



### Current Affairs - October to December 2017

Month  Type



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#### National

- ▶ Government also asked Odisha government to enhance its rural road construction target under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from 7,000 km to 10,000 km during the current fiscal year.
- ▶ 1.5-mw small hydropower plant in Biaras Drass of Kargil became first project to be commissioned under *Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative (LREI)*, developed at cost of approx INR 17 crores.
- ▶ 10 Days long Traditional festival of Losar celebrated in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir to mark beginning of New Year in this Himalayan region.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 2 day *International Conference on Yoga for Wellness* held in New Delhi. It is 3rd International Conference on Yoga.
- ▶ 2 day Korea festival showcasing Korea's rich art, culture and heritage held by Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) in Gurugram (Haryana).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 20th October 2017 - Gujarati New Year 2017. It is celebrated a day after Diwali and is also called Bestu Varas.
- ▶ 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival will be organized in November 2017 in Shillong (Meghalaya).
- ▶ 2nd Iranshah Udvada Utsav, a Parsi cultural festival organized in Gujarat.
- ▶ 3-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'
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 400 out of approx 13,000 industrial training institutes (ITIs) have been de-affiliated by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, on basis of quality inspection of these institutes. It was revealed that they didn't have requisite infrastructure and trainers for imparting vocational training to students.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 5 day annual Konark dance festival started in Odisha, near famous Sun Temple of Konark.
- ▶ 5th *Tawang* festival organized at Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh).
- ▶ 5th India Water Week (IWW) organized with theme *Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth* in New Delhi.

18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 6th Global Kokan Festival will be held at Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) in January 2018.
20. ▶ 7 commodities have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) this year by Indian patent office - Banaganapalle mangoes (Andhra Pradesh), Tulaipanji rice (West Bengal), Pochampally Ikat (Telangana), Gobindobhog rice (West Bengal), Durgi stone carvings and Etikoppaka toys (Andhra Pradesh) and Chakshesang shawl (Nagaland).
  - ✎ Geographical Indication is given to agricultural, natural or manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a geographical territory for 10 years at a time.
21. ▶ *AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017* held at Panaji (Goa).
22. ▶ *Modi Kaka Ka Gaon*, Hindi film inspired by PM Narendra Modi has been released, directed by Tushar A. Goel.
23. ▶ *No helmet, no petrol* campaign came into force in Andhra Pradesh, with CM Chandrababu Naidu allocating INR 10 crores for equipment to implement it.
24. ▶ *Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017* held in Ahmadabad (Gujarat), India's 1st World Heritage City.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ A Grand Memorial dedicated to PM Narendra Modi will be built in Sardhana (Meerut district) of Uttar Pradesh at a cost of 30 Crores INR. It will include 100-foot statue of PM Modi.
27. ▶ Adivasi Mahotsav 2017 held in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) to display diverse tribal traditions of state.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ Adobe will integrate Aadhaar-based authentication in its e-signature solution *Adobe Sign*, aimed at leveraging growth in market for e-signatures in India that is growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 57 %. Adobe Sign aimed at helping organizations to eliminate their dependency on wet signatures and allow digital validation of users' legal identity.
30. ▶ Air India Express obtained Category III-B certification from Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), enabling it to land and takeoff in low visibility conditions up to an RVR (runway visual range) as low as up to 50 meters.
  - ✎ Air India also commissioned its first ATR simulator 'ATR 72-600 full-flight simulator (FFS)' at its Central Training Establishment (CTE) in Hyderabad.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ An MoU signed between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Rotary India, to accelerate Polio Eradication Programme, Routine Immunization including Mission Indradhanush, Intensified Mission Indradhanush.
33. ▶ An MoU signed by Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya under 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' programme, to boost cultural ties.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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.
36. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government laid foundation stone for TU142M aircraft museum in Visakhapatnam. Russian aircraft TU142M was decommissioned at INS Rajali in Tamil Nadu after 29 years service.
37. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. banned festivities and special darshans at temples at occasion of New Year 2018.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.

41. ▶ Annual Tribal cultural Festival Odisha - Parab-2017, held in Koraput.
42. ▶ Annual 'Balijatra' festival held in Odisha on banks of river Mahanadi.
43. ▶ Apple Music will set up two Mac Labs at AR Rahman-backed KM Music Conservatories (KMMC) based in Chennai and upcoming campus in Mumbai. Mac Labs will teach students how to create music using Logic Pro X, Apple's professional music creation app for Mac.
44. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly approved creation of a new district - *Kamle*, as 23rd district of state.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ As part of the Ekam Yatra, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Chauhan flagged off *Adi Shakara Sandesh Vahini* mobile museum in Kochi (Kerala), showcasing various aspects of the life of Adi Shankaracharya, an early 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian who consolidated doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.
47. ▶ 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.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ 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 %.
50. ▶ As per National Family Health Survey, percentage of women married before legal age has reduced from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 26.8% in 2014-15. Further, as per analysis of Census 2011 data by NCPDR, 'nil' marriages were reported in the age group of 0-9 years for both boys and girls.
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ 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).
54. ▶ As per statement submitted by Central Government to Supreme Court, Aadhaar-Mobile SIM linking should be completed by February 6, 2018.
55. ▶ As per 'India State-level Disease Burden Initiative Report' prepared by *ICMR, Public Health Foundation of India and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation* - child and maternal malnutrition were responsible for 15 % of total disease burden in 2016 across India.
56. ▶ 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>
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ Assam State Government and Isha Foundation signed MOU for rejuvenation and conservation of rivers. Isha Foundation is led by spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ 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.
61. ▶ 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.
- 62. ▶ 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.
- 63. ▶ 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.
- 64. ▶ Bengaluru joined 91 cities across the globe in *Datacity* programme to collate data on climate change, that was launched in Paris in 2015 to develop data which can help resolve climate challenges. Bengaluru joined this network by signing an MoU with French Implementation firm NUMA.
- 65. ▶ 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.
- 66. ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar laid foundation stones for over 100 projects worth INR 700 crores in Nalanda district as part of his state-wide *Vikas Samiksha Yatra*.
- 67. ▶ Bihar Government approved *Safe City Surveillance* scheme for curbing eve-teasing, harassment and other crimes against women at public places.
- 68. ▶ 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.
- 69. ▶ Bihar Government will set up *State Ayush Society* to promote usage of alternative medicine in state.
- 70. ▶ 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.
- 71. ▶ Brand Trust Report India Study 2017 ranked Patanjali as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand and most attractive brand.
- 72. ▶ Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) procured six eco-friendly, battery-operated buses at a cost of Rs.10 crore, aimed at reducing air and noise pollution in Mumbai.
- 73. ▶ CVC (Central Vigilance Commission) Observed 30-10-2017 to 04-11-2017 as Vigilance Awareness Week 2017, to promote transparency and probity in public governance. During This, EPFO organized a national seminar on *Fraud Risk Management – The New Initiatives* in New Delhi.
- 74. ▶ 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.
- 75. ▶ 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.

76. ▶ 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.

77. ▶ 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.

78. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -



























- MoU with Italy for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
  - Investment cooperation and facilitation treaty with Brazil.
79. ▶ 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.
80. ▶ 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.
81. ▶ Car Manufacturers Toyota and Suzuki partnered to develop electric cars in India and make it commercially available by 2020.
- Cab Aggregator Uber also partnered with Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) to add electric vehicles on its platform in India.
82. ▶ Central Government approved assistance of INR 10,000 crores to fund 107 irrigation projects in drought-hit Vidarbha and Maratha regions of Maharashtra.
83. ▶ 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.
84. ▶ Central Government asked each state to name toilets in their rural households as *izzat ghar*, or to use a phrase in regional language equivalent to *house of dignity*.
85. ▶ 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.
86. ▶ Central Government sanctioned INR 275 crores for establishing a Global Centre for Security and Counter-Terrorism in Jaipur (Rajasthan).
  87. ▶ 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.
  88. ▶ Central Government will set up 12 special courts to deal exclusively with criminal cases against 1581 Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
  89. ▶ 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.
  90. ▶ Central PSU NHPC will set up 100-200 Mw capacity solar project in Odisha, expressing interest in Odisha Government's upcoming 1000 Mw solar park programme.
  91. ▶ Central Water Commission (CWC) has signed MoUs with IIT Roorkee and MNNIT Allahabad to support dam rehabilitation efforts of various implementing agencies and CWC.
  92. ▶ 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.
  93. ▶ 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.
  94. ▶ 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.
  95. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government flagged-off 'Cancer diagnosis Ambulance', fitted with ultra-advanced equipment to detect cancer. Patients will be treated free-of-cost.
  96. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government imposed ban on bursting of firecrackers in six of its cities - Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai, Durg, Raigarh and Korba.
  97. ▶ 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.
  98. ▶ Chhattisgarh government sbanned use of chlorinated plastic and Polyvinyl Chloride -PVC, to conserve and improve environment.
  99. ▶ Coffee output in India stayed at record 3.50 lakh tonnes in 2017-18, compared to 3.12 lakh tonnes in 2016-17.
  100. ▶ 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.
  101. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) penalized Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for INR 52 Crores for Anti-Competitive conduct through abusing dominant position in sport for imposing restriction that deny access to market for organization of Professional Domestic Cricket League/ Events.
  102. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a start-up incubation center called Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning (CEOL) in Mangaluru (Karnataka).
  103. ▶ 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.
  104. ▶ 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.
  105. ▶ Delhi Government will form *Mahila Suraksha Dals* in each district of (women protection groups) to curb crimes against women in the national capital.
  106. ▶ Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal approved Delhi government's students higher education loan scheme that provides loans to students for higher education, even if they didn't have any property as security. It was blocked earlier and now has been marked by LG as

implementable.

107. ▶ Delhi government launched mobile app to connect over 16, 000 members of School Management Committees (SMCs), to make process more transparent.
108. ▶ Delhi government will launch accident victim policy which will cover all hospital expenses of victims of road accidents, acid attacks or burns. There is no upper limit on the cost of treatment and all victims irrespective of residence, and even foreigners will get free treatment in any Delhi hospital, if accident happens in Delhi.
109. ▶ Delhi government will re-introduce odd-even scheme on a trial basis between Nov 13 - 17, 2017, in view of severe pollution levels in Delhi-NCR.
110. ▶ Delta Corp Limited have set up first casino game training course centre in India, at Goa.
111. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) signed agreement with Anna University to establish India's 2nd Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR) in Anna University, Under World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.
  - ▶ TISC aims to stimulate a dynamic and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development.
  - ▶ India's First Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) has been set up at Patent Information Centre (Punjab).
112. ▶ Development of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh) along with a River Biodiversity Park at Sangam has been approved under Namami Gange programme, to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures.
113. ▶ 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.
114. ▶ Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a MoU for facilitating supply of sand for highways construction work, to fill sand supply gap by facilitating the availability of sand for concessionaires working on highways projects.
115. ▶ 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.
116. ▶ Election Commission has set up a panel to suggest amendments to Section 126 of Representation of People Act and Model Code of Conduct (MCC) barring campaigning, 48 hours ahead of polling. It is done after several violations of this code of conduct ahead Gujarat elections.
117. ▶ 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.
118. ▶ Environment Ministry allowed NGT Chairperson to *constitute a single-member bench* in "exceptional circumstances, amended National Green Tribunal (Practices and Procedure) Rules 2011.
119. ▶ Environment Ministry approved regional project on *Climate Resilience Building among Farmers through Crop Residue Management* under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), to mitigate climate change impacts and counter adverse environmental impacts arising from stubble burning.
120. ▶ Environment ministry launched pilot project 'Blue Flag, to enhance standards of cleanliness on beaches.
121. ▶ FY 2017 - 18 Winter Session passed Bills -
  - ▶ Lok Sabha Passed Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill 2017, that seeks to amend Central Road Fund Act 2000.
    - ▶ Under CRF Act 2000, cess levied and collected on high speed petrol and diesel is distributed for development of rural roads, national highways, railways, state roads and border area roads.
    - ▶ CRF (Amendment) Bill 2017 seeks to allocate 2.5 % of funds collected to accelerate development and maintenance of national waterways by reducing equal percentage from share of national highways. It aims at generating INR 2300 crore revenue for national waterways.
  - ▶ Parliament passed Companies (Amendment) Bill 2017 to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies and help improve ease of doing business. Bill provides for over 40 amendments to Companies Act 2013.
  - ▶ Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill 2017, to declare IIMs as institutions of national importance and extend greater autonomy to them, by restricting government's role in their functioning.
  - ▶ Lok Sabha passed Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill 2017, to make it easier for government to acquire immovable property for "national security and defence purpose". It amends Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act 1952 and changes rules for payment of compensation.












- ▶  Rajya Sabha passed *Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IPE) Bill 2017*, to establish IPE Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) as an institution of national importance. It aims to provide high quality education and research focussing on all aspects and themes of petroleum, hydrocarbons and energy. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha Earlier.
- ▶  Lok Sabha passed Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill 2017, amending GST (Compensation to States) Act 2017 and replaces an Ordinance promulgated in Sep 2017. The amendment increases maximum rate at which Compensation Cess can be levied from 15 to 25% on motor vehicle for transport of not more than 13 persons (mostly luxury vehicles).
- ▶  Parliament passed National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Amendment Bill 2017, to amend National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act 2011. It extends deadline for relocating slum dwellers and Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters, regulating street vendors, unauthorised colonies in Delhi and calls for creating policy for farm houses constructed beyond permissible limits.
- ▶  Lok Sabha passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill 2017 declaring instant triple talaq illegal and criminalises it with up to three years in jail for husband. Bill will now will be sent to Rajya Sabha for passage.
- ▶  Lok Sabha passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2017 to pave way for tightening loopholes in existing code and to make resolution process more effective. It Bill amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016. Main Features Include -
  - ▶  It Bill prohibits certain persons from submitting a resolution plan in case of defaults.
  - ▶  A penalty of minimum Rs 1 lakh and maximum Rs 2 crore has been proposed for contravening any of the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
  - ▶  It allows asset reconstruction companies, banks and alternative investment funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India to bid for insolvent companies.
- 122. ▶ Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI) launched *Manyata* as a nationwide movement emphasising the need for quality care for mothers during and immediately after childbirth.
- 123. ▶ First Namami Barak festival held at Silchar in Assam, to pay tribute to River Barak and to showcase its potential to emerge as hub of trade and commerce.
  - ▶  Assam government also inaugurated its air ambulance services for people, equipped with emergency medical equipment to take care of patients.
- 124. ▶ First phase of national optic fibre network Project called *Bharat Net* will be completed by December 2017, providing internet access (2 to 20 Mbps speed) to 100,000 gram panchayats. It was announced in 'i-Bharat 2017' conference organised by FICCI in New Delhi.
  - ▶  BharatNet is Government's ambitious rural internet connectivity programme which is implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL). It is world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre.
- 125. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked companies to put in place a proper plan to recall food products from markets, if found unsafe.
- 126. ▶ Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) has been declared as an *Institute of National Importance* under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, by virtue of Footwear Design & Development Institute Act 2017.
  - ▶  FDDI can now award degrees and will now have autonomy to design its courses as per the requirement of the industry.
  - ▶  Presently, FDDI imparts skill based graduate and post graduate courses in footwear, leather goods, retail and management to around 2500 students across eight campuses over India.
- 127. ▶ Forbes India Celebrity 100 list 2017 -
  - ▶  Actor Salman Khan topped the list, With earnings of INR 233 crores.
  - ▶  Shah Rukh Khan 2nd with earnings of 170 crores, cricketer Virat Kohli 3rd with 100.72 crore earnings.
- 128. ▶ Forbes Magazine released its India Rich List 2017. Top 10 Richest Indians are -
  - ▶  Mukesh Ambani - \$38 billion. Reliance Industries Chairman Mr Ambani topped the list for 10th Consecutive year.
  - ▶  Azim Premji - \$19 billion.
  - ▶  Hinduja brothers - \$18.4 Billion
  - ▶  Lakshmi Mittal - \$16.5 Billion
  - ▶  Pallonji Mistry - \$16 Billion
  - ▶  Godrej family - \$14.2 Billion
  - ▶  Shiv Nadar - \$13.6 Billion
  - ▶  Kumar Birla - \$12.6 Billion
  - ▶  Dilip Shanghvi - \$12.1 Billion
  - ▶  Gautam Adani - \$11 Billion

129. ▶ Foundation stone for India's first Industrial Training Institute exclusively for Divyangjans laid at Dibrugarh (Assam). It will have sixty seats for three different trades with 20 seats per trade.
130. ▶ Foundation stone for a Butterfly Conservatory Park laid in Gurugram (Haryana), to conserve species of butterflies that are near extinction due to urbanisation. This conservatory park will be developed on 15 acres and will be largest Butterfly Conservatory Park in North India.
131. ▶ GAIL India placed orders for 2,100 km of Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project.
- ▶ *Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga* project (also known as JHBDPL project) originates at Jagdishpur (Uttar Pradesh). The main trunk of pipeline ends to Haldia (West Bengal) and Dhamra (Odisha).
  - ▶ Pipeline passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. Cost of project is Rs. 12,940 crore and is to be completed by 2019.
132. ▶ 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).
133. ▶ 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.
134. ▶ 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
135. ▶ 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).
136. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)
- ✍ NDMA conducted state level mock exercise on earthquake in Haryana.
  - ✍ NE Regional Conference on 'Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices' held in Guwahati (Assam).
  - ✍ Centenary (100th) conference of Indian Economic Association held in Guntur (Andhra Pradesh).
  - ✍ 78th session of Indian History Congress held at the Jadavpur University in Kolkata.
  - ✍ 18th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) held in New Delhi, under Chairmanship of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
  - ✍ 32nd Indian Engineering Congress organised by Institution of Engineers (India) in Chennai.
  - ✍ Ganga Gram Swachata Sammelan held in New Delhi, during it *Ganga Gram* project has been Launched under clean Ganga mission, aimed at holistic sanitation development in villages on banks of River Ganga.
  - ✍ 7th India International Coffee Festival (IICF) will be hosted by Bengaluru in January 2018.
  - ✍ Centenary celebrations of Yoga Institute in held in Mumbai. Institute was founded by Shree Yogendraji Mani Haribhai Desai in 1918.
137. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 1 - 10) -
- ✍ India offered sharing intelligence of maritime movements in Indian Ocean in real-time with 10 Indian Ocean littoral states, during Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC).
  - ✍ Hyderabad hosted 3 day Conference to discuss urban transport challenges and solutions.
  - ✍ International Conference on "Ramayan Circuit and Mithila-Awadh Relations" held at Janakpur in Nepal.
  - ✍ 1st Heli Expo India and International Civil Helicopter Conclave-2017 held at Pawan Hans Heliport in New Delhi.
  - ✍ Government Decided to develop an airport at at Minicoy Island (Lakshadweep) and use Naval air station at Shibpur (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) as a Joint User Airport, during 2nd meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA) in Delhi.
  - ✍ India Disaster Response Summit held in Delhi by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook. Facebook rolled out Disaster Maps for India to help communities across recover and rebuild from natural disasters faster by sharing critical pieces of data sets with humanitarian agencies in a timely manner.
138. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 11 - 20) -
- ✍ 6th China-India Forum meet hosted in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
  - ✍ First Military Literature Festival would be held in Chandigarh (Punjab) in Nov - Dec 2017.
  - ✍ Sainik Sankshema Sabha will be organised in all districts of Andhra and Telangana.
  - ✍ 3rd Russian film festival *Russian Film Days* held in New Delhi.
  - ✍ Mumbai hosted will 34th annual conference of Asian Bankers Association (ABA), as first ever Hosting of this Conference by Mumbai.
  - ✍ 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
- 139. ▶ 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).
- 140. ▶ 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.
- 141. ▶ Global Retailing Major Walmart launched its first fulfillment centre in India in Mumbai.
- 142. ▶ 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.
- 143. ▶ Goa Government approved Solar Power Policy, under which State Government will look to generate 150 MW of solar power by 2021.
- 144. ▶ 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.
- 145. ▶ Government announced that installation of bio-toilets in all passenger trains will be completed by March 2019.
- 146. ▶ Government approved Highway and Shipping Projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore for the state of Tamil Nadu.
- 147. ▶ 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.
- 148. ▶ 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).
- 149. ▶ 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.
- 150. ▶ 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.
- 151. ▶ 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.

152. ▶ Government drawn up action plans for backward district programme to improve socio-economic profiles of 115 identified “most-backward” districts including 35 affected by left-wing extremism.
153. ▶ 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.
154. ▶ Government gave green clearance for a greenfield airport project at Hirasar near Rajkot in Gujarat at cost of INR 1400 crores.
155. ▶ Government has set Minimum Export Price of onion at 850 dollars per tonne to ensure its availability in domestic market.
156. ▶ 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.
157. ▶ 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.
158. ▶ 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.
159. ▶ 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.
160. ▶ 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.
161. ▶ 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.
162. ▶ Government made it mandatory for Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to seek approval from Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) before accepting any proposal to supply electric buses for availing incentives under FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India) scheme.
163. ▶ Government signed 4 MoUs under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) Scheme with Nagaland and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu, taking number of signatories to 27 States and 4 UTs.
-  These State/UTs have joined only for operational improvement and shall not undergo financial restructuring and issue of bonds under UDAY.
164. ▶ 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.
165. ▶ Government will give proxy voting rights to over 2.5 crore non-resident Indians (NRIs) across world, in response to Election Commission directing government to take necessary steps to amend law for NRI voters.
166. ▶ 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.



167. ▶ Govt initiated formulating comprehensive 'safe-city' plans for women in eight metropolitan cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Hyderabad.
168. ▶ 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.
169. ▶ 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.
170. ▶ Gujarat Government inaugurated Birsa Munda Tribal University in Rajpipla, a tribal-dominated town in Narmada district of Gujarat.
171. ▶ 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.
172. ▶ 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.
173. ▶ Gurugram-based VVDN Technologies (in partnership with Ireland's Embedded Downloads) launched first Blockchain technology based smartphone 'BitVault'. User interface used in BitVault is similar to Android but core operating system has been developed by VVDN.
  - ▶ An International Blockchain Business Conference held in Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
174. ▶ 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 'Chakravayuh' formation as a part of war strategy. Abhimanyu was trapped in 'Chakravayuh', but fought bravely till his last breath.
175. ▶ Haryana Government will provide ration cards for nomadic tribes living in different parts of Haryana, to provide identification to them as permanent residents.
176. ▶ 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*.
177. ▶ 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).
178. ▶ Haryana became first state in India to treat Hepatitis-C patients through oral medicine.
179. ▶ 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).
180. ▶ 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.
181. ▶ Haryana government will establish an organ and tissue transplant organisation (SOTTO) at Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak.
182. ▶ Haryana government would distribute sanitary napkins free of cost to all women belonging to BPL (Below Poverty Line) category in State.
183. ▶ 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.
184. ▶ 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.
185. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government approved *Heritage Tourism Policy 2017 & Mukhya Mantri Rural Road Repair Scheme* along with other welfare initiatives.
186. ▶ 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%.
187. ▶ 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.

188. ▶ 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.
189. ▶ Home Ministry released Rs 167 crores to 9 states – Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Sikkim, under Border Area Development Programme (BADP).
190. ▶ 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.
- ▶ Paiks 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.
191. ▶ Hyderabad High Court directed Telengana government not to grant licence, to establish liquor retail outlets in scheduled areas without resolution of gramsabha.
192. ▶ 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.
193. ▶ IISc Bengaluru named as Best Indian Higher Education Institution in Times Higher Education SUBJECT WISE rankings. Different rankings have been issued for subjects such as Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Social Sciences, Law Etc.
194. ▶ 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.
195. ▶ IndiGo became first Indian Airline to operate over 1000 flights in a day across India.
196. ▶ 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.
197. ▶ 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).
198. ▶ 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.
199. ▶ India will have its first Cartoon Network-branded theme park, to be developed by *Turner International India* in Surat (Gujarat). It will be launched in 2019 with cost approx INR 450 crores.
200. ▶ India's *Taj Mahal* is ranked 2nd best UNESCO world heritage site in world, by travel portal TripAdvisor, after Cambodia's Angkor Wat.
201. ▶ 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.
202. ▶ 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.
203. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with Rajasthan State Government to improve infrastructure for their posts near the India-Pakistan border.
204. ▶ Indian Naval Academy (Ezhimala) conducted 4th annual *Dilli* seminar with theme *India and Southeast Asia – Maritime Trade, Expedition and Civilisation Linkages*.
205. ▶ 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.
206. ▶ 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.
207. ▶ 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.

208. ▶ 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.
209. ▶ 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.
210. ▶ 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.
211. ▶ 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.
212. ▶ 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.
213. ▶ 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.
214. ▶ India's first portal dedicated to para-sports has been launched by Mumbai based Saachi Munot with URL *thenationspride.com*. It is aimed at creating awareness about para-sports and provide a platform to para sportspersons to narrate their stories of triumph and adversity.
215. ▶ India's first-ever broad gauge air-conditioned AC EMU suburban train flagged off by western railway (from Mumbai's Borivali station).
216. ▶ 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.
217. ▶ Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani flagged off Digital Rath in New Delhi to create awareness among people for cashless transactions. Travel of around 20 thousand KMs will reach approx 10 lakh people.
218. ▶ Inter-State Council has been reconstituted with P Narendra Modi as its Chairman and 6 Union ministers and all chief ministers as members. Member Union Ministers - Rajnath Singh (Home), Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs), Arun Jaitley (Finance), Nitin Gadkari (Road Transport), Thaawar Chand Gehlot (Social Justice and Empowerment) AND Nirmala Sitharaman (Defence).
219. ▶ International Sweet Festival will be hosted by Hyderabad (Telangana) in January 2018, coinciding with International Kite festival at Hyderabad.
220. ▶ International poetry festival *Mystic Kalinga* organized in Bhubaneswar Odisha.
221. ▶ 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.
222. ▶ 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.
223. ▶ Jokapatha village, a tribal village in Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh got electricity connection for first time since Indian independence.
224. ▶ 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.
225. ▶ 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*.






226. ▶ 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.
227. ▶ 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.
228. ▶ Karnataka Government signed MoU with Microsoft to empower smallholder farmers with technology-oriented solutions that will help them increase income.
229. ▶ 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.
230. ▶ 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.
231. ▶ Karnataka government and USA Aviation Firm Boeing signed agreement to set up Aircrafts' Parts manufacturing and assembly facility near Bengaluru, at cost of 1152 crores.
232. ▶ Karnataka government appointed K Ratna Prabha as new chief secretary of Karnataka.
233. ▶ 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.
234. ▶ Karnataka government launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for data science and artificial intelligence, with Nasscom as programme and implementation partner, aimed at accelerating development of data science and artificial intelligence.
235. ▶ 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.
236. ▶ Karnataka government will creating an ecosystem to bring all stakeholders to use nanotechnology across verticals including energy, medicine, engineering, transport and communication.
237. ▶ 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.
238. ▶ Kerala Government banned using words *Dalit* and *Harijan* in all official communications, to curb growing influence of casteism in state.
239. ▶ 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.
240. ▶ Kerala Tourism Department launched a 3 year long Continuous Tourist Survey (CTS) 2017-2020 to improve tourism in state, in collaboration with *Datamation Consultants*.
241. ▶ 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.
242. ▶ Kerala government launched new sanitary napkins distribution scheme for school girls named *She Pad*.
243. ▶ Kerala government raised minimum age for liquor consumption from 21 to 23 years.
244. ▶ Kolkata (West Bengal) for first time hosted international Puppet festival named *PUN (Puppets Unite Neighbours) International Puppet Festival*.
245. ▶ Kolkata Police imposed ban on public display of weapons in Kolkata, till 1 January 2019.
246. ▶ Konkan Railway and IIT Bombay signed MoU to transform George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology in Goa to a world-class centre of knowledge in tunnel and underground structure technologies.
247. ▶ 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.
248. ▶ 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.
249. ▶ 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.
250. ▶ 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.

251. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced measures for welfare of women in State, including financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakh for remarriage of widows.
252. ▶ 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.
253. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government launched *Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna* for farmers, to lend money to farmers at 0 % interest.
254. ▶ 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.
255. ▶ 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.
256. ▶ 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.
257. ▶ 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.
258. ▶ 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.
259. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved climate change adaptation policy that will focus on developing environment-friendly villages and cities.
260. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched a new initiative against childhood obesity, by making 6,000 children in Pune aware of their Body Mass Index (BMI). The campaign will ensure that childhood obesity will not hamper growth or development of our future generations.
261. ▶ 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.
262. ▶ Maharashtra Government will adopt Clinical establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, to ensure minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them.
263. ▶ 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.
264. ▶ 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.
265. ▶ Maharashtra government banned packaged water bottles in government offices, to become plastic-free state from March 2018.
266. ▶ 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.
267. ▶ Maharashtra government will set up a committee for the implementation of a Rs.4,000-crore project on climate resilience agriculture in 5,000 villages of 15 districts in state. The project would be funded by the World Bank.
268. ▶ 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.
269. ▶ 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.
270. ▶ Maruti Suzuki partnered with Delhi government to set up 12 automated driving test centres across city, investing approximately 15 crores.
271. ▶ Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple (Madurai (TN)) adjudged best 'Swachh Iconic Place' in India, owing to high level sanitation and tourist friendly arrangements in the temple.
272. ▶ 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.



273. ▶ 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.
274. ▶ 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.
275. ▶ Minister of Railways & Coal Piyush Goyal launched *Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App*, aimed at benefitting customers of Coal India Limited (CIL) lifting coal through road mode. It will help achieve transparency in despatch operations.
276. ▶ 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).
277. ▶ Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel inaugurated National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank) at National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) in Delhi.
278. ▶ Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (IC) Rajyavardhan Rathore released Indian Youth Development Index (YDI) and Report 2017 in New Delhi, developed by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) in Tamil Nadu. Its aims to track trends in Youth Developmenty across states.
279. ▶ 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.
280. ▶ 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.
281. ▶ Ministry of Development of Northeast (DONER) contributed Rs. 25 crore as initial funding for launching India's first-ever Helicopter based *Air Dispensary* in Northeast India.
282. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has set up an internal expert committee to advise government on a policy on artificial intelligence (AI).
283. ▶ 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.
284. ▶ 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.
285. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs launched *#AsktheSpokesperson* initiative on Twitter to create better awareness and understanding of foreign policy issues to general public.
286. ▶ 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.
287. ▶ 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).
288. ▶ 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.
289. ▶ 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.
290. ▶ Ministry of Railways introduced online bill tracking system, Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) for vendors and contractors, developed in house by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems), New Delhi.

291. ▶ 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.
292. ▶ 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.
293. ▶ 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.
294. ▶ 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.
295. ▶ 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.
296. ▶ 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.
297. ▶ Mumbai Metro launched a new security app 'Secucare', for raising an alarm to ensure passengers' safety. Through it, commuters can raise an alarm in case of any problem.
298. ▶ NCERT Conducted National Achievement Survey (NAS) as assessment survey in national and amongst largest in world, for Classes 3, 5 and 8 in government and government aided schools. Learning levels of over 25 lakhs students from 1,10,000 across all 700 districts were assessed.
299. ▶ 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.
300. ▶ Nagaland Assembly passed a resolution revoking provisions of 33 % reservation for women in urban local bodies.
301. ▶ Nagaland became first North Eastern state to launch Point of Sale (PoS) for electricity bill payment, launched at Kohima Electrical Sub-division-1.
302. ▶ Naresh Kumar Gupta has been appointed as Lokayukta (Ombudsman) of Madhya Pradesh.
303. ▶ 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.
304. ▶ 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.
305. ▶ 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.
306. ▶ 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.

-  NHAH also launched its new website AND Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) Mobile App for better monitoring of NHAH projects.
307. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAH) 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.
308. ▶ 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.
309. ▶ 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%.
310. ▶ National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) notified maximum prices of 65 essential formulations, including those used for treatment of diabetes, pain, infections and high blood pressure.
311. ▶ National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Andhra Pradesh State Government to develop technologies relating to banana production.
312. ▶ National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) signed an MoU each with European Business Technology Centre (EBTC) and Lovely Professional University, for capacity building in intellectual property management by organizing training programmes in IPRs.
313. ▶ Niti Aayog announced to set up a special women cell, to extend support to women start-ups and entrepreneurs.
314. ▶ 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.
315. ▶ Odisha Government inaugurated Purvasha Folk and Tribal Art Museum at Barkul near Chilika, to promote the cultural heritage of Odisha.
316. ▶ 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.
317. ▶ 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.
318. ▶ Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) and Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES) signed a MoU for skill development in State.
319. ▶ Odisha government imposed 7 month ban on sea fishing, to protect Olive Ridley sea turtles, as breeding season of endangered marine animals is approaching.
320. ▶ Odisha government launched *Arpana* Portal for online processing of applications for pension revision in respect of pre-2016 pensioners.
321. ▶ 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.
322. ▶ 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.
323. ▶ 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.
324. ▶ 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.
325. ▶ Official Logo and tagline for Allahabad Kumbh Mela 2019 with tagline *Chalo Chalo Chalo, Kumbh Chalo*. Additionally, Ttagline *Agar UP Nahi Dekha Toh India Nahi Dekha* for UP Tourism was also unveiled.
326. ▶ Official website of Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has been launched at URL <http://cipam.gov.in>. It will provide updates on all upcoming events of CIPAM and information related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

327. ▶ 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.
328. ▶ Orange Festival of Music and Adventure held in Dambuk village of Arunachal Pradesh.
329. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Launched 60MW Tuirial Hydroelectric Power Project in Mizoram. It has been constructed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (Neepeco).
330. ▶ 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.
331. ▶ 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.
332. ▶ 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.
333. ▶ 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.
334. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Botanical Garden-Kalkaji section (of Magenta Line) of Delhi Metro. This 12.64-km route of Magenta Line will be Delhi Metro's first line to get driverless trains, using Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) signalling technology.
335. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr.BR Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) in New Delhi, constructed at cost of INR 195 crores.
336. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Golden Jubilee Year Celebrations (50 years) of Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), only statutory professional body in India with objective of promoting, regulating and developing profession of Company Secretaries in India.
337. ▶ 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.
338. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of AIIMS Bilaspur and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una.
339. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of four-lane cable-stayed bridge between Okha and Beyt Dwarka with lenght 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.
340. ▶ 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).
341. ▶ 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.
342. ▶ POWERGRID completed 220 kV Leh - Khalsti Line as first time in India that any 220kV voltage level substation is built at such a high altitude of over 11500 ft, as part of Government's ambitious Project for extending Grid connectivity to difficult Geographical areas of Leh-Ladhakh (J&K).
343. ▶ 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.
344. ▶ Petroleum Ministry preponed introduction of BS (Bharat Stage)-VI grade auto fuels in National Capital Terrirtory, 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.
345. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind declared Rural Gujarat as Open Defecation Free (ODF).
346. ▶ 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.
347. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), featuring maritime patrol aircraft Tupolev-142M.
348. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind laid foundation stone of *Nyaya Gram*, a residential and training complex of Allahabad High Court (UP).

349. ▶ 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.
350. ▶ 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.
351. ▶ 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.
352. ▶ 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.
353. ▶ Punjab Government restored Special Family Pension for widows of government employees killed by extremists, that was revoked in 2016 by erstwhile Shiromani Akali Dal Government.
354. ▶ Punjab Govt approved *Victim or Their Dependents Compensation Scheme* which will provide min compensation of Rs 3 lakh to an acid attack victim.
- ▶ Punjab Government also approved amending state Co-operative Societies Act 1961, a legislation governing co-operative societies, to allow people to contest mergers of some societies.
355. ▶ Punjab Govt launched PUDA-UCIC app to check unauthorised construction and a new web portal of the housing department for online issue of change of land use. It will facilitate swift action to stop illegal construction.
356. ▶ 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.
357. ▶ Punjab government banned manufacturing, sale, production, supply and use of kite string made of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material.
358. ▶ 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.
359. ▶ Punjab government will organise village-level sports tournaments, aimed at ruling out problem of drugs from Punjab.
360. ▶ 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.
361. ▶ 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.
362. ▶ R.K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched National Power Portal (NPP) at URL <http://npp.gov.in> as a centralised system data capture / input system for Indian Power Sector.
363. ▶ Rail Land Development Authority signed MoU with NBCC to redevelop 10 railway stations with airport-like amenities by 2020 - Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Lucknow (UP), Gomti Nagar (UP), Kota (Rajsthan), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Nellore (Andhra Pradesh), Ernakulam (Kerala), Puducherry, Madgaon (Goa) and Thane (Maharashtra).
364. ▶ Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Western Railway (WR) launched mobile application 'Eyewatch Railways' for security of women commuters travelling in Mumbai.
365. ▶ Railways introduced new tri-weekly Special Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Mumbai to fulfil long demand of passengers of faster connectivity between two cities.
366. ▶ 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.
367. ▶ 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.



368. ▶ 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.
369. ▶ 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.
370. ▶ 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.
371. ▶ Rajasthan government announced 1 % reservation for Gujjars (retaining their Other Backward Classes status) and 4 other communities (Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Rebari and Gadaria).
372. ▶ Rajasthan government launched *Dishari* mobile app that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations.
373. ▶ 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 %.
374. ▶ 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.
375. ▶ 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.
376. ▶ Rajasthan govt. increased age limit for applying for government jobs from 35 to 40 years.
377. ▶ 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.
378. ▶ 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.
379. ▶ Restored Royal Opera House in Mumbai received Award of Merit from 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
380. ▶ 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.
381. ▶ Samsung India partnered with UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development) to launch 360-degree video and Virtual Reality (VR) content of Sun Temple in Konark (Odisha) and Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh).
382. ▶ 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.
383. ▶ Scientists for first time captured images of Snow Leopard at Thembang village's Community Conserved Area (CCA) in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, using camera trap conducted by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF-India). This is first evidence of elusive snow leopard in Arunachal Pradesh.
384. ▶ 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.
385. ▶ Shri Harmandir Sahib (Punjab, also known as *Golden Temple*) has been awarded as most visited place in world by Book of World Records (London).
386. ▶ Sikkim will get its first airport by end of November 2017, located over 30 kilometres from capital Gangtok.
- ✍ Airport has been built at approx INR 300 crores and was supposed to completed in 2012, but faced repeated delays. It is at an altitude of 4,700 feet, and will be among 5 highest Indian airports.
387. ▶ Social Media Firm Facebook started testing the use of Aadhaar by asking new Indian users to enter their names as per Aadhaar Card while signing up. India is second largest market for Facebook after USA, with over 2.4 crore users at present.
388. ▶ 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.
389. ▶ Sonapur Cattle Fair (Kshetra Mela), one of biggest cattle fair in Asia began in Bihar. It attracts cattle traders from all over Asia.

390. ▶ 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'.
391. ▶ Standard Chartered Bank opened its Global Business Services (GBS) centre in Bengaluru.
392. ▶ 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.
393. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) imposed ban on the sale of firecrackers till 31st October 2017 in National Capital Region (NCR) Delhi, to check rise in pollution levels due to firecrackers usage during Diwali.
394. ▶ Supreme Court refused to ban traditional buffalo slush track race in Karnataka Named *Kambala*, as SC Refused to stay a State Government Ordinance of Feb 2017 allowing kambala after Karnataka High Court banned it.
395. ▶ Supreme Court will look into Section 497 of Indian Penal Code (IPC), which is related to provision of adultery and treats only man as an offender and married woman as a victim.
396. ▶ 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.
397. ▶ 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.
398. ▶ 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.
399. ▶ 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.
400. ▶ Teesta Rangit Tourism Festival 2017 held in Darjeeling and Kalimpong (West Bengal).
401. ▶ 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.
402. ▶ 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.
403. ▶ Telangana government developed a mobile application named 'Urban Genie' that will help urban citizens in finding certified technicians and workers to provide household services.
404. ▶ 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.
405. ▶ Telangana Government will Implement Telugu as a compulsory subject from 1 - 12th, from next academic year.
406. ▶ 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.
407. ▶ Third Trump Tower in India launched in Kolkata, comprising 140 ultra-luxury apartments aimed at raising 700 Crores in Sales.
408. ▶ 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).
409. ▶ 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.
410. ▶ Traditional International *Lavi fair* held in Rampur (Himachal Pradesh).
- ▶ Lavi Fair has been an important point of trade between India and Tibet for centuries.

411. ▶ 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.
412. ▶ 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.
413. ▶ Tropical Cyclone OCKHI Hits South Indian States Kerala and Tamilnadu, causing heavy rains and tides.
414. ▶ Tripura Government has introduced Child Care Leave (CCL) for women employees with minor children for 730 days in their entire service life.
415. ▶ 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.
416. ▶ 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).
417. ▶ Union Minister for state for social justice and empowerment, Ramdas Athawale launched Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana during 4th workshop of *Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana* in Mumbai.
  - ▶ Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana was launched by PM Narendra Modi to make high-quality medicines available to all at affordable prices, especially to poor and underprivileged, through exclusive outlets such as Jan Aushadhi Medical store.
418. ▶ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched online campaign #IamThatWoman in an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women.
419. ▶ 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.
420. ▶ 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).
421. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. will Set up a Research Institute on *Shrimad Bhagvat Gita* in Mathura.
422. ▶ 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.
423. ▶ 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.
424. ▶ Uttar Pradesh assembly passed UP Excise (Amendment) Bill 2017, to award death penalty and life imprisonment for spurious liquor dealers.
425. ▶ 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.
426. ▶ 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.
427. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
428. ▶ 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.
429. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government will Provided Free WI-FI Facility on entire 302 KM Stretch of Agra to Lucknow expressway, by laying Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) along it. It is India's longest Expressway.
430. ▶ 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.
431. ▶ Uttarakhand State Government and Swan Cultural Center and Foundation launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham, to provide electricity to far-flung areas.
432. ▶ Uttarakhand government made it compulsory for all government offices to install LED bulbs, to reduce consumption of electricity.

433. ▶ 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.
434. ▶ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched New Delhi Edition of Marathi daily 'Lokmat'.
435. ▶ 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.
436. ▶ 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*.
437. ▶ 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.
438. ▶ 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.
439. ▶ 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.
440. ▶ West Bengal will receive Subsidy from world bank to buy 130 electric buses, at a rate of INR 7 Lakh/ Unit.
441. ▶ 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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