoing Rabi season. It also imposed import duty of 50% on peas to check cheaper shipments.
41. ▶ Central Government has removed income limit for incentive under 'Dr Ambedkar scheme for social Integration through inter caste marriage'.
- ▶ Scheme was launched in 2013 to provide monetary incentive to at least 500 inter-caste couples (where either the bride or the bridegroom is a Dalit) per year.
  - ▶ Previously, couples whose total annual income does not exceed Rs 5 lakh were eligible to get a one-time incentive of Rs 2.5 lakh from Government, to help them settle down in initial phase of their married life.
  - ▶ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has now removed max Income limit and now all Dalit couples are eligible for incentive under this scheme.
42. ▶ Central Government has set INR 10000 minimum balance in bank account as one of 21 parameters to assess poverty in gram panchayats under 'Mission Antyodaya', that aims to create 50000 poverty-free gram panchayats.
43. ▶ Central Government recognised Odisha as a 'Champion State' for exports recording highest growth in exports during 2016-17. Exports from Odisha during 2016-17 stood at Rs 40872 crores, marking growth of 114% from Rs 19082 crore in 2015-16.
44. ▶ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) will develop Integrity Index of 25 Government Organizations in line with its broader strategy and emphasis on preventive vigilance. Index will be for bench-marking internal processes and controls within organisation as well as management of relationships and expectations of outside stakeholders.
- ▶ CVC will observe vigilance awareness week from 30 October to 4 November 2017 with theme *My Vision Corruption Free India*.
45. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government reduced rate of interest on loan given to women and their self-help groups (SHGs) under 'Saksham Yojna' from 6.5 % to 5 %, operated by Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh.
46. ▶ China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 2 Billion loan (Rs. 13,000 crores) for 5 projects in Andhra Pradesh.
47. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved merger of IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion. It now awaits approval from RBI, Stock exchanges, SEBI, and National Company Law Tribunal.
48. ▶ Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and Asean Development Bank reviewed \$13.5 billion ADB Sponsored Project Portfolio in India -
- ▶ Works worth \$9.6 billion is ongoing and \$5.4 billion has been disbursed.
  - ▶ Best project implementation performance awards -
    - ▶ Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission and Distribution System Improvement Project
    - ▶ Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program (Tranche-1)
    - ▶ Uttarakhand Emergency Assistance Project.
49. ▶ Digital payments firm MobiKwik partnered with IRCTC to allow customers to book railway tickets using MobiKwik's payment gateway in IRCTC Rail connect app.
- ▶ Rukaiya Rangwala is recently Appointed as MobiKwik's Payment Gateway Business Head.
50. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted scheduled commuter operator (SCO) permit to Air Deccan, enabling it to operate flights under regional air connectivity scheme UDAN.
51. ▶ E-commerce Firm *Myntra* launched its CSR initiative in association with Textile Ministry to work directly with weavers and elevate their economic stature and uplift handlooms Industry in India.
52. ▶ Eminent classical singer late Girija Devi will be honoured with Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement. She has Passed Away Recently.
53. ▶ Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India inked MoU with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to provide easy access to export finance for SMEs and merchant exporters of council.
54. ▶ European Securities & Markets Authority (ESMA) certified clearing arms of National Stock Exchange (named *National Securities Clearing Corporation Ltd*) and Bombay Stock Exchange (named *Indian Clearing Corporation Limited*) as qualified central counterparty (CCP).
- ▶ CCP is a corporate entity which guarantees the terms of a trade even if a buyer or seller defaults on the agreement.
  - ▶ As per Basel III framework, entities are subjected to lower capital requirement/charges while participating in capital markets through qualified central counterparty (CCP).



- ▶ This certification will now enable European entities to have lower capital requirements to participate in Indian Capital Markets.
- 55. ▶ Federal Bank partnered with Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Exchange to leverage blockchain technology for cross-border remittances.
- 56. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched mandatory use of Public Finance Management System (PFMS) for all Central Sector Schemes, to ensure that benefits of Government Schemes reach directly to real beneficiaries. He stated that soon PFMS will become a Government wide Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS) as a comprehensive Payment, Receipt and Accounting System.
- 57. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley officially launched the *Paytm Payments Bank* as 4th Payments Bank in India, along with Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank. Features of Paytm Payments Bank Include -
  - ▶ Money Transfer services such as IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, UPI are all free on Paytm Payments Bank.
  - ▶ Paytm Payments Bank offers free personalised RuPay digital debit card. A physical debit card can be provided on request.
  - ▶ Paytm Payments Bank offers interest of 4 % on savings, payable monthly.
  - ▶ Account holders will also be offered a free insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh in case of death or permanent disability.
- 58. ▶ Finance Ministry Approved Granting Infrastructure status to *Logistics Sector*, in view of the fact that the logistics cost in India is very high compared to developed countries and it reduces competitiveness of Indian goods in domestic and export market. It will enable Logistics Sector to avail infrastructure lending at easier terms with enhanced limits, access to larger amounts of funds, longer tenor funds from insurance companies etc.
- 59. ▶ Finance Ministry allowed public sector banks and top 3 private banks (ICICI, HDFC and Axis) to accept deposits under various small savings schemes to encourage savings. Until now, most of small savings schemes were sold through post offices.
  - ▶ Now banks will sell National Savings Time Deposit Scheme 1981, National Savings (Monthly Income Account) Scheme 1987, National Savings Recurring Deposit Scheme 1981 and NSC VIII issue.
  - ▶ So far, these banks were allowed to receive subscription only under Public Provident Fund (PPF), Kisan Vikas Patra-2014, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme-2004.
- 60. ▶ Finance Ministry approved post of 4th Whole time member in Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI's), whose need was being felt due to increased workload post merger of Forward Markets Commission (FMC) with SEBI in 2015.
  - ▶ SEBI board comprises a chairman (Ajay Tyagi Currently), 1 member each from RBI, Finance Ministry and corporate affairs Ministry.
  - ▶ SEBI's Current 3 whole time members - Madhabi Puri Buch, G Mahalingam and Sanjeev Kaushik.
- 61. ▶ Finance Ministry extended deadline for linking Aadhaar number with PAN card till 31-03-2018.
- 62. ▶ Finance Ministry imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel wire rods from China for a period of five years.
- 63. ▶ Finance Ministry reduced interest rates on Small Saving Schemes for January -March 2018 quarter by 20 basis points (0.2%) as compared to October- December 2017 quarter. New interest rates for January -March 2018 quarter are -

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

- 64. ▶ Financial services firm JM Financial received approval from National Housing Bank (NHB) for carrying out housing finance activities through its subsidiary JM Financial Home Loans.
- 65. ▶ Fino Payments Bank signed agreement with Rajasthan government's RajCOMP as its corporate business correspondent and will offer banking services to people across state. Now, 55000 e-Mitra points of RajCOMP across Rajasthan will act as banking points of Fino Payments Bank.
- 66. ▶ First Small Finance Bank in North East India commenced operations with name RGVN (North East) Microfinance Limited. It is based in Guwahati. In April 2017, it received final licence from RBI under Banking Regulation Act 1949 to carry on business as a small finance bank.
- 67. ▶ From January 1 2018, farmers in Telangana will get 24-hour free power supply, making Telangana first state to do so. Power utilities in Telangana have spent Rs 12610 crore in setting up new power lines, transformers and sub-stations for this purpose.
- 68. ▶ GDP Growth Rate Forecasts -
  - ▶ Japanese financial services company Nomura stated that India's GDP growth will be around 7.1 % in 2017-18.
  - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted 7 % for India in 2017 - 18 and 7.4 % in 2018 - 19.
  - ▶ OECD (Paris based think tank) announced that Indian economy will grow at 6.7 % in 2017-2018.



- ✎ International Monetary Fund (IMF) trimmed India's growth forecast for 2017-18 to 6.7% from 7.2 earlier. Forecast for 2018-19 is 7.4 %.
  - ✎ World Bank reduced India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier.
  - ✎ NITI Aayog expects GDP to grow at 6.9-7 % in 2017-18 and 7.5% in 2018-19.
69. ▶ GST Council 23rd Meeting (Guwahati) -
- ✎ Under GST Composition Scheme - Annual turnover eligibility increased to 2 crore from 1 crore Presently, Making eligibility for composition increased to 1.5 Crore per annum.
  - ✎ Major Changes in GST Rates for several goods / services (213 Headings (*Items / Class of Items*)) -
    - ✎ 28 % to 18% - 178 Headings . Now Only 50 Headings are in 28 % Slab.
    - ✎ 28 % to 12% - 2 Headings
    - ✎ 18 to 12 % - 13 Headings
    - ✎ 18 % to 5 % - 6 Headings
    - ✎ 12 % to 5 % - 8 Headings
    - ✎ 5 % to 0 % - 6 Headings
70. ▶ GST Council reduced tax rates on 27 items Including dried mangoes, Khakhra, plain chapatis, unbranded Namkeen, unbranded ayurvedic medicines and paper wastes to (5 % from 12 %). Food packets used in ICDS scheme, plastic and rubber wastes will now be taxed at 5 % instead of 18 %. GST Council approved quarterly filing of returns for businesses with turnover up to 1.5 crore rupees and raised threshold for composition scheme from 75 lakh rupees to 1 crore rupees.
71. ▶ Global Environment Facility (GEF) partnered with India's Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for project named *Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency*, as a result of India's efforts towards energy efficiency programmes.
- ✎ Project will receive a composite funding of \$454 million comprised of GEF grant of \$20 million and co-financing of \$434 million as loans. It includes a \$200 million loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB).
  - ✎ EESL proposed Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF) for sustainable funding mechanism of energy efficiency projects in country.
  - ✎ It aims to mitigate 60 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> that will enable a total direct energy savings of 38.3 million GJ by 2022 and 137.5 million GJ by 2032.
  - ✎ About GEF -
    - ✎ Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on eve of 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle most pressing environmental problems.
    - ✎ GEF is located in Washington (USA) with as Naoko Ishii as CEO and Chairperson.
72. ▶ Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) launched excel-based offline tool for businesses to file initial GSTR- 3B returns. Taxpayers can download the offline utility and upload on GST portal after filling. It will automate filing GSTR-3B Returns.
73. ▶ Government announced Bank Recapitalisation Plan to infuse Rs. 2.11 lakh crore ( \$32.4 billion) capital over next 2 years into public sector banks (PSBs) and prioritised financing support for MSMEs in 50 clusters.
- ✎ Capital infusion will be done to check widening losses of PSB Banks due to Rise in NPAs. NPAs of banks had more than doubled to Rs. 7.33 lakh crore in June 2017 from Rs. 2.75 lakh crore in March 2015.
  - ✎ Under this plan, PSBs will get Rs 1.35 lakh crore from Recapitalisation Bonds, 18,000 crore from Budgetary and 58,000 through sale of share of banks.
  - ✎ Government also constituted Alternative Mechanism Panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to oversee merger proposals of public sector banks (PSBs).
74. ▶ Government announced that subscribers to General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds shall get interest at rate of 7.8% with effect from 1st October, 2017 to 31st December, 2017.
75. ▶ Government announced to build 83,677km of roads, highways, greenfield expressways with investment of Rs.6.92 lakh core by 2022. It also includes first phase of new umbrella programme BharatMala Pariyojana that involves construction of 34,800 km highways by 2022.
- ✎ It was announced as part of INR 9 lakh crore package to Boost economy, that also includes 2.11 lakh crore for bank recapitalisation.
  - ✎ Bharatmala -
    - ✎ It will include economic corridors (9,000 km), inter-corridor and feeder route (6,000 km), national corridors efficiency improvement (5,000 km), border roads and international connectivity (2,000 km), coastal roads and port connectivity (2,000 km) and greenfield expressways (800 km).
    - ✎ BharatMala project will be funded in three-pronged manner – market, private investment and asset recycling of NHAI's toll assets. Of total INR 5,35,000 crore, 2.09 lakh crore will be raised as debt from market, 1.06 lakh crore will be mobilised

through public-private partnership (PPP) mode and 2.19 lakh crore will flow from accruals of Central Road Funds and toll collections.

76. ▶ Government has launched Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 – Series-III, from October 09, 2017 to December 27, 2017.

▶ Sovereign Gold Bonds were launched under sovereign gold bond scheme in November 2015, to reduce demand for physical gold and shift part of domestic savings, used for purchase of gold, into financial savings.

▶ Features of Sovereign Gold Bonds -

▶ Denomination in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof. Minimum investment in bonds is one gram. Maximum limit will be of 4 kg for individual and HUF (Hindu Undivided Family) and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities.

▶ Issue price will be fixed in Rupees on basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association.

▶ Interest rate will be 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually on nominal value.

▶ Tenor will be 8 years with exit option from 5th year, that can exercised on the interest payment dates.

▶ Bonds can be used as collateral for loans and will be also tradable on stock exchanges.

▶ Capital gains tax on it has been exempted.

77. ▶ Government increased its stake IDBI to 77.79% by acquiring 3.81% shares through preferential allotment. Previously government owned 73.98% of IDBI Bank.

78. ▶ Government infused over Rs. 7500 crore equity capital in six stressed public sector banks (PSBs)-

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

79. ▶ Government launched Bharat 22 exchange traded fund (ETF) managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, targeting initial amount of INR 14500 crores (increased from 8000 Crores earlier). This ETF is open for subscription till 17 November and a discount of 3% is being offered to all investors.

▶ The fund aims to replicate S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index, which will invest in 22 stocks in CPSE universe, stakes held under Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), and state-run banks.

▶ S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index

▶ This index has stocks representation of 39 % Private and 61 % Government Firms in 6 sectors - Finance, Industry, Energy, Utilities, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) and Basic Materials. This index was launched in August 2017 and since then it has performed better than Sensex and NIFTY-50.

80. ▶ Government made Aadhaar linking mandatory for Public Provident Fund, National Savings Certificate and Kisan Vikas Patra schemes till December 31, 2017.

▶ Government already made mandatory to link Aadhaar to PAN by December 31, 2017 and SIM connections by February 2018.

▶ Some 135 welfare schemes are to be linked to Aadhaar by March 31, 2018.

▶ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) also launched new online facility for its members to Aadhaar number with their Universal Account Number (UAN) to ensure speedy EPFO services.

81. ▶ Government raised import duty on crude palm oil to 30 % from 15 % and refined oil to 40 % from 20 %, to curb cheaper shipments and boost local prices for supporting farmers and refiners.

82. ▶ Government reduced Basic Excise Duty rate on Petrol and Diesel by Rs. 2 per litre, to contain impact of rising international prices of crude petroleum oil and keep petrol and diesel Prices under control. Revenue loss on account of these reductions in excise duty is about Rs. 26,000 crore annually.

83. ▶ Government tasked ICICI Bank with enabling online payments at 470 mandis integrated with national portal of electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).

▶ e-NAM was launched in April 2016 to revolutionise agri markets by bringing in better price discovery and transparency to enable farmers to get better remuneration for their produce.

▶ ICICI Bank will enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) on the e-NAM portal for making cashless payments.

84. ▶ HDFC Bank Removed Services Charges on Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and the National Electronics Funds Transfer (NEFT) Online transactions to promote digital economy. HDFC Bank also limited availability of cheque book to 25 Cheques per year.

85. ▶ HDFC Bank launched *SmartUp zones* in its branches across India, to become preferred banker for the start-up community. An exclusive area inside the branch premises of HDFC Bank (SmartUp Zones) will be dedicated to start-ups and trained bank staff will offer tailor-made banking and advisory solutions to entrepreneurs.
86. ▶ HDFC Life Insurance Company launched service bot *Neo* that uses artificial intelligence for customer service. It is second bot put in operation by HDFC Life after SPOK, which was an email answering bot for customer queries.
87. ▶ HDFC has sold its realty brokerage business 'HDFC Realty' and its digital real estate business 'HDFC Red' to online advertisements platform Quikr, for approx 350 crores.
88. ▶ HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) launched mobile app *Trade Transaction Tracker* to help customers track status of their trade transactions on a real-time basis. It will provide global view of import and export documentary transactions across markets in single app.
  - ✍ HSBC recently appointed John Flint as its next CEO.
89. ▶ ICICI Bank became first bank to enable customers to open a Public Provident Fund (PPF) account online, eliminating the need for furnishing paper documents.
90. ▶ ICICI Bank committed assistance of INR 10 crores to Indian Armed Forces in 2 equal tranches. First tranche will support post-graduation education of widows of soldiers and education for their children. Second program will provide financial assistance for marriages of daughters of ex-servicemen.
91. ▶ ICICI Bank launched India's first voice-based international remittance service to enable non-resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to any bank in India. Now, an NRI customer can instantly initiate a remittance to India with just a simple voice command to Apple's virtual voice assistant, Siri, on their iPhone/iPad, using ICICI Bank's Money2India app.
92. ▶ ICRA Management Consulting Services (IMaCS) launched four fixed income indices, to create more depth in Indian debt market.
  - ✍ Four indices - ICRA Gilt Indices, ICRA Liquid Indices, ICRA Corporate Bond Indices and ICRA Composite Debt Indices. It would help asset managers and financial services companies make objective analysis and provide benchmarking of debt portfolios.
93. ▶ IDBI Bank has disengaged Moody's Investors Services (Moody's) to rate its bond programmes, terminating all contracts with Moody's pertaining to various issues made under its MTN (medium term note) Bond Programme.
94. ▶ Income Tax Department clarified that cash sales of agricultural produce by a cultivator to a trader for less than 2 lakh rupees will not attract tax under Income Tax Act and PAN is not needed for them.
95. ▶ Income Tax Department launched *online chat* service for taxpayers so that they can seek answers to their basic queries and doubts relating to direct tax issues. Experts and independent tax practitioners have been deputed to answer the general queries of a taxpayer.
96. ▶ India Government Mint (A Unit of *Security Printing and Minting Corp of India*) launched India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard – Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201).
  - ✍ BND-4201 is reference material for gold of '9999' fineness (gold that is 99.99% pure with impurities of only 100 parts-per-million). It will be beneficial to the consumers and public at large to ensure purity of gold.
  - ✍ BND-4201 is developed through collaboration between IGM, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), National Physical Laboratory (New Delhi) and National Centre for Compositional Characterisation of Materials (Hyderabad).
97. ▶ India Index Services and Products Ltd (IISL) launched the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index. It will track the performance of 100 large-cap and 150 mid-cap companies listed on National Stock Exchange (NSE). Base date for index is April 1, 2005 and base value is 1000.
98. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will become operational in all 650 districts of the country by April 2018 to facilitate financial inclusion.
  - ✍ Payments Banks may accept Deposit upto INR 1 Lakh. IPPB will offer Interest Rates Upto 5.5%.
  - ✍ Other Payments Banks in India - Paytm PB (upto 4 %), Fino PB (upto 4 %), Airtel PB (Upto 7.25%)
99. ▶ India Signed World Bank loan agreement of USD 250 million for *Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project*.
100. ▶ India signed \$300 Million Loan Deal with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Promote Further Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal and improve quality of public service delivery in state.
101. ▶ India signed \$318 million Loan agreement with World Bank for Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project to promote climate resilient agriculture technologies, improve water management practices, and increase market opportunities for small and marginal farmers.
102. ▶ India signed Financing Agreement for IBRD loan of US\$ 119 million for *Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity (OHEPEE) Project*.
103. ▶ India signed Financing Agreement with world bank for USD 125 million for *Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project*.
  - ✍ World Bank also approved USD 825 million loan for Pakistan, for upgrading its energy and public finance sectors.

104. ▶ India signed USD 40 Million Loan agreement with world bank for Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project.
105. ▶ India signed a Loan agreement worth \$100 Million with World Bank for increase solar generation capacity through establishment of large-scale parks in India.
  - ▶ It Includes Grant Agreement for USD 2 million for *Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project* and IBRD/CTF loan of USD 98 million.
  - ▶ It will help in government's plan to install 100 Gigawatts (GW) of solar power out of a total renewable-energy target of 175 GW by 2022.
106. ▶ India's YES Bank and European Investment Bank (EIB) released announced co-finance programme of \$400-million for renewable power generation in India (50 - 50 %).
107. ▶ Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology organized 15th Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) Conference in New Delhi with theme *Building Trust in the Digital Economy*. It is first ever APCERT conference held in India.
108. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Projections -
  - ▶ International Rating Agency Fitch lowered 2017-18 growth projection to 6.7%, from 6.9%.
  - ▶ Morgan Stanley predicts Indian economy to witness cyclical growth recovery, with real GDP growth likely to accelerate from 6.4% to 7.5% in 2018 & to 7.7% in 2019.
  - ▶ Global investment bank Nomura predicted India's economy to register a 7.5 % growth rate in 2018.
  - ▶ As per *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018* report by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)UN, Indian economy will grow by 7.2 % in 2017-18 and will go up to 7.4 % in 2019.
  - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal by 0.3% to 6.7 %. It also revised GDP outlook for next fiscal beginning from March 2018 to 7.3% from 7.4%.
109. ▶ Indian Government signed \$65.5 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on Western Coast in Karnataka. It is 2nd Tranche of a \$250 million financing facility under Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program.
110. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad) developed *tGST* app to ease up process of GST calculations for Commercial Taxes Department of Telangana.
111. ▶ Indian online payments firm BillDesk-owned Hatio Innovations launched cryptocurrency exchange 'Coinome' in India offering trading of Bitcoin and Bitcoin Cash.
  - ▶ Coinome allows users to register via an instant e-KYC process by using Aadhaar number.
  - ▶ Unlike many other cryptocurrency exchanges, Coinome is an open order book cryptocurrency exchange which enables direct deals between buyers and sellers just like conventional stocks and commodities exchanges.
112. ▶ IndusInd Bank acquired Micro-lender *Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd* for \$2.4 billion. It will boost IndusInd's presence in microfinance lending and rural banking.
113. ▶ IndusInd Bank and e-Wallet Firm MobiKwik launched co-branded wallet 'IndusInd MobiKwik' that allows its customers to pay at the MobiKwik merchant network using their accounts, with a 'Direct Debit Feature'.
114. ▶ Information and Broadcasting Ministry approved Merger of Direct-to-home (DTH) operators Dish TV India (owned by Zee Group) and Videocon d2h. Merged entity will be *Dish TV Videocon Limited* and will serve combined subscriber base of 29 million users.
115. ▶ Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) will exit infrastructure and private equity funds management business, called *IDFC Alternatives* that has assets worth \$2.6 billion. IDFC is currently engaged in merger discussions with Shriram Group.
116. ▶ Insurance firm Bajaj Allianz launched India's first ever insurance cover for individual victims of cyber crime. Under this, insurance cover (1 Lakh to 1 Crore) will be provided against online fraud, identity theft, cyber-stalking and extortion, phishing and malware attack.
117. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) released Financial System Stability Assessment (FSSA) and Financial Sector Assessment (FSA) respectively. Second comprehensive Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) for India too has been conducted during 2017.
  - ▶ FSAP is a joint program undertaken by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) to comprehensively assess and conduct in-depth analysis of a country's financial sector. FSAP has been conducted since September 2010 in 29 countries (including India) at interval of every five years.
118. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggested a 3-pronged approach for structural reform in India that includes -
  - ▶ Addressing banking and corporate sector weaknesses
  - ▶ Continued fiscal consolidation through revenue measure
  - ▶ Improving efficiency of labour and product markets.

119. ▶ International investment firm *KKR & Co* became first foreign investor to fully own an asset reconstruction company (ARC) in India, as it received an approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start an ARC.
120. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Bank launched *Sahafat Finance Scheme* as a special financial scheme for journalists of state, to avail financing between 50000 - 3 Lakh for buying cameras, laptops, tablets and books.
121. ▶ Karnataka Bank partnered with Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd for its transformation project 'KBL Vikaas'.
122. ▶ Kerala Government signed a MOU with Intel and UST Global for exploring possibility of transforming the state into an electronic hardware manufacturing hub. Additionally, Cab Aggregatgor Ola partnered with Microsoft To choose microsoft as its preferred cloud provider.
123. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) launched *Smart Banking 24X7* e-lobbies in Mumbai, that will give customers freedom to complete banking transactions at any hour of day.
124. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank andf Fintech Firm *Zeta* launched multi-wallet digital prepaid solution for salaried employees named *Paymint*. Paymint's single digital interface will enable firms to manage multiple reimbursements and allowances offered to employees including meal vouchers, medical reimbursements etc.
- ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank also tied up with Samsung Pay to enable its credit and debit cardholders to tap and pay using Samsung smart phones at merchants. It uses the Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST) that enables consumers to make in-store payments without need for a physical card.
125. ▶ Madhya Pradesh, which was first state to switch to January-December financial year from existing April-March cycle starting 2018, has put plan on hold till Central Government shifts to January-December fiscal cycle.
126. ▶ Maharashtra is top contributor in first 5 months since rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in July 1, 2017. Uttar Pradesh is ranked 2nd in terms of total GST Collection (CGST+IGST+SGST+CESS). Govt has so far received approx 3.7 Lakh Crores as GST Collections till Nov 30, 2017.
- ▶ Also, Central Government has released INR 24500 crore compensation to states to make up for revenue loss on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation. Karnataka got maximum compensation (Rs 3271 crore) followed by Gujarat (Rs 2282 crore) and Punjab (Rs 2098 crore). This compensation comes from cess (on top of the highest tax rate of 28 %) on luxury, demerit and sin goods.
127. ▶ Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha today Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase reach of Philately (*collection and study of postage stamps*). SPARSH stands for *Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby*.
- ▶ Under this, annual scholarships will be given to children of Standard VI to IX with good academic record and pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.
  - ▶ Every Postal Circle will select a maximum of 40 scholarships representing 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX. Amount of Scholarship will be Rs. 6000 per annum.
128. ▶ Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution brought into effect Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 that replaces Bureau of Indian Standards Act 1986.
- ▶ It aims to help in ease of doing business, enhance 'Make In India' campaign and ensure availability of quality products and services to consumers.
  - ▶ BIS Act 2016 establishes BIS as the National Standards Body of India for the purpose of standardization, marking and certification of articles and processes. It has broaden BIS's ambit and allows central government to make it mandatory for certain notified goods, articles, processes, etc to carry standard mark.
129. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will roll out Condonation of Delay Scheme to provide a three-month window for defaulting companies and their director to submit their annual filings. It will be operational from January 1 to March 31, 2018.
130. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directed all NGOs, individuals and business entities receiving foreign funds to open accounts in any of 32 designated banks (including one foreign) within a month, as per MHA powers under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) 2010.
- ▶ These accounts will be integrated with central government's Public Financial Management System (PFMS), to provide higher level of transparency and hassle-free reporting compliance.
131. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs announced that 30.76 lakh houses for urban poor have been sanctioned so far since launch of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Scheme in June 2015.
132. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Start-up Sangam initiative to develop new business models, marketing plans, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups. For this, 10 oil and gas PSUs have setup Rs. 320-crore venture capital fund to encourage start-ups based on innovative ideas in energy sector.



133. ▶ Ministry of Shipping extended period of Coastal Berth scheme of flagship Sagarmala Programme for three years upto March, 2020. Its scope was also expanded to cover capital dredging at Major Ports and preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for coastal berth project.
- ▶ Ministry of Shipping also undertook projects worth INR 2302 crore for financial assistance under Coastal Berth Scheme.
134. ▶ Mobile Wallet Firm Paytm tied-up with ICICI Bank to launch *Paytm-ICICI Bank Postpaid* short-term credit facility to ICICI customers using Paytm App. Current Borrowing Limit is INR 20000, to be repaid in 45 days.
- ▶ Paytm also acquired undisclosed stake in Urja Money Pvt. Ltd, that evaluates creditworthiness of people seeking loans to buy two-wheelers., under Brand name *CreditMate*.
135. ▶ Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI kept policy rates unchanged with current values -
- ▶ Repo Rate - 6.00 %
  - ▶ Reverse Repo - 5.75 %
  - ▶ Bank Rate - 6.25 %
  - ▶ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25 %
  - ▶ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
  - ▶ SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 % (**Changed from 20 %**)
136. ▶ Moody's Investors Service upgraded India's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa3 and changed outlook on rating to stable from positive. India's rating has been upgraded after a period of 13 years, that was last upgraded in January 2004 to Baa3 (from Ba1).
- ▶ Moody's also upgraded ratings of 9 Indian PSUs -
    - ▶ BPCL, HPCL, IOC and Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) -upgraded to Baa2 from Baa3.
    - ▶ ONGC's rating upgraded to Baa1 from Baa2.
    - ▶ NTPC, NHPC, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and GAIL India upgraded to Baa2. As Per CRISIL, NHAI reforms resulted in doubling of daily highways construction rate from 12 km to 23 km in 2017.
137. ▶ Moody's affirmed Baa3 rating on SBI's senior unsecured debt (issued via its London branch) and (P)Baa3 rating on its senior unsecured medium-term note (MTN) program. Baa3 denotes lowest rating in investment grade on long-term corporate obligation, which carries moderate risks.
138. ▶ Multi-Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) launched India's first commodity options in Gold. with bi-monthly duration. The option will also have existing gold kilo futures contract as its underlier.
- ▶ Options are an instrument that gives buyer right to buy or sell an underlined at present price on a future date. They are of two types: puts (right to sell) and calls (right to buy).
139. ▶ NPA report by CARE Ratings -
- ▶ With NPA Ratio of 9.85 %, India is ranked 5th on list of countries with highest non-performing assets (NPA) levels. Only countries with More NPAs than India are Greece (36.67%), Italy (16.35%), Portugal (15.52%), and Ireland (11.85%).
140. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) acquired 7% stake in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for INR 900 crores from IDBI Bank. NABARD now holds 10% Stake in SIDBI.
- ▶ NABARD also sanctioned amount INR 273 crore to Andhra Pradesh Government for Rural Water supply, Road and Bridge projects. These funds have been sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
141. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) created National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC) for attracting domestic and foreign investment for highways projects. It will focus on engaging with global institution investors, developers, construction companies and fund managers for building investor participation in road infrastructure projects.
142. ▶ Odisha government's Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection and State Bank of India signed MOU for integration of SBI e-Pay with State's cyber treasury to facilitate revenue collection from citizens through digital banking platform.
- ▶ Odisha government also launched porta for Open State Government Data Platform at *odisha.data.gov.in*, to share data with people.
143. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to raise crude oil production by 4 metric tonne (MT) and double natural gas output by 2020, inline with Government's aim to cut country's oil imports by 10% from 77% in 2013-14. by 2022.
144. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank rolled out Paytm FASTag to enable electronic toll fee collection on highways across the country, in line with the government's move to make FASTag mandatory on every new vehicle sold from December 1. The Paytm FASTag - which is a simple and reusable tag based on radio-frequency identification technology (RFID) that can be placed on a vehicle's windscreen.
145. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank unveiled 3000 'Paytm Ka ATM' outlets that allows customers to open Saving Accounts and deposit/withdraw money from their bank accounts.
146. ▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will conduct State specific APY mobilization Campaigns under name *People First*, to Increase APY Outreach.





arm *Jio* that is expected to improve company's profitability.

160. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved directions for peer-to-peer (P2P) lending. P2P lending is online mechanism which raises loans for people who need to borrow, from people who want to invest.
  - ▶ Recently RBI notified that peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms would be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
  - ▶ RBI has now stated that aggregate exposure of a lender to all borrowers and Aggregate loans taken by a Borrower shall not exceed 10 lakh, across all P2P Platforms.
  - ▶ Exposure of a single lender to the same borrower is capped at Rs. 50,000. Tenure of the loan should not exceed 36 months.
161. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has Put penalties on Yes Bank and IDFC Bank -
  - ▶ Yes Bank - 6 crore penalty for misreporting data on non-performing assets. Yes Bank reported Its NPAs to be INR 748.9 Crores as of March 2016 while RBI stats tell that its is 5.5 Times more than this figure. Yes Bank has also been penalized for failing to report a security incident involving its ATMs on time.
  - ▶ IDFC Bank - 2 crore penalty for breaching regulations on giving loans. RBI said That IDFC Bank failed to comply with regulations pertaining to sanction/renewal of loans and advances.
162. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked co-operative societies not use the word 'Bank' in their names as it violates Section 7 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
163. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed INR 3 crore penalty on IndusInd Bank for violation of Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms.
164. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalty of INR 5 crore on Syndicate Bank for non-compliance with its directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, Cheque Purchase or Discounting and Bill Discounting.
165. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) compulsory for companies having with Loans of Rs 5 crore. Banks will capture this number in Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database that captures details of loan above Rs 5 crore.
  - ▶ LEI number will help banks in monitoring the aggregate exposure of corporate borrowers. Firms can obtain their LEI code from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd. (LEIL).
  - ▶ LEI is a global reference number that uniquely identifies every legal entity or structure that is party to a financial transaction. It is a unique 20 digit alphanumeric code that is assigned to a legal entity.
  - ▶ LEI system has been set up Global authorities to enable identification and linking of parties to financial transactions in order to manage counterparty risk.
166. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rationalised merchant discount rate (MDR) to increase the number of non-cash transactions.
  - ▶ Fee charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card payment services is referred to as merchant discount rate (MDR).
  - ▶ MDR has been rationalised on basis of merchant turnover rather than existing slab rates based on the transaction value.
167. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) simplified Foreign Exchange Management Regulations to ease up norms for foreign investors to invest in India-
  - ▶ All 93 amendments have been put under one notification. New regulation combines earlier two regulations on foreign investments - FEMA 20 (investment in Indian company or partnership or in a limited liability partnership) or FEMA 24 (investment in a partnership firm).
  - ▶ Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)
    - ▶ FEMA was passed by Parliament in 1999 and so far was amended 93 times. It replaced FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulations Act), 1973 that become incompatible after economic reforms and pro-liberalization policies of Government.
168. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio for NBFCs has increased to 5 % at end of March 2017 from 2.9 % in March 2012.
  - ▶ Bad loans of NBFCs amount to around Rs.74,230 crores. However, compared to banks, NBFCs reported a fairly higher Return on Assets.
  - ▶ Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of NBFCs has declined in recent years. Still, it was higher than the prescribed regulatory level of 15 %.
  - ▶ Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) OR Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is ratio of a bank's capital to its risk. It marks bank's ability to absorb a reasonable amount of loss.
169. ▶ Reserve Bank of India increased limits for investment by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) for the January-March 2018 quarter by Rs 6,400 crore in Central Government Securities (G-Secs) and Rs 5,800 crore in State development loans (SDLs).
  - ▶ From January 1, 2018, revised investment limit for FPIs in G-Secs will be Rs 2,56,400 crore against existing limit of Rs 2,50,000 crore.



184. ▶ Smallest paper denomination note from India of INR 1, completed 100 years of existence, since it was first printed on November 30, 1917, with photo of King George V.
185. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) signed agreement with Escorts Ltd to finance farmers for purchase of Escorts tractors under name *Powertrac and Farmtrac*.
186. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) waived off account closing charges for Savings accounts that are over an year old. Earlier, SBI levied closure charges of Rs 500 for its savings account customers.
187. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) will lend 2317 Crore rupees (\$357 million) to 6 companies for 575 megawatts of grid-connected rooftop solar projects under a World Bank programme. SBI already has given approx 12000 Crore as loans in Solar Sector.
  - ✍ India aims to raise renewable energy capacity to 175 gigawatts (GW) by 2022, from 57 GW currently. Solar Energy accounts for 100 GW in that target.
188. ▶ State Bank of India has slashed Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) charges up to 80 %. New IMPS service charges are -
  - ✍ No charges for transactions under Rs 1000.
  - ✍ INR 1 - Between 1000 - 10,000
  - ✍ INR 2 - Between 10001 - 100000
189. ▶ State Bank of India launched a new product to provide a short-term working capital demand loan to MSME clients, called SME Assist. It would offer loans to MSME customers on basis of their input credit claims under Goods and Services Tax (GST).
190. ▶ State Bank of India launched a unified integrated app called YONO (You Need Only One), that offers all kinds of financial and lifestyle products from 14 categories.
191. ▶ State Bank of India will create a 15,000-sqft innovation center in Navi Mumbai, investing around Rs 100 crore. It will be largest innovation center by any financial services company in India.
192. ▶ TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) announced that Reliance Communications will shut down voice call service from 1st December 2017 and its customers can move to other networks by the end 2017.
193. ▶ Tata AIA Life launched Chatbot *Eazy Connect* that will extend online customer service to social media platforms. It will be available through social media platforms and is developed to respond to most frequently asked queries.
194. ▶ Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Governor E S L Narasimhan launched first regional language version of 'GST Rate Finder' App in Telugu.
  - ✍ English version of *GST Rate Finder* was launched in July 2017 and now telugu version is first regional language version of this app.
195. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended 40% reduction in carbon emissions in telecom networks by 2022-23 considering 2011-12 as base year in order to make telecom sector greener.
196. ▶ UN Agency International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) approved USD 30 million soft loans for 4th phase of North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP).
197. ▶ Union Bank of India launched Bilingual (Hindi and English) Android app *Union Sahyog* to digitise customer-facing banking services such as missed call/SMS-based services, Internet banking, deposit and loan product information, online account opening and online loan application etc.
198. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE's) second largest bank, Emirates NBD started operations in India by opening a branch in Mumbai. It is Emirates NBD's fifth international branch.
199. ▶ United Bank of India (UBI) received SEBI's approval for issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,000 crore by way of institutional placement.
200. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government launched 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' Scheme, a free household power connection scheme for the poor in the state.
201. ▶ Visa tied up with Andhra Pradesh government for Digital Dhan Sankalp project to develop Visakhapatnam into India's first 'less cash' city.
202. ▶ World Bank approved a loan worth USD 40 million for a tourism project in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
203. ▶ Yes Bank signed MoU with Innovation Centre Denmark – India (ICDK India), to bring financial technology innovations and startups from Denmark to India, and facilitate entry of Indian startups in Denmark.
  - ✍ YES Bank also signed bancassurance agreement with Reliance General Insurance.

**Top**

### **International**

1. ▶ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) become first Indian Oil Marketing Company (OMC) to enter lubricant market in Myanmar.
2. ▶ 2017 Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index by Australian Centre for Financial Studies (ACFS) -

- ✎ India has ranked 28th out of 30 countries. India's overall index value in 2017 is 44.9, which marks an improvement over index value of 43.4 in 2016.
- ✎ Denmark has retained the top spot in this index for sixth consecutive year.
- 3. ▶ 2018 *World Economic League Table* report released by Centre for Economics and Business Research (UK) -
  - ✎ India will overtake UK and France to become fifth largest economy in 2018, and will further move to 3rd spot by 2032.
  - ✎ China is likely to overtake USA as world's largest economy by 2032.
  - ✎ Russia will fall to 17th place among world's largest economies by 2032, from 11th place in 2017, mainly because of low commodity (oil) prices in international market and its excessive reliance on energy sector.
- 4. ▶ 2nd India-Afghanistan air cargo route linking Kabul to Mumbai inaugurated at Hamid Karzai international airport in Kabul, to boost export of fresh fruits and medicinal plants from Afghanistan. First air corridor between both countries linking Kabul-New Delhi was inaugurated in June 2017.
- 5. ▶ 5 Day youth film festival of Nordic-Baltic European nations started at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.
  - ✎ Nordic-Baltic countries are *Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden*. They are tied together geographically and historically through trade, culture and many other value systems.
- 6. ▶ *Feminism* is named as Merriam-Webster's Word of the year 2017.
  - ✎ *Feminism* word has its roots in the Latin language, where it was used for "woman" and "female" in 14th century English.
  - ✎ Other Words of The year 2017
    - ✎ *Populism* - Cambridge Dictionary.
    - ✎ *Kwaussie* - Australian National Dictionary.
- 7. ▶ *Government at a Glance 2017* report by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) -
  - ✎ Indian government is ranked 3rd most trusted government in world, with 74 % Indians trusting their current PM Modi led Government.
  - ✎ List is topped by Switzerland, followed by Indonesia.
- 8. ▶ *The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017* (149 countries) -
  - ✎ India ranks 100th in this list of prosperity.
  - ✎ Top 5 - Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden.
- 9. ▶ A consortium of chinese firms is Constructing Bangladesh's first eco-friendly thermal power plant with ultra-modern clean coal technology, near sea port in Payra town in Patuakhali district of Bangladesh. Estimated cost of the project is USD 1.56 billion.
- 10. ▶ A painting of Christ by Italian Renaissance painter Leonardo da Vinci is sold for USD 450 million, breaking all previous records of artworks sold or auctioned. Previously, Highest price ever for a work of art at auction was USD 179.4 million for Pablo Picasso's painting 'Women of Algiers (Version O)' in May 2015. While, highest sale price for any artwork was USD 300 million for Willem de Kooning's painting 'Interchange'.
- 11. ▶ ADIA (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)) became first institutional investor in India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)'s Master Fund and a shareholder in NIIF's investment management Company. ADIA invested approx 1 Billion USD in NIIF.
- 12. ▶ According to World Energy Access report by International Energy Agency (IEA) -
  - ✎ Half a billion people have gained access to electricity in India since 2000, almost doubling country's electrification rate. It paves way for India to achieve access to electricity for all in early 2020s.
- 13. ▶ According to global airlines' grouping IATA -
  - ✎ India's domestic aviation sector grew the fastest and India topped domestic growth chart again in September with 15.5 % Growth, compared to 5.7 % Globally. China is at 2nd place.
- 14. ▶ Adani Power signed 25 year Power purchase agreement (PPA) for net capacity of 1,496 MW with Bangladesh Power Development Board to supply electricity from its upcoming 1,600 MW plant at Godda in Jharkhand.
- 15. ▶ African country Burundi became first nation to withdraw from International Criminal Court (Hague, Netherlands) that has authority to prosecute individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
  - ✎ In recent years, 3 African Nations South Africa, Gambia and Burundi expressed their intent to leave ICC citing reason that it focuses too much on African nations.
- 16. ▶ Agricultural Minister Radha Mohan Singh sent a proposal to United Nations for declaring 2018 as *International Year of Millets*.
  - ✎ Mr. Radha Mohan also stated that total fish production in India remained 11.41 million tonnes in 2016-17, making India 2nd largest fish producing country.
- 17. ▶ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched promotion of north eastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar. Exports of APEDA scheduled products to Bangladesh during 2016-17 were US \$396.44 million and US \$24.15



million for Myanmar.

18. ▶ Air New Zealand has been named *2018 Airline of the Year* for 5th consecutive year. It is followed by Qantas Airways, Singapore Airlines, Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic.
19. ▶ Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft launched open-source and deep learning interface *Glouon* that will help developers to deploy machine learning models across several platforms. It will give developers a place to prototype, build, train and deploy machine learning models.
20. ▶ American digital payments company PayPal launched domestic operations in India.
  - ▶ Merchants offering PayPal will be able to process both local and global payments through the platform, getting access to PayPal's more than 20 Crore customers across world.
21. ▶ American electric Carmaker TESLA has builds world's biggest lithium-ion battery to be plugged into an Australian state grid, capable of powering 30,000 homes for up to an hour in the event of a severe blackout.
22. ▶ As per *Authentic Brands Study* by Cohn & Wolfe -
  - ▶ Indian consumers regard Google as most authentic brand, followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki and Apple.
  - ▶ Amazon tops list globally, followed by Apple.
23. ▶ As per Credit Suisse Research Institute's (CSRI) report CS Family 1000 -
  - ▶ India has 108 publicly-listed family owned businesses, 3rd highest in world. With average market capitalization of USD 6.5 billion, India ranks 5th in Asia Pacific and 22nd globally, in terms of average m-cap.
  - ▶ Top 5 countries in terms of number of family-owned companies - China, USA, India, France AND Hong Kong
24. ▶ As per Data by Twiplomacy (Burson Marsteller research project that tracks use of Twitter by governments and international organizations) -
  - ▶ USA Prez Donald Trump is most followed leader on Twitter, followed by Pope Francis and Indian PM Narendra Modi.
25. ▶ As per Report by Tourism Australia, Maharashtra is leading Indian tourist source market for Australia with over 59,000 tourists having visited Australia in year ended June 2017, folowed by Delhi and Karnataka.
26. ▶ As per consultancy and research firm Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) -
  - ▶ India will 3rd largest aviation market for departures by 2019, up from 4th place with 131 Million passengers in 2016.
  - ▶ USA is largest aviation market with 815 million passengers, followed by China (490 million) and Japan(141 million).
27. ▶ As per data by Bank of Thailand, India has highest unemployment rate in Asia (8%). Thailand's 1.3% employment rate is ranked best in Asia.
28. ▶ As per new discovery, *Mount Hope* is new tallest mountain in British Antarctic Territory (BAT) with height measured at 3,239 meters above, more than 3,184 meters tall *Mount Jackson*.
29. ▶ As per rankings released by *Fortune* Magazine, Qatar is World's Richest Country in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita. Top 5 Nations -

▶

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

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

30. ▶ Asia Index Pvt Ltd (joint venture of S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE) launched Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) index, to measure exposure to securities meeting sustainability investing criteria.
31. ▶ Assam government signed MoU with Singapore for skilling youth of state. Additionally, Indiana (USA State) and Karnataka signed agreement to establish sister-state ties for cooperation in economic, educational and cultural fields.
32. ▶ Australia became 25th country to recognize same-sex marriage as it passed a bill that changed a 2004 law that stiplated a legal marriage as the one between a man and a woman.
33. ▶ Australian Government announced that it will establish a national space agency as a part of long term plan to develop Australia's domestic space industry. It will be called ARSE (Australian Research & Space Exploratio).
34. ▶ Australia's last car factory was shut down as USA carmaker GM Holden Ltd closed its plant in South Australia. It marks end of car manufacturing industry in Australia.
35. ▶ Austria's law banning face veils such as burkhas or niqabs came into effect, to promote cohabitation between majority Austrian population and people from third countries living in Austria.








36. ▶ BRICS - themed subway train with carriages representing five member nations started test operations in China's Xiamen city.
  - ▶ Indian carriage depicts elephants and yoga.
  - ▶ Chinese carriage is red and displays icons such as the Great Wall and Tian'anmen Square.
  - ▶ Brazilian carriage is green and decorated with images of footballs and football stars.
  - ▶ Russian carriage shows country's ballet and matryoshka dolls.
  - ▶ South African carriage displays pictures of diamonds.
  - ▶ Sixth carriage combines cultural elements from all the five BRICS countries.
37. ▶ BRICS Nations' New Development Bank (NDB) approved 2 development projects in India and Russia with loans of \$400 million -
  - ▶ In India, funds procured by means of NDB loan will be used to rehabilitate the Indira Gandhi canal system.
  - ▶ In Russia, loan will be used to build a toll transport corridor connecting M-5 federal highway to Ufa city centre.
  - ▶ New Development Bank is Headquartered in Shanghai (China) with India's K V Kamath as Current President.
38. ▶ Bangkok Bank (Thailand) selected India based iGTB (Intellect Global Transaction Banking - a specialist firm of Intellect Design Arena Ltd) as tech partner to implement a cash management platform and corporate portal.
39. ▶ Bangladesh and USA Armies held Joint Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka.
40. ▶ Belgium became first country to send a female ambassador (Dominique Mineur) to Saudi Arabia.
41. ▶ Bengaluru city signed MoU with C40 cities network to work together to tackle air pollution.
  - ▶ C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is grouping of cities aims at tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas.
42. ▶ Bharti Airtel acquired Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Ltd (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd (TTML) with over 4 crore TTSL customers joining Bharti Airtel. Bharti Airtel will absorb TTSL's CMB operations across country in nineteen circles (17 under TTSL and 2 under TTML).
43. ▶ Bharti Airtel received Ghana's National Communications Authority's approval for merger between Bharti Ghana (Airtel) and Millicom Ghana (Tigo). Merger will result in 2nd largest mobile network operations in Ghana.
44. ▶ Bharti Airtel signed agreement with Millicom International, under which *Airtel Rwanda Ltd* will acquire 100% equity in Tigo Rwanda Ltd.
45. ▶ Bhutan has become the first country to pledge rapid deployment troops to the UN peacekeeping operations, keeping them at the ready for participation in missions within 60 days.
46. ▶ Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017 -
  - ▶ India ranked 8th most valuable nation brand while USA retained its top position and China took second spot.
  - ▶ In terms of valuation, India's National Brand Value in 2017 is \$2.04 trillion, down by 1% from last year's \$2.06 trillion. However, India's brand rating has improved from 'AA-' to 'AA'.
47. ▶ Cabinet approvals -
  - ▶ Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Japan on *Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)*. Under this, India will send 3-lakh youth to Japan for on-job training for 3-5 years.
  - ▶ MOC with Japan on establishing a Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market.
  - ▶ MoU between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Services Commission (Gibraltar) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.
  - ▶ MOU between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Capital Markets Authority (Kuwait).
  - ▶ MoU with Morocco on cooperation in water resources.
  - ▶ Government approved updating status of *International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)* from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and will enable more safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels.
  - ▶ Extradition Treaty with Lithuania to provide legal framework for seeking extradition of economic offenders, terrorists and other criminals from and to Lithuania.
48. ▶ Canada has been chosen as partner country for 23rd Technology Summit to be held in November 2017 in New Delhi, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
49. ▶ Central American Nation Guatemala announced to move its Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, after USA recently recognized Jerusalem as capital of Israel and announced to move USA's Israeli embassy to Jerusalem.
50. ▶ Central American country Nicaragua signed Paris Agreement on climate change, leaving USA and Syria as only 2 countries left to sign this global climate pact.

51. ▶ China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) launched Algeria's first telecommunications satellite, Alcomsat-1, aboard a Long March 3B rocket.
52. ▶ China has shut down its legal government-sanctioned ivory (*elephant teeth*) trade.
53. ▶ China launched 2nd Land Surveying Satellite LKW-2 (also known as Yaogan Weixing-32), to be used for remote sensing exploration of land resources. It was launched on board of Long March-2D rocket.
54. ▶ China launched BeiDou-3 M1 and BeiDou-3 M2 Navigation satellites on board Long March-3B rocket.
55. ▶ China launched remote sensing VRSS-2 satellite for Venezuela by Long March-2D carrier rocket. This is 3rd Venezuelan satellite launched by China after Venesat -1 (2008) and VRSS - 1 (2012).
56. ▶ China launched world's first all-electric ship, which can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge. It is 70.5-metre-long and weighs about 600 tonnes.
57. ▶ China started trial operations of world's biggest automated container terminal at Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai. Terminal covers 2.23 million square metres and has a 2,350-metre shoreline.
58. ▶ China today launched three remote sensing satellites to improve observation capability to promote commercial use for remote sensing industry. Satellites are Jilin-1 04, Jilin-1 05 and Jilin-1 06.
59. ▶ China unveiled Asia's largest artificial island-building ship named *magic island maker*, with 140-metre length and capable of digging 6,000 cubic metres an hour.
60. ▶ China will launch 10 satellites into space over next three years to maintain non-stop surveillance on disputed waterway of South China Sea. It would provide scientific support for China's One Belt One Road initiative and emergency response efforts at sea.
61. ▶ China's Shanghai will have first Tesla Electric Car factory outside USA. Tesla is headed by Noted Entrepreneur Elon Musk.
62. ▶ China's Zhejiang Electric Power Company will construct world's tallest power supply pylon in east Zhejiang Province, with 380-metre height. It will get past China's Dabaoshan pylon (370 m).
63. ▶ Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2018 by environmental organisation Germanwatch (56 Nations) -
  - ▶ India - Ranked 14th This year, up from 20th Rank Last Year.
  - ▶ Top 5 - Sweden (1), Lithuania (2), Morocco (3), Norway (4), UK (5)
  - ▶ Bottom 5 - Russia , USA, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia (Last)
  - ▶ BRICS - Brazil (19), Russia (53), China (41), South Africa (48)
64. ▶ Cross Border Train Service between India & Bangladesh, Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express has been inaugurated.
65. ▶ Delhi Government signed twin city agreement with Seoul (South Korea), to strengthen cooperation i fields of smart city, e-governance, climate change and transportation.
66. ▶ Disney acquired certain assets of 21st Century Fox (FOXA), for approximately USD 52.4 billion in stocks, with transaction valued at USD 66.1 billion including 21st Century Fox's debt.
67. ▶ East African country Zimbabwe banned import of fruits and vegetables to preserve scarce foreign currencies.
68. ▶ Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index 2017 -
  - ▶ Japanese capital Tokyo topped the list of 60 cities. Singapore and Japanese city Osaka ranked second and third.
  - ▶ Indian cities Delhi and Mumbai have been ranked 43rd and 45th respectively.
69. ▶ European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) launched to monitor general and provincial polls in Nepal to be held in Nov - Dec 2017, with 3.5 million euros allocated for entire election observation process.
70. ▶ Export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement included India as its 42nd member, during its plenary meeting in Vienna (Austria).
  - ▶ Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, is a multilateral export control regime established to ensure regional and international security by promoting transparency in transfer of arms and dual-use goods and technologies.
  - ▶ This will enhance India's credentials in field of non-proliferation, although, India is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
71. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will lead a ministerial delegation to the ASEAN-India 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas' (PBD) to be held in 2018, in Singapore. PBD 2018 will also mark 25 years of the ASEAN-India partnership.
72. ▶ Fifty Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan awarded with UN Medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in conflict-ridden South Sudan.
73. ▶ First USA crude oil cargo of 1.6 million barrels bought by Indian Oil Corporation reached Paradip Port (Odisha). Indian Oil became placed order of 3.9 million barrel from USA.
74. ▶ First ever *Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - India* Music Festival held at Purana Quila in New Delhi, to celebrate 25 year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.

75. ▶ First metro train of Pakistan arrived from China as a gift. It has been called *Orange Line Metro Train service* and will begin operations in December 2017. Also, Pakistan and Iran signed MoU to improve border security.
76. ▶ For the first time, WHO will add gaming disorder to its International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
- ▶ ICD is a diagnostic manual published by WHO that was last updated 27 years ago. 11th edition of the manual is due in 2018.
77. ▶ Forbes annual list of the highest-paid musicians -
- ▶ Top 3 -
    - ▶ Diddy (\$130m) (USA)
    - ▶ Beyonce (\$105m) (USA)
    - ▶ Drake (\$94m) (Canada)
78. ▶ Forbes' Highest Paid Women in Music List 2017 -
- ▶ American singer Beyonce at top with earnings of \$105 million (Rs682 crore).
  - ▶ Top 5 - Beyonce (\$105 million-USA), Adele (\$69 million-ENG), Taylor Swift (\$44 million-USA), Celine Dion (\$42 million-Canada), Jennifer Lopez (\$38 million-USA).
79. ▶ Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes of All Time-
- ▶ Retired American Basketball Legend Michael Jordan is named as highest-paid athlete of all time with \$1.7 billion income, followed by golfer Tiger Woods (\$1.7 billion) and Late American golfer Arnold Palmer at 3rd place (\$1.4 billion).
80. ▶ Forbes' best countries in world for business in 2018 (153 Nations) -
- ▶ UK stayed at top of List, followed by New Zealand and Netherlands.
  - ▶ India is ranked 62nd on list. China ranks 66th.
81. ▶ Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers' List -
- ▶ Indian-American California senator Kamala Harris topped the List. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is ranked second in list and Indian-origin stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj ranked 3rd.
82. ▶ Fortune's 'Businessperson of the Year' list -
- ▶ It is annual ranking of world's top 20 heads of companies.
  - ▶ Aditya Puri, Managing Director of HDFC Bank, is the only Indian on (ranked 18th).
  - ▶ Top 3 - Jensen Huang (Nvidia), Jamie Dimon (JPMorgan Chase), Marc Benioff (Salesforce)
  - ▶ Indian Origin Person on list -Ajay Bagga (Mastercard, 6th), Shantanu Narayan (Adobe)
83. ▶ France's lower house of parliament approved new Anti-Terror Law. Now several controversial measures under state of emergency that has been in act for nearly two years have been made permanent.
84. ▶ French Govt. approved banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within country and its overseas territories.
85. ▶ German Development Bank KfW signed agreement with India's North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) for Providing \$20 Million of Additional Funding for India's *Pare Hydroelectric Plant* project under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation.
86. ▶ Germany will assist Indian Railways to make country's existing rail corridors semi high speed (max speed of 200 km per hour) on existing 643 km Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways.
87. ▶ Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2017 report released by Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) -
- ▶ India ranked 100th position among 119 countries, slipping 3 positions as compared to 97th rank in 2016 GHI.
  - ▶ Neighbours - Nepal (72), Bangladesh (88), Sri Lanka (84) and China (29), Pakistan (106).
  - ▶ BRICS - Brazil (18), Russia (22), **India (100)**, China (29), South Africa (55)
  - ▶ Top 5 - Belarus (1), Bosnia & Herzegovina (2), Chile (3), Croatia (4), Cuba (4)
  - ▶ Bottom 5 - Zambia (115), Madagascar (116), Sierra Leone (117), Chad (118), Central African Republic (119)
88. ▶ Global TB Report 2017, released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) -
- ▶ India tops list of seven nations, accounting for 64 % of the 10.4 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in 2016.
  - ▶ India is followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa.
  - ▶ Estimated 1.7 million people died from TB in 2016.
89. ▶ Google launched *Datally* App that will help users understand, control and save on their mobile data. It will enable users to track their data usage in real time, and get personalized recommendations on saving data along with notifications of public Wi-Fi spots available nearby.
- ▶ Google also launched *Files Go* app that takes a mobile-first approach to freeing up space, finding files faster and easily sharing them with others, even when offline.
90. ▶ Google will open a research lab focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Beijing (China), its first such centre in Asia.

91. ▶ Google will shut down its high-end smartphone Augmented Reality (AR) platform named *Tango* and will focus on its mass market product *ARCore*. Tango, support will stop on March 1, 2018.
  - ▶ Tango was introduced in 2014 and relied on advanced camera hardware to build 3D meshes of spaces.
  - ▶ It was difficult for Google to get phone manufacturers to build this expensive functionality into their products.
92. ▶ Government of India will assist Mauritius to develop and set up digital locker services, under DigiLocker (a key initiative of Indian government under its flagship Digital India program).
  - ▶ This service provides citizens a shareable private space on a public cloud wherein they can store their documents, aimed at paperless governance.
93. ▶ Grant Thornton's International Quarterly Business Report (IBR) -
  - ▶ India remained 7th in *business optimism* index In Jul - Sep 2017 quarter, compared to 2nd slot in previous Quarter.
  - ▶ Indonesia is at top, followed by Finland and the Netherlands.
94. ▶ Guinea became a member of International Solar Alliance (ISA) as it handed over its instrument accession to India-initiated ISA (headquarters in Gurugram (Haryana)).
  - ▶ Additionally, International Solar Alliance (ISA) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed Joint Financial Partnership Declaration for cooperation on renewable energy projects around world.
95. ▶ Gulf Nation Qatar announced that it will introduce a minimum wage for workers, amid increasing global scrutiny over its alleged ill-treatment of migrant labourers.
96. ▶ HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) Pledged to provide \$100billion of finance for low-carbon technology and sustainable development by 2025 as part its commitment to tackling climate change and other "green" goals.
97. ▶ Haryana Agriculture University (HAU) and Netherlands government will jointly work on a project to tackle issues like crop residue management, bio-defence strategy, protected cultivation, peri-urban and urban horticulture, floriculture and hydroponic vegetables. An Indo-Dutch Horticulture Centre at Jhajhar would also be set up.
98. ▶ Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry signed an agreement with Germany's GIZ for technical cooperation in implementation of transport projects in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Kochi (Kerala).
99. ▶ Hurricane Nate has hit Louisiana (USA) with maximum wind speed of 137 kilometres per hour.
100. ▶ IMD Talent Rankings 2017 (63 Nations)
  - ▶ India ranked 51st (as compared to 54th rank last year). Rankings based on performance in three categories — investment and development, appeal, and readiness.
  - ▶ Top 5 - Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Finland. Leading Asian economies in rankings are Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.
101. ▶ India Stated to UN General Assembly that there is no possibility of India joining Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear weapon state.
  - ▶ As per NPT, those countries that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before January 1, 1967 are nuclear-weapon states. Note that Pokhran I (Codename *Smiling Buddha*) was India's first successful nuclear test that was held on 18 May, 1974.
  - ▶ India advocates maintaining a credible minimum deterrence based on a No-First Use policy. India also committed to not using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.
102. ▶ India and Germany signed Govt-to-Govt Umbrella Agreement to formalize an amount up to Euro 200 million for Financial Cooperation in form of loan for project 'Climate Friendly Urban Mobility III' and Euro 11 million Accompanying measures in form of grant for four projects.
103. ▶ India and Israel Jointly Launched a centre for excellence in floriculture, Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.
  - ▶ A similar centre specialising in vegetables such as capsicum, cucumber and tomatoes will be established in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu in January 2018, as part of a 3-year Indo-Israel agricultural partnership.
  - ▶ These centres will develop agricultural practices suitable for that particular geographical region and will share the best practices with local farmers.
104. ▶ India and Spain signed Techno-commercial agreement to provide institutional mechanism for mutual cooperation in field of urban transport and for construction of the three Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
  - ▶ 3 RRTS corridors Delhi-Meerut, Delhi – Panipat and Delhi – Alwar will be implemented in 1st phase.
  - ▶ RRTS is first of its kind project in India, with design speed of 180 kmph. It will use state-of-the-art technologies for track structure, rolling stock and signalling system. RRTS corridors will significantly reduce travel time between important NCR towns.
105. ▶ India became biggest importer of U.S. oil refinery by-product 'petcoke', by Importing 8 Million Tonnes of USA's total export of 20 Million Tonnes of Petcoke in 2016.



-  Petroleum coke called as 'petcoke', a U.S. oil refinery by-product, is cheaper and burns hotter than coal. But it also contains more planet-warming carbon and heart and lung-damaging sulfur.
106. ▶ India donated 500 metric tonnes of rice to Kingdom of Lesotho, in Southern Africa, which is facing acute food shortage due to famine.
107. ▶ India has been awarded with Certificate of Commendation for its efforts in combating illegal wildlife trade. Award is conferred to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at its meeting in Geneva (Switzerland).
108. ▶ India initiated dumping probe on imports of 'Sodium Nitrite' from Russia, used in industries such as pharma and food processing.
-  If it is proved that dumping has caused material injury to domestic industry, DGAD would impose anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite.
109. ▶ India is selected as Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Review & Reforms to look into various issues pertaining to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPSC) at KP Plenary Session in Brisbane (Australia), with Angola chosen as Vice Chair.
-  India was chosen KP Vice Chair for 2018 & Chair for 2019 in last plenary of KP in Dubai in November 2016.
-  Kimberley Process is joint initiative of governments, industry and civil societies to stem flow of 'conflict diamonds', rough diamonds used by rebel groups to finance wars against legitimate governments.
110. ▶ India pledged additional US \$100 million towards UN-India Partnership Fund to significantly scale up its support to sustainable development projects across developing world, in addition to US \$10 million already contributed by India to various UN programmes.
-  India-UN Development Partnership fund was set up as partnership between India and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on 9 June 2017 (World Oceans Day).
111. ▶ India re-elected to Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B" at 30th session of IMO Assembly in London.
-  IMO is headquartered in London (UK) with Kitack Lim as Current Chief.
112. ▶ India remained biggest importer of Ukraine's agriculture products in 2017 so far, importing 11.3 % of \$14.7 Billion worth of exports of Ukraine's Agricultural Produce.
113. ▶ India will be guest of honour during 6th World Government Summit to be held in February 2018 in Dubai (UAE). The summit is first global forum for governments, countries, organizations and private sector leaders interested in industry of the future.
114. ▶ India will provide USD 2.87 million to Afghanistan for renovation of 350 buses that will help in strengthening the public transport system of Kabul (Afghanistan).
115. ▶ India will set up a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at Al Azhar University (Egypt), to high-tech education and skills to youngsters of Egypt.
116. ▶ India's exposure to US government securities increased sharply to \$135.7 billion, with China at top with \$1.166 trillion, followed by Japan with exposure worth \$1.113 trillion. India is 12th largest holder of US government securities.
117. ▶ Indian Automobile Major Mahindra opened its new manufacturing plant with an investment of \$230 million in Detroit (USA), Known as world's car capital. It is Detroit's first automotive production facility in 25 years.
118. ▶ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) will set up a Centre of Excellence in Kochi (Kerala), to facilitate exchange of research findings and studies in field of fisheries and ocean studies among IORA member countries.
-  Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an international organisation consisting of 21 coastal states bordering Indian Ocean. Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius. India's K V Bhagirath is current Secretary General of IORA.
119. ▶ Indian Pharma Firm *Dr. Reddy's Laboratories* introduced anti cancer injection drug Melphalan Hydrochloride in USA. Melphalan hydrochloride for injection is indicated for the palliative treatment of patients with multiple myeloma for whom oral therapy is not appropriate.
120. ▶ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind visited African Nations Djibouti and Ethiopia as his first Foreign Visit.
121. ▶ Indian engineers launched a major project in South Sudan that would improve connectivity between two major cities of South Sudan - Malakal-Melut. It will facilitate UN humanitarian operations in area.
122. ▶ Indian software company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed a pact with National University in Philippines to launch a comprehensive training programme aimed at enhancing the skills of university graduates for the job market.
123. ▶ International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) launched IBM Blockchain as first international payments network of its kind to Help financial institutions in cross-border payments. IBM partnered with KlickEx Group and Stellar.org, a nonprofit organization that supports an open source blockchain network for financial services.
124. ▶ International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has released *The Paradise Papers* as global investigation that reveals offshore activities of some of most powerful people and companies.

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

125. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO) released World Social Protection Report 2017-2019, depicting that only 45 % of global population is effectively covered by at least one social benefit, while remaining 55 per cent that is 4 billion people are left unprotected.
126. ▶ International Monetary Fund approved USD 88 billion credit line for Mexico, replacing existing line of credit.
127. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended its Brazilian arm and Honorary Membership of head of Brazil's Olympic committee Carlos Nuzman, amid proven corruption allegations.
128. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) announced target to support setting up 1000GW of solar energy capacity by 2030 across its member countries, during a ceremony in Bonn (Germany). This target does not take into account renewable energy targets or projects that countries are pursuing on their own as part of their national efforts 16 countries have ratified framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and it will come into force on 6 December 2017.
129. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) became treaty-based international intergovernmental organization, nearly a Month after Guinea became 15th country to ratify it.
  - ▶ ISA is first treaty-based international government organisation to be based in India, with its secretariat in campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurgaon (Haryana).
  - ▶ So far, 46 countries have signed and 19 ratified Framework Agreement of ISA International Solar Alliance (ISA).
  - ▶ ISA was launched by India and France in November 2015 during COP-21 of UN Climate Conference in Paris (France).
  - ▶ ISA aims at addressing obstacles to deployment at scale of solar energy through better harmonization and aggregation of demand from solar rich countries by bringing standardization in solar technologies and fostering research and development.
  - ▶ Ministry of External Affairs has set aside US\$2 billion for solar projects in Africa out of India's US\$10 billion concessional Line of Credit (LOC) for Africa. France also pledged Euro 300 million soft loan for solar related projects in ISA member countries.
  - ▶ Australia also announced Joining ISA.
130. ▶ Iran inaugurated first phase of Chabahar port located in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province. Port will bypass Pakistan and will open new strategic transit route between Iran, India and Afghanistan. First phase is expected to increase its cargo handling capacity to 8.5 million tons annually, by over 3 hree times from previous 2.5 million tons.
131. ▶ Iran's key strategic port of Chabahar became operational with First shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan, from Kandla port in Gujarat.
  - ▶ Its a major push for India's Afghan outreach as it completely bypasses Pakistan, under 2016 Indo-Afghan-Iran trilateral pact.
  - ▶ Chabahar port is strategically located in Sistan-Balochistan province on energy-rich Iran's southern coast and can be easily accessed from India's western coast.
132. ▶ Iraq PM Haider al-Abadi declared victory in a 3year war by Iraqi forces against Islamic State jihadist group. He claimed that Iraqi forces are in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border.
133. ▶ Israel Parliament passed a controversial law that limits police's ability to recommend charges following their investigations, after criticism that lawmakers were seeking to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu The move was undertaken after widespread criticism and large protests against corruption.
134. ▶ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched Michibiki-4 satellite (QZSS-4) as 4th satellite in Michibiki series i.e. Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), which is a satellite-based high-precision global positioning system similar to US operated GPS.
135. ▶ Japan approved Aid of Approx 73 Crores INR for Implementation of Advanced Traffic Information and Management System in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
136. ▶ Japan will offer grant of 8.4 million Yen (Approx 48 Lakh INR) for construction of a vocational training centre for poor women and youth in Rajasthan's Baran district.
137. ▶ Japanese Emperor Akihito will abdicate on April 30, 2019, becoming the first Japanese monarch to leave the post in 200 years. Afterwards, Crown Prince Naruhito will take the post of Japanese emperor.
138. ▶ Jet Airways and Air France-KLM partnered to route more traffic through Europe and on to North America.
139. ▶ Lebanon's parliament approved country's first budget in 12 years, ro reform fragile economy and prevent rising debt.
  - ▶ Political crisis gripped Lebanon since the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in 2005, thereby preventing successive government from passing the budget.
140. ▶ Middle Asean Nation Kazakhstan will change its name to Qazaqstan, as part of a transition from Cyrillic to a Latin-based script. A national commission will oversee this transition and will complete it by 2025.
141. ▶ Morocco launched an earth observation satellite called 'Mohammed VI-A', aboard European consortium Arianespace's Vega rocket from French Guyana Space Centre.

142. ▶ Mount Agung, a volcano In Bali (Indonesia) erupted for the first time in over 54 years.
143. ▶ Myanmar will launch its own satellite system MyanmarSat-2 in June in 2019, with 6 C-band and 6 Ku-band transponders.
  - ▶ Myanmar is currently using MyanmarSat-1 on lease system, whereas MyanmarSat-2, will be used on joint ownership system with an undisclosed partner.
144. ▶ National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and China's Dalian Municipal People's Government signed agreement to create a platform called Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP) in Dalian.
145. ▶ National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) signed MoU with Finland's Fortum Oyj for developing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in upcoming development projects in India.
146. ▶ Nepal Electricity Authority signed a joint venture agreement with China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC) to construct 750 MW West Seti Hydropower Project, with expenses estimated at 1.8 billion USD. CTGC will have 75% stake and NEA will hold remaining 25% in JV.
147. ▶ Nepal and India will conduct joint head tigers count in protected areas along border in November 2017, using a similar camera tapping method.
148. ▶ Nepal cancelled a \$2.5 billion deal with China's Gezhouba Group Corporation to build Nepal's biggest hydropower plant of 1200 MW Capacity - *Budhi Gandaki hydroelectric project*. The project has been reportedly cancelled amid delays and lack of transparency in processes.
149. ▶ North Korea successfully launched nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) *Hwasong-15*, said to be North Korea's most powerful Missile Yet. It has operational range of over 5000 KMs.
150. ▶ Norway became world's first country to shut down national broadcasts of its FM network by completing its transition to digital radio, to allow for better sound quality, a greater number of channels and more functions, at a cost eight times lower than FM radio.
151. ▶ ONGC Videsh Ltd (overseas arm of ONGC) acquired 30 % interest in Namibian Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) 37, from UK's Tullow Oil.
152. ▶ Oman revised tourist visa for people from India, China and Russia in order to attract more tourists from these countries. Oman granted non-sponsored tourist visa for the citizens of India, China and Russia.
153. ▶ Oxford Dictionaries declared Youthquake as 2017's Word of the Year, reflecting what it calls a political awakening among millennial voters. Other Words of The year 2017 -
  - ▶ *Populism* - Cambridge Dictionary.
  - ▶ *Kwaussie* - Australian National Dictionary.
  - ▶ *Feminism* - Merriam-Webster's.
154. ▶ Pakistan allowed depreciation of its Currency (pakistani rupee), after talks with International Monetary Fund. It is believed to help shift foreign currency holdings from commercial banks back to official reserves.
155. ▶ Pakistan will up a new hydropower project on Jhelum River, of over 700 megawatts in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), named Azad Pattan Hydropower Project (APHP). Project cost of USD 1.51 billion will be procured from foreign entities.
156. ▶ Palestinian political parties Hamas and Fatah signed reconciliation deal to end a decade-long rift, brokered by Egypt. This was signed to implement a unity agreement that was signed in 2011 but was not put to action.
157. ▶ Passport Index developed by advisory firm Arton Capital -
  - ▶ Singapore's passport become most powerful in world with Visa-Free Score of 159.
  - ▶ India secured 75th rank in index with Visa-Free Score of 51.
  - ▶ Afghanistan stayed at bottom position (94th) while Pakistan sexcond worst (93rd).
158. ▶ Peru Government authorized medicinal and therapeutic use of cannabis (marijuana) in country, becoming sixth Latin American country to legalise cannabis.
159. ▶ Poland will quit a precautionary Flexible Credit Line (FCL) from International Monetary Fund (IMF) worth \$9.2 billion, after Polish economy gaining strength recently. Polish budget reported a surplus for January - August 2017 amid rise in revenue from value-added tax.
160. ▶ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2018 -
  - ▶ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) emerged as top-ranked Indian institute in List with rank 34th. Note that IIT Bombay was ranked 179th in QS World University Rankings. Other top 4 Indian Institutes in List are IIT Delhi (41st rank), IIT Madras (48th rank), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (51st rank).
  - ▶ Singapore's Nanyang Technology University has topped QS Asia University Rankings 2018.
161. ▶ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings : BRICS 2018 () -
  - ▶ Top 10 Universities in BRICS Nations -
    - ▶ Tsinghua University (China)
    - ▶ Peking University (China)

- ✍ Fudan University (China)
- ✍ University of Science and Technology of China (China)
- ✍ Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia)
- ✍ Zhejiang University (China)
- ✍ Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)
- ✍ Nanjing University (China)
- ✍ **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)**
- ✍ **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore**

✍ India Facts -

✍ Top 10 Public Institutions in India

- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)
- ✍ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore
- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)
- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)
- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)
- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP)
- ✍ University of Delhi
- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)
- ✍ Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)
- ✍ University of Calcutta

✍ Private Universities in India

- ✍ BITS Pilani, Thapar University and Symbiosis International University are Top 3 private universities in India.
- ✍ O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) entered BRICS Universities list for the first time (ranked 251 - 300).

162. ▶ Report by analyst firm Canalys -

- ✍ India overtook USA to become world's second-largest smartphone market, trailing only China.
- ✍ In the second quarter of 2017, India's smartphone market recovered quickly with shipments growing 23% year-on-year in third quarter to reach over 40 million units.

163. ▶ Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) become first Canadian bank to be added to Financial Stability Board's (FSB's) list of 30 global systemically important banks (G-SIB) deemed 'too big to fail'.

- ✍ Financial Stability Board (FSB) is an international financial body based in Basel (Switzerland). Apart from adding RBC, FSB also removed French bank Groupe BPCE from the list.

164. ▶ Russia and Egypt signed an agreement under which Russia's Rosatom will construct Egypt's first nuclear plant as *Daba nuclear plant*. It will be completed by 2029 with cost of \$21bn.

165. ▶ Russia launched Angosat-1, first national telecoms satellite for Angola, onboard Zenit-2SB rocket.

166. ▶ Russia signed agreement with Northern African Nation Sudan to build its first nuclear power plant, to help Sudan solve its energy security problems.

167. ▶ Russia used its veto power to block a UN Security Council resolution to extend work of International inspectors to determine who was behind deadly chemical weapons attacks in Syria that took place on 4 April 2017 in Syria.

168. ▶ Russian government will develop an 'independent internet' for BRICS Nations, that would operate separately from Domain Name System used worldwide, that would continue services in the event of a global internet infrastructure collapse. It would be totally independent of international bodies and international infrastructure, yet still remaining linked to the global internet.

169. ▶ Saudi Arabia became first country to give citizenship to a robot, after it named a robot *Sophia* as its Citizen during a business event named Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh.

170. ▶ Saudi Arabia lifted 35 year old ban on providing licenses to commercial movie theatres, aimed at economic growth and diversification.

171. ▶ Saudi Arabian Oil Firm *Saudi Aramcos* (Known as Aramco) Opened Its India Office named ARAMCO ASIA INDIA in Gurugram (Haryana).

- ✍ In 2016 Saudi Aramco established its formal business in India through its subsidiary ARAMCO Asia India (AAI). It will focus on crude oil and LPG marketing, engineering & technical services, and other business development activities.

172. ▶ Saudi Arabian government approved practice of yoga as a sports activity. Yoga can now be freely practiced as a sport in Saudi Arabia.

173. ▶ Scientists developed new military watch for Russian army kit, which is capable of resisting high impact and can even survive a nuclear explosion.

174. ▶ Scientists from New Zealand have developed world's first artificial intelligence politician named *SAM*, that can answer queries regarding local issues such as policies around housing, education and immigration.
175. ▶ Somalia Government and United Nations (UN) signed UN Strategic Framework for Somalia (UNSF), under which United Nations will support Somalia's development in priority areas over the next four years.
176. ▶ South Korea banned its financial institutions from dealing in virtual currencies including Bitcoin, in wake of recent surge in Bitcoin price.
177. ▶ South Korean and USA air forces held *Vigilant Ace* joint exercises.
178. ▶ Spanish Colony Catalonia declared independence from Spain, following a parliamentary referendum. After this declaration, Spanish government dismissed Catalan President, allowing Spain to directly administer the region.
179. ▶ Sri Lanka became 163rd nation to accede to anti-personnel mine ban convention, as it agreed for Prohibition of use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.
- ✎ Convention on Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, commonly referred to as the Mine Ban Treaty or Ottawa Treaty, was adopted on September 18, 1997.
180. ▶ Sri Lanka formally handed over its southern strategic port of Hambantota to Chinese firm *China Merchants Port Holdings Company (CM Port)* on a 99-year lease. Hambantota port is strategically located right in the middle of vital energy supply lines in the Indian Ocean, connecting the Middle East and East Asia.
181. ▶ Sri Lanka signed MoU with India to build 1,200 houses in strategically located southern port city of Hambantota. 600 will be constructed in Southern Province while remaining will be built across Sri Lanka, through one model village in each of country's 25 districts.
- ✎ Hambantota port is located right in middle of vital energy supply lines in Indian Ocean, connecting Middle East and East Asia. Hambantota gained significance recently after Sri Lanka decided to build deep-sea port and airport with huge Chinese loans.
  - ✎ India also provided equipment and vehicles worth USD 585,000 to University of Jaffna in Sri Lanka.
182. ▶ Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissioned Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) SURAKSHA gifted by India at Colombo port, as first OPV of Sri Lankan Coast Guard.
183. ▶ Switzerland unveiled world's steepest funicular railway link to alpine resort of Stoos. It rises 743 metres along gradients as steep as 110% and has a track length of 1720 metres. It has been built at cost of INR 333 crores.
184. ▶ Tech Firm Apple acquired music recognition app Shazam, for approx \$400 million.
185. ▶ Tencent became first Chinese company to be valued at more than \$500 billion in Asia. Alibaba is Asia's second-highest-valued firm at \$474 billion.
186. ▶ Term *Fake news* has been named the word of the year by Collins dictionary due to its widespread use around the world. Note that it has been heavily used and popularised by USA President Donald Trump.
187. ▶ Top 150 universities on Global University Employability Ranking 2017 published by Times Higher Education -

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

✎ Indian Universities in List -

- ✎ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru (29th)
- ✎ Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (145th)
- ✎ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (148th)

188. ▶ Travel guide company Lonely Planet ranked Chile as Most worth visiting country in 2018, followed by South Korea and Portugal. Seville of Spain was ranked as number one city in most visit worthy cities.
189. ▶ Turkey Approved a controversial legislation to let state - approved clerics (Muftis / Civil Servants) to conduct and register marriage ceremonies. It will pave way for child marriages.
190. ▶ Turkey opened its largest military base in Africa, in Mogadishu (capital of Somalia) to train Somali Soldiers.
191. ▶ Twitter officially increased number of characters in tweets from 140 to 280, except tweets in Japanese, Chinese and Korean languages that can convey more information in a single character.
192. ▶ Typhoon Tembin struck Philippines, causing huge human and financial losses.



193. ▶ UAE begun collecting new *sin* taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks, with tobacco and energy drinks taxed at 100 % and soft drinks at 50 %.
- ▶ All six members of Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to begin collecting so-called VAT taxes. GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
194. ▶ UAE, UK, US and French armies participated in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi (UAE), named as *Flag4*.
195. ▶ UK government extended a pilot student visa scheme to 23 more universities under which Indian and other non-EU students will get six months time to find a job after finishing their course (upto 13 months duation). Scheme was introduced last year on a pilot basis in four British universities - Oxford, Bath, Cambridge and Imperial College London.
196. ▶ UN announced end of 13 year old military peacekeeping mission in Haiti, that helped maintain order in Haiti through 13 years of political turmoil and disaster.
197. ▶ UN will mark 100th Birth anniversary of South African Social Reformer Nelson Mandela (July 18, 2018) with a high-level meeting on world peace, named as *Nelson Mandela Peace summit*.
198. ▶ UNICEF released its report *The State of the World's Children*, with theme *Children in a digital world*. Report states that India's girls and women are at risk of becoming further marginalised in society and at home if they remain digitally illiterate.
199. ▶ US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced USD 1 million support for Ending Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic in India and to raise TB awareness to help India in its fight against TB.
- ▶ USAID also announced its first impact bond across globe by launching 'Rajasthan Development Impact Bond (Utkrisht Impact Bond)' aiming to reduce number of mother and baby deaths by improving quality of maternal care in Rajasthan's health infrastructure.
200. ▶ US Consulate General, Kolkata launched *Youth for Business-Y4BIZ*, a support programme for young entrepreneurs in eastern region of India.
201. ▶ US media company Meredith Corporation acquired US Based Publishing Brand *Time Inc.* for USD 2.8 billion. Time Inc. is a multinational mass media corporation owns over 100 magazine brands including *Time, Sports Illustrated, Travel + Leisure, Food & Wine, Fortune, People, InStyle, Life, Golf Magazine, Southern Living, Essence, Real Simple, and Entertainment Weekly*.
202. ▶ US-India Business Council (USIBC) launched a collaborative initiative for Women Entrepreneurs titled 'Women for Women Innovators, Social Leaders & Entrepreneurs' (WISE), launched during USIBC's Road to GES event 'Creating the Foundations of Innovation'.
- ▶ WISE will be led by Country Head of Intel, Nivruti Rai and will comprise prominent female business person like Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Vanitha Narayanan and Amita Vyas.
203. ▶ USA Congress authorised \$700 million in Coalition Support Fund (CSF) to reimburse Pakistan for activities carried out in support of US operations in Afghanistan.
204. ▶ USA President Donald Trump announced to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition. USA became 1st country to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, since foundation of Israel in 1948. USA will also move its Israel Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- ▶ Israel has always regarded Jerusalem as its capital, while Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as capital of a future Palestinian state.
  - ▶ Later, United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution that stated this US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as 'null and void'. The resolution was moved by Turkey and Yemen.
205. ▶ USA Supreme Court ruled that travel ban imposed on six Muslim countries (*Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen*) by Prez Donald Trump can now go fully into effect. New ban also bars travellers from North Korea and Venezuela.
206. ▶ USA and Israel withdrew from UNESCO, accusing UNESCO of "anti-Israel bias".
207. ▶ USA announced grant of nearly USD 500,000 for organisations that work to promote religious freedom in India and Sri Lanka.
208. ▶ USA approved sale of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) anti-missile defence system to Saudi Arabia at an estimated cost of \$15 billion (Rs. 98,000 crore). It includes 44 THAAD launchers and 360 missiles along with fire control stations and radars.
209. ▶ USA lifted economic and trade sanctions against Sudan that were put in 1997, in response to Sudanese Govt's efforts to end hostilities in conflict areas, improve humanitarian access and maintain cooperation with USA in regional conflicts to tackle terrorism.
210. ▶ USA will issue a 4 level travel advisory to its citizens from January 2018, based on a four- level classification system with clearly recommended actions. Four levels will be -
- ▶ Level one – exercise normal precautions
  - ▶ Level two – exercise increased caution
  - ▶ Level three – reconsider travel
  - ▶ Level four – do not travel
211. ▶ USA withdrawn itself from a United Nations pact to improve handling of migrant and refugee situations deeming it 'inconsistent' with policies.





212. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) in Mid-2020, as a next-generation space telescope to provide largest picture of universe ever seen, with same depth and clarity as Hubble Space Telescope.
213. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia formed new economic and partnership group named *Joint Cooperation Committee*, separate from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- ✍ JCC will coordinate between UAE and Saudi Arabia in all military, political, economic, trade, cultural and other interest of 2 countries.
  - ✍ It will be headed by *Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.
214. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched its first space programme aimed at sending four Emirati astronauts to International Space Station within 5 years.
215. ▶ United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that considers right of peoples to self-determination as a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights.
216. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released Global Education Monitoring Report 2017-18, expressing concern over school textbooks in many countries glorifying war and military heroes rather than teaching peace and non-violence. As per the report, just 10% of the textbooks across the world explicitly teach the need for conflict prevention and resolution.
217. ▶ United Nations General Assembly approved regular budget of \$5.397 billion for 2018-2019, marking 5% cut (286 million dollar) as compared to budget for 2016- 2017.
218. ▶ Vanuatu (South Pacific island nation) became first nation to accept bitcoin in exchange for citizenship. Vanuatu's citizenship program costs \$200,000 USD, meaning that at current prices the residency program costs less than 42 bitcoins.
219. ▶ Venezuela will launch a new virtual currency to ease country's economic crisis, triggered by falling oil revenue and plummeting value of bolivar, its existing currency. New crypto-currency *Petro* will allow country to advance in issues of monetary sovereignty, to make financial transactions and overcome the financial blockade.
220. ▶ Victoria became first Australian state to legalise assisted dying (euthanasia), as lawmakers voted to allow terminally ill patients the right to request a lethal drug to end their lives from June 2019.
221. ▶ Word 'populism' is announced as Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2017. It is defined as *political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want*.
222. ▶ World Bank announced \$1.15 billion development policy loan for Egypt to support its economic reform programme, with \$500 million from World Bank Group, \$150 million from Britain and \$500 million from African Development Bank.
- ✍ Additionally, International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved \$ 44.5 million credit for Madagascar, to support the country's economic recovery.
223. ▶ World Bank will end its financial support for oil and gas exploration after 2019, in response to growing threat posed to climate change.
224. ▶ World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business index' 2017 (190 Nations) -
- ✍ India - India Improved 30 positions to rank 100th amongst 190 countries, Rankng India among top 10 improvers in 2017.
  - ✍ Top 5 - New Zealand (1), Singapore (2), Denmark (3), South Korea (4), Hong Kong (5)
  - ✍ Bottom 5 - Somalia (190th), Eritrea (189th), Venezuela (188th), South Sudan (187th), Yemen (186th)
  - ✍ Neighbours - Bangladesh (177), Nepal (105), Pakistan (147), Sri Lanka (111)
  - ✍ BRICS - Brazil (125), Russia (35), China (78), South Africa (82)
225. ▶ World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index 2017 (144 Nations) -
- ✍ India - India came down 21 places to ranked **108** in 2017 List, due to less participation of women in economy and low wages.
  - ✍ Top 5 - Iceland (1), Norway(2), Finland (3), Rwanda (4), Sweden (5)
  - ✍ Bottom 5 - Iran (140), Chad (141), Syria (142), Pakistan (143), Yemen (144)
  - ✍ BRICS - Brazil (90), Russia (71), India (108), China (100), South Africa (19)
  - ✍ Neighbours - Bangladesh (47), Sri Lanka (109), Nepal (111), Pakistan (143)
226. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) for first time has formulated clinical guidelines on responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused. These guidelines provide first line support to child or adolescent in response to the disclosure of sexual abuse.
227. ▶ World Health Organisation Central African Nation Gabon as *Polio-free*.
228. ▶ World Inequality Report 2018 by World Inequality Lab based at the Paris School of Economics (France) -
- ✍ Deregulation and related economic reforms in India since 1980s have led to significant increase in inequality. Inequality is increased to such an extent that In 2014, India's top 1% of earners grabbed 22% share of national income, while bottom 50% managed to get only 15% share.
  - ✍ Globally, since 1980, richest 1% earners have captured twice as much as the poorest 50% of world population.

229. ▶ World Migration Report 2018 by *UN International Organisation for Migration* -
- ▶ Indian diaspora is the largest in world, with 1.5 crore Indians living abroad India also receives highest amount in remittances (\$68.91 billion last year).
  - ▶ Largest migration corridor is from India to UAE, where 3.5 million Indians were residing in 2015.
  - ▶ USA is top destination for migrants, with 46.6 million migrants moving to USA in 2015.
230. ▶ World Payments Report 2017 by Capgemini and BNP Paribas -
- ▶ China is ahead of India in digital payments space with 38 Billion Transactions in 2015, as compared to 4.5 Billion Digital Transactions in India in 2015. India had 25 billion non-cash transactions for 2017-18..
  - ▶ China will have growth of 36 % in digital transactions during 2016-20 while India will grow at average 26.2 % during the period.
  - ▶ Globally, Debit cards account for 46 percent of non-cash transactions followed by credit cards with 19.5 percent in 2015.
231. ▶ World Trade Organization (WTO) formed a panel to look into Qatar's complaint against measures imposed on it by UAE for Qatar's alleged financial support for militant groups.
232. ▶ World skills competition 2017 held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) -
- ▶ Indian team consisting of 28 competitors won 2 medals and 9 Medallions of Excellence in key skills. Mohit Dudeja won a silver for Patisserie and Confectionery and Kiran won a bronze for Prototype Modelling.
233. ▶ World's first camel hospital opened in Dubai (UAE).
234. ▶ World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2017 by Forbes -
- ▶ CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar is most powerful woman in India, 32nd globally.
  - ▶ List is topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, making it her 7th consecutive year at top and 12th overall. She is followed by UK Prime Minister Theresa May (rank 2).
235. ▶ World's deepest lake - Lake Baikal (Russia) is reportedly undergoing its gravest crisis in recent history.
- ▶ It Holds 23 % of world's unfrozen fresh water. It is as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and includes over 3,600 plant and animal species.
  - ▶ Since past few years, it has been crippled by a series of damaging phenomena such as disappearance of the omul fish, rapid growth of putrid algae and death of endemic species of sponges across its vast 3.2 million-hectare area.
236. ▶ World's longest glass bridge opened in Shijiazhuang (China). It lies 218 meters above hanging between the two cliffs in Hongyagu Scenic Area in Pingshan county, with 488 Meters length and capacity to hold 2000 people.
237. ▶ Zimbabwe's military seized control of nation by placing longtime leader Robert Mugabe under house arrest.

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### **Meetings**

1. ▶ 11th meeting of Conference of the Parties to Vienna Convention and 29th Meeting of Parties to Montreal Protocol held in Canada -
  - ▶ During this, UN Environment pledged \$540 million to developing countries to continue their work in phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals, for 3 years starting from 2018. Funds will be provided through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of Montreal Protocol, which has disbursed over \$3.7 billion to developing countries since 1991 for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals.
2. ▶ 14th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi (October 06, 2017). EU was represented by European Council President Donald Tusk. 3 MOUs were Signed on this occasion -
  - ▶ Implementing Arrangement for Indian Researchers hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe
  - ▶ Finance Contract of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2-Line R6 for Euro 300 million out of total loan of Euro 500 million
  - ▶ Joint Declaration between International Solar Alliance and the European Investment Bank
3. ▶ 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit-2017 (GES 2017) held in Hyderabad (Telangana) -
  - ▶ It was jointly organized by NITI Aayog and USA Government.
  - ▶ Theme for 2017 GES is *Women First, Prosperity for All*.
4. ▶ 105th Indian Science Congress will be held at Manipur University in Imphal (Manipur) in March 2018. The venue has been changed from Osmania University (Hyderabad) earlier.
5. ▶ 10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) held in Kathmandu (Nepal) with theme *Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia*.
6. ▶ 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health held in New Delhi with theme *Investing in Adolescent Health—the Future is Now*.
7. ▶ 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties 12 (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Held in Manila (Philippines) with theme *Their Future is Our Future – Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People*. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that India will host next CMS Conference of the Parties 13 (CMS COP13) in 2020.

-  34 species of vultures including 4 from India on their migratory routes were awarded highest protection by Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) 2017 held in Manila.
8. ▶ 13th Asia-Europe (ASEM) foreign ministers' meeting Held in Naypyidaw (Myanmar).
  9. ▶ 14th SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Law conference and 11th SAARC chief justices conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka).
  10. ▶ 21st World Congress of Mental Health organized in New Delhi, in association with World Federation for Mental Health. Theme of conference is '*Partnerships for Mental Health*'.
  11. ▶ 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began in Bonn (Germany). India is being represented by Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), who inaugurated Indian Pavilion at Conference of Parties (COP) 23 with theme *Conserving Now, Preserving Future*.
  12. ▶ 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSF-24) meet held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) with theme *Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development*.
  13. ▶ 25th National Children Science Congress (NCSC-2017) held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat) with theme *Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development* with special focus on persons with disabilities.
  14. ▶ 2nd World Congress on Marxism will be held in Peking University in Beijing in May 2018 with theme *Marxism and the current world and China*
  15. ▶ 3 Day Organic World Congress 2017 organized by International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) and OAFI at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida (UP).  
 OWC is organized every 3 years in different countries with last edition held in 2014 in Turkey. 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states showcased 4,000 varieties of seeds.
  16. ▶ 39th Bi-annual General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) held in Paris (France). It was attended by Prakesh Javedkar (Minister of Human Resource Development) on India's Behalf.  
 India has been re-elected to UNESCO's Executive Board. European Nation Finland has been elected to UNESCO's Executive Board after 20 years.
  17. ▶ 42nd World Congress of International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) organised by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) in New Delhi with Theme *Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead*.
  18. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 will be hosted by India in New Delhi in November 2017.
  19. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 (GCCS 2017) hosted by New Delhi with theme *Cyber4All*.
  20. ▶ 8th Conference of SAARC Nations' Speakers and Parliamentarians held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on India's Behalf.
  21. ▶ 9th *CMS Vatavaran* global film festival on environment and wildlife held in New Delhi with Theme *Conservation 4 Water*.
  22. ▶ ASEAN-India (Association of Southeast Asian Nations-India) Connectivity Summit (AICS) held in New Delhi with theme *Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century*.
  23. ▶ An International Peace Conference held in Imphal (Manipur), to promote peace and harmony in the North Eastern region of India.
  24. ▶ An international conference to draw attention towards adverse effects of global warming in Hindu Kush mountain range - *Resilient Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions towards a Sustainable Future for Asia* organized in Nepal in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).
  25. ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Da Nang (Vietnam) with theme *Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future*.  
 APEC is 21 Pacific Rim countries Grouping. APEC summit for 2018 will be held in Papua New Guinea.
  26. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Visited USA for participating in G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C. He also participated in Annual Meetings of World Bank and IMF in Washington D.C.
  27. ▶ First 5-day *International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2017)* started in Jaipur (Rajasthan), organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in partnership with World Bank, and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
  28. ▶ First International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness 'Arogya 2017' Organized in New Delhi, with theme *Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH*.
  29. ▶ First ever Conference of Partners NGOs organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi with theme *Implementation of Policies, Schemes and Programmes for Women and Children: Challenges and Way Forward*.
  30. ▶ First-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BITFM) was held at Parvasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi, organized by Ministry of AYUSH.

31. ▶ Global Clubfoot Conference organised by CURE India and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi. Clubfoot is one of most common orthopaedic birth defects where one or both feet are rotated inwards and downwards.
32. ▶ Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) Conference held in New Delhi, jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), World Bank and United Nations Development Programme with Theme *Peoples' participation in wildlife conservation*.
  - ▶ During this, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) unveiled 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031, aimed at improving wildlife conservation. First action plan was released in 1983 to 2001 and 2nd from 2002 to 2016.
33. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 4 day First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) in New Delhi. Main exercise will comprise of Table Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR).
34. ▶ India will host 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB at Mumbai in June 2018, with Theme *Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration*.
  - ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) also approved its first Loan to China as USD 250 million loan aimed at reducing its dependence on coal by building a natural gas distribution network for villages.
  - ▶ AIIB is headquartered in Beijing (China) with Jin Liqun and President.
35. ▶ India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) signed IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries, during 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban (South Africa).
  - ▶ Each country will contribute US \$1 million annually to this fund which is managed by UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.
  - ▶ Meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on India's behalf.
36. ▶ Indian Government and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organized International Conference on *Consumer Protection for South, South East and East Asian Nations* with theme *Empowering Consumers in New Markets* in New Delhi. India didn't invite Pakistan and North Korea to attend the same.
37. ▶ International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)'s Global Conference and General Assembly 2017 held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). During it, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) retained its seat as Director on Global Board of ICA, for 2nd time in a row.
38. ▶ International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organized ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2017 Held in New Delhi with Theme *Heritage and Democracy*.
39. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s 15 day meeting started in Geneva (Switzerland).
40. ▶ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Moscow (Russia) to attend 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB. He reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. The conference focused on eliminating TB across globe by 2030.
41. ▶ Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi Visited Argentina for attending 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Buenos Aires.
42. ▶ Ministry of Culture and National Geographic Society hosted 4th international conference on *Dialogue of Civilizations – IV* in Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira. It was initiated by NGS in 2013 to promote knowledge about 5 ancient literate civilizations of world - Egypt, China, Mesopotamia, South Asia and Mesoamerica.
43. ▶ PM Narendra Modi will be first Indian Prime Minister in past 20 years to attend annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos (Switzerland), to be held in January 2018.
44. ▶ UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference 2017 held in Vancouver (Canada).
45. ▶ UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP23) held in Bonn (Germany), presided over by Government of Fiji.
  - ▶ It concluded with countries putting in place a roadmap for 'Talanoa Dialogue', a year-long process to assess countries' progress on climate actions. Talanoa is a traditional approach used in Fiji and other Pacific islands to engage in an inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue to resolve differences without putting any blame on any one.
  - ▶ Next UNFCCC Climate Change Conference will be held in 2018 in Poland.
46. ▶ United Nations conference on nuclear energy held at Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), to engage in dialogue on role of nuclear power in meeting future energy demand, contributing to sustainable development and mitigating climate change. Iran has boycotted the conference.
47. ▶ World Youth Forum 2017 held in Egypt with Minister of State (IC) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore attending on India's Behalf.

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## **National**

1. ▶ Government also asked Odisha government to enhance its rural road construction target under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from 7,000 km to 10,000 km during the current fiscal year.



2. ▶ 1.5-mw small hydropower plant in Biaras Drass of Kargil became first project to be commissioned under *Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative (LREI)*, developed at cost of approx INR 17 crores.
3. ▶ 10 Days long Traditional festival of Losar celebrated in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir to mark beginning of New Year in this Himalayan region.
4. ▶ 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).
5. ▶ 2 day *International Conference on Yoga for Wellness* held in New Delhi. It is 3rd International Conference on Yoga.
6. ▶ 2 day Korea festival showcasing Korea's rich art, culture and heritage held by Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) in Gurugram (Haryana).
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival will be organized in November 2017 in Shillong (Meghalaya).
9. ▶ 2nd Iranshah Udvada Utsav, a Parsi cultural festival organized in Gujarat.
10. ▶ 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'
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ 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).
13. ▶ 5 day annual Konark dance festival started in Odisha, near famous Sun Temple of Konark.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ *No helmet, no petrol* campaign came into force in Andhra Pradesh, with CM Chandrababu Naidu allocating INR 10 crores for equipment to implement it.
16. ▶ *Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017* held in Ahmadabad (Gujarat), India's 1st World Heritage City.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ An MoU signed by Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya under 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' programme, to boost cultural ties.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.

24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ Annual Tribal cultural Festival Odisha - Parab-2017, held in Koraput.
27. ▶ Annual 'Balijatra' festival held in Odisha on banks of river Mahanadi.
28. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly approved creation of a new district - *Kamle*, as 23rd district of state.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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 %.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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).
36. ▶ 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>
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ Assam State Government and Isha Foundation signed MOU for rejuvenation and conservation of rivers. Isha Foundation is led by spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.

43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ Bihar Government approved *Safe City Surveillance* scheme for curbing eve-teasing, harassment and other crimes against women at public places.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ Bihar Government will set up *State Ayush Society* to promote usage of alternative medicine in state.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ Brand Trust Report India Study 2017 ranked Patanjali as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand and most attractive brand.
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ 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.

52. ▶ 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.

53. ▶ 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.

54. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

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

55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ 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.
  57. ▶ Central Government approved assistance of INR 10,000 crores to fund 107 irrigation projects in drought-hit Vidarbha and Maratha regions of Maharashtra.
  58. ▶ 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.
  59. ▶ 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.
  60. ▶ Central Government sanctioned INR 275 crores for establishing a Global Centre for Security and Counter-Terrorism in Jaipur (Rajasthan).
  61. ▶ 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.
  62. ▶ 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.
  63. ▶ Central Water Commission (CWC) has signed MoUs with IIT Roorkee and MNNIT Allahabad to support dam rehabilitation efforts of various implementing agencies and CWC.
  64. ▶ 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.
  65. ▶ 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.
  66. ▶ 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.



67. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government flagged-off 'Cancer diagnosis Ambulance', fitted with ultra-advanced equipment to detect cancer. Patients will be treated free-of-cost.
68. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government imposed ban on bursting of firecrackers in six of its cities - Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai, Durg, Raigarh and Korba.
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ Chhattisgarh government sbanned use of chlorinated plastic and Polyvinyl Chloride -PVC, to conserve and improve environment.
71. ▶ Coffee output in India stayed at record 3.50 lakh tonnes in 2017-18, compared to 3.12 lakh tonnes in 2016-17.
72. ▶ 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.
73. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) penaliized 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.
74. ▶ 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.
75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ 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 heppens in Delhi.
77. ▶ 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 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).
78. ▶ 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.
79. ▶ 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.
80. ▶ 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.
81. ▶ 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.



- ✎ 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.
- 89. ▶ 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).
- 90. ▶ 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.
- 91. ▶ 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
- 92. ▶ 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).
- 93. ▶ 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
94. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 21 - 30) -
- International Gita Mahotsava 2017 held in Kurukshetra (Haryana).
  - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas organised a consultative workshop on New National Policy on Biofuels & Pradhan Mantri Jivani Yojana (VGF for 2nd Generation Ethanol Bio Refineries) in New Delhi.
  - 12th meeting of Standing Committee of Inter-State Council held in Delhi.
  - International Ambedkar Conclave, organised by Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians in New Delhi.
  - 1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health held in New Delhi.
  - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare observed Vasectomy Fortnight to raise awareness about male sterilisation and to promote the participation of men in family planning.
  - Conference of all Commanders of Eastern Air Command held at Shillong (Meghalaya).
  - Inaugural edition of Proffer Hackathon held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – New Delhi. Proffer is a blockchain startup founded by graduates of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard. During it, Researchers from Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) won a special recognition prize from NITI Aayog.
  - Zurich (Switzerland) based global think-tank Horasis' first Asia Meet held in Kolkata (West Bengal).
  - Aadi Mahotsav, a celebration of the spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce Organized in New Delhi, with theme *A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce*.
  - 7th *Kathakar: International Storytellers Festival* held at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi.
  - Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh chaired 22nd meeting of Board of Management (BOM) of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) in New Delhi.
  - India-Myanmar media interaction programme held in Imphal (Capital of Myanmar).
95. ▶ 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.
96. ▶ 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.
97. ▶ Goa Government approved Solar Power Policy, under which State Government will look to generate 150 MW of solar power by 2021.
98. ▶ 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.
99. ▶ Government announced that installation of bio-toilets in all passenger trains will be completed by March 2019.
100. ▶ Government approved Highway and Shipping Projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore for the state of Tamil Nadu.
101. ▶ 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.
102. ▶ 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).

103. ▶ 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.
104. ▶ 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.
105. ▶ 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.
106. ▶ 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.
107. ▶ Government gave green clearance for a greenfield airport project at Hirasar near Rajkot in Gujarat at cost of INR 1400 crores.
108. ▶ Government has set Minimum Export Price of onion at 850 dollars per tonne to ensure its availability in domestic market.
109. ▶ 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.
110. ▶ 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.
111. ▶ 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.
112. ▶ 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.
113. ▶ 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.
114. ▶ 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.
115. ▶ 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.

116. ▶ 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.
117. ▶ Govt initiated formulating comprehensive 'safe-city' plans for women in eight metropolitan cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Hyderabad.
118. ▶ 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.
119. ▶ 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.
120. ▶ Gujarat Government inaugurated Birsa Munda Tribal University in Rajpipla, a tribal-dominated town in Narmada district of Gujarat.
121. ▶ 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.
122. ▶ 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.
123. ▶ 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.
124. ▶ Haryana Government will provide ration cards for nomadic tribes living in different parts of Haryana, to provide identification to them as permanent residents.
125. ▶ 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*.
126. ▶ 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).
127. ▶ 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).
128. ▶ 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.
129. ▶ Haryana government will establish an organ and tissue transplant organisation (SOTTO) at Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak.
130. ▶ 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.
131. ▶ 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.
132. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government approved *Heritage Tourism Policy 2017 & Mukhya Mantri Rural Road Repair Scheme* along with other welfare initiatives.
133. ▶ 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%.
134. ▶ 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.

135. ▶ 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.
136. ▶ 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.
137. ▶ Hyderabad High Court directed Telengana government not to grant licence, to establish liquor retail outlets in scheduled areas without resolution of gramsabha.
138. ▶ 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.
139. ▶ 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.
140. ▶ 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.
141. ▶ 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).
142. ▶ 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.
143. ▶ India's *Taj Mahal* is ranked 2nd best UNESCO world heritage site in world, by travel portal TripAdvisor, after Cambodia's Angkor Wat.
144. ▶ 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.
145. ▶ 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.
146. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with Rajasthan State Government to improve infrastructure for their posts near the India-Pakistan border.
147. ▶ Indian Naval Academy (Ezhimala) conducted 4th annual *Dilli* seminar with theme *India and Southeast Asia – Maritime Trade, Expedition and Civilisation Linkages*.
148. ▶ 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.
149. ▶ 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.
150. ▶ 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.
151. ▶ 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.
152. ▶ 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.







153. ▶ 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.
154. ▶ 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.
155. ▶ 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.
156. ▶ 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.
157. ▶ India’s first-ever broad gauge air-conditioned AC EMU suburban train flagged off by western railway (from Mumbai’s Borivali station).
158. ▶ 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.
159. ▶ International poetry festival *Mystic Kalinga* organized in Bhubaneswar Odisha.
160. ▶ 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.
161. ▶ 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.
162. ▶ 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.
163. ▶ 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*.
164. ▶ 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.
165. ▶ 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.
166. ▶ Karnataka Government signed MoU with Microsoft to empower smallholder farmers with technology-oriented solutions that will help them increase income.
167. ▶ 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.
168. ▶ 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.
169. ▶ Karnataka government appointed K Ratna Prabha as new chief secretary of Karnataka.
170. ▶ 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.

171. ▶ 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.
172. ▶ 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.
173. ▶ 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.
174. ▶ Kerala Tourism Department launched a 3 year long Continuous Tourist Survey (CTS) 2017-2020 to improve tourism in state, in collaboration with *Datamation Consultants*.
175. ▶ 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.
176. ▶ Kerala government raised minimum age for liquor consumption from 21 to 23 years.
177. ▶ Kolkata (West Bengal) for first time hosted international Puppet festival named *PUN (Puppets Unite Neighbours) International Puppet Festival*.
178. ▶ Kolkata Police imposed ban on public display of weapons in Kolkata, till 1 January 2019.
179. ▶ 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.
180. ▶ 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.
181. ▶ 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.
182. ▶ 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.
183. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced measures for welfare of women in State, including financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakh for remarriage of widows.
184. ▶ 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.
185. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government launched *Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna* for farmers, to lend money to farmers at 0 % interest.
186. ▶ 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.
187. ▶ 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.
188. ▶ 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.
189. ▶ 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.
190. ▶ 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.
191. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved climate change adaptation policy that will focus on developing environment-friendly villages and cities.
192. ▶ 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.
193. ▶ Maharashtra Government will adopt Clinical establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, to ensure minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them.

194. ▶ 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.
195. ▶ Maharashtra government would raise INR 25,000 crore project on 800 acres at Heti (Kundi) village in Vidarbha, in association with Ayurveda Products Brand Patanjali. Patanjali will purchase 10,000 cows to develop a breeding centre and to carry out dairy and allied activities.
196. ▶ Maharashtra government banned packaged water bottles in government offices, to become plastic-free state from March 2018.
197. ▶ 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.
198. ▶ 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.
199. ▶ 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.
200. ▶ Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple (Madurai (TN)) adjudged best 'Swachh Iconic Place' in India, owing to high level sanitation and tourist friendly arrangements in the temple.
201. ▶ 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.
202. ▶ 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.
203. ▶ 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.
204. ▶ 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).
205. ▶ 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.
206. ▶ 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.
207. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has set up an internal expert committee to advise government on a policy on artificial intelligence (AI).
208. ▶ 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.
209. ▶ 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.
210. ▶ 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.
211. ▶ 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).
212. ▶ 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.
213. ▶ 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.
214. ▶ 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.
215. ▶ 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.
216. ▶ 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.
217. ▶ 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.
218. ▶ 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.
219. ▶ 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.
220. ▶ 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.
221. ▶ Nagaland Assembly passed a resolution revoking provisions of 33 % reservation for women in urban local bodies.
222. ▶ Nagaland became first North Eastern state to launch Point of Sale (PoS) for electricity bill payment, launched at Kohima Electrical Sub-division-1.
223. ▶ Naresh Kumar Gupta has been appointed as Lokayukta (Ombudsman) of Madhya Pradesh.
224. ▶ 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.
225. ▶ 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.
226. ▶ 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.
227. ▶ 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.
228. ▶ 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.
229. ▶ 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.
230. ▶ 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%.
231. ▶ National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Andhra Pradesh State Government to develop technologies relating to banana production.
232. ▶ Niti Aayog announced to set up a special women cell, to extend support to women start-ups and entrepreneurs.
233. ▶ 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.
234. ▶ Odisha Government inaugurated Purvasha Folk and Tribal Art Museum at Barkul near Chilika, to promote the cultural heritage of Odisha.
235. ▶ 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.
236. ▶ 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.
237. ▶ Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) and Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES) signed a MoU for skill development in State.
238. ▶ Odisha government imposed 7 month ban on sea fishing, to protect Olive Ridley sea turtles, as breeding season of endangered marine animals is approaching.
239. ▶ Odisha government launched *Arpana* Portal for online processing of applications for pension revision in respect of pre-2016 pensioners.
240. ▶ 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.
241. ▶ 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.
242. ▶ 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.
243. ▶ 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.
244. ▶ 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.
245. ▶ Orange Festival of Music and Adventure held in Dambuk village of Arunachal Pradesh.
246. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Launched 60MW Tuirial Hydroelectric Power Project in Mizoram. It has been constructed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (Neepco).
247. ▶ 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.



248. ▶ 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.
249. ▶ 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.
250. ▶ 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.
251. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr.BR Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) in New Delhi, constructed at cost of INR 195 crores.
252. ▶ 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.
253. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of AIIMS Bilaspur and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una.
254. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of four-lane cable-stayed bridge between Okha and Beyt Dwarka with length 2.32 km and to be constructed at cost of INR 962.43 crores.
- ✏ PM also announced setting up of India's first marine police training institute at Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.
  - ✏ He inaugurated first phase of Ghogha-Dahej Roll-on Roll-off ferry service at Ghogha in Bhavnagar district. It will cut down distance between Saurashtra and South Gujarat by 10 times.
255. ▶ 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).
256. ▶ 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.
257. ▶ 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.
258. ▶ 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.
259. ▶ 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.
260. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), featuring maritime patrol aircraft Tupolev-142M.
261. ▶ 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.
262. ▶ 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.
263. ▶ 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.
264. ▶ 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.
265. ▶ 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.
266. ▶ 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.
267. ▶ 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.

268. ▶ 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.
269. ▶ 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.
270. ▶ 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.
271. ▶ 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.
272. ▶ 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.
273. ▶ 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.
274. ▶ Rajasthan government announced 1 % reservation for Gujjars (retaining their Other Backward Classes status) and 4 other communities (Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Rebari and Gadaria).
275. ▶ Rajasthan government launched *Dishari* mobile app that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations.
276. ▶ 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 %.
277. ▶ 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.
278. ▶ 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.
279. ▶ Rajasthan govt. increased age limit for applying for government jobs from 35 to 40 years.
280. ▶ 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.
281. ▶ 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.
282. ▶ Restored Royal Opera House in Mumbai received Award of Merit from 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
283. ▶ 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.
284. ▶ 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.
285. ▶ 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.
286. ▶ Shri Harmandir Sahib (Punjab, also known as *Golden Temple*) has been awarded as most visited place in world by Book of World Records (London).
287. ▶ 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 be completed in 2012, but faced repeated delays. It is at an altitude of 4,700 feet, and will be among 5 highest Indian airports.
288. ▶ 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.
289. ▶ 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'.
290. ▶ 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.
291. ▶ 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.
292. ▶ 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.
293. ▶ 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.
294. ▶ 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.
295. ▶ 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.
296. ▶ 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.
297. ▶ Telangana government developed a mobile application named 'Urban Genie' that will help urban citizens in finding certified technicians and workers to provide household services.
298. ▶ 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.
299. ▶ Telangana Government will Implement Telugu as a compulsory subject from 1 - 12th, from next academic year.
300. ▶ 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.
301. ▶ 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).
302. ▶ 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.
303. ▶ Traditional International *Lavi fair* held in Rampur (Himachal Pradesh).
- ✍ Lavi Fair has been an important point of trade between India and Tibet for centuries.
304. ▶ 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.
305. ▶ 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.
306. ▶ Tropical Cyclone OCKHI Hits South Indian States Kerala and Tamilnadu, causing heavy rains and tides.



307. ▶ Tripura Government has introduced Child Care Leave (CCL) for women employees with minor children for 730 days in their entire service life.
308. ▶ 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.
309. ▶ 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).
310. ▶ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched online campaign #IamThatWoman in an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women.
311. ▶ 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.
312. ▶ 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).
313. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. will Set up a Research Institute on *Shrimad Bhagvat Gita* in Mathura.
314. ▶ 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.
315. ▶ 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.
316. ▶ Uttar Pradesh assembly passed UP Excise (Amendment) Bill 2017, to award death penalty and life imprisonment for spurious liquor dealers.
317. ▶ 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.
318. ▶ 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.
319. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
320. ▶ 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.
321. ▶ 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.
322. ▶ Uttarakhand State Government and Swan Cultural Center and Foundation launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham, to provide electricity to far-flung areas.
323. ▶ Uttarakhand government made it compulsory for all government offices to install LED bulbs, to reduce consumption of electricity.
324. ▶ 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.
325. ▶ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched New Delhi Edition of Marathi daily 'Lokmat'.
326. ▶ 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.
327. ▶ 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*.
328. ▶ 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.

329. ▶ 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.
330. ▶ 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.
331. ▶ West Bengal will receive Subsidy from world bank to buy 130 electric buses, at a rate of INR 7 Lakh/ Unit.
332. ▶ 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)

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## **Persons**

1. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 1 - 10) -
  - ✍ King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck Visited India.
  - ✍ Prime Minister of Latvia, Maris Kucinskis Visited India.
  - ✍ President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan Visited India.
  - ✍ Prince of Wales (UK), Charles Philip Arthur George Visited India.
  - ✍ Leo Heller, United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on human rights Visited India. His statement on M K Gandhi - *Now is a critical time to replace the lens of those glasses (Gandhi's glasses) with the human rights lens*, has triggered objections from India's side.
2. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 11 - 20) -
  - ✍ Canadian International Trade Minister *François-Philippe Champagne* visited India to attend 4th Joint Annual Ministerial Dialogue (AMD).
  - ✍ Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France visited India.
3. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 21 - 30) -
  - ✍ Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Visited India.
  - ✍ Finland's Foreign Minister Timo Soini visited India.
  - ✍ Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin Visited India and signed MoU with India for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
  - ✍ Defence Minister of Singapore, Ng Eng Hen visited India for 2nd Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Singapore. During This, India and Singapore signed Agreement for Navy Cooperation that will allow Indian Navy ships logistical support at Singapore's Changi Naval Base located near disputed South China Sea (SCS).
  - ✍ First India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue held in New Delhi, attended by Paul Ash, Director of National Cyber Policy Office of New Zealand.
  - ✍ Minister of Culture and Information of Afghanistan, Moh. Rasool Bawari Visited India for India-Afghan Cultural Festival in New Delhi.
4. ▶ *Freedom of Oxford* honour bestowed on Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 1997 by Oxford city has been withdrawn as a reaction to her perceived response to plight of Rohingya muslims in Myanmar. Aung San Suu Kyi's name from Junior Common Room in North Oxford (England) has also been removed.
5. ▶ According to Forbes magazine, Jeff Bezos (Amazon CEO) Surpassed Bill Gates as richest person in world with worth \$90.6 billion, compared to Gates' \$90.1 billion Worth.
6. ▶ Agriculture Ministry has roped in Actor Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card, crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.
7. ▶ Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani overtook China's Hui Ka Yan (*Evergrande Group Chairman*) to become Asia's richest person with total wealth of \$42.1 billion, according to Forbes' real time billionaire's list. Globally, Ambani is at 14th spot.
8. ▶ Facebook Co-founder Eduardo Saverin has become Singapore's richest person with a net worth of \$10.4 billion. Saverin gave up his US citizenship in 2012.

9. ▶ Frenchman Francois Gabart created new world record for fastest non-stop solo navigation of globe, after completing it in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds. He crossed a virtual finish line drawn between the island of Ushant off France's northwest tip and Lizard Point in southwest England at 0145 GMT.
10. ▶ Indian Actress Anushka Sharma is named PETA's Person of the Year by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), for helping to protect dogs from fireworks to advocating for horses who are forced to pull carriages in Mumbai.
11. ▶ Indian origin Person Gina Miller named UK's most influential black person of the year as she won a legal challenge seeking Parliamentary approval for triggering Brexit.
12. ▶ India's first Olympic swimmer Shamsher Khan passed away. He represented India in 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne (Australia).
13. ▶ India's gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been conferred an Honorary D.Litt. degree by National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.
14. ▶ Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
15. ▶ Mahendra Singh Dhoni inaugurated his first global cricket academy in Dubai (UAE), as MS Dhoni Cricket Academy (MSDCA).
16. ▶ Noted Czech Republic tennis player Jana Novotna passed Away. She won Women's Singles Wimbledon in 1998 and was 16-time Grand Slam winner in doubles and mixed doubles.
17. ▶ Noted Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee Kunwar Narayan passed away.
18. ▶ Noted classical singer of the Seniya and Banaras gharanas, Girija Devi passed away. She was known as Queen of Thumri. She was recipient of Padma Vibhushan - India's second highest civilian honour.
19. ▶ Noted historian Satish Chandra passed away, known for his deep work on Mughal Empire. He was also author of NCERT's leading history book *History of Medieval India*.
20. ▶ Noted international sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created world's biggest sand Santa-face with message "world peace" at Puri beach (Odisha). The Santa face is 25 feet tall and 50 feet wide. It is to be placed in Limca Book of World Records.
21. ▶ Noted journalist Bismoy Kumar Mohanty passed way. Known as Owner and Editor of Odia daily *Ajkali*.
22. ▶ Obituaries -
  - ▶ Neeraj Vora - Noted actor and Director.
  - ▶ AS Anand - Former Chief Justice of India.
  - ▶ Johnny Hallyday - France's Noted rock star, known as *French Elvis*.
  - ▶ Abi (*Habeeb Ahmed*) - Malayalam actor and mimicry artist
  - ▶ Ja Ra Sundaresan - Noted Tamil journalist.
  - ▶ Shashi Kapoor - Noted Bollywood actor
  - ▶ Purabi Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra sangeet singer
  - ▶ Laloo Chiba - Noted South African Freedom Fighter of Indian Origin
  - ▶ Adithyan - Noted South Indian music director .
  - ▶ Sukharanjan Sengupta - Noted journalist
  - ▶ Batuk Gathani - Noted Journalist
  - ▶ Lalji Singh - Noted Scientist (pioneer of DNA fingerprinting technology in India.
  - ▶ Keely Smith - Noted American Jazz and Pop Singer.
  - ▶ Bruce McCandless - Noted NASA astronaut (first person to fly in space without tethers)
  - ▶ Banwari Lal Joshi - former UP and Uttarakhand Governor.
  - ▶ Robbie Malinga - Noted South African musician.
  - ▶ Bob Givens - Noted American Animator (creator of Bugs Bunny)
  - ▶ Ashok Kumar Mattoo - Noted sports administrator, served as President of IABF (Indian Amateur Boxing Federation) and was first President of Hockey India.
  - ▶ Partha Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali actor.
  - ▶ Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali singer.
  - ▶ Hoshang Dadiba Amroliwala - First Class cricketer (Mumbai).
  - ▶ Sue Grafton -Noted mystery author (USA).
23. ▶ Pakistani Cricketer Saeed Ajmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
24. ▶ Robert Mugabe Resigned as President of African Nation Zimbabwe, after recent large scale Military Upset.
  - ▶ Mugabe has been ruling Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980. Now, Emmerson Mnangagwa will be appointed as President.
25. ▶ Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been voted the Time magazine readers' Person of the Year.
  - ▶ Time magazine named *the silence breakers* as its Person of the Year for 2017. It refers to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with #MeToo movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment and assault by powerful public figures in

United States.

26. ▶ Search engine Google celebrated 151st birthday of Cornelia Sorabji with a with as doodle dedicated to her. She helped open up higher education as well as legal profession to women as She was first woman to graduate in law from India as early as 1892 and first Indian national to attend British University.
27. ▶ Sikh American Gurbir Grewal became first Sikh public prosecutor to be nominated for post of Attorney General of New Jersey, nominated by Governor-elect Phil Murphy.
28. ▶ Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar (country's second-most senior legal officer) has resigned.
29. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 11 - 20) -
  - ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited Philippines-
    - ▶ He Attended 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila with Theme *Partnering for Change, Engaging the World*.
    - ▶ PM Modi also attended 12th East Asia Summit, 15th India-Asean Summit, ASEAN Business & Investment Summit and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Meetings that were held alongwith.
    - ▶ ASEAN Grouping also observed 50 years of existence this year.
    - ▶ PM Modi also visited International Rice Research Institute in Laguna and inaugurated Resilient Rice Field Laboratory.
    - ▶ PM Modi also met USA Prez Donald Trump, who was on an Official Visit to China, Vietnam and Philippines. India, USA, Japan and Australia held their first official-level talks to focus on keeping India-Pacific region *free and open*.
    - ▶ India and Philippines signed 4 agreements in defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks.
  - ▶ ASEAN -
    - ▶ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organisation 10 Southeast Asian Nations - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Observers - Papua New Guinea, East Timor.
  - ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley visited Singapore.
  - ▶ Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi Visited Argentina for attending 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Buenos Aires.
  - ▶ Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu visited Russia to participate in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Meeting of the Ministers of Member States responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade.
  - ▶ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Mosew (Russia) to attend 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB. He reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. The conference focused on eliminating TB across globe by 2030.
30. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 21 - 30) -
  - ▶ Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Bangladesh to participate in International Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX), first ever operational exercise held under aegis of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in Bangladesh.
  - ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh Visited Russia. Russia agreed to assist India to set up a national crisis management centre to handle disaster and other emergency situations.
  - ▶ Nitin Gadkari (*Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) visited United Kingdom. India and UK decided to sign an MoU in urban transport sector for cooperation in policy planning, technology transfer and institutional organisation.
  - ▶ Inter-Governmental Mid-Point review meeting of Asia and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 held in Beijing (China). It was attended by Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot, on India's Behalf.
31. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -
  - ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Sochi (Russia) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June 2017.
  - ▶ NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Visited China to attend 3rd Dialogue between India's NITI Aayog and Development Research Council of China (DRC).
  - ▶ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Buenos Aires (Argentina) to attend 11th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
32. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
  - ▶ Minister of State for Culture (IC) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma visited Muscat (Oman) for 2nd UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture.
33. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 1 - 10) -

- ✍️ Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu visited Caribbean Nation Cuba to explore bilateral trade and investment opportunities in Latin American and Caribbean regions.
- ✍️ Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan visited Thailand for attending 7th Asian Energy Ministers' Round Table organised by International Energy Forum (IEF) in Bangkok.
- ✍️ Prakesh Javedkar (Minister of Human Resource Development) Visited Paris (France) to attend 39th Bi-annual General Conference of UNESCO.
- ✍️ Minister of State (IC) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore attended World Youth Forum 2017 in Egypt.
- ✍️ Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) visited Germany for 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✍️ Ayush Minister Sripad Naik visited UAE to participate in first International Ayush Conference and Exhibition in Dubai. He Announced that India will provide full scholarship to 100 non-Indian students for studying Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush) in any of public institutions across India.

#### 34. ▶ Visits from India -

- ✍️ Navy Chief Sunil Lanba visited Vietnam.
- ✍️ Science & Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan visited South Africa to mark 20 years of Science & Technology cooperation between India and South Africa.
- ✍️ Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu visited Sweden to attend *Make in India: Sweden 2017* organized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in Stockholm.
- ✍️ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Philippines to attend Southeast Asian Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM).
  - ✍️ On sidelines of this meet, Mrs. Nirmala Met US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis. India and USA agreed to implement programme for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC).
- ✍️ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley visited Bangladesh.
  - ✍️ Bangladesh signed USD 4.5 billion third line of credit (LoC) agreement with India for its social sector development and infrastructure. The agreement was announced during PM Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in April 2017.
- ✍️ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Bangladesh. Bangladesh Petroleum Corp and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd signed long-term sales and purchase agreement . BPC will take up to 250,000 tonnes of gas oil each year from NRL for first 3 years. She inaugurated India's new chancery complex in Dhaka.
- ✍️ Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Japan to participate in 6th annual LNG Producers Consumer Conference.
- ✍️ Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh visited South Africa. He inaugurated Gandhi museum on a small piece of land once owned by Mahatma Gandhi in Durban.
- ✍️ Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu visited USA for attending 11th India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) Meeting held in Washington DC.
- ✍️ Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari Visited UAE for India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Partnership Summit in Dubai. It was organized under Business Leaders Forum (BLF), an organisation of business leaders in UAE that was set up by UAE Ministry of Economy, Embassy of India and Consulate General of India.

#### 35. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017)

- ✍️ Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba Visited India. During this Visit, India and Cuba signed MoU for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
- ✍️ Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies Visited India. During this visit, India and Italy signed MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
- ✍️ Afghanistan's second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish visited India and attended an international conference on 'Harmony and Memorial of Mother Teresa', in Mumbai.

#### 36. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)

- ✍️ Russia, India, and China Foreign Ministers' 15th meet held in New Delhi. Visiting Foreign Ministers - Sergei Lavrov (Russia), Wang Yi (China).
- ✍️ Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore Visited India.
- ✍️ Argentine Football legend Diego Maradona visited India and unveiled his huge statue in Kolkata.
- ✍️ Morocco Minister of Health Abdelkader Amara visited India. MOUs -
  - ✍️ Health Care.
  - ✍️ Water Resources.



- ✍ Cooperation in Indian Maritime University (IMU) and Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco AND National Ports Agency (NPA) of Morocco.
  - ✍ Cooperation between Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance of Morocco (IFEER) and Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).
  - ✍ Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland Visited India.
  - ✍ 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held in April 2018 in Gold Coast (Australia).
  - ✍ 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue held in New Delhi. Visiting Delegates - Frances Adamson (Australia's Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Shinsuke J. Sugiyama (Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs)
37. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)
- ✍ Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Rogozin visited India. He attended Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) held in New Delhi.
  - ✍ Jordan's External Affairs Minister Ayman Al Safadi visited India.
38. ▶ Visits to India -
- ✍ US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited India. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan also visited India and trilateral discussion of India-USA-Afghanistan held in New Delhi.
  - ✍ French Defence Minister Florence Parly visited India.
  - ✍ India - France joint Naval exercise VARUNA will be held in early 2018.
  - ✍ Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentiloni visited India. It marks 70 years of Diplomatic ties between India and Italy. MOUs Signed are -
    - ✍ Cooperation for Safety in Railway sector, Energy, Cultural Cooperation.
    - ✍ Promoting mutual investments between Italian Trade Agency and Invest India.
  - ✍ Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui Visited India for 12th Session of India-Tunisia Joint Commission Meet in Delhi.

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## **Science**

1. ▶ 2 new ant species Tetramorium krishnani and Tetramorium jarawa discovered in islands of Andaman, named after late scientist K.S. Krishnan of NCBS, and Jarawas – indigenous people of Andaman.
2. ▶ Government launched Noxeno, a nasal foreign body removal device developed by start-up InnAccel Technologies, under Biodesign program. Noxeno is first dedicated tool for anterior nasal foreign body (NFB) removal that allows doctors in any setting to quickly and safely remove objects that people (mostly children aged 2 to 10 years) put into their noses.
3. ▶ A new LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) gravitational wave detector will be built in India by 2025 (world's 3rd after 2 in USA).
  - ✍ In 2016, LIGO detectors discovered gravitational waves produced by two giant merging blackholes. LIGO detector in India will help to pinpoint origin of gravitational waves that are detected in future.
4. ▶ Australian Researchers discovered a new water-adapted species of spiders named 'Desis bobmarleyi' in Queensland, named after noted singer and songwriter Bob Marley.
5. ▶ Australian scientists of University of New South Wales (UNSW) discovered a new species of marsupial lion which has been extinct for at least 19 million years. Named Wakaleo schouteni, it was a predator about the size of a border collie dog.
6. ▶ Botanical Survey of India (BSI) scientists discovered two new species of Ginger - Hedychium chingmeianum (Nagaland) and Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis (Manipur).
7. ▶ Botanists discovered new species of wild banana named Musa paramjitiana in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, named in honour of Paramjit Singh, director of Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
8. ▶ California Institute of Technology, USA (CALTECH) scientists made world's smallest recreation of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, through a technique dubbed as *DNA origami*. Scientists folded DNA into desired self-assembling structures using 64 tiles, which were 100 nanometers wide.
9. ▶ China began test runs of world's first track-less train in Zhuzhou city, that runs on virtual track and is being considered *World's First smart train*. This train could travel at the speed of 70 kmph and is called Autonomous Rail Transit (ART).
10. ▶ China launched world's largest human genome research project to document genetic makeup of 1 lakh people, to detect genetic links between health and sickness and use that information to generate precision medicines for future.
11. ▶ China tested its first photovoltaic (solar) highway in Shandong province, becoming 2nd country (after France) to construct a photovoltaic highway.

- ✎ China's photovoltaic highway is constructed using solar panels with thin sheet of transparent concrete on top of them.
  - ✎ The photovoltaic panels of the highway are built to transfer energy to electric vehicles passing on top of them.
  - ✎ Tested 1 KM segment of solar highway can generate 817.2 KW of electricity and can generate 1 million KW hours of electricity yearly.
12. ▶ China's Three Gorges Corp. started building world's biggest floating solar power plant in Anhui Province, expected to be launched by May 2018.
  13. ▶ China's AG600n (also known as Kunlong), world's largest amphibious aircraft took off its first flight from Zhuhai City. It has huge wingspan of 38.8 metres and can land and take off from water.
  14. ▶ Columbia University (USA) researchers converted a bacterial immune system into world's smallest data recorder, by modifying an ordinary laboratory strain of human gut microbe *Escherichia coli*, using CRISPR gene-editing method. It enabled bacteria to record their interactions with environment and also time-stamp the events. It has several possible applications such as disease diagnosis, environmental monitoring and basic studies in ecology and microbiology.
  15. ▶ Geologists for first time discovered 152 million-year-old fossil of Ichthyosaur, an extinct marine reptile in Kutch desert region of Gujarat. The specimen belongs to Ophthalmosauridae family of ichthyosaurs that lived in oceans between 165 and 90 million years ago.
  16. ▶ Hyderabad based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) developed Improved Samba Masuri (ISM) variety rice with low Glycemic Index (50.99 against normal value of 53 - 70).
    - ✎ Rice with low GI is considered suitable for people with diabetics and it results in slow release of glucose into blood.
  17. ▶ India has been declared free from infective Trachoma which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye, that causes inflamed granulation on inner surface of lids. It was stated in National Trachoma Survey Report 2014-17 released by Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda.
  18. ▶ India's First wave-powered navigational buoy developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), has been deployed at Ennore Kamarajar Port (Chennai) to guide ships in and out of ports. Buoy's ship guiding beacon is powered by wave energy while conventional ones use solar power.
    - ✎ National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) will also build India's first offshore desalination plant about 40km from Chennai coast, with capacity of 10 million litres water / day.
  19. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up a research centre in Guwahati (Assam) for exploring possibility of using geospatial technology and geographical information systems (GIS).
  20. ▶ India's First mission to Sun will be launched in 2019, aiming to improve our understanding of dynamical processes of the sun and help resolve some outstanding questions in solar physics. It will be launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on PSLV- XL launch vehicle.
    - ✎ The mission will put 1500-kg heavy class Aditya-L1 satellite into halo orbit around Lagrangian point L1, a point between Sun and Earth.
  21. ▶ India's multi-wavelength space telescope *AstroSat* accomplished difficult task of measuring X-ray polarisation. It did 18 month long study of Crab pulsar in Taurus Constellation and measured variations of polarisation as this highly magnetised object spins 30 times per second. This measurement puts up a strong challenge to prevailing theories of high energy X-ray emission from pulsars.
  22. ▶ International Conference of heads of Metrology Institutes held in Sevres (France) decided that measure of kilogram will no longer be pegged to cylinder. From 2019 onwards, it will be set by value of Planck constant in combination with definitions of meter and second.
    - ✎ Till now, kilogram is only unit of measures pegged to a real object. But cylinder's weight in kilogram fluctuates due to surface contamination with time, making it tricky to define its exact mass.
  23. ▶ Mainstream space agencies in world proposed creation of a climate observatory to combine acquired data and share it with scientists around globe, during *One Planet Summit* in Paris (France).
  24. ▶ NASA revealed that a mysterious world called *Planet Nine* does exist in solar system-
    - ✎ It might be lingering on icy outer edges of solar system hiding in dark, but stretching out orbits of distant bodies.
    - ✎ It is very distant and is 10 times mass of Earth and 20 times farther from sun than Neptune.
  25. ▶ NASA will launch SuperTIGER Balloon in Antarctica, to study heavy cosmic particles, collect information on cosmic rays that enter Earth's atmosphere every day.
    - ✎ SuperTIGER stands for Super Trans-Iron Galactic Element Recorder (SuperTIGER) and is balloon-borne instrument to study rare heavy nuclei, which hold clues about where and how cosmic rays attain speeds up to nearly the speed of light.
  26. ▶ NVIDIA unveiled world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) computer designed to drive fully autonomous robotaxis, named Pegasus. It be available to NVIDIA automotive partners in the second half of 2018. It will help to create a new class of vehicles that can operate completely without a driver.
  27. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Joint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1) as first of 4 multi-day weather forecasts satellites.

- JPSS-1 is joint venture between NASA and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). It will be renamed NOAA-20 when it reaches its final orbit. It is designed to monitor weather around world and help improve forecasts.
28. ▶ New species of blind fish “Schistura larketensis” has been discovered in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya. The fish had lost its pigments and eye sight after living in darkness of the cave.
  29. ▶ Palaeontologists from University of Portsmouth (UK) discovered remains of humankind’s oldest mammal ancestor — a tiny rat-like creature that lived 145 million years ago.
  30. ▶ Paleontologists from Chinese Academy of Sciences discovered approx 300 fossilised eggs of Pterosaurs, a group of extinct winged dinosaur. It is world’s first such mass dinosaur egg discovery.
  31. ▶ Researchers at *Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology* have developed a flexible material that generates electricity when stretched or compressed, paving way for smart clothing or self-powered pacemakers -
    - ▶ It is a composite material made of polar nanoparticles and an elastomer - silicone and can convert mechanical movements into electrical charges. Trick is internal polarisation that changes while rubber film is being mechanically stressed.
  32. ▶ Researchers discovered new species of Gecko at Chhattisgarh’s Kanger Ghati National Park in Eastern Ghats. Its common name is *Kanger valley rock gecko* and scientific name is *Hemidactylus kangerensis*.
  33. ▶ Researchers discovered species of ant in Periyar Tiger Reserve (Kerala), as one of world’s ‘hottest hotspots’ of biological diversity. It has been named *Tyrannomyrmex alii* (or *T. alii*), after eminent myrmecologist Musthak Ali, who is regarded as the India’s ‘ant man’.
  34. ▶ Researchers from Brunel University (UK) developed first 3D printed wearable ‘battery’ that stacks silicone, glue and gel electrolyte, layer by layer to make a supercapacitor. It stores energy on its surface without chemical reactions and could be used to power smartphones, electric cars, medical implants like pacemakers etc.
  35. ▶ Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) developed low-cost rapid test that can quickly and accurately detect Zika and dengue viruses from blood. Test is conducted through a strip which contains gold nano particles and antibodies that react to the presence of Zika or dengue virus.
  36. ▶ Researchers from University of British Columbia (Canada) developed earthquake-proof fibre-reinforced concrete that can enhance earthquake resistance of seismically vulnerable structures.
    - ▶ Cement Material is made of eco-friendly ductile cementitious composite (EDCC) which combines cement with polymer-based fibres, flyash and other industrial additives, making it highly sustainable.
  37. ▶ Researchers from University of California and University of Illinois confirmed existence of new form of matter called excitonium, made up of excitons and exhibits macroscopic quantum phenomena just like a superconductor.
    - ▶ Technique called momentum-resolved electron energy-loss spectroscopy (M-EELS) was used by researchers to prove existence of excitonium.
  38. ▶ Researchers from University of Tasmania (Australia) discovered rare, living specimens of stromatolites, oldest evidence of life on Earth, deep within a remote and protected World Heritage Area in Australia.
  39. ▶ Samsung developed world’s smallest 8-gigabit DRAM chip, with improved energy efficiency and data processing performance. In these chips, only 1 transistor and a capacitor are required per bit, compared to 4 to 6 in SRAM.
  40. ▶ Scientists ETH Zurich in Switzerland successfully created the world’s shortest X-ray laser pulse with a duration of just 43 attoseconds.
    - ▶ Its significance lies in fact that to fully understand dynamics during a chemical reaction, scientists must be able to study all movements of atoms and molecules on their basic time scale.
    - ▶ Molecules rotate in range of picoseconds, their atoms vibrate in the range of femtoseconds, and electrons move in the range of attoseconds.
    - ▶ This laser pulse is shortest controlled event that has ever been created by humans. Researchers can now observe in high detail how electrons move within a molecule or how chemical bonds are formed.
  41. ▶ Scientists discovered most ancient spiral galaxy known as A1689B11, recorded so far in universe. It was detected using powerful technique that combines gravitational lensing with Near-infrared Integral Field Spectrograph (NIFS) on Gemini North telescope in Hawaii.
    - ▶ A1689B11 galaxy was born 11 billion years ago and existed just 2.6 billion years after Big Bang, when universe was only one-fifth of its present age.
  42. ▶ Scientists discovered new scorpion species named Schaller’s wood scorpion (*Liocheles schalleri*) from at Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura. It has been named in honour of celebrated wildlife biologist George Schaller who has studied wildlife across world.
  43. ▶ Scientists discovered new species of frog named Mewa Singh’s night frog (*Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi*) in Kozhikode’s Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala in Western Ghats.
  44. ▶ Scientists found that parasite called *Leptomonas seymouri* hosting virus *Lepsey NLV1* may be also responsible for spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis). Earlier it was believed that parasite *Leishmania donovani* (sandfly) alone is responsible for spread of kala-azar.

45. ▶ Scientists from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered a new species of parasitic flowering plant named *Gleadovia konyakianorum* near Tobu town of Mon district in eastern Nagaland, named in honour of Konyak tribe of Nagas.
46. ▶ Scientists from Broad Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in USA developed RNA Editing for Programmable A to I Replacement (REPAIR), a new gene editing tool therapies that can reverse disease-causing mutations in humans.
  - ✎ REPAIR can tweak individual RNA 'letters' in human cells without making changes to entire genome and can have profound potential as a tool for both research and disease treatment.
  - ✎ REPAIR is based on gene editing tool CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) that can be used to modify DNA in cells.
47. ▶ Scientists from Florida State University (USA) developed new tool for objectively defining onset and demise of Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM). The new method uses rainfall rates to mark span of ISM at any given location throughout affected region.
48. ▶ Scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) found a novel way to induce plants to give off dim light by embedding specialised nanoparticles into their leaves.
  - ✎ It has great significance as it will make plants function as a desk lamp, powered by energy metabolism of the plant itself and not by electricity connection.
  - ✎ To create glowing plants, scientists has used to luciferase, an enzyme that gives fireflies their glow. Luciferase acts on molecule called luciferin, causing it to emit light.
49. ▶ Scientists from Thiruvananthapuram based CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) have developed organic filter that allows only near-infrared (NIR) light to pass through it. It was found to absorb light from 300-850 nm (both ultraviolet, visible and part of NIR light) and transmit NIR light from 850-1500 nm.
  - ✎ Its Significance lies in fact that Currently available inorganic filters are expensive and brittle whereas organic filters are easy to process and flexible too. The filter can be used for night vision glasses, night photography. It will also have applications in security and forensics such as identifying blood stains on dark fabric which are invisible to naked eyes.
50. ▶ Scientists from University of Michigan (USA) developed a new type of neural network chip using reservoir computing system to improve efficiency of teaching machines to think like humans.
  - ✎ Network developed using this system can predict words before they are said during conversation and help predict future outcomes based on present.
51. ▶ Scientists from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered new frog species in the fast flowing streams in Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is named *Odorrana arunachalensis*.
52. ▶ Scientists in Austria and China made first video call using quantum encryption, that is said to be unhackable. Encryption through quantum networks uses quantum particles to transfer information from one point to another and hacking Attempts would create detectable disturbances in system.
53. ▶ USA based National High Magnetic Field Laboratory tested world's strongest superconducting magnet 32 T, producing 32 teslas (a unit of magnetic field strength), 33% stronger than previous record.
  - ✎ 32 T will allow physicists studying materials to explore how electrons interact with each other and their atomic environment.
54. ▶ USA's NASA discovered 8th planet in Our Solar System, circling Kepler-90, a Sun-like star which is 2545 light-years far from Earth.
  - ✎ Newly-discovered planet Kepler-90i was discovered in data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, using Machine Learning from Google.
55. ▶ USA's NASA tested supersonic landing parachute that will be deployed in its Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020, called Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE). Mission will rely on special parachute to slow spacecraft down as it enters Martian atmosphere at over 5.4 kilometres per second.
56. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) approved 2nd extension of Dawn mission at Ceres dwarf planet which is largest object in asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
  - ✎ During this extension, Dawn will descend to lower altitudes than ever before at dwarf planet. Priority of second extension mission is to collect data with Dawn's gamma ray and neutron spectrometer, which measures number and energy of gamma rays and neutrons.
57. ▶ World's first floating wind farm located in Scotland started generating electricity, using five 6MW turbines procured from Norway. It is expected to generate 135GWh of electricity each year.
58. ▶ World's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells started running in Tangshan (north China's Hebei Province). It marks a big step in application of green energy in public transport as water is only emission of this Tram and it emits no pollutants.
  - ✎ It can can run for 40 kilometers at a maximum speed of 70 kilometers per hour after being refilled with 12 kilograms of hydrogen.
59. ▶ World's first negative emissions plant under CarbFix Project to turn atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into stone begun operations in Hellisheidi (Iceland), intended to lock away carbon dioxide by reacting it with basaltic rocks.

- ▶ In CarbFix Project, CO<sub>2</sub> is captured from ambient air, bound to water, and sent 700 meters underground. There, CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with basaltic bedrock using enhanced weathering process and forms solid minerals, creating a permanent storage solution.
60. ▶ World's heaviest bony fish ever caught weighing 2,300 kilograms has been identified in Japan, confirmed by researchers from Hiroshima University. Bony fish have skeletons made of bone rather than cartilage.

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## **Sports**

1. ▶ 10th Asian Airgun Championships Held in Wako, Japan -
  - ▶ India won 21 medals at the event Including 6 Gold, 8 Silver and 7 Bronze. Gold Medals are -
    - ▶ Samiksha Dhingra - 10m Air Rifle Women Junior
    - ▶ Mehuli Ghosh - 10m Air Rifle Women Youth
    - ▶ Saurabh Chaudhary - 10m Air Pistol Men Youth
    - ▶ Team Events - 10m Air Rifle Men Youth, 10m Air Pistol Men Youth AND 10m Air Pistol Men
  - ▶ India Secured 4 places for 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games (3rd) to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) - Mehuli Ghosh, Tushar Mane, Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker.
2. ▶ 10th Men's and 5th Women's Senior Asian Kabaddi Championships, hosted by Iran -
  - ▶ India won title in both contests, defeating Pakistan in men's and South Korea in Women's titles.
3. ▶ 13th Commonwealth Wrestling Championships 2017 Organized in Johannesburg (South Africa). India won 60 Medals Including 29 Gold Medals at this event.
4. ▶ 1st Indian Sports Honours Awards 2017, jointly launched by Cricketer Virat Kohli and businessperson Sanjeev Goenka. Winners are -
  - ▶ Sportsman of the year (Individual sport) – Srikanth Kidambi (Badminton)
  - ▶ Sportswoman of the year (Individual sport) – P.V. Sindhu (Badminton)
  - ▶ Sportsman of the year (Team sport) – Ravichandran Ashwin (Cricket)
  - ▶ Sportswoman of the year (Team sport) – Mithali Raj (Cricket)
  - ▶ Team of the year (Men/Women) – Indian Women's Cricket Team
  - ▶ Coach of the year – Bisveshwar Nandi (Coach of Olympian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar)
  - ▶ Emerging Sportsperson – Female - Aditi Ashok (Golf), Male - Neeraj Chopra (Javelin Throw)
  - ▶ Differently abled Sportsperson – Devendra Jhajaria (Male), Deepa Malik (Female)
  - ▶ Jury Honours -
    - ▶ Inspirational Honour – Sania Mirza (Tennis)
    - ▶ Transformational Contribution to Sport – Abhinav Bindra (Shooting)
    - ▶ Keep Walking Honour for Lifetime achievement – Balbir Singh (Hockey)
  - ▶ Popular choice Honours
    - ▶ Breakthrough performance – Hardik Pandya (Cricket)
    - ▶ Star Sports 'Believe' Honour (Comeback of the year) – Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
    - ▶ Spirit of Sport – Yogeshwar Dutt (Wrestling)
    - ▶ Player of the year – Sunil Chhetri (Football)
    - ▶ Club of the year – Mumbai Indians (Cricket)
5. ▶ 2016–17 Men's FIH Hockey World League Final in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -
  - ▶ Australia won their FIH Hockey World League title after defeating Argentina in Final. Third place was grabbed by India.
6. ▶ 2017 ASBC Asian Confederation Women's Elite Boxing Championships held in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) -
  - ▶ Noted Indian boxer MC Mary Kom won Gold Medal in 48 kg category by defeating North Korea's Hyang Mi Kim.
7. ▶ 2017 ATP Finals men's tennis (London (UK)) -
  - ▶ Singles - Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) (*Defeated David Goffin of Belgium*)
  - ▶ Doubles Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
8. ▶ 2017 BWF Badminton Super Series Finals held in Dubai (it was final competition of 2017 BWF Super Series) -
  - ▶ Men's Singles - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
  - ▶ Women's Singles - Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) (She defeated India's P V Sindhu)
  - ▶ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Markus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
  - ▶ Women's Doubles - Japan's Shiho Tanaka AND Koharu Yonemoto
9. ▶ 2017 European Open Men's Tennis 2017 -



- 🎨 Singles - Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France)
- 🎨 Doubles - Scott Lipsky (USA) AND **Divij Sharan (India)**

10. ▶ 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup (India)

- 🎨 England won the Title with Spain as Runners-up. England won the finals by 5-2 Goals.
- 🎨 Brazil Stayed Third. Final match was played in Kolkata. Tournament had total 24 Participant Teams.
- 🎨 Other Honours -
  - 🎨 Phil Foden of England adjudged tournament's best player and has been awarded 'Golden Ball'.
  - 🎨 Rhian Brewster from England scored most goals (8 goals) and has been awarded, 'Golden Boot'.
  - 🎨 Gabriel Brazao (goalkeeper of Brazil) won 'Golden Glove' and Brazil won Fair Play Award.
- 🎨 Other Facts -
  - 🎨 Nigeria is most successful team in U17 FIFA World Cups, with 5 titles so far.
  - 🎨 FIFA U17 World cup does not has provision of Giving prize money to winners.
  - 🎨 It was First FIFA Tournament hosted by India. Matches were played in six stadiums in six host cities - Kolkata, Kochi, New Delhi, Mumbai, Guwahati, Margao.
  - 🎨 Jackson Singh Thounaojam Became India's first goal Scorer in FIFA Tournaments as he scored a Header Goal in FIFA U-17 World Cup match against Colombia. India could not win a match though.
  - 🎨 Hyundai India were official transportation partner for Tournament.
  - 🎨 Adidas launched campaign #HereToCreate to inspire young football talent in India and to kick start a football revolution.
  - 🎨 Switzerland's Esther Staubli became first female referee to officiate at a FIFA U-17 World Cup Match, when Japan and New Caledonia met in Kolkata.
  - 🎨 Official Mascot was clouded leopard named 'Kheleo' ad official ball is called 'Krasava'.
  - 🎨 USA-Based Namit Deshpande became First NRI to Play for India's U17 World Cup Team.

11. ▶ 2017 Shanghai Rolex Masters Men's Tennis Title -

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

12. ▶ 2017 Sultan of Johor Cup Hockey Tournament (Malaysia) -

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

13. ▶ 2017 Swiss Indoors (Basel) Men's Tennis 2017-

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

14. ▶ 2017 Tianjin Open Women's Tennis 2017 -

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

15. ▶ 2017 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships (47th) held in Montreal (Canada) -

🎨 Medal table

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

🎨 India could not win a medal in the event.

16. ▶ 2017 World Weightlifting Championships held in Anaheim (USA) -

🎨 Medal table -

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

| Rank | Nation  | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|---------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 5    | Chile   | 1    | 1      | 0      | 2     |
|      | Vietnam | 1    | 1      | 0      | 2     |

- India Ranked 9th Jointly with Chinese Taipei, Romania, South Korea and Spain with 1 Gold Medal Each. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (Manipur) won Gold for India in 48 kg category.
- During These Championships, India's Gurdeep Singh created three new senior **national** records in +105 kg weight category in snatch, clean and jerk, and the total lift. He couldn't win a medal in the Championships Though.
- 17. ▶ 2018 Commonwealth Games (21st) will be held on Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.
- 18. ▶ 2018 winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang (South Korea). Olympics Champions League winner Park Ji-sung will be first South Korean to carry flame for 2018 winter Olympics.
- 19. ▶ 20th Asia Masters Athletics Championship held in Rugao (China) -
  - India finished second with 146 medals, including 37 golds, 43 silvers and 66 bronze. China was at top of list.
- 20. ▶ 22nd Commonwealth Games 2022 will be hosted in Birmingham (England).
  - Shooting has been excluded from Commonwealth Games 2022 edition.
- 21. ▶ 42nd Junior (U-17 and U-19) National Badminton Championship concludes in Guwahati (Assam) -
  - U-19 - Aryaman Tandon and Akarshi Kashyap won in boys' & girls' singles respectively.
  - U-17 - Maisnam Meiraba and Akarshi Kashyap won in boys' & girls' singles respectively.
- 22. ▶ 46th Congress of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) will be held in New Delhi from October - November, 2018. This biennial event will run for four days.
- 23. ▶ 61st National Shooting Championships 2017 held in (New Delhi).
- 24. ▶ 61st National Shooting Championships held in Trivandrum (Kerala) -
  - Anisa Sayyed created new national record in women 25m pistol.
  - Jitu Rai created new national record in men's 50m pistol event.
- 25. ▶ 62nd National Wrestling championship held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh).
  - Haryana Remained at top with total 36 Medals in all (men and women) categories.
  - Wrestler Sandeep Tulsi Yadav has been handed a four-year ban by Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel of the NADA.
- 26. ▶ 6th Swimmathon(India's Premier open water swimming championships) will be held in Goa in December 2017, organized by Square Off Sports.
- 27. ▶ 7th international military games will be held in Wuhan (China), by International Military Sports Council (CISM).
- 28. ▶ 82nd Senior National Badminton Championship 2017 (Nagpur (Maharashtra)) -
  - Women's Singles - Saina Nehwal (defeating PV Sindhu). Nehwal became National Champion for 3rd Time.
  - Men's Singles - H.S. Prannoy (defeating Kidambi Srikanth)
- 29. ▶ AIBA (International Boxing Championships) Youth World Boxing Championships 2017 held in Guwahati (Assam) -
  - India led the medal tally with 5 gold medals - Nitu , Jyoti Gulia , Sakshi Choudhury, Shashi Chopra and Ankushita Boro.
  - Ankushita Boro won *The Best Boxer* title in World Youth Women's boxing Championship held in Guwahati.
- 30. ▶ ATP World Tour Awards 2017
  - Swiss Player Roger Federer won 3 ATP World Tour Awards -
    - Selected by fans as ATP WorldTour.com Fans' Favourite for 15th straight year.
    - voted by fellow players as winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award
    - Comeback Player of the Year.
  - Coach of the Year - Neville Godwin
- 31. ▶ Afghan Off Spinner Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Zadran became youngest ever from Afghanistan to play International cricket and overall 9th youngest to debut in ODI cricket.
- 32. ▶ Afghanistan won ICC Intercontinental Cup defeating United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, with Ireland ranked 2nd.
- 33. ▶ Afghanistan won maiden Under-19 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), defeating Pakistan.
- 34. ▶ Asian Archery Championships 2017, Organized in Dhaka (Bangladesh), with India scoring 9 medals.
  - Gold - Akash (Reurve Cadet Men), Abhishek Verma (Compound Men) and Compound Women Team
- 35. ▶ Asian Luge Championships held at Altenberg (Germany) -
  - Germany is a european Nation, still it hosted Asian Luge Championships for security reasons.
  - Sole Indian participant Shiva Keshavan retained his title with a time of 55.60 seconds.
- 36. ▶ Australian fast bowler John Hastings retired from Test and ODI Cricket.

37. ▶ BCCI mandated every cricketer to pass a yo-yo test, like applied by various sports including hockey and football.
- ▶ In a yo-yo test, players have to pace themselves to and fro between two rows of cones kept 20 metres apart. For every round the player has to sync his sprint with the beeps that are played.
38. ▶ BWF Para-Badminton World Championships held Ulsan (South Korea) -
- ▶ India won 10 medals, including 2 golds. Parul Parmar won women's singles and also won women's doubles by pairing up with Japan's Akiko Sugino.
39. ▶ Bangladesh won First ever SAFF U-15 Women's football Championship 2017, defeating India. It was hosted by Bangladesh.
40. ▶ Basel (Switzerland) will become first city to jointly host Badminton and Para-Badminton World Championships in 2019.
41. ▶ Boxing Federation of India (BFI) was recognised as a national body by Indian Olympic Association, removing Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) as its affiliate.
42. ▶ Chandika Hathurusingha is appointed as new Head coach of Sri Lanka Cricket Team.
43. ▶ China Open Tennis 2017 -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
  - ▶ Women's Singles - Caroline Garcia (France)
  - ▶ Men's Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
  - ▶ Women's Doubles - Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
44. ▶ Commonwealth Shooting Championships and oceanina shooting championships 2017 Held in Gold coast (Australia) -
- ▶ India won 20 medals with 6 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze. Gold Medals -
    - ▶ Satyendra Singh won in men's 50m rifle 3 positions.
    - ▶ Heena Sidhu won in women's 10m Air Pistol event.
    - ▶ Shahzar Rizvi won in men's 10m air pistol event.
    - ▶ Pooja Ghatkar won in 10m women's air rifle event.
    - ▶ Prakash Nanjappa won in men's 50m pistol event.
    - ▶ Ankur Mittal won in Men's double trap event.
  - ▶ India will host next Commonwealth Shooting Championships in 2019.
45. ▶ Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP) chosen as an associate member of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Now, Puducherry will be allowed to play Ranji Trophy in 2018.
46. ▶ Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) won 2017 Fifa Men's Player award and Lieke Martens (Netherlands) won Fifa Women's Player of the year award in London (UK).
47. ▶ Delhi Half Marathon 2017 winners -
- ▶ Men - Birhanu Legese (Ethiopia).
  - ▶ Women - Almaz Ayana (Ethiopia).
48. ▶ Delhi State Olympic Association will organise Delhi Olympic Games in December 2017. Aim is to promote Olympics and spirit of sports in Delhi. 9 day sporting events will include hockey, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, swimming, karate, wushu and 28 other disciplines. Olympic wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt will be brand ambassador of Delhi Olympic Games 2017.
49. ▶ Denmark Open Badminton 2017 -
- ▶ Men's Singles - **Srikanth Kidambi (India)**, He Defeated Lee Hyun-il (South Korea)
  - ▶ Women's Singles - Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
  - ▶ Men's Doubles Chinese Pair of Liu Cheng AND Zhang Nan
  - ▶ Women's Doubles South Korean pair of Lee So-hee AND Shin Seung-chan
  - ▶ Mixed Doubles - Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man AND Tse Ying Suet
50. ▶ Emblems of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named *Winter Dream* and *Flight*, to be held in Beijing (China).
51. ▶ FIFA has lifted 2 year suspension against Kuwait's football association that prevented It country from participating in international tournaments.
52. ▶ FIFA suspended Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) due to being included in corruption and malpractices.
53. ▶ Ferrari Racer Sebastian Vettel (Germany) won Brazilian Grand Prix -
- ▶ Britain's Lewis Hamilton has already been crowned Formula One world champion 2017.
  - ▶ 2017 Formula 1 Season -


| Round | Grand Prix            | Winner                     | Date     |
|-------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 1     | Australian Grand Prix | Sebastian Vettel (Germany) | 26 March |
|       | Chinese Grand Prix    | Lewis Hamilton (Britain)   | 9 April  |

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

54. ▶ Football club Mohun Bagan won 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament, defeating Partha Chakra in Gangtok (Sikkim).
55. ▶ Forbes richest sportsmen 2017 List -
- ▶ Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo leads the list, followed by LeBron James (American basketball player) and Lionel Messi (Argentinian Footballer).
  - ▶ Virat Kohli is only cricketer to feature in Top 100 list.
56. ▶ France has been announced as host of 2023 Rugby World Cup. Note that Next Rugby World Cup is to be held in Japan in 2019.
57. ▶ France won its 10th Davis Cup Tennis title after France's Lucas Pouille beat Belgium's Steve Darcis in Final. It was 106th Edition of Davis Cup and was hosted by France.
58. ▶ Gopi Thonakal became first Indian man to win Asian Marathon Championship, after he won Gold medal at 16th Asian Marathon Championships in China.
59. ▶ Hockey Karnataka won Hockey India's 2nd 5-a-side Senior Men's National Championship 2017, defeating Haryana.
60. ▶ Hong Kong Badminton Open 2017 -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
  - ▶ Women's Singles - Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei), defeated India's P V Sindhu
  - ▶ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
  - ▶ Women's Doubles - China's Chen Qingchen AND Jia Yifan
61. ▶ ICC approved 9 team Test Championship and a 13-team One-Day International league.
- ▶ Test competition will begin after 2019 World Cup and will have 9 teams play six series over two years.
  - ▶ 50-over event will be held in 2020.
62. ▶ IPL Franchise Kochi Tuskers won arbitration case against Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over wrongful termination from Indian Premier League (IPL) and demanded 850 crore compensation from BCCI.
- ▶ Kochi Tuskers' IPL contract was terminated by BCCI in 2011, citing breach of franchise agreement. Kochi Tuskers appealed against this decision.
63. ▶ ISSF World Cup Final 2017 Held in New Delhi -
- ▶ Hosts India finished 7th overall with 1 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze.
    - ▶ Gold - Jitu Rai/Heena Sidhu (mixed team 10m air pistol)
    - ▶ Silver - Sangram Dahiya (men's double trap)
    - ▶ Bronze - Amanpreet Singh (50m pistol).

 Medal Tally -

 Italy Remained at top in ISSF World Cup Finals Delhi 2017, followed by China

 China's Rio 2016 10m air pistol women's champion, Mengxue Zhang and Gengcheng Sui, were crowned Champion of Champions in pistol and rifle respectively.

 In Overall ISSF World Cup 2017 (1st Leg in Delhi in Feb, 2nd Leg in Munich (Germany) in May, 3rd Leg in Gabala (Azerbaijan) in June and Finals in Delhi) -

 India stayed at 6th with 9 Medals (3 G, 3 S, 3 B).

 China at top with 37 Medals, Followed by Italy (15) and USA (10).

64. ▶ Iceland becomes smallest country ever (3.3 Million Population) to qualify for FIFA World Cup, after topping its qualifying group. FIFA World cup 2018 is to be held in Russia.


65. ▶ India at Miscellaneous Sports Events -

 India's Aryan Goveas and Arjun Kadhe won doubles title in \$15,000 ITF (International Tennis Federation) Futures tennis tournament, in Cairo (Egypt).

 Indian Diving Team won 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals in Indonesia Open Aquatic Championships 2017 in Jakarta.

 India finished seventh overall in the WSF-world men's team squash championship in Marseille, France.

 Indian Junior Girls won 4 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze at Valeria Demyanova Memorial International Boxing Tournament in Ukraine.

 India won 10 medals in the first Wushu Sanda Asian Cup in Guangzhou, China.

 Indian junior boxers won 11 Medals (Inc. 6 gold) and finished as overall champions at 5th International Sven Lange Memorial Tournament in Germany.


 Indian boxers won 3 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze at Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament in Karaganda (Kazakhstan).

66. ▶ India beat Nepal to win first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament (team championship) held at Guwahati, Assam.

67. ▶ India captain Mithali Raj occupied number one spot in latest ICC ODI rankings for batswomen, followed by Ellyse Perry of Australia and Amy Satterthwaite of New Zealand. Mithali has 753 points. Indian captain Virat Kohli also returned to top of ICC ODI rankings for batsmen with 889 points, best ever by an India batsman.

 Meanwhile, Indian bowler Jasprit Bumrah also ranked at 1st spot in ICC T20 rankings.

68. ▶ India will host 2023 Cricket World Cup (13th) and 2021 Champions Trophy.

 ICC World Cup 2019 will be held in England and Wales.

69. ▶ India won 2017 Asia Cup hockey title by defeating Malaysia in final. Tournament was held in Bangladesh. It was India's 3rd Asia Cup title, after 2003 and 2007.

70. ▶ India won 2017 Women's Hockey Asia Cup by Defeating China in Final. Japan was the Host Nation.

 With this, India Qualified for 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup (14th edition) to be held in London (England).

 Note that 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup (14th) will be held in November - December 2018 in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (India).

71. ▶ India's Shubhankar Sharma won Joburg Open golf tournament to qualify for 2018 British Open.

72. ▶ Indian Badminton Player Samiya Imad Farooqui won gold medal at Under-15 women's singles competition at Asian Junior Championship in Yangon (Myanmar).

73. ▶ Indian Billiards Player Pankaj Advani won his 18th IBSF World Snooker Championship Title, after defeating Iran's Amir Sarkhosh in Qatar.

74. ▶ Indian Boxer Sachin Siwach is named Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year 2017. India also fetched the Best Asian International Technical Official (ITO) award with Lenny D'Gama winning the online poll.

75. ▶ Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli Became Fastest Batsman to score 9000 ODI runs, achieving this in Just 194 Innings. He is also biggest scorer in 200 ODI Innings.

76. ▶ Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his eighth Asian Tour title as he won Macau Open 2017. It is his first Asian Tour trophy of the year.

77. ▶ Indian archer Deepika Kumari won bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Bangkok (Thailand).

78. ▶ Indian batsman Rohit Sharma became first to score 3 double centuries in ODI cricket, after he scored 208 Not out against Sri Lanka in Mohali.

 India also become first team to register 300+ totals 100 times in ODIs, after posting 392 against Sri Lanka in same game at Mohali.

79. ▶ Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won World Rapid Chess tournament title in Saudi Arabia, beating Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev.

80. ▶ Indian football team qualified for 2019 Asian Cup after winning over Macau in qualifying round. AFC Asian Cup will be held in Jan - Feb 2019 in UAE.

81. ▶ Indian golfer 28-year-old Ajeetesh Sandhu won Asian Tour title at Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) at Taipei.



82. ▶ Indian table tennis player Diya Chitale won silver medal in girls' doubles category of 2017 ITTF World Cadet Challenge in Suva (Fiji).
83. ▶ India's Anupama Ramachandran won World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St. Petersburg in Russia.
84. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced New Zealand Cricketer Corey Anderson as event ambassador for ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 to be held in New Zealand.
85. ▶ International Hockey Federation (FIH) declared that China have qualified for the Hockey World Cup for the first time.
- ▶ 2018 Hockey world cup (14th Hockey WC) will be held in Bhubaneswar (India).
86. ▶ International Olympic Committee banned Russia from 2018 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang (South Korea), over its state-orchestrated doping programme. Note that clean Russian athletes will be allowed to compete under an Olympic flag.
87. ▶ Iran allowed its women weightlifters to compete internationally for the first time, wearing special clothes for Muslim athletes.
88. ▶ Kerala Kings won first T10 Cricket League champion at Sharjah Cricket Stadium (UAE), defeating Punjabi Legends.
89. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Japanese Grand Prix -

▶ 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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

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

▶ 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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

|           |                          |                                  |              |
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| <b>9</b>  | Austrian Grand Prix      | Valtteri Bottas (Finland)        | 9 July       |
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| <b>11</b> | Hungarian Grand Prix     | Sebastian Vettel (Germany)       | 30 July      |
| <b>12</b> | Belgian Grand Prix       | Lewis Hamilton (Britain)         | 27 August    |
| <b>13</b> | Italian Grand Prix       | Lewis Hamilton (Britain)         | 3 September  |
| <b>14</b> | Singapore Grand Prix     | Lewis Hamilton (Britain)         | 17 September |
| <b>15</b> | Malaysian Grand Prix     | Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch) | 1 October    |
| <b>16</b> | Japanese Grand Prix      | Lewis Hamilton (Britain)         | 8 October    |
| <b>17</b> | United States Grand Prix | Lewis Hamilton (Britain)         | 22 October   |
| <b>18</b> | Mexican Grand Prix       |                                  | 29 October   |
| <b>19</b> | Brazilian Grand Prix     |                                  | 12 November  |
| <b>20</b> | Abu Dhabi Grand Prix     |                                  | 26 November  |

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

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

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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









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

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

 Singles - Spain's Georgina Garcia-Perez.

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

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

96. ▶ New Delhi will host India Open International Boxing Tournament in January - February 2018. For first time, India will field a team in upcoming edition of World Series Boxing, AIBA's professional league. Team will be sponsored by Boxing Federation of India (BFI).
97. ▶ Noted Brazilian Footballer Kaka Retired from Professional Football.
98. ▶ Noted Indian pacer Ashish Nehra retired from all forms of cricket. He played His last Match as a T20 against New Zealand.
99. ▶ Noted Swiss Female Tennis Player, Martina Hingis announced her retirement from Professional Tennis.  
 She held world No. 1 ranking for 209 weeks during her career, winning 43 WTA singles titles and 64 doubles titles.
100. ▶ Official logo, mascot and anthem for 2017 AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship to be held in Guwahati (Assam) in Nov 2017 has been unveiled. Official mascot is named Guppy (female version of Assam's one-horned rhino) and anthem is 'Make Some Noise'.
101. ▶ Pooja Kadian won India's first ever gold medal at Wushu World Championships 2017 held in Russia.
102. ▶ Pune International Marathon 2017 -  
 It was held Despite being denied permission by Athletics Federation of India.  
 Winners - Tisasua Basazin  
 Men - Ethiopia's Getachew Beshu.  
 Women's Half Marathon - Ethiopia's Tisasua Basazin.
103. ▶ Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka) became first left-arm spinner to take 400 wickets in Test Cricket. He is 14th overall and second sri lankan after Muttiah Muralitharan to pick 400 test wickets.
104. ▶ Ravichandran Ashwin became Fastest to take 300 Test Cricket wickets (in 54 tests), getting past Australia's Dennis Lillee who achieved this in 56 Tests.
105. ▶ Real Madrid won FIFA Club World Cup 2017 in UAE, defeating Gremio in Final.  
 Real Madrid is first side in the history of FIFA Club World Cup to retain the trophy.  
 Real Madrid has now won five trophies in 2017 – Champions League, La Liga, Uefa Super Cup, Spanish Super Cup and Club World Cup.
106. ▶ Red Bull Racer Max Verstappen (Born in Belgium and competes under Dutch flag) won Malaysian Grand Prix -  
 2017 Formula 1 Season -










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

107. ▶ Red Bull Racer Max Verstappen (Born in Belgium and competes under Dutch flag) won Mexican Grand Prix -

 Britain's Lewis Hamilton has been crowned Formula One world champion 2017, fourth world Formula One title for Hamilton.

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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

108. ▶ Shakib Al Hasan became first Bangladesh Cricketer to be inducted in the MCC World Cricket Committee under chairmanship of Mike Gatting. Also added to the committee are Suzie Bates, Ian Bishop and Kumar Dharmasena.
109. ▶ Shooting Para Sport World Cup 2017 held in Bangkok (Thailand).
110. ▶ Spain's Rafael Nadal and Garbine Muguruza are named as International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions for male and female categories respectively. This is first time in 19 years that both awards have gone to players from the same country.
111. ▶ Spotterperson Brand List 2017 by Forbes -
-  Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli ranks ahead of Argentinian Football Star Lionel Messi, with brand value of \$14.5 million and ranks 7th in list.
  -  Tennis legend Roger Federer leads the list with a brand value of \$37.2m.
  -  Brand value is an athlete's earnings (excluding salary and bonus from their sport and all investment income), minus average income of top 10 athletes in same sport.
112. ▶ Tyrrell Hatton (UK) became first Golfer to retain the Alfred Dunhill Links Golf Championship title (Scotland).
113. ▶ U23 Senior World Wrestling Championships in Bydgoszcz (Poland) -
-  India's won 3 silver medals - Bajrang (65 kg Men's Freestyle), Vinod Omprakash Kumar (70 kg Men's Freestyle), Ritu Phogat (Women's 48 kg Freestyle)
114. ▶ Wrestler Sushil Kumar and Boxer Mary C. Kom resigned as *National Sports Observers*.
115. ▶ Yonex French Open Badminton 2017 -
-  Men's Singles - **Kidambi Srikanth (India)**, by defeating Japan's Kenta Nishimoto.
  -  Women's Doubles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)
  -  Men's Doubles - Lee Jhe-huei AND Taipei Lee Yang (Chinese Taipei)
  -  Women's Doubles - Greysia Polii AND Apriyani Rahayu (Indonesia)
116. ▶ Youth World Archery Championship in Rosario (Argentina) -
-  Medal table -



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

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

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