



Current Affairs - January 2018

Month Type



- [177 Current Affairs were found in Period - January 1 - 10, 2018 for Type - All](#)

Appointments

- ▶ Dilip Asbe is appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ▶ Gopal Guru IS appointed as Editor of the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW).
- ▶ Government appointed AB Mathur as its representative to hold talks with United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).
- ▶ Government appointed Sivan K as New Chairman of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) and Secretary in Department of Space. He will relpace A S Kiran Kumar as ISRO Chief.
- ▶ Government appointed Vijay Keshav Gokhale as new Foreign Secretary of India. He is considered Diplomatic Expert on Chinese matters.
- ▶ JK Tyres & Industries appointed Rajiv Prasad as president of India Operations.
- ▶ Kookhyun Shim is appointed as MD and CEO of Kia Motors India (subsidiary of Hyundai India). While, Tata Motors appointed Hanne Birgitte Sorensen as an additional and independent director.
- ▶ Noted Musician AR Rahman is appointed as brand ambassador of Sikkim State, during Red Panda Winter Festival in Gangtok (Sikkim).
- ▶ Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) appointed Hasan Sardar as head coach of national team.
- ▶ Pankaj Jain is appointed as Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL). Additionally, Devika Shah is appointed as MD and CEO of Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd (ICCL).
- ▶ Rajesh Ranjan is appointed as next High Ambassador of India to Botswana.
- ▶ Rajinder Khanna (Former RAW chief) is appointed as new Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) of India.
 1. Ajit Doval is current National Security Adviser (NSA) of India.
- ▶ Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese is appointed as Chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable development(WBCSD).
- ▶ Sita Ram Mardi is appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Himachal Pradesh.
- ▶ Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga is appointed as new Prime Minister of African Nation Mali (West Africa).
- ▶ Tamil Nadu government appointed B. Rajendran as chairperson of Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (REAT) for Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Additionally, T S Tirumurti is appointed as the Secretary (Economic Relations) in External Affairs Ministry.
- ▶ Telangana government formed state Minorities Commission with Mohammed Qamaruddin as Chairman and Rajarapu Pratap as vice chairman.

[Top](#)

Awards

- ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar is awarded first Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award for Probity (*Honesty*) in Public Life, instituted by J & K government to mark death anniversary of Mufti M Sayeed.
- ▶ French government will present *Legion of Honour* award to Indiann actor Soumitra Chatterjee, at 42nd International Kolkata Book Fair.

1. France will be Theme country for International Kolkata Book Fair 2018.
3. ▶ Indo British Scientist Pratibha Laxman Gai is named for damehood (female equivalent of a knighthood), in British Queen Elizabeth's New Year's Honours List 2018.
4. ▶ Industrial Awards -
 1. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Mumbai) won *Samudra Manthan - Caring Organisation of the Year* award, instituted by maritime industry publication *Bhandarkar Shipping*.
 2. Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) conferred Special Recognition Award 2018 on Central Water Commission (CWC), for promoting health and safety of large dams in India through World Bank aided Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).
5. ▶ Ravi Menon, The Indian Origin Managing director of Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), has been named best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018 by UK-based magazine *The Banker*.

[Top](#)

Committees

1. ▶ Central Government formed committee headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to decide on old, pre-existing projects in ports, which have become unviable.

[Top](#)

Days

1. ▶ Jan 01, 2018 - 125th Birth Anniversary of Noted Indian Scientist Satyendra Nath Bose.
 1. He is best known for his work on quantum mechanics in early 1920s, providing foundation for Bose–Einstein statistics and theory of Bose–Einstein condensate. He was A Fellow of Royal Society (UK) and was awarded India's second highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan in 1954.
2. ▶ Jan 04 - World Braille Day. It commemorates contribution of Louis Braille who invented reading and writing system that helped blind people across world.
3. ▶ Jan 09 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in India, marking return of M K Gandhi to India from south africa on Jan 9, 1915. It was first celebrated by NDA Government in 2003.
 1. This year marks 25th anniversary of India's partnership with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Nations and theme was *Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in Dynamic ASEAN INDIA Partnership*.
 2. On this occasion, first ever Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference held in Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in New Delhi.

[Top](#)

Defence

1. ▶ A Defence Innovation Centre would be set up by CODISSIA in Coimbatore, to assist small industries in manufacturing components for the defence sector. CODISSIA will identify small and micro units as well as start-ups, that can manufacture components required for defence production.
2. ▶ Border Security Force (BSF) launched *Operation Alert* along 200 km long International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir to prevent infiltration attempts by terrorists from Pakistan.
3. ▶ Defence Ministry Nirmala Sitharaman cleared 2 procurement proposals -
 1. 131 Barak missiles will be procured from Israel's Rafael Advance Defence Systems of Israel for INR 460 crores.
 2. 240 precision guided bombs will be procured from JSC Rosonboron Exports (Russia) for INR 1254 crores.
4. ▶ Defence Ministry approved procurement of P-8I Training Solution for Indian Navy and Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS) for Indian Army at total cost of INR 2419 crores.
 1. Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS) will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited for 470 crores.
 2. P-8I Training Solution The P-8I Training Solution will be brought from Boeing (USA) for Rs.1949.32 crore.
5. ▶ Defence Ministry sanctioned raising Territorial Army (TA) battalion comprising ex-servicemen of Indian Army as part of its mission to clean Ganga by 2020, named as Composite Ecological Task Force (CETF) battalion.

1. CETF will be raised in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh as a pilot project for which INR 167 crores are allocated. It will be commanded by Colonel-rank officer. It will have 8 officers, 20 JCOs and around 500 other ranks on its roll.
6. ▶ Government sanctioned construction of 14460 bunkers at cost of INR 416 crores for people living along Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu & Kashmir. It is aimed at protecting locals from ceasefire violations from Pakistan.
7. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned *Charlie-435* patrolling vessel at Karaikal in Puducherry.
8. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship C-161 (ICGS C -161) commissioned at Porbandar in Gujarat.
9. ▶ Indian Navy signed MoU with Cochin Port Trust (Kerala) for leasing of 228 metres of berths at Mattancherry Wharf for 5 years, to meet requirements of Navy with sizeable increase in its fleet scheduled in the near future.

Top

Economy

1. ▶ A MOU is signed Between Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Allahabad Bank to provide a centralized platform for processing interest subsidy to eligible beneficiaries under Self Employment Programme (SEP) component of Deendayal AntyodayaYojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
 1. The Portal will -
 1. Enable processing interest subsidy for NULM schemes, which will be credited to Aadhaar linked beneficiary accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).
 2. Facilitate on-line validation of loans granted by Banks, through Urban Local Bodies.
 2. Self-Employment Component (SEP) of NULM and Need for Portal -
 1. Under SEP, loans for setting up micro- enterprise are available to individuals (upto 2 lakhs) and groups (upto 10 lakhs). Interest subvention from Ministry is available for amount of interest charged above 7%. Women SHGs are eligible for additional 3% subvention on timely loan repayment.
 2. Currently, interest subvention is processed manually, making it a time taking Process and No mechanism was there to ascertain whether beneficiary has received subsidy or not.
 3. Under Proposed Common centralized IT platform to be managed by Allahabad Bank, Claims will be uploaded by Central/Zonal HQ of banks on portal, concerned States/ULBs will verify the beneficiaries, after which the claim amount will be transferred.
 4. Allahabad Bank will charge a service fee of 1.05% of interest subsidy amount released.
2. ▶ Allahabad Bank became 11th bank to face *prompt corrective action* (PCA) by RBI, amid rise in its bad loans.
3. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) operationalised its first desktop ATM in Warangal (Telangana), to facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts.
 1. Desktop ATM has low power requirements and is designed to work in harsh climatic conditions. It is meant for rural customer who typically have small cash needs.
4. ▶ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) relaxed norms for levy of minimum alternate tax (MAT) for insolvent companies, to make Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 more effective and minimise hardships faced by companies going in for insolvency resolution.
 1. Minimum alternate tax (MAT) aims is to bring into tax realm the companies who do not pay any tax.
 2. This exemption facility will be available only for companies against whom application for corporate insolvency resolution process has been admitted by the adjudicating authority.
 3. This decision was taken after various hardships were faced by companies against whom application for corporate insolvency resolution process was admitted by Adjudicating Authority due to restriction in allowance of brought forward loss for computation of book profit.
5. ▶ Crisil launched *FPI Index*, to measure performance of investments of foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in fixed-income market. It will serve as benchmark for performance of FPI investments in government securities and high rated corporate bonds with maturity greater than three years.
6. ▶ Flipkart-owned payments firm PhonePe tied-up with *FreeCharge* Wallet to enable over 45 million users to link their existing FreeCharge Wallet to PhonePe app. PhonePe customers will be able to utilise their FreeCharge wallet balance for all online and offline transactions.
7. ▶ Government launched Savings Bonds with 7.75% Interest, commencing from 10th January 2018. Features -
 1. Applications in form of Bond Ledger Account will be received in designated bank branches and SHCIL (numbering about 1600).

2. Bonds will be issued in multiples of INR 1000 (face value).
3. Interest on the Bonds will be taxable under Income-tax Act 1961. Bonds will be exempt from Wealth-tax under Wealth Tax Act 1957.
4. Bonds will have a maturity of 7 years carrying interest at 7.75% per annum payable half- yearly (cumulative value of 1000 at end of 7 years will be 1703).
8. ▶ Government notified Companies (Amendment) Act 2017 that amends Some provisions of Companies Act 2013 and eases implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
 1. Amendment Act allows companies to issue shares at a discount to its creditors in instances wherein its debt is converted into shares, which was prohibited under Section 53 of Companies Act 2013.
 2. For defaulting companies, payment of managerial remuneration in excess of 11 % of net profits will now require approval of all stakeholders involved (banks, public financial institutions and other creditors).
9. ▶ Government notified terms of Scheme of Electoral Bonds, to curb flow of illegal money into political activities -
 1. With issuance of electoral bonds, donors can purchase electoral bonds from specific State Bank of India (SBI) branches, and receiving political parties can encash them only through a designated bank account.
 2. Electoral bonds will be available at specified SBI branches for 10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October.
 3. Electoral Bond shall be a bearer instrument in the nature of a Promissory Note (P-notes) and an interest-free banking instrument. Any Donor can buy bonds of any amount among INR 1000 / 10000 / 100000 / 1000000 and 10000000.
 4. Electoral bonds will not carry the name of payee or buyer and will have a life of only 15 days during which it can be used for making a donation to political parties.
 5. To receive the electoral bonds, Political party must have secured over 1% of the votes polled in last general elections.
10. ▶ Government stated that from January 1, 2018, customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments made through debit card, BHIM app and Aadhaar-enabled payment systems for up to Rs 2000, as Merchant discount rate (MDR) Charges will be borne by Government (costing approx 2500 crores INR). Government will reimburse MDR to banks.
11. ▶ HDFC Bank partnered with Rajasthan State Government to promote and nurture the start-ups in state, by providing solutions like current accounts, credit cards and other solutions to start-ups in Rajasthan under its SmartUp programme.
12. ▶ Indiabulls Housing Finance raised INR 1000 crores by selling India's first *Social Bonds*, that are debt instruments issued to raise funds which is to be deployed in financing/re-financing eligible social projects such as affordable housing, water supply, sanitation, transport etc. Yes Bank was sole investor in these bonds with 5 year maturity.
13. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts -
 1. HSBC predicted 6.5 % GDP Growth for India in FY 2017-18 and 7.0 % in 2018-19.
 2. As per government's Central Statistics Office (CSO), Indian economy will grow by 6.5% in 2017-18, as compared to 7.1% in 2016-17. GDP Growth by 5.7 % in Apr - June Quarter and 6.3% in July - September quarter.
 3. 2018 Global Economics Prospect (GEP) report by World Bank has projected India's growth rate to increase to 7.3% in 2018 and 7.5 for 2019 and 2020.
14. ▶ Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed agreement for training of IPPB employees in area of payment banking.
 1. IPPB is Government's attempt to boost *financial inclusion* by providing basic banking services to unbanked population.
15. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned Rs 372.51 crore loan assistance to Odisha for irrigation and rural bridge projects, that are to be undertaken during Jan- March 2018 period, under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
16. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank partnered with IndusInd Bank to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit (FD) when customer's balance exceeds Rs. 1 lakh at end of day, and earn up to 6.85 % annual interest.
17. ▶ Paytm has set up a new entity called *Paytm Money* that will offer investment and wealth management products and will invest close to \$10 million in new entity. Paytm Money is 4th product from One97 Communications, after Paytm Mall, Payments Bank and wallet.
18. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) signed MoU to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).
 1. Persons with annual family income below 40000 in rural areas and 55000 in urban areas are considered to be below double poverty line.

19. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched new design chocolate brown ten rupee note, with height 63mm (unchanged) and width 123mm (slightly lesser than 137mm width of existing note). Another difference is that reverse of note will carry a motif of Konark Sun Temple, as compared to images of fauna of India - rhinoceros, elephant and tiger of existing note.
20. ▶ SBI and NABARD signed agreement with five NGOs in Bengal for promotion of 2,500 joint liability groups (JLGs) in select districts. JLGs are informal groups of 4-10 members engaged in similar economic activities and willing to jointly repay loans taken by group.
21. ▶ SBI reduced base rate and benchmark prime lending rates by 30 basis points each, bringing down Base rate to 8.65 % and benchmark prime lending rates to 13.4 %.
22. ▶ Telangana government's Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd received RBI clearance to function as a non-banking finance company (NBFC). It had won SKOCH Platinum Award earlier under smart governance category in MSME segment.
23. ▶ Yes Bank and Nearby tied up to provide Aadhaar-enabled cardless and pinless ATM service through which, customers can deposit or withdraw money at retailers' place, using PayNEARBY mobile application.

Top

International

1. ▶ 2 Days after Saudi Arabia Allowed Indian Haj Pilgrims to travel to Haj via Sea Route, Saudi Arabia has now Increased India's Haj Quota for 2018 to 175025 (1 Lakh 75 Thousand and 25 Pilgrims), an increase of 5000 compared to previous year.
 1. Additionally, Women above 45 years of age will be allowed to travel for Haj in groups of 4 or more women, without a Mehram (Male Companion).
2. ▶ 34th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival (world's largest ice festival) began in Harbin (north-east China). It highlights ice sculptures of castles, historic landmarks and famous figures.
3. ▶ As per data by Sri Lanka Govt., India remains top source of tourists to Sri Lanka in 2017, with over 3.8 Lakh Indians visiting Sri Lanka. India was followed by followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).
4. ▶ Bank of Cyprus selected digital security company Gemalto to supply world's first biometric payment card for both chip and contactless payments. These cards will use fingerprint recognition instead of a personal identification number (PIN) to authenticate the cardholder.
5. ▶ Bulgaria taken over European Union's six-month revolving presidency, from Estonia.
6. ▶ California became 6th USA state (after Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Nevada), to permit sale of cannabis for recreational use.
7. ▶ China has developed a new underwater surveillance network which will help its submarines to accurately track target vessels and will protect its interests in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. It will acquire information about underwater environment, streaming acquired information to intelligence centres and providing actionable information to Chinese navy which will use it for tracking, navigation and positioning.
8. ▶ China will build its second foreign naval base in Pakistan, after Djibouti (Nation in Horn of Africa).
 1. It will be set up in Gwadar on the southwestern coast of Balochistan, that holds strategic significance as Gwadar is located near Chabahar port in Iran, that is being jointly developed by Iran, India and Afghanistan.
 2. Conference on Transformation of Aspirational Districts held in New Delhi, organized by NITI Aayog.
9. ▶ China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will issue its first US dollar-denominated bond with minimum worth of \$1 billion by June 2018.
 1. Minimum size of issuance will be 1 billion USD, which will be increased upon increase in demand for first bond.
 2. Bond Maturity will be 3 - 5 years, depending on investor demand. AIIB plans to cap its total 2018 borrowing volume at US \$3 billion.
10. ▶ Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and Netherlands joined UN Security Council as non-permanent members.
 1. UN Security Council has 15 members, including 5 with permanent seats who have power to veto resolutions – Britain, China, France, Russia and USA.
11. ▶ European Nation Iceland became First Nation to legalise equal pay between men and women, by passing a law that makes it illegal to pay men more than women, applicable for Companies employing minimum 25 people.
12. ▶ India and Saudi Arabia signed bilateral annual Haj 2018 agreement, allowing Indian Haj pilgrims through sea route also (that was suspended in 1995). Sending pilgrims through ships will help cut down travel expenses significantly.
13. ▶ India excluded Pakistan from list of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries with which it will be connecting its National Knowledge Network (NKN), a multi-gigabit pan-India network aimed at providing a unified high

speed network backbone for educational institutions in India. Researchers from different educational networks can collaborate with each other through NKN.

1. NKN will be connected from these countries either to Delhi, Mumbai or Kolkata, depending on the proximity.

14. ▶ Iran banned English from being taught in primary schools, amid suspected Western cultural invasion.
15. ▶ Israel formally withdrawn from UNESCO (*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*). Tensions began after UNESCO admitted Palestine as a member state in 2011.
 1. Israel has been a UNESCO member since 1949, having 9 sites on UNESCO heritage list.
16. ▶ Israel's parliament passed a law requiring a supermajority to relinquish (*leave*) control over any part of Jerusalem, that could hamstring city's division in any future peace deal. It will bar the government from ceding Israeli sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem without approval of at least 80 of the legislature's 120 members.
17. ▶ Nepal banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, to reduce accidents.
18. ▶ Pakistan Navy successfully test fired indigenously built surface-to-surface anti-ship missile *Harba*, from newly commissioned Fast Attack Craft PNS *Himmat*.
19. ▶ Pakistan allowed Chinese currency Yuan for exports and financing transactions. Chinese Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan.
20. ▶ Saudi Arabia and UAE became first countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to introduce Value Added Tax (VAT) for first time to increase their revenue away from oil reserves.
21. ▶ UNESCO Included *bird language* of Black Sea villagers (in northern Turkey) in list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. This high pitch system of whistling to communicate in the rugged terrain in Black Sea Regions dates back to some 500 years ago.
22. ▶ USA President announced that USA will no longer give any fund to Pakistan to fight terrorism, as Pakistan has not properly utilized approx 33 Billion USD given to it over past decade.
23. ▶ USA Space Firm *SpaceX* launched secret Zuma Mission for USA government, onboard Falcon 9 rocket.
 1. Zuma mission remains a secret as its nature or purpose and the agency behind it has not been made public.
24. ▶ USA placed Pakistan on newly formed Special Watch List for *severe violations of religious freedom*, as Pakistan continues to harass its religious minorities, tolerates extra-judicial violence in the guise of opposing blasphemy.
 1. Moreover, USA also re-designated 10 countries as *Countries of Particular Concern* under International Religious Freedom (IRF) Act - Myanmar, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
25. ▶ Venezuela Government announced 40 % increase to minimum wage, amid hyperinflation in oil-rich but crisis-stricken southern American nation.
26. ▶ e-Commerce Major Amazon's CEO Jeff Bezos became richest person ever as his wealth has hit \$105.1 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index. He passed Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates' previous record from 1999 (Gates is now worth \$93.3 billion).

Top

Meetings

1. ▶ Bilateral Meetings -
 1. 5th Bilateral Technical Meeting of India and Malaysia on cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine held in New Delhi.
 2. ▶ Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 held at Kathmandu (Nepal), to highlight hydropower potential of Nepal.

Top

National

1. ▶ 11 days Dhanu Yatra festival held in Bargarh district of Odisha.
2. ▶ 171st Araadhanai Music Festival started in Thiruvaiyaru (Tamil Nadu). Thyagaraja is one of Trinities of Carnatic music.
3. ▶ 3 day annual Flamingo Festival held at Pulicat lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary in Sullurpet mandal (Andhra Pradesh). Somewhere between 9,000 to 12,000 Migratory birds from Siberia visit this place during winter season for breeding.
4. ▶ *TrackChild* and *Khoya-Paya* portals launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development to track missing and found children. Ministry also provides support for children in trouble through the dedicated toll free number - 1098.
5. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh would get its first (and India's 2nd) Film and Television Institute (FTII). First Film and Television Institute of India of India was set up in Pune in 1960.

6. ▶ As per Govt. Data, India is leading global milk producer globally in past 3 years, with annual growth rate of 5.53% compared with 2.09% globally. India's Milk production was approx 163 million tonnes in 2016-17.
7. ▶ Assam Govt. launched *Chah Bagichar Dhan Puraskar Mela 2017-18*, that enables INR 2500 to be credited to accounts of people belonging to tea community, who opened bank accounts during demonetisation.
8. ▶ Assamese and Manipuri language versions of PM's Official website (www.pmindia.gov.in) have been launched. Now PM INDIA website is available in 11 regional languages - *Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu*.
9. ▶ BSES Rajdhani Power launched *Solar City Initiative (in partnership with USA agency for International Development (USAID) PACE-D and Indo-German Collaboration (GIZ))* aimed to maximise rooftop solar power use in south and west Delhi. Under this, rooftop solar installations will be provided at a single point for entire apartment complex unlike conventional method of having individual installations.
10. ▶ Bihar Government banned electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), that are handheld battery-run devices which are used like a conventional cigarette. However the ingredient (in liquid form) may differ.
11. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on 04-01-2018,
 1. Establishment of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
 2. CCEA Approvals -
 1. Construction of 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel on Srinagar-Leh section connecting NH-1A in Jammu and Kashmir, to provide all-weather connectivity to Leh region. It will be Asia's largest 2-lane bi-directional tunnel (14.150 km long).
 2. Implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on 1,380-km Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW1) on Ganga River, at cost of INR 5,370 crores. It will enable commercial navigation of at least 1500 tonne vessels on the Ganga river.
 3. Mandatory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in jute material for Jute Year 2017-18 (1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018). It aims at sustaining core demand for jute sector and supporting livelihood of workers and farmers dependent on Jute sector.
 4. Amendments in Model Concession Agreement (MCA) to make Port Projects more investor-friendly and make investments more attractive in Port Sector. It calls for setting up Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports (SAROD-PORTS) as dispute resolution mechanism, similar to provision available in Highway Sector.
 3. MOUs Approved -
 1. With London's transportation authority *Transport for London* to improve public transport in India.
 2. With Italy for co-operation in Renewable Energy.
 3. With Israel for co-operation in Oil and Gas Sector.
 4. With Belgium for co-operation in ICT&E.
 5. With Myanmar on Land Border Crossing, as an enabling arrangement for movement of people across border of both countries.
 6. Will sign MOU with Sri Lanka for cooperation in traditional systems of medicine and homoeopathy.
12. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on 10-01-2018 -
 1. FDI Policy Changes -
 1. 100% FDI under automatic route for Single Brand Retail Trading
 2. 100% FDI under automatic route in Construction Development
 3. Foreign airlines allowed investing up to 49% under approval route in Air India
 4. FIIs/FPIs allowed investing in Power Exchanges through primary market
 2. CCEA Approvals-
 1. Fixed term of 3 years for Chairperson and Members of National Trust for the Welfare of Person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
 2. Continuation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) till term of 14th Finance Commission (31-03-2020). It will entail total allocation of INR 11850 crores over 3 years, with additional annual allocation of 5 crore for monitoring through independent agency(ies) and for capacity building/training to State/District officials.
 3. MOUs -
 1. With Canada for cooperation in Science & Technology.

13. ▶ Central Government approved state Logo designed by West Bengal Government, highlighting the “Biswa Bangla” theme with Ashoka Pillars.
14. ▶ Delhi Govt. launched a common card for rides on public buses and metro, becoming first Indian city to have such common mobility card.
15. ▶ Department of Heavy Industries (*Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises*) allowed Karnataka government to purchase electric vehicles (EVs) under FAME India scheme, at maximum of 60% subsidy.
 1. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) India was launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission (NEMM) aims at promoting eco-friendly vehicles in the country.
16. ▶ FY 2017 - 18 Winter Session passed Bills in Jan 2018 -
 1. Rajya 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. It was passed by Lok Sabha recently. Main Features Include -
 1. It Bill prohibits certain persons from submitting a resolution plan in case of defaults.
 2. 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).
 3. It allows asset reconstruction companies, banks and alternative investment funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India to bid for insolvent companies.
 2. Parliament passed National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill 2017, with approval of Rajya Sabha (Lok Sabha already passed it in August 2017). It amends NABARD Act 1981 and -
 1. Allows Government to increase capital of NABARD from Rs. 5000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore (even beyond if required, upon Consultaion with RBI).
 2. Government must hold at least 51% capital share of NABARD, and share capital held by RBI valued at 20 crores (.4%) will be transferred to Government.
 3. Bill replaces terms ‘small-scale industry’ and ‘industry in tiny and decentralised sector’ with terms ‘micro enterprise’, ‘small enterprise’ and ‘medium enterprise’ as defined in MSME Development Act 2006.
 3. Lok Sabha passed Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill 2017 to allow government to take up infrastructure projects within prohibited areas around protected monuments. It amends Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act 1958.
 4. Lok Sabha passed High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill 2017 to hike salaries of judges of Supreme Court (SC) and High Courts (HCs), with effect from January 1, 2016.
 1. It amends HC Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act 1954 and SC Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act 1958.
 2. Hiked Monthly Salaries will be (INR) -
 1. Chief Justice of India (CJI) - 2.80 lakh
 2. Judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justices of High Courts - 2.5 lakh
 3. Judges of High Courts - 2.25 lakh
17. ▶ First all-women staff (41 females) railway station in India, Matunga on Central Railway (CR) in Mumbai, entered Limca Book of Records.
18. ▶ First draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam containing names of 1.9 crore Indians in state has been released, updated after 1951.
19. ▶ GAIL commissioned India’s second largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh, as a 5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak) solar plant at GAIL’s petrochemical complex at Pata in UP, covering area of 65,000 square meters.
 1. Largest rooftop solar plant in India was commissioned in December 2015 by Tata Power Solar in Amritsar (Punjab) with 12 MWp capacity.
20. ▶ General Conferences (Jan 01 - 10, 2018) -
 1. 8 day long New Delhi World Book Fair begun in New Delhi, with theme *Environment and Climate Change* and European union as Guest of Honour country.
 2. 18th All India Whips’ Conference held at Udaipur (Rajasthan). During this, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) proposed rolling out of e-Sansad in Parliament and e-Vidhan in State Legislatures to digitize and make their functioning paperless.

3. Annual Conference of DGPs and IGP held at BSF (Border Security Force) Academy in Tekanpur (Madhya Pradesh). It was attended by PM Narendra Modi.
4. 4th International Conference on Dharma-Dhamma held at Rajgir (Bihar), organised by Nalanda University with an aim to provide an opportunity to academics and policy makers from India and abroad to share ideas.
21. ▶ Government announced completion of 1st phase of BharatNet project, after laying 254895 km of optical fibre cables (OFC) covering 1,09,926 GPs out of which 1,01,370 GPs are service ready.
 1. BharatNet project forms backbone for Digital India initiative. It aims to bring high speed broadband to all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats (GPs) through optical fibre by March 2019. It approved in 2011 as National Optical Fibre Network.
22. ▶ Gujarat topped Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index released at 3rd meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion.
 1. LEADS Index is about mobility of goods and efficiency of logistics chain, developed by Commerce and Industry Ministry along with Deloitte.
 2. Gujarat is followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Among UTs, Daman & Diu topped, followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.
23. ▶ Haryana became first state to launch High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal, to help in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases and ensure their timely referral to civil hospital. This portal is designed to track every high-risk pregnant woman till 42 days after delivery.
24. ▶ Haryana government mandated installation of Solar Photovoltaic Power plant in new buildings as per specified norms, aimed at conserving electricity and use it efficiently.
25. ▶ Haryana government will implement integrated solar based micro irrigation scheme (ISBMI) in all districts and formed a Committee to chalk out a plan in this regard.
 1. ISBMI will focus on saving electricity and water, and will also be economical for farmers as they will not be required to install tubewells at their own level instead they just have to pay a nominal amount for water according to the crops.
26. ▶ Health Ministry launched India's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series designed by Tata Memorial Center, to train doctors for early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers.
27. ▶ Himachal Pradesh govt will set up 24X7 'Gudiya helpline' for reporting crimes against women. Under which, three special crime cells would be set up (one each at Mandi, Shimla and Kangra).
28. ▶ Home Ministry declared Nagaland as *disturbed area* for 6 more months (till June 2018) under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act – AFSPA.
 1. Under AFSPA, armed forces attain several overriding powers including authority to open fire and use force against any person acting against the law.
29. ▶ Hyderabad became 2nd large city (above 1 crore population) to be declared open defecation free (ODF), after Mumbai.
 1. Maharashtra government also imposed spot fine of Rs 500 for open defecation, littering, spitting and urinating in public places.
30. ▶ India missed December 2017 deadline announced for elimination of Kala Azar (black fever) in 2017-18 Budget by Government.
 1. Elimination is defined as reducing annual incidence of disease to less than 1 case per 10,000 people at sub-district level.
 2. Kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis), also known as black fever and Dumdum fever is most severe form of leishmaniasis. It is a slow progressing indigenous disease caused by single-celled parasite of Leishmania family.
31. ▶ Indian Railways will deploy Drone cameras (UAV/NETRA) for various railway activities especially maintenance of tracks, project monitoring and other railway infrastructure, in-line with Railways' desire to use technology to enhance safety and efficiency in train operations.
 1. Railways also finalised plan to equip over 8500 stations with Wi-Fi facilities at an estimated cost of INR 700 crores, by March 2019.
 2. At 1200 stations, Wi-Fi facility will be provided to rail passengers while at about 7300 stations, facility will be available to all (passenger and locals).
32. ▶ India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education increased from 24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.2% in 2016-17, according to All India Higher Education Survey (AIHES) 2016-17. Tamil Nadu has highest GER at 46.9%, while Bihar has least with GER of 14.9%.
33. ▶ International Kite Festival held at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
34. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Government launched *Muhafiz* (meaning *Guardian* in English) scheme, for providing institutionalized socio-economic security to workers in unorganised sector. Registered workers will also be offered Micro Credit facility with a credit limit of INR 10000.

35. ▶ Jharkhand Govt. launched *Saubhagya Yojana*, aimed at providing 24*7 electricity to approx 30000 villages across state by December 2018. Under this, above poverty line (APL) families would get electricity connection by paying Rs 500 (Rs 50 each month for 10 months).
36. ▶ Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport became 5th in India having CAT III B landing system runway, enabling flights to land even when visibility is 50 metres with decision height of 15 meters.
37. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government imposed 50 paise per litre cess on petrol and diesel, to be used for strengthening road infrastructure across state and laying metro railroad in Bhopal and Indore.
38. ▶ Maharashtra Government will form an education board for non-English medium schools, that will prepare syllabus for non-English medium schools in Maharashtra.
39. ▶ Mankidia tribe in Odisha has been denied habitat rights in Similipal Tiger Reserve (Odisha) amid possibilities of tribals being attacked by wild animals (especially tigers). It is notified under historic Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.
 1. Mankidia is one of 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and depends on making rope with siali fibre that's richly available in Similipal.
40. ▶ Minister of Women & Child Development, Maneka Gandhi launched NARI portal, aimed at providing women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
 1. e-Samvad portal is also developed which will be inaugurated soon. It will be a platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with Ministry of Women & Child Development.
41. ▶ Ministries of Railways, Human Resource Development and Department of Science & Technology signed an MoU for joint funding of Technology Mission for Indian Railways, worth approx 300 Crores INR. Funding percentage is - Railways (30%), Human Resource Development (25%) AND Department of Science & Technology (25%).
42. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Allied and Health care Professional Database portal to make data repository robust to ensure better systems and frameworks for healthcare workforce in country, to help tracking number of professionals and streams of allied and health care professions.
43. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will launch *National Programme for Control of Viral Hepatitis*, as a new scheme free treatment of Hepatitis C from 2018-19, with focus on free anti-viral treatment of Hepatitis C. For this, budget of INR 600 crores is marked for 3 years.
44. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) exempted cruise tourists arriving with e-visa from the requirement of biometric enrolment for a period of three years (till 2020), to promote cruise tourism in India.
45. ▶ Nation-wide cleanliness survey *Swachh Survekshan* launched to evaluate achievements in cleanliness level in Urban areas, Deemed as world's biggest survey. It will be conducted in over 4,000 cities and will run till 10 March 2018.
46. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved 5 Namami Gange projects worth Rs 295 crores in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
47. ▶ Puducherry government launched a special police force to safeguard tourists, provided with special blue colour head gears.
48. ▶ RS Puram Police station in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) is named best in India in SMART Police Stations initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). SMART stands for *Sensitive and Strict, Modern with mobility, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive and Trained and Techno-savvy*.
49. ▶ Railways will standardize trains in terms of number of coaches so that all trains can run on all routes. Soon, all trains would have 22 coaches, making them suitable for running on any route.
 1. Currently, coaches are of two kinds (ICF and LHB) and number of coaches in a train could be 12, 16, 18, 22 or 26, depending on its demand, making it difficult for the railways to substitute one with the other.
50. ▶ Rajasthan government will digitise administrative and historical records of Rajputana's princely states (10000 Pages/day), to to protect old and fragile documents.
 1. Rajasthan State Archive consists of 30-40 crore administrative and historical records of 22 princely states, and will digitise 3-4 crore documents considered important.
51. ▶ Reliance Industries commissioned and achieved design throughput of world's largest refinery off-gas cracker at Jamnagar (Gujarat). Refinery will have a capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum along with downstream plants and utilities.
52. ▶ Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Railways has launched *New Online Vender Registration System*, to make related procedures digital and transparent. New system provides major improvements such as Public access to information, expeditious process completion with defined timelines, round-the-year services, availability of all related information on RDSO Website etc.

53. ▶ Residents of Bhanakpur village in Faridabad (Haryana) will begin day by singing national anthem daily at 8 am. Panchayat has installed 20 loudspeakers and 22 CCTV cameras for the purpose. This village is first in Haryana and second in India (after Jammikunta Telangana), to introduce this system.
54. ▶ Sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) looking into issues of girl's education has recommended free and compulsory education for girls up to post-graduate level across country.
55. ▶ Supreme Court stayed Karnataka High Court's order to reduce size of pictorial warnings on packages of tobacco products to 40% of package space from earlier 85%.
1. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2014 prescribed mandatory 85% statutory warnings space on both sides of tobacco packaging telling consumers that cigarette smoking and tobacco chewing were harmful to health.
 2. In December 2017, Karnataka HC quashed MoHFW rules related to 85% statutory warnings on packaging of tobacco products, holding that they violated Constitutional norms. This order is now stayed by Supreme Court.
 3. Supreme Court also ruled that playing national anthem before screening movies in cinema halls is not mandatory. Government has formed a committee to finalize on the same and committee will submit report in 6 months. Committee is headed by B.R. Sharma (Additional Secretary in MHA).
56. ▶ Tamil Nadu Government launched e-governance policy to help public, government and commercial establishments avail all services through digital medium. It lets government to allocate 0.5 % of annual funds for digital initiatives and further increase it to 3 % in 5 years.
57. ▶ Telangana Government inaugurated India's first National Park for differently abled people in Hyderabad. It has speech therapist, vocational training instructors and physiotherapist for differently-abled children.
58. ▶ To Address Privacy Concerns, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced a new concept of Virtual ID which Aadhaar-card holder can generate from its website and give for various purposes, wherever Aadhaar number is necessary to provide.
1. Virtual would be a random 16-digit number and a user can generate as many Virtual IDs (Older ones will be cancelled when generating new).
 2. It will give limited details (like name, address and photograph), which are sufficient for verification by any authorised agency
 3. Aadhaar-issuing body will start accepting virtual ID from March 1, 2018 and From June 1, it will be obligatory for all agencies that undertake authentication to accept Virtual ID from their users.
59. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government banned use of unauthorised loudspeakers at public places, including religious places.

Top

Persons

1. ▶ Obituaries -
 1. Radha Vishwanathan - Carnatic vocalist (daughter of legendary classical singer M S Subbulakshmi).
 2. Anwar Jalalpuri - Noted Urdu poet.
 3. Ambalavaner Sivanandan - Noted Sri Lanka novelist.
 4. John Young - Noted American astronaut, who walked on Moon and was only agency astronaut to go into space as part of Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs.
 5. Shrivallabh Vyas - Bollywood Actor.
 6. Jerry Van Dyke - Noted American comedian and actor.
 7. Peter Sutherland - Former Irish World Trade Organization (WTO) director general.
 8. Shashikant Bhagwat - Noted sports journalist.
 9. Saksham Yadav - Former Powerlifting world champion.
2. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 1-10, 2018) -
 1. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.
 1. Thailand - Co-chaired 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.
 2. Singapore - Inaugurated Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries.
 2. Union Minister (*Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) Nitin Gadkari visited Singapore to inaugurate ASEAN India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
3. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 01 - 10, 2018)
 1. King Letsie III and Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of Lesotho (Southern African Nation) visited India.

2. H Wiranto (Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs) visited India, To attend first bilateral security dialogue between India and Indonesia.

[Top](#)

Science

1. ▶ A new endangered flowering plant species named 'Primula Zhui' has been discovered by scientists in Yunnan Province of China, known in Chinese as Zhu Hua Baochun.
2. ▶ Acer launched *Acer Swift 7*, that claims to be the world's thinnest laptop, priced at \$1,699. It has thickness of 8.98mm and is powered by Intel Core i7 processor.
3. ▶ India's fastest and first multi-petaflops (PF) supercomputer named Pratyush (meaning *Sun*) unveiled at Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). It will enable better weather related forecasts including monsoon, cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, lightning etc.
 1. Pratyush has 6.8 PF computational power installed at two MoES Institutes. 4.0 Peta Flops HPC facility at IITM, Pune and 2.8 Peta Flops facility at NCMRWF, Noida.
 2. Pratyush is fourth fastest supercomputer in world for weather and climate research, after supercomputers in Japan, US and UK.
 3. It will enable mapping regions in India at resolution of 3 km and globe at 12 km.
 4. Fastest Supercomputers in world -

1.

Supercomputer	Peak speed (Rmax)	Location
TaihuLight (<i>Sunway</i>)	93.01 PFLOPS	China
Tianhe-2 (<i>NUDT</i>)	33.86 PFLOPS	China
Piz Daint (<i>Cray</i>)	19.59 PFLOPS	Switzerland
ZettaScaler (<i>Gyokou</i>)	17.14 PFLOPS	Japan
Titan (<i>Cray</i>)	17.59 PFLOPS	USA

4. ▶ NASA will launch Parker Solar Probe in 2018 to explore sun's outer atmosphere, onboard Delta IV Heavy launch vehicle. It aims at Tracing how energy and heat move through solar corona and what accelerates solar wind as well as solar energetic particles.
5. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will soon launch two missions - GOLD (*Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk*) and ICON (*Ionospheric Connection Explorer*), to explore ionosphere (96 km above Earth's surface).
 1. ICON will launched in low-Earth orbit (LEO) located at 560 km above Earth and GOLD will be launched in geostationary orbit over Western Hemisphere (about 35,398 km above earth).
 2. It will help in full-disk view of ionosphere and upper atmosphere beneath it every half hour.
6. ▶ Scientists at University of California (USA) stated that increase in warmer global temperatures and dryer weather conditions could pose a threat to survival of fragile cocoa plant, leading to disappearance of chocolate by 2050. To avoid this, gene-editing technology CRISPR must be used to evolve crops that can survive environmental challenges.
7. ▶ Scientists discovered 4 new balsam species from various locations in Eastern Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh. They are - *Impatiens haridasanii*, *Impatiens pseudocitrina*, *Impatiens nilalohitae* and *Impatiens roingensis*.
8. ▶ Scientists from Duke University in North Carolina (USA) for first time have developed working human skeletal muscle from stem cells in lab.
 1. Stem cells are undifferentiated biological cells that can differentiate into specialized cells and can divide to produce more stem cells, found in multicellular organisms.
 2. Scientists developed human skeletal muscle using adult skin or blood cells that were reprogrammed into a juvenile, versatile state. This may benefit several people suffering of degenerative muscular diseases. It will allow scientists to grow endless amount of functioning muscle in lab to test to test drugs and gene treatments for degenerative diseases.
9. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) has given its pre-qualification to Typbar Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TVC) developed by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech for global use.
 1. Typbar TCV is world's first typhoid vaccine clinically proven to be administered to children from six months of age to adults, and confers long-term protection against typhoid fever.

[Top](#)

Sports

1. ▶ 2nd Elite Women's National Boxing Championships held in Haryana.
2. ▶ 2018 Maharashtra Men's Tennis Title (Also called Tata Open) -
 1. Men's Singles - Gilles Simon (France), defeating South Africa's Kevin Anderson
3. ▶ 2018 Shenzhen Women's Tennis Open (China) -
 1. Singles - Simona Halep (Romania)
 2. Doubles - Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu AND Simona Halep
4. ▶ 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards (honoring best film and American television of 2017), Winners are -
 1. Motion Picture -
 1. Drama - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.
 2. Musical/Comedy - Lady Bird.
 2. Director -
 1. Drama- Guillermo del Toro (The Shape of Water).
 3. Actor -
 1. Drama - Gary Oldman (Darkest Hour)
 2. Musical / Comedy - James Franco (The Disaster Artist)
 4. Actress-
 1. Drama - Frances McDormand (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri).
 2. Musical/Comedy - Saoirse Ronan (Lady Bird)
 5. Actor in a Supporting role -
 1. Motion Picture - Sam Rockwell (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)
 6. Actress in a Supporting role -
 1. Motion Picture - Allison Janney (I, Tonya)
 7. Original Song - *This Is Me* (Benj Pasek and Justin Paul) - The Greatest Showman.
 8. Animated Feature Film - Coco.
 9. Foreign Language Film - In the Fade (Germany/France)
 10. Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award - Oprah Winfrey.
5. ▶ Aanchal Thakur from Himachal Pradesh became first Indian to win an international medal in skiing after she won Bronze at Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup organised by Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) in Erzurum in Turkey.
6. ▶ BCCI banned Yusuf Pathan for five months after failed a dope test. However the backdated ban will get over on Jan 14, 2018.
7. ▶ Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho became second most expensive soccer transfer ever after Liverpool FC sent him to Barcelona FC for 160 million Euros (\$192 million).
 1. Brazilian football player Neymar is most expensive ever with his 200 million pounds worth transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint Germain in 2017.
8. ▶ Brisbane International Tennis 2018 -
 1. Men's Singles - Nick Kyrgios (Australia)
 2. Women's Singles - Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
 3. Men's Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
 4. Women's Doubles - Netherlands's Kiki Bertens AND Demi Schuurs
9. ▶ Egyptian Footballer Mohamed Salah is named Arab Football Player of 2017, in a poll conducted by over 100 sports journalists from various Arab countries.
10. ▶ Former Australian Cricketer Ricky Ponting has been appointed head coach of IPL Team Delhi Daredevils.
11. ▶ G Sathyan became India's highest ranked player in International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings, with 49th Rank globally. He is followed by Sharath Kamal who is at 51st world rank. In women's ranking, Manika Batra topped among Indians with world rank 62.
12. ▶ Harjinder Singh is appointed as *Chef De Mission* of Indian Contingent participating in 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang (South Korea) in February 2018.
13. ▶ India at recent misc sports events -
 1. Aditya Mehta won Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship, defeating England's Alfie Burden.
14. ▶ Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won Royal Cup at Pattaya (Thailand), his 3rd Asian Tour title of 2017.

15. ▶ Kajal Kumari and Moha. Ghufraan won women's singles and men's singles respectively in 24th Federation Cup All India Carrom Championship in Mumbai.
16. ▶ Meghalaya signed Host City Contract with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to host 39th National Games in 2022.
17. ▶ New Zealand's Colin Munro became first cricketer to score 3 hundreds in T20 internationals, when he scored 3rd T20 100 against West Indies.
18. ▶ Switzerland won 3rd Hopman Cup (Tennis) as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber at Perth Arena (Australia).
19. ▶ Vidarbha won the Ranji Trophy of Cricket for the first time, defeating Delhi in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), with Rajneesh Gurbani named as Man of The Match.
20. ▶ WTA Auckland Women's Tennis Open (New Zealand) -
 1. Singles - Julia Görges (Germany)
 2. Doubles - Sara Errani (Italy) AND Bibiane Schoofs (Netherlands)

Top

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