

Current Affairs - December 1 - 10, 2017

Month Type



- 191 Current Affairs were found in Period - **December 1 - 10, 2017** for Type - **All**

Appointments

- ▶ A Surya Prakash has been re-appointed as chairman of Prasar Bharati board for second consecutive term till February 2020.
- ▶ Anshu Prakash has been appointed as chief secretary of Delhi.
- ▶ British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding is appointed as Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment, joining fight to save lives and habitats of people and animals by cleaning up air and seas.
- ▶ D R Soni appointed as chief of Indian Army's Southern Command.
- ▶ IT Firm Infosys appointed Salil S. Parekh as its new CEO and Managing Director.
- ▶ Indo-British Person Deepak Parekh is named as First *International Ambassador* for London city and will work towards championing London City across the globe.
- ▶ New Indian Ambassadors Appointed -
 1. Azar A.H.Khan - Turkmenistan.
 2. K. Jeeva Sagar - Kuwait.
- ▶ ONGC CMD Dinesh K Sarraf is appointed as new Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
- ▶ Rahul Singh (founder and CEO of *The Beer Café*) has been appointed as president of National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI).
- ▶ Smita Nagaraj has been appointed as Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ▶ Sunil Kumar Chourasia is appointed as Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- ▶ Uma Shankar has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), replacing Meena Hemchandra who retired recently.
- ▶ Upendra Prasad Singh appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and CEO OF National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

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Awards

- ▶ Aamir Khan Film Dangal chosen as Best Asian Film at 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards, in Sydney.
- ▶ Indian Film Lipstick Under My Burkha (*directed by Alankrita Shrivastava*) won a top prize (*Founder's Award for Sustainability on the Big Screen*) at time Global Sustainability Film Awards 2017 in London.
- ▶ Miss South Korea Jenny Kim won title of Miss Supranational 2017 at an event in Poland.
- ▶ Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria has been awarded International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to ensure rights of Syrian refugee children.
 1. He has set up a school together with his family in a Lebanese refugee camp that currently provides 200 children with education.
- ▶ Noted Hindi writer Mamta Kalia is chosen for Vyas Samman 2017 for her novel "Dukkham Sukkham". She was selected by selection committee headed by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.

6. ▶ Odia poet Rabi Singh is named as winner of Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman 2017 instituted by Odisha Sahitya Akademi.
7. ▶ Portuguese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo won Ballon d'Or (title of best footballer of year) for a fifth time, to level Aregetina's Lionel Messi haul.
8. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind Presented Pt. Ramnarayan Sharma National Ayurved Award 2008-2014 to to Jodhpur's former Vice Chancellor Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur.
9. ▶ Star Screen Awards 2017 Winners -
 1. Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal)
 2. Best Actress: Konkona Sen Sharma (Lipstick Under My Burkha)
 3. Best Actor: Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
 4. Best Supporting Actor: Rajkummar Rao (Bareilly Ki Barfi)
 5. Best Supporting Actor (Female): Neha Dhupia (Tumhari Sulu)
 6. Best Music Director: Pritam (Dangal)
 7. Best Playback Singer: Arijit Singh (Raees - Zaalima and Jagga Jasoos)
 8. Best Playback Singer Female: Shashaa Tirupati (Kanha - Shubh Mangal Savdhaan)

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Books

1. ▶ Actor Amitabh Bachchan launched a book based on Indian cinema in - *Bollywood: The Films! The Songs! The Stars!*, co-authored by S.M.M. Ausaja, Karan Bali, Rajesh Devraj and Tanul Thakur.
2. ▶ Noted lyricist Gulzar's debut novel in English named 'TWO' has been released. It examines status of refugees after Partition of India.

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Committees

1. ▶ Government has set up a committee headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to address problem of stressed assets in India's power sector, which are around 5.9% of banking sector's total outstanding advances of 4.73 trillion.
2. ▶ National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has set up three member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in 8 states where their population is less than 50%. Committee will be led by George Kurien.
 1. Govt also formed a committee for consultation on matters pertaining to implementation of drug price control order (DPCO) including technicalities involved in pricing and new launches.
3. ▶ National Green Tribunal set up a committee to inspect over 1700 hotels, lodges and home stay accommodations in Kullu and Manali towns of Himachal Pradesh.

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Days

1. ▶ Dec 04, 2017 - 46th Indian Navy Day. On this day in 1971, Indian Navy carried out Operation Trident, which was a devastating attack on Pakistan's Naval Headquarters of Karachi.
2. ▶ Dec 1 - Formation day of Nagaland (Formed in 1963). It also marks beginning of 10 days Hornbill Premier festival of Nagaland. Dec 1 is also raising day of Paramilitary Force BSF (Border Security Force).
3. ▶ Dec 1 - World AIDS Day. 2017 Theme is Right to health.
 1. To increase Reach of Free ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) services provided by Government to People affected by HIV Virus, Government launched National Strategic Plan 2017-24 and Mission *SAMPARK*. It aims at eradicating HIV / AIDS completely by 2030.
4. ▶ Dec 10 - Human Rights Day. 2017 Theme is *Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity*.
5. ▶ Dec 2 - International Day for Abolition of Slavery. December 2 is also observed as computer literacy day.
6. ▶ Dec 3 - Birth Annivwersary of first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
7. ▶ Dec 3 - International Day of Persons With Disabilities. 2017 Theme is *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all*.
 1. On this occasion, Telangana Government signed agreement with Vindhya E-Infomedia, to set up world's first Information and Technology (IT) Campus for differently-abled persons (divyangs), in capital Hyderabad.

2. On this occasion, Noted communication expert Sarvesh Kumar Tiwari is appointed as President of Para-Sports Foundation (PSF).
3. On this occasion, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched Deen Dayal Divyangajan Sahajya Scheme in Guwahati, Assam. Under which, every differently abled person in Assam would be entitled to a one-time grant of Rs 5000 for their treatment.
4. On this occasion, Disability Empowerment Awards was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind on this occasion in 14 categories to 52 individuals and institutions. Some important awards -
 1. Best State in Promoting Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - Chhattisgarh
 2. Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service - Madurai
 3. Best Braille Press Award - Mumbai-based National Association for the Blind.
8. ▶ Dec 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.
9. ▶ Dec 5 - World Soil Day. 2017 theme is *Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground*.
10. ▶ Dec 6 is Known as Mahiparinirvan Diwas in India, marking Passing away of Dr B R Ambedkar On Dec 6, 1956.
11. ▶ Dec 7 - Indian Armed Forces Flag Day.
12. ▶ Dec 7 - International Civil Aviation Day. 2017 theme is *Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind*.
13. ▶ Dec 9 - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD). 2017 Theme is *United against corruption for development, peace and security*.

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Defence

1. ▶ 14-day long Combined India-UK Military exercise *Ajeya Warrior- 2017* began in Rajasthan.
2. ▶ Border Security Force (BSF) engaged doctors to conduct a psychological analysis (*Wellness Quotient Assessment Test*) of its approx 2.5 lakh employees amid concerns over rising cases of suicide by BSF personnel.
3. ▶ Godrej Aerospace received order from BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) for supply of additional 100 units airframe fuel management systems for BrahMos Air-Launched Cruise Missiles.
4. ▶ Navy, the Air Force, Coast Guard Initiated *Operation Synergy* as a joint rescue mission to save fishermen stranded in seas after cyclone Ockhi, in Kerala.
5. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to Submarine Arm of Indian Navy.
 1. Colour is highest honour which can be bestowed upon any military unit.
6. ▶ Surface to Air Missile AKASH has been tested successfully with indigenous radio frequency seeker.
 1. AKASH missile is being inducted into Army as Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) with range under 25 KM. This is first Surface to Air Missile with indigenous seeker that has been test fired.

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Economy

1. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved loan of USD 346 million to fund highway upgradation project in Karnataka, to improve 419 km of state highways by upgrading it to two and four-lane highways.
2. ▶ Asian Development Bank approved \$583 million for developing Reliance Bangladesh Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Power Project, including loans and partial risk guarantees for power project being set up for \$1 billion.
3. ▶ Axis Bank subsidiary *Axis Securities* became first broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange by registering itself with NCDEX.
4. ▶ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company started adoption of digital branch services through its offering *Mosambee*, to add depth to its service offerings.
5. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange's subsidiary, India International Exchange (India INX) received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on framework for listing of debt securities. Indian and foreign issuers will now be able to issue Eurobonds, masala bonds and foreign currency bonds from India INX located at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) city in Gujarat.
6. ▶ Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Co Ltd has launched a video service that seeks to improve customer engagement, enabling customers to directly engage with the company for various service requests.
7. ▶ Carmaker Maruti Suzuki became India's sixth most valued firm, crossing SBI with market capitalisation of INR 2.74 trillion, marginally ahead of SBI's 2.71 trillion.

1. Reliance Industries is most valued company with market value of 5.8 trillion, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ITC and Hindustan Unilever.
8. ▶ Central Government has removed income limit for incentive under 'Dr Ambedkar scheme for social Integration through inter caste marriage'.
 1. Scheme was launched in 2013 to provide monetary incentive to at least 500 inter-caste couples (where either the bride or the bridegroom is a Dalit) per year.
 2. Previously, couples whose total annual income does not exceed Rs 5 lakh were eligible to get a one-time incentive of Rs 2.5 lakh from Government, to help them settle down in initial phase of their married life.
 3. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has now removed max Income limit and now all Dalit couples are eligible for incentive under this scheme.
9. ▶ Finance Ministry extended deadline for linking Aadhaar number with PAN card till 31-03-2018.
10. ▶ Government tasked ICICI Bank with enabling online payments at 470 mandis integrated with national portal of electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).
 1. e-NAM was launched in April 2016 to revolutionise agri markets by bringing in better price discovery and transparency to enable farmers to get better remuneration for their produce.
 2. ICICI Bank will enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) on the e-NAM portal for making cashless payments.
11. ▶ Govt Owned Corporation Bank launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards, offering Personal accident insurance of INR 10 lakh and 2 lakh on RuPay Select Credit Card and RuPay Platinum Credit Card respectively.
12. ▶ ICICI Bank became first bank to enable customers to open a Public Provident Fund (PPF) account online, eliminating the need for furnishing paper documents.
13. ▶ India Index Services and Products Ltd (IISL) launched the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index. It will track the performance of 100 large-cap and 150 mid-cap companies listed on National Stock Exchange (NSE). Base date for index is April 1, 2005 and base value is 1000.
14. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Projections -
 1. International Rating Agency Fitch lowered 2017-18 growth projection to 6.7%, from 6.9%.
 2. Morgan Stanley predicts Indian economy to witness cyclical growth recovery, with real GDP growth likely to accelerate from 6.4% to 7.5% in 2018 & to 7.7% in 2019.
15. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank rolled out Paytm FASTag to enable electronic toll fee collection on highways across the country, in line with the government's move to make FASTag mandatory on every new vehicle sold from December 1. The Paytm FASTag - which is a simple and reusable tag based on radio-frequency identification technology (RFID) that can be placed on a vehicle's windscreen.
16. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank unveiled 3000 'Paytm Ka ATM' outlets that allows customers to open Saving Accounts and deposit/withdraw money from their bank accounts.
17. ▶ Public Procurement Portal 'MSME Sambandh' has been launched by Giriraj Singh (Minister of State (IC) for MSMEs), aimed at monitoring implementation of Public Procurement from MSEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises.
18. ▶ RBI's 5th Bi-Monthly Policy Review for FY 2017-18 -
 1. RBI Kept Key policy rates Unchanged. However, It increased SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) by 50 Basis points, to 20 % (From 19.50).
 2. Current Monetary Policy Rates -
 1. Repo Rate - 6.00 %
 2. Reverse Repo - 5.75 %
 3. Bank Rate - 6.25 %
 4. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25 %
 5. CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 6. SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - **20 %** (Increased from 19.5 %)
 3. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India -
 1. It has 6 Members - RBI Governor Urjit Patel (Chairperson), Viral A Acharya, Michael Patra, Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua, Ravindra H. Dholakia.
 4. RBI also allowed overseas branches of Indian banks to refinance external commercial borrowings (ECB) of AAA-rated private and public sector companies.

1. Currently, Indian banks are allowed to fund dollar loans but are not allowed to refinance these borrowings abroad.
 2. Due to this, companies sought refinance only through foreign lenders. Now, Indian banks can also participate in refinancing and can earn a higher return on their funds abroad.
 3. This will also benefit the borrowers as improved liquidity in refinance market will reduce cost of borrowing, .
19. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rationalised merchant discount rate (MDR) to increase the number of non-cash transactions.
1. Fee charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card payment services is referred to as merchant discount rate (MDR).
 2. MDR has been rationalised on basis of merchant turnover rather than existing slab rates based on the transaction value.

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International

1. ▶ According to World Energy Access report by International Energy Agency (IEA) -
 1. Half a billion people have gained access to electricity in India since 2000, almost doubling country's electrification rate. It paves way for India to achieve access to electricity for all in early 2020s.
2. ▶ American electric Carmaker TESLA has builds world's biggest lithium-ion battery to be plugged into an Australian state grid, capable of powering 30,000 homes for up to an hour in the event of a severe blackout.
3. ▶ As per data by Bank of Thailand, India has highest unemployment rate in Asia (8%). Thailand's 1.3% employment rate is ranked best in Asia.
4. ▶ Australia became 25th country to recognize same-sex marriage as it passed a bill that changed a 2004 law that stipulated a legal marriage as the one between a man and a woman.
5. ▶ Bengaluru city signed MoU with C40 cities network to work together to tackle air pollution.
 1. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) isgrouping of cities aims at tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas.
6. ▶ Bhutan has become the first country to pledge rapid deployment troops to the UN peacekeeping operations, keeping them at the ready for participation in missions within 60 days.
7. ▶ Export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement included India as its 42nd member, during its plenary meeting in Vienna (Austria).
 1. Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, is a multilateral export control regime established to ensure regional and international security by promoting transparency in transfer of arms and dual-use goods and technologies.
 2. This will enhance India's credentials in field of non-proliferation, although, India is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
8. ▶ Financial Services Commission of Mauritius opened its representative office in Mumbai, to strengthen its partnership with its Indian counterparts in capacity building, financial literacy and exchange of expertise.
9. ▶ Forbes Magazine has named former Tesco supermarket worker Dan Middleton (UK) as world's richest YouTuber after he made a fortune of \$16.5 million this year. He shares videos of himself playing video games and describes gameplay and strategies on his YouTube channel, DanTDM.
10. ▶ Forbes annual list of the highest-paid musicians -
 1. Top 3 -
 1. Diddy (\$130m) (USA)
 2. Beyonce (\$105m) (USA)
 3. Drake (\$94m) (Canada)
11. ▶ Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers' List -
 1. Indian-American California senator Kamala Harris topped the List. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is ranked second in list and Indian-origin stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj ranked 3rd.
12. ▶ Fortune's 'Businessperson of the Year' list -
 1. It is annual ranking of world's top 20 heads of companies.
 2. Aditya Puri, Managing Director of HDFC Bank, is the only Indian on (ranked 18th).
 3. Top 3 - Jensen Huang (Nvidia), Jamie Dimon (JPMorgan Chase), Marc Benioff (Salesforce)
 4. Indian Origin Person on list -Ajay Bagga (Mastercard, 6th), Shantanu Narayan (Adobe)

13. ▶ Google launched *Datally* App that will help users understand, control and save on their mobile data. It will enable users to track their data usage in real time, and get personalized recommendations on saving data along with notifications of public Wi-Fi spots available nearby.
 1. Google also launched *Files Go* app that takes a mobile-first approach to freeing up space, finding files faster and easily sharing them with others, even when offline.
14. ▶ Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry signed an agreement with Germany's GIZ for technical cooperation in implementation of transport projects in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Kochi (Kerala).
15. ▶ India and Germany signed Govt-to-Govt Umbrella Agreement to formalize an amount up to Euro 200 million for Financial Cooperation in form of loan for project 'Climate Friendly Urban Mobility III' and Euro 11 million Accompanying measures in form of grant for four projects.
16. ▶ India and Israel Jointly Launched a centre for excellence in floriculture, Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.
 1. A similar centre specialising in vegetables such as capsicum, cucumber and tomatoes will be established in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu in January 2018, as part of a 3-year Indo-Israel agricultural partnership.
 2. These centres will develop agricultural practices suitable for that particular geographical region and will share the best practices with local farmers.
17. ▶ India and Spain signed Techno-commercial agreement to provide institutional mechanism for mutual cooperation in field of urban transport and for construction of the three Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
 1. 3 RRTS corridors Delhi-Meerut, Delhi – Panipat and Delhi – Alwar will be implemented in 1st phase.
 2. RRTS is first of its kind project in India, with design speed of 180 kmph. It will use state-of-the-art technologies for track structure, rolling stock and signalling system. RRTS corridors will significantly reduce travel time between important NCR towns.
18. ▶ India became biggest importer of U.S. oil refinery by-product 'petcoke', by Importing 8 Million Tonnes of USA's total export of 20 Million Tonnes of Petcoke in 2016.
 1. Petroleum coke called as 'petcoke', a U.S. oil refinery by-product, is cheaper and burns hotter than coal. But it also contains more planet-warming carbon and heart and lung-damaging sulfur.
19. ▶ India has been awarded with Certificate of Commendation for its efforts in combating illegal wildlife trade. Award is conferred to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at its meeting in Geneva (Switzerland).
20. ▶ India re-elected to Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B" at 30th session of IMO Assembly in London.
 1. IMO is headquartered in London (UK) with Kitack Lim as Current Chief.
21. ▶ Indian engineers launched a major project in South Sudan that would improve connectivity between two major cities of South Sudan - Malakal-Melut. It will facilitate UN humanitarian operations in area.
22. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO) released World Social Protection Report 2017-2019, depicting that only 45 % of global population is effectively covered by at least one social benefit, while remaining 55 per cent that is 4 billion people are left unprotected.
23. ▶ International Monetary Fund approved USD 88 billion credit line for Mexico, replacing existing line of credit.
24. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) became treaty-based international intergovernmental organization, nearly a Month after Guinea became 15th country to ratify it.
 1. ISA is first treaty-based international government organisation to be based in India, with its secretariat in campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurgaon (Haryana).
 2. So far, 46 countries have signed and 19 ratified Framework Agreement of ISA International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 3. ISA was launched by India and France in November 2015 during COP-21 of UN Climate Conference in Paris (France).
 4. ISA aims at addressing obstacles to deployment at scale of solar energy through better harmonization and aggregation of demand from solar rich countries by bringing standardization in solar technologies and fostering research and development.
 5. Ministry of External Affairs has set aside US\$2 billion for solar projects in Africa out of India's US\$10 billion concessional Line of Credit (LOC) for Africa. France also pledged Euro 300 million soft loan for solar related projects in ISA member countries.
 6. Australia also announced Joining ISA.
25. ▶ Iran inaugurated first phase of Chabahar port located in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province. Port will bypass Pakistan and will open new strategic transit route between Iran, India and Afghanistan. First phase is expected to increase its

- cargo handling capacity to 8.5 million tons annually, by over 3 times from previous 2.5 million tons.
26. ▶ Iraq PM Haider al-Abadi declared victory in a 3-year war by Iraqi forces against Islamic State jihadist group. He claimed that Iraqi forces are in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border.
 27. ▶ Pakistan allowed depreciation of its Currency (Pakistani Rupee), after talks with International Monetary Fund. It is believed to help shift foreign currency holdings from commercial banks back to official reserves.
 28. ▶ Philippines suspended use of a landmark vaccine for potentially deadly dengue virus after its French manufacturer Sanofi warned it could worsen the disease for people who had not previously been infected.
 29. ▶ Somalia Government and United Nations (UN) signed UN Strategic Framework for Somalia (UNSF), under which United Nations will support Somalia's development in priority areas over the next four years.
 30. ▶ UAE, UK, US and French armies participated in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi (UAE), named as *Flag 4*.
 31. ▶ US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced USD 1 million support for Ending Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic in India and to raise TB awareness to help India in its fight against TB.
 1. USAID also announced its first impact bond across globe by launching 'Rajasthan Development Impact Bond (Utkrisht Impact Bond)' aiming to reduce number of mother and baby deaths by improving quality of maternal care in Rajasthan's health infrastructure.
 32. ▶ USA President Donald Trump announced to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition. USA became 1st country to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, since foundation of Israel in 1948. USA will also move its Israel Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
 1. Israel has always regarded Jerusalem as its capital, while Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as capital of a future Palestinian state.
 33. ▶ USA Supreme Court ruled that travel ban imposed on six Muslim countries (*Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen*) by Prez Donald Trump can now go fully into effect. New ban also bars travellers from North Korea and Venezuela.
 34. ▶ USA will issue a 4 level travel advisory to its citizens from January 2018, based on a four-level classification system with clearly recommended actions. Four levels will be -
 1. Level one – exercise normal precautions
 2. Level two – exercise increased caution
 3. Level three – reconsider travel
 4. Level four – do not travel
 35. ▶ USA withdrawn itself from a United Nations pact to improve handling of migrant and refugee situations deeming it 'inconsistent' with policies.
 36. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia formed new economic and partnership group named *Joint Cooperation Committee*, separate from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
 1. JCC will coordinate between UAE and Saudi Arabia in all military, political, economic, trade, cultural and other interest of 2 countries.
 2. It will be headed by *Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.
 37. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched its first space programme aimed at sending four Emirati astronauts to International Space Station within 5 years.
 38. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) released Global Education Monitoring Report 2017-18, expressing concern over school textbooks in many countries glorifying war and military heroes rather than teaching peace and non-violence. As per the report, just 10% of the textbooks across the world explicitly teach the need for conflict prevention and resolution.
 39. ▶ Venezuela will launch a new virtual currency to ease country's economic crisis, triggered by falling oil revenue and plummeting value of bolivar, its existing currency. New crypto-currency *Petro* will allow country to advance in issues of monetary sovereignty, to make financial transactions and overcome the financial blockade.
 40. ▶ Word 'populism' is announced as Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2017. It is defined as *political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want*.
 41. ▶ World Bank announced \$1.15 billion development policy loan for Egypt to support its economic reform programme, with \$500 million from World Bank Group, \$150 million from Britain and \$500 million from African Development Bank.
 1. Additionally, International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved \$ 44.5 million credit for Madagascar, to support the country's economic recovery.

Meetings

1. ▶ An international conference to draw attention towards adverse effects of global warming in Hindu Kush mountain range - *Resilient Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions towards a Sustainable Future for Asia* organized in Nepal in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).
2. ▶ First International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness 'Arogya 2017' Organized in New Delhi, with theme *Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH*.

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National

1. ▶ 5 day annual Konark dance festival started in Odisha, near famous Sun Temple of Konark.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ Environment Ministry allowed NGT Chairperson to *constitute a single-member bench* in "exceptional circumstances, amended National Green Tribunal (Practices and Procedure) Rules 2011.
8. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -
 1. 11th Annual MedTech Summit of Biodesign Programme (Department of Biotechnology) today in New Delhi.
 2. 6th International Tourism Mart held in Guwahati (Assam).
 3. 22nd conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) held at New Delhi.
 4. 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 -
 1. 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.
 2. School Games will be followed by College Games for under the age group of 21 years.
 3. Khelo India programme will be launched at cost of INR 1756 crore for 2017-18 to 2019-20.
 5. National Conference on PDS (Public Distribution System) Reforms held in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).
 6. Shared Value Summit 2017 held in New Delhi with theme *Equity and Empowerment*.
 7. Conference on Groundwater issues in India held in Delhi, with theme *Groundwater Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges, and Climate Change Adaptation*.
 8. First Meet of 15th Finance Commission held in New Delhi, under Chairmanship of N.K. Singh.
 9. 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.
 10. New Delhi Hosted *Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage*, as part of celebrations of 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC.
 11. UN Women and Facebook held an event in Mumbai named *We The Women* to empower and recognise magnificent contribution of women in our society
9. ▶ Goa Government approved Solar Power Policy, under which State Government will look to generate 150 MW of solar power by 2021.

10. ▶ Government approved setting up National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with 3 year budget of INR 9046 crores -
 1. It will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide nutrition related interventions across Ministries.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
 5. NNM would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).
11. ▶ Government launched a 15 days door-to-door campaign 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.
12. ▶ India's *Taj Mahal* is ranked 2nd best UNESCO world heritage site in world, by travel portal TripAdvisor, after Cambodia's Angkor Wat.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ India's largest floating solar power plant inaugurated at Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad (Kerala), with capacity of 500 kilowatts (KW).
 1. It consists of 1,938 solar panels with a capacity of 260 watts, a 500 kilo volt ampere (KVA) transformer and 17 inverters.
 2. Unique feature of this plant is anchoring mechanism to maintain plant with alteration of water level.
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ Kerala government raised minimum age for liquor consumption from 21 to 23 years.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ 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.
 1. 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%.
 2. 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.
 3. Maharashtra is first state to have such policy exclusively for women entrepreneurs.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ Niti Aayog announced to set up a special women cell, to extend support to women start-ups and entrepreneurs.
22. ▶ Odisha Government inaugurated Purvasha Folk and Tribal Art Museum at Barkul near Chilika, to promote the cultural heritage of Odisha.
23. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr.BR Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) in New Delhi, constructed at cost of INR 195 crores.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), featuring maritime patrol aircraft Tupolev-142M.
26. ▶ 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.

27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district has been included in National Capital Region (NCR), taking total number of districts in the NCR to 23.
 1. NCR Cities get funds at attractive interest rates from National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for infrastructure development.
34. ▶ Uttarakhand Government signed MoU with HP (Hewlett Packard) to provide tele-medicine facilities in remote areas of state.
 1. Usage of telecommunication and information technology to provide clinical health care from a distance is referred to as tele-medicine.
35. ▶ 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*.
36. ▶ 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.

Top

Persons

1. ▶ Agriculture Ministry has roped in Actor Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card, crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.
2. ▶ Cricketer Yuvraj Singh launched *Power of Sports to Shape the Future of Adolescents* campaign in South Asia. It is a UNICEF sports initiative for youngsters.
3. ▶ Facebook Co-founder Eduardo Saverin has become Singapore's richest person with a net worth of \$10.4 billion. Saverin gave up his US citizenship in 2012.
4. ▶ Former Chief Justice of India, AS Anand passed away.
5. ▶ France's Noted rock star Johnny Hallyday Passed Away. He was known as *French Elvis*.
6. ▶ Malayalam actor and mimicry artist Abi passes away. His full name was *Habeeb Ahmed*.
7. ▶ Miss World 2017, Manushi Chhillar is named as Indian of the year by Minister of Finance and corporate affairs.
8. ▶ Noted Tamil journalist Sundaresan passed away.
9. ▶ Noted Bollywood actor Shashi Kapoor passed away.
10. ▶ Noted Rabindra sangeet singer Purabi Mukhopadhyay passed away.
11. ▶ Noted South African Freedom Fighter of Indian Origin, Laloo Chiba passed away.
12. ▶ Noted South Indian music director Adithyan passed away.
13. ▶ Noted Tamil journalist & humourist Ja Ra Sundaresan passed away.
14. ▶ Noted journalist Sukharanjan Sengupta passed away.
15. ▶ Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been voted the Time magazine readers' Person of the Year.
 1. Time magazine named *the silence breakers* as its Person of the Year for 2017. It refers to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with #MeToo movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment and assault by powerful public figures in United States.

16. ▶ Shah Rukh Khan is named top Indian actor of 2017 by Internet Movie Data Base (IMDb), followed by Aamir Khan and Salman Khan.
17. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -
 1. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Sochi (Russia) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June 2017.
 2. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Visited China to attend 3rd Dialogue between India's NITI Aayog and Development Research Council of China (DRC).
 3. Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Buenos Aires (Argentina) to attend 11th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
18. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017)
 1. Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba Visited India. During this Visit, India and Cuba signed MoU for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
 2. Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies Visited India. During this visit, India and Italy signed MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.
 3. Afghanistan's second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish visited India and attended an international conference on 'Harmony and Memorial of Mother Teresa', in Mumbai.

Top

Science

1. ▶ Government launched Noxeno, a nasal foreign body removal device developed by start-up InnAccel Technologies, under Biodesign program. Noxeno is first dedicated tool for anterior nasal foreign body (NFB) removal that allows doctors in any setting to quickly and safely remove objects that people (mostly children aged 2 to 10 years) put into their noses.
2. ▶ According to new NASA study, our solar system's Planet Pluto may have liquid water oceans beneath their surface, as heat generated by gravitational pull of moons formed from massive collisions could extend the lifetimes of liquid water oceans beneath its surface.
3. ▶ Australian scientists of University of New South Wales (UNSW) discovered a new species of marsupial lion which has been extinct for at least 19 million years. Named *Wakaleo schouteni*, it was a predator about the size of a border collie dog.
4. ▶ California Institute of Technology, USA (CALTECH) scientists made world's smallest recreation of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, through a technique dubbed as *DNA origami*. Scientists folded DNA into desired self-assembling structures using 64 tiles, which were 100 nanometers wide.
5. ▶ India has been declared free from infective Trachoma which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye, that causes inflamed granulation on inner surface of lids. It was stated in National Trachoma Survey Report 2014-17 released by Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda.
6. ▶ NASA will launch SuperTIGER Balloon in Antarctica, to study heavy cosmic particles, collect information on cosmic rays that enter Earth's atmosphere every day.
 1. SuperTIGER stands for Super Trans-Iron Galactic Element Recorder (SuperTIGER) and is balloon-borne instrument to study rare heavy nuclei, which hold clues about where and how cosmic rays attain speeds up to nearly the speed of light.
7. ▶ Paleontologists from Chinese Academy of Sciences discovered approx 300 fossilised eggs of Pterosaurs, a group of extinct winged dinosaur. It is world's first such mass dinosaur egg discovery.
8. ▶ Researchers from University of California and University of Illinois confirmed existence of new form of matter called excitonium, made up of excitons and exhibits macroscopic quantum phenomena just like a superconductor.
 1. Technique called momentum-resolved electron energy-loss spectroscopy (M-EELS) was used by researchers to prove existence of excitonium.
9. ▶ World's heaviest bony fish ever caught weighing 2,300 kilograms has been identified in Japan, confirmed by researchers from Hiroshima University. Bony fish have skeletons made of bone rather than cartilage.

Top

Sports

1. ▶ 2016-17 Men's FIH Hockey World League Final in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -
 1. Australia won their FIH Hockey World League title after defeating Argentina in Final. Third place was grabbed by India.

2. ▶ 2017 World Weightlifting Championships held in Anaheim (USA) -

1. Medal table -

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

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

3. During These Championships, India's Gurdeep Singh created three new senior **national** records in +105 kg weight category in snatch, clean and jerk, and the total lift. He couldn't win a medal in the Championships Though.

3. ▶ 46th Congress of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) will be held in New Delhi from October - November, 2018. This biennial event will run for four days.

4. ▶ Afghan Off Spinner Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Zadran became youngest ever from Afghanistan to play International cricket and overall 9th youngest to debut in ODI cricket.

5. ▶ Afghanistan won ICC Intercontinental Cup defeating United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, with Ireland ranked 2nd.

6. ▶ Asian Luge Championships held at Altenberg (Germany) -

1. Germany is a European Nation, still it hosted Asian Luge Championships for security reasons.

2. Sole Indian participant Shiva Keshavan retained his title with a time of 55.60 seconds.

7. ▶ Chandika Hathurusingha is appointed as new Head coach of Sri Lanka Cricket Team.

8. ▶ FIFA has lifted 2 year suspension against Kuwait's football association that prevented its country from participating in international tournaments.

9. ▶ India at Miscellaneous Sports Events -

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

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

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

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

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

12. ▶ International Olympic Committee banned Russia from 2018 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang (South Korea), over its state-orchestrated doping programme. Note that clean Russian athletes will be allowed to compete under an Olympic flag.

13. ▶ Italy's Raffaele Bergamasco has been appointed as Performance Director for India's senior women Boxers.

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

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

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

17. ▶ Pune International Marathon 2017 -

1. It was held despite being denied permission by Athletics Federation of India.

2. Winners - Tisasa Basazin

1. Men - Ethiopia's Getachew Besha.

2. Women's Half Marathon - Ethiopia's Tisasa Basazin.

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

19. ▶ Virat Kohli overtook West Indies' Brian Lara as record holder for Most double tons in Tests as Captain, with five 200s.

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

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