



Current Affairs - October to December 2017

Month Type



- ▶ **311** Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - **International**

International

- ▶ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) become first Indian Oil Marketing Company (OMC) to enter lubricant market in Myanmar.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 2017 World Solar Challenge (solar car race) began from Darwin (Australia). In this race, 42 solar cars will cover a distance of 3,000 kms from Northern Australian city of Darwin to southern city of Adelaide.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 3rd Protocol for amendment of Convention between India and New Zealand for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income has been notified.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 70 Indian words were added to Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in September 2017. Example words are - *Dadagiri, Jugaad, Surya Namaskar* etc. and few other regional language words.
- ▶ *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.
- ▶ *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.
- ▶ *The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017* (149 countries) -
 - ▶ India ranks 100th in this list of prosperity.
 - ▶ Top 5 - Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden.

12. ▶ *Transport for London* has been given 2017 *Bad Grammar Award* by Idler Academy in Britain, to highlight *the incorrect use of English by people and institutions who should know better*.
13. ▶ A Sweden-India 'Startup Sambandh' initiative has been launched by Invest India and Founders Alliance in Sweden for higher cooperation among start-ups.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ 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'.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ According to global climate risk index (CRI) report by Germanwatch -
 - ▶ India is sixth most vulnerable country in world in terms of facing extreme weather events, after Haiti, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft launched open-source and deep learning interface *Glue* 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.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ American electric Carmaker TESLA has built 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.
28. ▶ American tech Firm Cisco Systems acquired American communication software and service provider BroadSoft for \$1.9 billion.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ As per *Peer Review* report by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - ▶ India slipped from a rating of 'compliant' to an overall rating of 'largely compliant' in meeting international standards for exchange of tax information.

It suggests that Indian tax authorities should ensure the quality of the exchange of information (EoI) requests sent to foreign tax authorities and should carry out efficient communication with its EoI partners for all cases.

31. ▶ As per Asian tourism market research firm Euromonitor International -

Hong Kong remained world's most visited city by international travelers in 2017 with over 2.5 Crore Arrivals, despite strained relations with neighboring China.

32. ▶ 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

33. ▶ 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.

34. ▶ As per Online Streaming Platform Netflix, Indians are 2nd highest Binge watchers (89 %), just behind Mexico (89 %).

Binge Watching Means watching multiple episodes of a television programme in rapid succession.

35. ▶ 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, followed by Delhi and Karnataka.

36. ▶ As per Thomson Reuters Foundation - Delhi ranked fourth in terms of women safety, among 19 assessed megacities of over 1 crore population. Japan's capital Tokyo emerged as safest city in terms of risk of sexual harassment.

37. ▶ As per UN report *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality 2017* -

India is among 5 countries (including Pakistan, Nigeria, Congo and Ethiopia) that are responsible for half of all new-born deaths in world, with approx 5 Million children dying before reaching age of 5 in 2016.

Also, With 2.51 million deaths in 2015, India is at top in pollution related deaths, according to a report by The Lancet Commission on pollution and health. China follows India with 1.8 Million Pollution Victims.

38. ▶ As per a Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) Report -

Bengaluru is best host among 45 cities worldwide in terms of highest confidence in their digital environment based on people and skills, financial environment, innovation and entrepreneurship and new technology development.

San Francisco (USA) is second followed by Mumbai and New Delhi.

39. ▶ As per a report by *UN Women and the UN Development Programme (UNDP)*, Latin America and Caribbean is most violent region in world for women.

40. ▶ 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).

41. ▶ 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.

42. ▶ 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*.

43. ▶ 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.

44. ▶ 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.

45. ▶ 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.


46. ▶ Australia became 25th country to recognize same-sex marriage as it passed a bill that changed a 2004 law that stipulated a legal marriage as the one between a man and a woman.

47. ▶ 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).
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ Bangladesh and Myanmar signed MOU on return of Rohingya Muslims who fled the Rakhine state in Myanmar to escape a military crackdown.
54. ▶ Bangladesh and USA Armies held Joint Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka.
55. ▶ Bank of China formally launched its operations in Pakistan by opening its first branch in Karachi.
56. ▶ Belgium became first country to send a female ambassador (Dominique Mineur) to Saudi Arabia.
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ 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).
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ Bharti Airtel signed agreement with Millicom International, under which *Airtel Rwanda Ltd* will acquire 100% equity in Tigo Rwanda Ltd.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ Bilateral meetings -
 - ▶ India-US Ocean Dialogue hosted by Ministry of External Affairs at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO) in Goa.
 - ▶ 4th Indo - US Joint Working Group on Aircraft Carrier Technology Cooperation (JWGACTC) held in Goa. Possibilities of using USA's catapult-based aircraft launch mechanism (CATOBAR) for India's 2nd indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-II) have been discussed.
63. ▶ 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'.
64. ▶ Cab Aggregator Uber approved SoftBank Group Corp.'s offer to buy a multibillion-dollar stake in UBER. It will let SoftBank and other firms to invest up to \$1 billion in Uber.
65. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -
 - ▶ Trade Agreement with Ethiopia for strengthening and promoting trade and economic cooperation.
 - ▶ Agreement with Armenia on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters.
66. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✍ MOU with Switzerland for technical co-operation in Rail sector.
 - ✍ Approval of Extradition Treaty with Lithuania, to provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to Lithuania.
 - ✍ MoU for upgradation of Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin (Myanmar).
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ 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).
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ 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.
71. ▶ China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) launched Algeria's first telecommunications satellite, Alcomsat-1, aboard a Long March 3B rocket.
72. ▶ China approved making disrespect of national anthem a criminal offense punishable by up to three years in prison.
73. ▶ China has shut down its legal government-sanctioned ivory (*elephant teeth*) trade.
74. ▶ 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.
75. ▶ China launched BeiDou-3 M1 and BeiDou-3 M2 Navigation satellites on board Long March-3B rocket.
76. ▶ 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).
77. ▶ 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.
78. ▶ China opened a 409-km new expressway linking Tibet's provincial capital Lhasa with Nyingchi, which is close to Arunachal Pradesh border. It has been built at a cost of nearly \$5.8 billion.
79. ▶ 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.
80. ▶ 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.
81. ▶ 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.
82. ▶ China will develop national carbon market as world's biggest trading system for climate-warming emissions, initially involving only power sector. China is biggest emitter with 3 billion metric tons of emissions annually.
83. ▶ 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.
84. ▶ China's Shanghai will have first Tesla Electric Car factory outside USA. Tesla is headed by Noted Entrepreneur Elon Musk.
85. ▶ 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).
86. ▶ 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)

87. ▶ Cross Border Train Service between India & Bangladesh, Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express has been inaugurated.
88. ▶ Delhi Government signed twin city agreement with Seoul (South Korea), to strengthen cooperation i fields of smart city, e-governance, climate change and transportation.
89. ▶ 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.
90. ▶ Dubai police officers set a Guinness World Record by pulling the world's largest passenger airliner Airbus A380 for a distance of 100 metres.
 - ✍ Plane that weighs 3.02 lakh kg was dragged by 56 police officers to break previous record set by 100 people who pulled a 2.18-lakh kg airplane at Hong Kong International Airport in 2011.
91. ▶ E-commerce Major Amazon acquired a startup named Blink that builds wireless home security systems.
92. ▶ East African country Zimbabwe banned import of fruits and vegetables to preserve scarce foreign currencies.
93. ▶ 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.
94. ▶ 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.
95. ▶ 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.
96. ▶ 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.
97. ▶ Extremism Affected Nation Syria signed Paris Agreement on climate change, leaving USA as only one left to sign this global climate pact.
98. ▶ Facebook Launched new tools (*called Facebook Creator App*) for video creators to join its platform *Watch* in an attempt to take on Google-owned YouTube. It will help creating original video, go live with exclusive features and connect with their community on Facebook.
99. ▶ Fifteen countries elected to UN Human Rights Council by UN General Assembly Including Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan. They will serve a three-year term from January 1, 2018.
100. ▶ 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.
101. ▶ Financial Services Commission of Mauritius opened its representative office in Mumbai, to strengthen its partnership with its Indian counterparts in capacity building, financial literacy and exchange of expertise.
102. ▶ First Meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee (JSC) held in New Delhi.
103. ▶ 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.
104. ▶ 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.
105. ▶ 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.
106. ▶ 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.
107. ▶ Forbes Magazine has named former Tesco supermarket worker Dan Middleton (UK) as world's richest YouTuber after he made a fortune of \$16.5 million this year. He shares videos of himself playing video games and describes gameplay and strategies on his YouTube channel, DanTDM.
108. ▶ Forbes annual list of the highest-paid musicians -
 - ✍ Top 3 -
 - ✍ Diddy (\$130m) (USA)

 Beyonce (\$105m) (USA)

 Drake (\$94m) (Canada)

109. ▶ Forbes list of top-earning dead celebrities -

 Michael Jackson remained at top for 5th straight year, with \$75 million earnings.

 Golf legend Arnold Palmer claims No. 2 spot with \$40 million and Peanuts creator Charles Schulz ranks third with \$38 million income.

110. ▶ Forbes' Highest Paid Models List 2017 -


 American model Kendall Jenner remained at top with earnings \$22 million, followed by Gisele (\$17.5 million).

111. ▶ 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).

112. ▶ 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).

113. ▶ Forbes' Top Grossing actors 2017 -

 American Actor Vin Diesel is at top with \$1.6 billion in global ticketing receipts from his film 'The Fate of the Furious'.

 Second spot was occupied by Dwayne Johnson with \$1.5 billion receipts.


 Wonder Woman actress Gal Gadot's films earned \$1.4 billion worldwide, ranking her third.

114. ▶ 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.

115. ▶ 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.

116. ▶ 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)

117. ▶ 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.

118. ▶ French Govt. approved banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within country and its overseas territories.


119. ▶ 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.

120. ▶ Germany Based It Firm *itelligence* acquired Hyderabad-based SAP services provider named vCentric Technologies.

121. ▶ 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.


122. ▶ 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)

123. ▶ 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.

124. ▶ 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.

125. ▶ Google will open a research lab focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Beijing (China), its first such centre in Asia.
126. ▶ 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.
127. ▶ 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.
128. ▶ 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.
129. ▶ 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.
130. ▶ 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.
131. ▶ 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.
132. ▶ 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.
133. ▶ 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).
134. ▶ Hurricane Nate has hit Louisiana (USA) with maximum wind speed of 137 kilometres per hour.
135. ▶ 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.
136. ▶ 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.
137. ▶ 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.
138. ▶ 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.
139. ▶ India and Russia will implement visa free entry of crew of chartered and scheduled flights between two countries.
140. ▶ India and South Africa will jointly work for tracing evolution of galaxies as India is participating in multi-nation Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project. SKA is a large multi radio telescope project planned to be built in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

141. ▶ 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.
142. ▶ 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.
143. ▶ India donated 500 metric tonnes of rice to Kingdom of Lesotho, in Southern Africa, which is facing acute food shortage due to famine.
144. ▶ 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).
145. ▶ 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.
146. ▶ 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.
147. ▶ 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).
148. ▶ India provided medical assistance worth approx \$1 million to Yemen, in response to a request from Yemeni government amid current turbulence there.
149. ▶ 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.
150. ▶ 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.
151. ▶ 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.
152. ▶ India will link its major highway corridors to international trade points to facilitate trade with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. About 2000 kms of highways will be constructed under this project, as part of Government’s Bharatmala Project. Cost for construction of these highways is approx INR 25000 crores.
153. ▶ 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).
154. ▶ 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.
155. ▶ 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.
156. ▶ 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.
157. ▶ 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.
158. ▶ 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.

159. ▶ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind visited African Nations Djibouti and Ethiopia as his first Foreign Visit.
160. ▶ 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.
161. ▶ 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.
162. ▶ India's Ambani family topped Forbes list of Asia's Richest Families for first time with a net worth of \$44.8 billion, up \$19 billion from previous year. 2nd is South Korea's Lee family (\$40.8 billion) and Hong Kong's Kwok family (\$40.4 billion).
163. ▶ 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.
164. ▶ 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.
165. ▶ International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts Coal Power Production to rise in India @ 4% annually by 2022, due to growing fleet of coal power plants and strong power demand. IEA earlier also Predicted India's Renewable energy capacity to get doubled by 2022.
166. ▶ 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.
167. ▶ International Monetary Fund approved USD 88 billion credit line for Mexico, replacing existing line of credit.
168. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended its Brazilian arm and Honorary Membership of head of Brazil's Olympic committee Carlos Nuzman, amid proven corruption allegations.
169. ▶ 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.
170. ▶ 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.
171. ▶ 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.
172. ▶ Iran opened its first museum dedicated to Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, a solo female artist who has garnered widespread international attention during decades of exile. The museum displays 51 works of her, including her signature mirror mosaics.
173. ▶ 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.
174. ▶ 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.
175. ▶ 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.

176. ▶ Israel eased up visa application procedures for Indian tourists, to encourage more visitors from India.
177. ▶ Israeli Consulate in Bengaluru launched Israel Centre at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) to mark 25 years of India-Israel partnership.
178. ▶ JLL Report on Expensive Office Locations -
 - ✎ Delhi is Ranked as 7th most expensive in world, with Mumbai at 16th position.
 - ✎ Top 5 - Hong Kong, London (West), New York, Beijing, Tokyo.
179. ▶ 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.
180. ▶ Japan approved Aid of Approx 73 Crores INR for Implementation of Advanced Traffic Information and Management System in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
181. ▶ 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.
182. ▶ Japan will relax its visa rules for Indians from 1 January, 2018 and will issue multiple- entry-visa for short-term stay. It will benefit tourists, business persons and repeat visitors.
183. ▶ 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.
184. ▶ Jet Airways and Air France-KLM partnered to route more traffic through Europe and on to North America.
185. ▶ Lebanon's parliament approved country's first budget in 12 years, to reform fragile economy and prevent rising debt.
 - ✎ Political crisis gripped Lebanon since the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in 2005, thereby preventing successive government from passing the budget.
186. ▶ Mass attacks of ransomware called Bad Rabbit were observed recently in Russia. It also flight delays at Odessa airport in Ukraine and disrupted electronic payments in Kiev metro.
187. ▶ 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.
188. ▶ Middle Eastern Mainstream airline Qatar Airways acquired 49 % stake in Italian Airline AQA Holdings.
189. ▶ Morocco launched an earth observation satellite called 'Mohammed VI-A', aboard European consortium Arianespace's Vega rocket from French Guyana Space Centre.
190. ▶ Mount Agung, a volcano In Bali (Indonesia) erupted for the first time in over 54 years.
191. ▶ 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.
192. ▶ NASA's flying observatory Sofia will be observing celestial magnetic fields, star-forming regions, comets and Saturn's giant moon Titan, as part of observing campaign 2018. Sofia is a modified Boeing 747SP jetliner which carries a 100-inch diameter telescope.
193. ▶ 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.
194. ▶ National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) signed MoU with Finland's Fortum Oyj for developing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in upcoming development projects in India.
195. ▶ 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.
196. ▶ Nepal and India will conduct joint head tigers count in protected areas along border in November 2017, using a similar camera tapping method.
197. ▶ 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.
198. ▶ Nepal inaugurated a bridge built with India's financial assistance of USD 430,626 (Approx 2.4 Crore Indian Rupees) on Kaligandaki river near China border. It provides motorable connectivity to people of Mustang and also benefits pilgrims visiting famous Muktinath temple.
199. ▶ Nepal rejected India's offer to jointly re-measure the height of Mount Everest (world's highest peak), following massive earthquake in 2015 and will carry out the measurement exercise on its own.
200. ▶ 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.

201. ▶ 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.
202. ▶ ONGC Videsh Ltd (overseas arm of ONGC) acquired 30 % interest in Namibian Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) 37, from UK's Tullow Oil.
203. ▶ 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.
204. ▶ 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.
205. ▶ 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.
206. ▶ 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.
207. ▶ 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.
208. ▶ 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 second worst (93rd).
209. ▶ Peru Government authorized medicinal and therapeutic use of cannabis (marijuana) in country, becoming sixth Latin American country to legalise cannabis.
210. ▶ Philippines suspended use of a landmark vaccine for potentially deadly dengue virus after its French manufacturer Sanofi warned it could worsen the disease for people who had not previously been infected.
211. ▶ 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.
212. ▶ Property consultant Cushman & Wakefield's 'Office Space Across World 2017' report -
- ▶ Delhi-NCR is 84th most expensive office location in world. Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), which ranked 163rd in list is second most expensive location in India.
 - ▶ List is topped by Hong Kong, followed by London and Tokyo.
213. ▶ Qatar appointed four women to Shura Council, one of its most important consultative bodies, for the first time in Nation's history.
214. ▶ 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.
215. ▶ 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).

216. ▶ Report by Cushman & Wakefield -

- 🔗 Delhi's Khan Market is most expensive retail location in India and 24th most expensive retail location across the world, ranked 11th in Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
- 🔗 Global ranking is topped by Upper 5th Avenue in New York, followed by Hong Kong's Causeway Bay and London's Bond Street.

217. ▶ 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.

218. ▶ Report by professional Network LinkedIn -

- 🔗 India is second largest market for global pharmaceuticals and biotechnology workforce industry, with 13.7 % contribution.

219. ▶ 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.

220. ▶ 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.

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

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

223. ▶ 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.

224. ▶ 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.

225. ▶ SAP launched Asia Pacific Japan (APJ) region's first SAP Leonardo Center in Bengaluru and fourth SAP Leonardo Center globally. Its a go-to place for SAP's ecosystem for digital inspiration and co-innovation.

226. ▶ SS Athenia, first British ship to be sunk during Second World War has been found in Ireland. SS Athenia was sunk by German submarine during World War II in 1939.

- 🔗 Also, Britain-based shipwreck hunter found maritime astrolabe, a navigation tool that guided Portuguese explorers on perilous voyage to India in 16th century. It has been confirmed as world's oldest astrolabe.

227. ▶ Sarajevo Haggadah, 14th- century richly illuminated Hebrew manuscript, has been included in UNESCO's Memory of World Register. Sarajevo Haggadah has been kept at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1894, after being brought to Sarajevo through efforts of Jews fleeing persecution in Spain.

228. ▶ Saudi Arabia Government announced that women will now be able to attend sports events in stadiums starting from 2018. It is aimed at empowering and engaging women in society as an integral part of development process.




229. ▶ 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.




230. ▶ Saudi Arabia hosted world chess tournament for the first time, named named as the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships, nearly two years after It's top cleric issued a religious edict against Chess.
- ✎ India's Viswanathan Anand won bronze in this Championship in Riyadh. Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won the tournament and Russia's Sergey Karjakin secured second spot.
231. ▶ Saudi Arabia lifted 35 year old ban on providing licenses to commercial movie theatres, aimed at economic growth and diversification.
232. ▶ 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.
233. ▶ Saudi Arabian government approved practice of yoga as a sports activity. Yoga can now be freely practiced as a sport in Saudi Arabia.
234. ▶ Scientists developed new military watch for Russian army kit, which is capable of resisting high impact and can even survive a nuclear explosion.
235. ▶ 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.
236. ▶ Singapore launched its first large-scale electric car-sharing programme to provide commuters with more transport options and steer them away from need to buy their own cars, to be run for a decade by BlueSG.
237. ▶ 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.
238. ▶ South Korea banned its financial institutions from dealing in virtual currencies including Bitcoin, in wake of recent surge in Bitcoin price.
239. ▶ South Korean and USA air forces held *Vigilant Ace* joint exercises.
240. ▶ 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.
241. ▶ 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.
242. ▶ 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.
243. ▶ 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.
244. ▶ Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissioned Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) SURAKSHA gifted by India at Colombo port, as first OPV of Sri Lankan Coast Guard.
245. ▶ 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.
246. ▶ Tech Firm Apple acquired music recognition app Shazam, for approx \$400 million.
247. ▶ 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.
248. ▶ 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.
249. ▶ 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)

250. ▶ 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.
251. ▶ Travel publication *Travel+Leisure* named Canada as *destination of the year*, based on data from polls conducted on travel agents, arrival statistics and cultural relevance for 2017.
252. ▶ 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.
253. ▶ Turkey opened its largest military base in Africa, in Mogadishu (capital of Somalia) to train Somali Soldiers.
254. ▶ 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.
255. ▶ Typhoon Damrey hits Vietnam as strongest cyclone in Vietnam in 16 years.
256. ▶ Typhoon Tembin struck Philippines, causing huge human and financial losses.
257. ▶ 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.
258. ▶ UAE, UK, US and French armies participated in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi (UAE), named as *Flag4*.
259. ▶ 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.
260. ▶ 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.
261. ▶ 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*.
262. ▶ UNESCO recognized artisans of Panama Hats for their distinctive woven hats. Panam hats are a traditional brimmed straw hat of Ecuadorian origin.
263. ▶ 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.
264. ▶ 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.
265. ▶ US Consulate General, Kolkata launched *Youth for Business-Y4BIZ*, a support programme for young entrepreneurs in eastern region of India.
266. ▶ 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*.
267. ▶ 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.
268. ▶ US-backed Iraqi forces reclaimed town of Rawa from terrorist organization Islamic State (ISIS).
269. ▶ USA Congress authorised \$700 million in Coalition Support Fund (CSF) to reimburse Pakistan for activities carried out in support of US operations in Afghanistan.
270. ▶ 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.

271. ▶ USA President Donald Trump signed into law a sweeping 1.5 trillion dollars overhaul of US tax code, set to impact USA economy through dramatic tax cuts for corporations and temporary reductions for individuals.
272. ▶ 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.
273. ▶ USA and Israel withdrew from UNESCO, accusing UNESCO of "anti-Israel bias".
274. ▶ USA announced grant of nearly USD 500,000 for organisations that work to promote religious freedom in India and Sri Lanka.
275. ▶ 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.
276. ▶ USA as approved \$1.1 billion contract to service Qatar's F-15 fighter jets despite diplomatic stand-off between Gulf emirate and its neighbours.
277. ▶ USA initiated placing antidumping duty investigations against import of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) resin from India and China.
 - ✎ Anti-dumping measures are taken to ensure fair trade and provide a level-playing field to domestic industry.
278. ▶ 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.
279. ▶ USA resumed normal visa services for Turkish citizens, saying Turkish authorities fulfilled assurances no local staff would be detained or arrested for performing their duties.
280. ▶ 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
281. ▶ USA withdrawn itself from a United Nations pact to improve handling of migrant and refugee situations deeming it 'inconsistent' with policies.
282. ▶ 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.
283. ▶ Uber partnered with NASA to work on Project *UberAir*, aimed at launching flying taxis by 2023. Los Angeles will join previous Cities including Dallas Fort-Worth, Texas, and Dubai.
284. ▶ 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.
285. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched its first space programme aimed at sending four Emirati astronauts to International Space Station within 5 years.
286. ▶ 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.
287. ▶ 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.
288. ▶ 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.
289. ▶ United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) released report *State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World*. UNICEF pointed out that despite massive online presence of children, very little is done to protect them from digital threats.
290. ▶ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched 2017 State of World Population report in London (UK) with name *Worlds Apart: Reproductive Health and Rights in an Age of Inequality*. As per report, economic inequality goes hand in hand with inequality in

reproductive health.

291. ▶ 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.
292. ▶ 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.
293. ▶ 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.
294. ▶ 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.*
295. ▶ 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.
296. ▶ World Bank will end its financial support for oil and gas exploration after 2019, in response to growing threat posed to climate change.
297. ▶ 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)
298. ▶ 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 Afirca (19)
 - ▶ Neighbours - Bangladesh (47), Sri Lanka (109), Nepal (111), Pakistan (143)
299. ▶ 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.
300. ▶ World Health Organisation Central African Nation Gabon as *Polio-free*.
301. ▶ 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.
302. ▶ World Migration Report 2018 by *UN International Organisation for Migration* -
 - ▶ Indian diaspora is the largest in world, with 1.5 crore Indias 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.
303. ▶ 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.
304. ▶ 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.
305. ▶ 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.

306. ▶ World's 3rd Largest Book Fair, Sharjah International Book Fair opened in UAE with theme *A World in My Book*. It has over 1.5 million book titles and 1,650 publishing houses from 60 countries.
307. ▶ World's first camel hospital opened in Dubai (UAE).
308. ▶ 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).
309. ▶ 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.
310. ▶ 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.
311. ▶ Zimbabwe's military seized control of nation by placing longtime leader Robert Mugabe under house arrest.

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