



Current Affairs - September 2017 to February 2018

Month Type



• **3340** Current Affairs were found in **Last Six Months** for Type - **All**

(Showing **2488** Important Ones)

Appointments






















1. ▶ Ajit Kumar P assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff.
2. ▶ A Surya Prakash has been re-appointed as chairman of Prasar Bharati board for second consecutive term till February 2020.
3. ▶ A. P. Maheshwari has been appointed as Director General in Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
4. ▶ A.K.Prasad has been appointed as new Financial Commissioner (Railways).
5. ▶ Abanti Sankaranarayanan has been elected as chairperson of board of *The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)*.
6. ▶ Abdul Hamid has been re-elected as President of Bangladesh for 2nd term. Additionally, Bangladesh former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was jailed for 5 years, after being found guilty in a corruption case.
7. ▶ Abhilasha Kumari is appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
8. ▶ Acclaimed South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV.
9. ▶ Actor Dia Mirza has been appointed UN (United Nations) Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India.
10. ▶ Aegon Life Insurance appointed Vineet Arora as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
11. ▶ Amardeep Singh Bhatia is appointed as new director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
12. ▶ Anandiben Patel has been appointed as Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
13. ▶ Andrej Babis has been appointed as new prime minister of Czech Republic (Europe).
14. ▶ Angela Merkel won fourth term as chancellor of Germany.
15. ▶ Anil Chauhan took charge as Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of Indian Army, succeeding A K Bhatt.
16. ▶ Anil Khanna is appointed as Chairman of Finance Commission of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
17. ▶ Anshu Prakash has been appointed as chief secretary of Delhi.
18. ▶ Antony Dominic is appointed as Chief Justice of Kerala.
19. ▶ Arvind P. Jamkhedkar is appointed as New Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
20. ▶ Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as Chief Secretary for Puducherry.
21. ▶ Audrey Azoulay (France) elected as new Director General of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).
22. ▶ B S Sahrawat is appointed as Director General of National Cadet Corps.
23. ▶ Balraj Joshi has been appointed as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of NHPC (National Hydro Power Corporation).
24. ▶ Borut Pahor re-elected as President of Slovenia for 2nd term.
25. ▶ Britain's Prince Harry is appointed as president of African Parks, a conservation group which manages wildlife areas in Africa.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ Buddhist monk Dhammapiya from Tripura has been elected as the secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), during 2nd general assembly of IBC held in New Delhi.
28. ▶ Cabinet Changes -
 - ▶ New Cabinet Ministers
 - ▶ Nirmala Sitharaman - Ministry of Defence. Sitharaman is first woman after Indira Gandhi to hold portfolio of Defence Minister.

- ▶ Piyush Goyal - Ministry of Railways (also Minister of State for Coal Ministry (IC))
- ▶ Dharmendra Pradhan - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural. He will also hold Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ▶ Muqtar Abbas Naqvi - Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- ▶ Nitin Gadkari - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (also holds Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)
- ▶ Uma Bharti - Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- ▶ Narendra Singh Tomer - Ministry of Mines (Also Holds Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj)
- ▶ Suresh Prabhu - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- ▶ New Ministers Of State
 - ▶ Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
 - ▶ Krishna Raj - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
 - ▶ K J Alphons - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
 - ▶ Satya Pal Singh - Ministry of Human Resource Development AND Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
 - ▶ Virendra Kumar - Ministry of Women and Child Development AND Ministry of Minority affairs.
 - ▶ Anant Kumar Hegde - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
 - ▶ Mahesh Sharma - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 - ▶ Sudarshan Bhagat - Tribal Affairs
 - ▶ Rao Inderjit Singh - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
 - ▶ Arjun Ram Meghwal - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation AND Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
 - ▶ Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary - Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines
 - ▶ Pon Radhakrishna - Ministry of Finance AND Ministry of Shipping
 - ▶ Shiv Pratap Shukla - Ministry of Finance
- ▶ New Ministers of State (Independent Charge)
 - ▶ Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (IC)
 - ▶ Hardeep Puri - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (IC)
 - ▶ RK Singh- Ministry of Power (IC) and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (IC)
 - ▶ K J Alphons - Ministry of Tourism (IC)
 - ▶ Mahesh Sharma - Ministry of Culture (IC)
 - ▶ Santosh Kumar Gangwar - Ministry of Labour & Employment (IC)
 - ▶ Giriraj Singh - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (IC)
 - ▶ Rao Inderjit Singh - Ministry of Planning (IC)
 - ▶ Piyush Goyal - Ministry of State for Coal Ministry (IC)

29. ▶ D R Soni appointed as chief of Indian Army's Southern Command.
30. ▶ Debjani Ghosh has been appointed as first Female President of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).
31. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is elected President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA).
32. ▶ Devendra Kumar Joshi has been appointed as Lieutenant Governor of UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
33. ▶ Dhirendra Pal Singh is appointed as chairperson of University Grants Commission (UGC).
34. ▶ Dilip Asbe is appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
35. ▶ Dinesh Srivastava has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC).
36. ▶ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) appointed Dilip Chenoy as its Director General.
37. ▶ Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been elected as Chair of Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for 4 years term.
38. ▶ Former cricketer Saba Karim is appointed as new General Manager (GM) of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
39. ▶ Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) appointed Pramod Agarwal as its new chairman.
40. ▶ George Weah (Former footballer) has been elected as new president of Liberia (West Africa).
41. ▶ Google's Parent Company Alphabet appointed John L. Hennessy as new board chairman of company, replacing Eric Schmidt.
42. ▶ Government appointed Dineshwar Sharma as its Representative to carry forward dialogue with elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in Jammu and Kashmir.

- ▶ After this appointment, Supreme Court adjourned hearing of plea (*filed by Delhi-based NGO in 2014*) challenging Article 35A of Constitution by 3 months.
 - ▶ Article 35A of empowers J&K legislature to define permanent residents (PR) of state. It was added through Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 issued under Article 370 of Constitution.
 - ▶ J&K Constitution adopted on November 17, 1956 defines Permanent Resident as person who has been resident of state for 10 years and has acquired immovable property in state. Provision of Permanent Resident bars Indian citizens of other states to settle in J&K and do any personal or professional activities. Therefore, Plea was filed to remove Article 35A of constitution.
43. ▶ Government appointed Rajnish Kumar as chairman of State Bank of India for 3 years term, succeeding Arundhati Bhattacharya.
 44. ▶ Government appointed Sivan K as New Chairman of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) and Secretary in Department of Space. He will replace A S Kiran Kumar as ISRO Chief.
 45. ▶ Government appointed U D Salvi as officiating chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT), after Swatenter Kumar Retired Recently.
 46. ▶ Government appointed Vijay Keshav Gokhale as new Foreign Secretary of India. He is considered Diplomatic Expert on Chinese matters.
 47. ▶ Government has constituted 15th Finance Commission in pursuance of clause (1) of article 280 of Constitution, to make recommendations for the 5 years commencing on April 1, 2020. It will be headed by N.K.Singh. Currently, 14th finance commission (headed by Y V Reddy) is active.
 48. ▶ Halimah Yacob has been appointed as 8th President of Singapore (and First female ever).
 49. ▶ Hardayal Prasad is appointed as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India's second-largest credit card issuer *SBI Card*.
 50. ▶ Hasmukh Adhia Has been appointed as new Finance Secretary of India. He wa previously serving as Revenue secretary.
 - ▶ Additionally, Binoy Kumar has been appointed as Special Secretary in Commerce Ministry.
 51. ▶ Henrietta Fore (USA) is appointed as new Executive Director of United Nations Childrens' Fund (UNICEF).
 52. ▶ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) appointed Jayant Rikhye as Chief Executive Officer for India.
 53. ▶ IPS Officer Abhay has been appointed as Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
 54. ▶ IT Firm Infosys appointed Salil S. Parekh as its new CEO and Managing Director.
 55. ▶ Inder Jit Singh has been appointed as Chairperson of National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC).
 56. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) appointed Suresh Sethi as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
 57. ▶ India TV Chairman Rajat Sharma elected as President of News Broadcasters Association (NBA) for 2017-18.
 58. ▶ India' Chakravarthi AVPS has been appointed as global ambassador of World Packaging Organisation (WPO).
 59. ▶ India's Dalveer Bhandari has been re-elected as a member of International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands).
 - ▶ For the First Time, Britain will not have any member at ICJ.
 60. ▶ Indian American Manisha Singh has been appointed as Assistant Secretary of State of USA for economic and business affairs. She is the first woman appointed to the post.
 61. ▶ Indian National Congress appointed Rahul Gandhi as Party's new President, replacing Sonia Gandhi.
 62. ▶ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Vikram Singh Sisodia as *Chef de Mission* for 21st Commonwealth Games to be held at Gold Coast in Australia.
 63. ▶ Indian Weightlifting Federation President Birendra Prasad Baishya elected as chairman of two sub-committees of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Ethics Commission AND Anti-Disciplinary Commission.
 64. ▶ Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen is elected as Vice Chairman of US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF).
 65. ▶ Indo-British Person Deepak Parekh is named as First *International Ambassador* for London city and will work towards championing London City across the globe.
 66. ▶ Infosys cofounder AND former Chairman of UIDAI, Nandan Nilekani has been entrusted by Government for developing IT infrastructure for National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS).
 - ▶ NHPS aims to offer medical cover for up to Rs 5 lakh to more than 10 crore poor families, covering up to 40 % of India's population.
 - ▶ In 2018-2019 budget, initial corpus of Rs 2,000 crore has been allocated for NHPS.
 - ▶ Premium on insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh under NHPS has been decided at Rs 900-1,000 per family annually.
 - ▶ Central government will contribute 60 % fund, and remaining will be provided by states (90 % central share for special category states).
 67. ▶ Jacinda Ardern has been elected as new Prime Minister of New Zealand. She is youngest Prime Minister of NZ in over 150 years.
 68. ▶ Jai Ram Thakur has been named as new (14th) Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, after BJP won recent state assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.
 69. ▶ Jerome H Powell has been appointed as Chairman of Federal Reserve System, Central banking system of USA.

70. ▶ Jnanpith recipient and Kannada litetratureur Chandrashekhar Kambar is elected as President of Sahitya Akademi. Hindi poet Madhav Kaushik was elected as vice president of the Sahitya Akademi.
71. ▶ Joao Lourenco appointed as Angola (South African Nation)'s first new President in 38 years.
72. ▶ Juan Orlando Hernandez has been re-appointed as President of Honduras (Central America) for 2nd term.
73. ▶ KP Sharma Oli has become Prime Minister of Nepal for his second term, after Sher Bahadur Deuba resigned as PM.
74. ▶ KV Rama Moorthy appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.
75. ▶ Kenneth I. Juster has been nominated as next USA ambassador to India.
76. ▶ Kerala Government appointed V J Mathew as Chairman of Maritime Board.
77. ▶ M Mahender Reddy has been appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana State.
78. ▶ M. Nagaraja Sarma has been appointed as chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of United India Insurance Company.
79. ▶ Mahendra Pratap Mall has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
80. ▶ Members of *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* have moved *Doomsday Clock* upward by 30 seconds, to bring it just 2 minutes from midnight, closest since 1953 Cold War.
- ▶ Doomsday Clock is a symbol that represents likelihood of a man-made global catastrophe, Maintained since 1947.
 - ▶ It represents an analogy for threat of global nuclear war. Since 2007, it also reflected climate change and new developments in life sciences that could inflict irrevocable harm to humanity.
 - ▶ It represents hypothetical global catastrophe as *midnight*. Its original setting in 1947 was seven minutes to midnight.
 - ▶ It has been moved 22 times till now, closest ever to midnight being 2 mins (in 1953 and 2018) and largest 17 mins (in 1991).
 - ▶ On January 28 of 2018, Clock is set at 2 minutes to midnight, amid global threat of nuclear war between USA & North Korea.
81. ▶ Mercedes Araoz Fernandez has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Peru.
82. ▶ Michael McCormack has been elected as new Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.
83. ▶ Milos Zeman won 2nd 5 year term as President of Czech Republic (Central Europe).
84. ▶ Ministry of Coal appointed Gopal Singh as CMD of Coal India Ltd.
85. ▶ N C Goel is appointed as new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan.
86. ▶ N Sambasiva Rao has been appointed as Director-General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh.
87. ▶ Naba Kumar Nayak has been appointed as the State Election Commissioner in Odisha.
88. ▶ Nakul Chopra is elected as new Chairman of BARC India (Broadcast Audience Research Council).
89. ▶ Narinder Batra (*chief of International Hockey Federation*) is elected as President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) at its Annual General Meeting in New Delhi.
90. ▶ Nasir Kamal has been appointed as Additional Director General in Border Security Force (BSF).
- ▶ K.K Sharma is current Director General of BSF.
91. ▶ Neelam Kapoor has been appointed as Director General (DG) of Sports Authority of India (SAI).
92. ▶ Neelmani N. Raju has been appointed as Karnataka's first woman Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG and IGP).
93. ▶ New Ambassadors Appointed -
- ▶ Vinay Mohan Kwatra - Principality of Monaco
 - ▶ Sibi George - Switzerland.
 - ▶ Pooja Kapur - Macedonia.
 - ▶ Manika Jain - Cambodia
 - ▶ N.J.Gangte - Zambia
94. ▶ New Appointments -
- ▶ C.K. Mishra - Secretary in Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
 - ▶ Injeti Srinivas - Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
 - ▶ Gopal Krishna - Secretary in Ministry of Shipping
 - ▶ Preeti Sudan - Secretary in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
 - ▶ Mahesh Kumar Gupta - Member (Engineering) in Railway Board.
 - ▶ D.K.Gayen - Member (Staff) in Railway Board
95. ▶ New Appointments Approved -
- ▶ Badri Narain Sharma - Chairman of Newly Formed National Anti-profiteering Authority under GST.
 - ▶ Pradeep Singh Kharola - Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.
 - ▶ Pritam Singh - Director General in National Archives of India.

-  Raghvendra Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Culture
 -  Upendra Prasad Singh - Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
 -  Sandeep Beecha - Chief of Naval War College (Goa)
96. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors Appointed -
-  Gautam Bambawale - China
 -  Ajay Bisaria - Pakistan
 -  Harsh Kumar Jain - Slovakia
 -  Vani Sarraju Rao -Estonia
 -  Palau - Jaideep Mazumdar
97. ▶ New Indian Amdassadors Apointed -
-  Azar A.H.Khan - Turkmenistan.
 -  K. Jeeva Sagar - Kuwait.
98. ▶ New PSU Appointments -
-  Jatindra Nath Swain as Managing Director of Solar Energy Corporation of India.
 -  Sundeep Kumar Nayak as Managing Director of NCDICI (National Cooperative Development Corporation of India).
 -  Ira Joshi as director general of Doordarshan News.
99. ▶ Newly Appointed Governors of Various States -
-  B. D. Mishra - Arunachal Pradesh
 -  Satya Pal Malik - Bihar
 -  Banwarilal Purohit - Tamil Nadu
 -  Jagdish Mukhi - Assam
 -  Ganga Prasad - Meghalaya
100. ▶ Nicos Anastasiades won re-election for a second term as President of Mediterranean Nation Cyprus.
101. ▶ Nisha Desai Biswal is appointed as President of US-India Business Council (USIBC).
102. ▶ Noted Actor Anupam Kher has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune.
103. ▶ Noted Musician AR Rahman is appointed as brand ambassador of Sikkim State, during Red Panda Winter Festival in Gangtok (Sikkim).
104. ▶ Noted scientist S Somanath has been appointed as as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
105. ▶ ONGC CMD Dinesh K Sarraf is appointed as new Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
106. ▶ Om Prakash Rawat has been appointed as Chief Election commissioner (CEC) of India. Besides, Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as an Election Commissioner of India, after Mr. Rawat has been promoted as Chief Election commissioner.
-  Election commission of India consists of a Chief EC and 2 ECs. Other election commissioner currently is Sunil Arora.
107. ▶ Om Prakash Singh is appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, M Malakondaiah is appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh.
108. ▶ 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).
109. ▶ Paul Antony is appointed as next Chief Secretary of Kerala.
110. ▶ PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi is appointed as International Cricket Council's (ICC) first-ever independent female director.
111. ▶ Peter Thomson (Fiji; *outgoing president of the UN General Assembly*) has been appointed as UN's first Special Envoy for oceans.
112. ▶ Phanindra Sama (Co-founder of RedBus) has been appointed as Chief Innovation Officer for Telangana state.
113. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 10 days Sangai Festival in Imphal (Manipur), during his visit to 3 North Eastern States - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur. He also opened a 2 day North-East Development Summit in Imphal.
114. ▶ R A Sankara Narayanan has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Vijaya Bank.
115. ▶ R Hemalatha is appointed as Director of National Institute of Nutrition (Hyderabad).
116. ▶ RBI Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed to Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board of the Bank of International Settlement (BIS), a global financial organisation owned by major central banks from across world. FSI assists financial sector authorities worldwide in strengthening their financial systems.
-  BIS is based in Basel (Switzerland) with Jaime Caruana as its current Chief (General Manager).
117. ▶ Rajinder Khanna (Former RAW chief) is appointed as new Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) of India.
-  Ajit Doval is current National Security Adviser (NSA) of India.
118. ▶ Rajni Kant Mishra has been appointed as new Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
119. ▶ Rakesh Singh has been appointed as private banking head of HDFC Bank.

120. ▶ S Selvakumar is appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL).
121. ▶ Samiran Panda is appointed as director of National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.
122. ▶ Sangram Singh has been appointed as CEO of Digital Payments firm Freecharge (Owned by Axis Bank).
123. ▶ Sanjeev Kaushik has been appointed as whole-time member of SEBI.
124. ▶ Sarah Clarke has been appointed as Britain's first female *Black Rod* in its over 650-year history, to serve as *Lady Usher of the Black Rod*.
👉 The Black Rod is responsible for controlling access to and maintaining order within UK's House of Lords.
125. ▶ Sauli Niinisto has been re-elected as President of Finland (Northern Europe) for 2nd term.
126. ▶ Scientist Vijay Prasad Dimri is appointed as president of 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), to be held in New Delhi in 2020. IGC is a global platform for advancement of earth science.
127. ▶ Sebastian Pinera has been elected as next president of south american Nation Chile.
128. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved appointment of Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
129. ▶ Sethurathnam Ravi has been appointed as chairman of BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
130. ▶ Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as India's G 20 Sherpa till December 31, 2018 for Development Track of G20.
131. ▶ Shashi Shanker has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of ONGC.
132. ▶ Shinzo Abe has been re-elected as Prime Minister of Japan for his Third Term. He belongs to Liberal Democratic Party.
133. ▶ Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese is appointed as Chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable development(WBCSD).
134. ▶ Sita Ram Mardi is appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Himachal Pradesh.
135. ▶ Sjoerd Marijne (Netherlands) has been named chief coach of Hockey men's side. Harendra Singh has been appointed as Specialist coach of senior women's team.
136. ▶ Smita Nagaraj has been appointed as Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
137. ▶ Snehlata Shrivastava has been appointed as new Secretary General of the Lok Sabha (and first woman to hold this post). She will succeed Anup Mishra.
138. ▶ Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga is appointed as new Prime Minister of African Nation Mali (West Africa).
139. ▶ South African human rights activist *Kumi Naidoo* has been appointed as new Secretary General of Amnesty International (A non-governmental organization working for human rights).
140. ▶ Sudeep Lakhtakia is appointed as new Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).
141. ▶ Sumita Misra is appointed as joint secretary in Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC). PMEAC is currently chaired by Bibek Debroy.
👉 Additionally, Gurbachan Singh is appointed as Director General (Investigation) in National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
142. ▶ Sunil Kumar Chourasia is appointed as Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
143. ▶ Supreme Court collegium recommended senior advocate Indu Malhotra for appointment as a judge of Supreme Court. She is first woman lawyer from India to be directly elected for post of judge of Supreme Court.
144. ▶ Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis appointed Vasant Narasimhan as its CEO.
145. ▶ Tata Steel Limited appointed T V Narendran as global CEO and MD.
146. ▶ Telangana government formed state Minorities Commission with Mohammed Qamaruddin as Chairman and Rajarapu Pratap as vice chairman.
147. ▶ Tulsi Gabbard (first Hindu lawmaker in US Congress) is named as chairperson of World Hindu Congress (WHC) to be held in Chicago (USA) in 2018.
148. ▶ Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has been appointed as new Prime Minister of Mongolia.
149. ▶ Uma Shankar has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), replacing Meena Hemchandra who retired recently.
150. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI) CEO A.B. Pandey has been appointed interim chairman of Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN).
151. ▶ Upendra Prasad Singh appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and CEO OF National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
152. ▶ Usha Ananthasubramanian became first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). She is MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank.
153. ▶ Utpal Kumar Singh has been appointed as Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.

154. ▶ V Narayanan has been appointed as Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC). He succeeded S Somanath who was appointed as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
155. ▶ Vijay Keshav Gokhale took charge as new foreign secretary of India, succeeding S Jaishankar.
156. ▶ Vijay Rupani re-appointed as Chief Minister of Gujarat for second term in a row, after BJP's Victory in recent state assembly polls. Nitin Patel has been reappointed as Deputy CM.
157. ▶ Vikram Singh has been appointed as Private Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind for 2 Years.
158. ▶ Vinay Sahasrabudde is appointed as President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
159. ▶ Vineet Chowdhary is appointed as chief secretary to new Himachal government under CM Jairam Thakur.
160. ▶ Viorica Dancila is appointed as First Female Prime Minister of European Nation Romania.
161. ▶ Viveck Goenka has been elected as Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI). N. Ravi is elected as Vice Chairman.
162. ▶ World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) appointed Indian Person Sunny Verghese as its new chairman. WBCSD is global network of over 200 CEOs who are responsible for a combined revenue of more than \$ 8.5 trillion and 19 million employees.
163. ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) appointed Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Chief Soumya Swaminathan at one of 2 newly created Deputy Directors General posts at WHO. This is highest post held by an Indian in WHO.
164. ▶ Y C Modi has been appointed as new Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA).

[Top](#)

Awards

1. ▶ 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018 Mumbai -
 - ▶ Best Film - Hindi Medium
 - ▶ Critics' Award for Best Film - Newton
 - ▶ Best Actor (Female) - Vidya Balan for 'Tumhari Sulu'
 - ▶ Best Actor (Male) - Irrfan Khan for 'Hindi Medium'
 - ▶ Best Director - Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
 - ▶ Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male) - Rajkummar Rao for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
 - ▶ Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Female) - Meher Vij for 'Secret Superstar'
 - ▶ Best Music Album - Pritam for 'Jagga Jasoos'
 - ▶ Best Playback Singer (Male) - Arijit Singh for 'Roke na ruke naina' - 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania'
2. ▶ 12-year old Indian girl Poorvi G B has been awarded *best performer* subtitle at *Little Miss World 2017* pageant held in Greece.
3. ▶ 2017 BBC Sports Awards -
 - ▶ Sports Personality of the Year - British Distance Runner Mo Farah.
 - ▶ Overseas Sports Personality of the Year - Swiss Tennis Player Roger Federer (winner for fourth time)
 - ▶ Sports Personality Team of the Year - England Women's Cricket Team
 - ▶ Sports Personality of the Year Lifetime Achievement - Jessica Ennis-Hill (British track and field athlete)
 - ▶ Sports Personality of the Year Coach - Benke Blomkvist, Stephen Maguire and Christian Malcolm
 - ▶ BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year: Phil Foden (English Footballer)
4. ▶ 2017 Balzan Prize Winners -
 - ▶ James P Allison (USA) - For Immunological Approaches in Cancer Therapy that enhanced the survival of patients with metastatic melanoma.
 - ▶ Bina Agarwal (Indian British) - For her heroic work studying women's contributions to agriculture in India.
 - ▶ Michael Gillon (Belgium) - For his work that helped finding new solar systems of planet Earth using robotic telescopes, instead of much more costly satellites.
 - ▶ Germans Aleida and Jan Assmann (Germany) - For presenting collective memory as a requirement for forming identity of religious and political communities.
5. ▶ 2017's *Kalakar Puraskar* instituted by Mandd Sobhann will be conferred on Noted Konkani folk artiste Gopal Gowda.
 - ▶ Kalakar Puraskar honors Konkani artistes from fields of folk arts, theatre, music and dance. Award carries a cash award of Rs 25,000 and a citation.
6. ▶ 27 journalists honored in 12th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards. Award includes a trophy and a reward of Rs 1 lakh.
7. ▶ 30th Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015 and 2016 has been awarded to Carnatic vocalist T M Krishna for his services in promoting National Integration in India.
 - ▶ The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and is bestowed on Oct 31.

8. ▶ 48th International Film Festival of India 2017 (IFFI 2017) held in Goa -

🔗 Facts -

- 🔗 Canada was the focus country of IFFI Goa 2017.
- 🔗 *Beyond the Clouds* directed by Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi was opening film this year, while Pablo Cesar-directed Indo-Argentine film *Thinking of Him* was closing film.
- 🔗 Jahnu Barua was chairman of Steering Committee and Vivek Agnihotri was chairman of Film Preview Committee.
- 🔗 World's first Sanskrit 3D film 'Anurakthi' screened during IFFI 2017.

🔗 Awards -

- 🔗 Indian film personality of 2017 - Amitabh Bachchan
- 🔗 Lifetime achievement - Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan.
- 🔗 Best film (Golden Peacock award) - 120 Beats Per Minute (French movie) directed by Robin Campullo.
- 🔗 Best director - Vivian Qu for *Angels Wear White* (China).
- 🔗 Special Jury Award - Take-off (Malayalam film-India)
- 🔗 Best Actor (Female) - Parvathy for *Take Off*
- 🔗 Best Actor (Male) - Nahuel Perez Biscayart for *120 Beats Per Minute*.
- 🔗 Best Debut Feature Film Director - Kiro Russo for *Dark Skull* (Spanish).
- 🔗 ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal - Kshitij-A Horizon (Marathi movie) directed by Manouj Kadamh.

9. ▶ 60th Annual Grammy Music Awards held in New York City (USA) -

- 🔗 Album Of The Year - Bruno Mars
- 🔗 Song of the Year - That's What I Like by Bruno Mars
- 🔗 Record Of The Year - 24K Magic by Bruno Mars
- 🔗 Best Pop Solo Performance - Ed Sheeran's Shape of You
- 🔗 Best Pop Vocal Album - Ed Sheeran's Divide
- 🔗 Best Music Film - The Defiant Ones
- 🔗 Best Children's Album - Feel What U Feel by Lisa Loeb
- 🔗 Producer of the Year (Classical): David Frost

10. ▶ 67th edition of Miss World Beauty pageant held in Sanya (China) -

- 🔗 **India's Manushi Chhillar (Haryana) won the Title**, Bringing Miss world Crown back to India After 17 Years (Priyanka Chopra winning in 2000).

11. ▶ 71st British Academy Film Awards -

- 🔗 The Shape of Water received max Nominations (12), while Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri received most awards (5)
- 🔗 Best Film - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (Also named *Best British Film*)
- 🔗 Best Director - Guillermo del Toro (for *The Shape of Water*)
- 🔗 Best Actor in a Leading Role - Gary Oldman (for *Darkest Hour*)
- 🔗 Best Actress in a Leading Role - Frances McDormand (for *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*)
- 🔗 Best Actor in a Supporting Role - Sam Rockwell (for *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*)
- 🔗 Best Actress in a Supporting Role - Allison Janney (for *I, Tonya*)
- 🔗 Best Documentary - I Am Not Your Negro
- 🔗 Best Original Music - Alexandre Desplat (for *The Shape of Water*)
- 🔗 Best Non English Film -The Handmaiden (South Korea)
- 🔗 Best Animated Film - Coco
- 🔗 Best Short Film - Cowboy Dave
- 🔗 EE Rising Star Award - Daniel Kaluuya

12. ▶ *Govardhan Eco Village* set up by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar (Maharashtra) won Green Platinum Award during Green Building Congress 2017 held at Jaipur (Rajasthan).

13. ▶ *Yeraringan* Award has been conferred upon Noted Agricultural Scientist M.S. Swaminathan.

14. ▶ AFC Asian Football Awards -

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

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

🏆 Special Jury Award -

🏆 2014 - Siddala Ashok Teja

🏆 2015 - P C Reddy











🏆 2016 - Paruchuri Brothers

25. ▶ Argentinian Footballer Lionel Messi Received Golden Shoe award (*handed to Europe's top goalscorer*) for his 37 Goals in Spanish Football League in 2016-17. It is fourth time Messi has won this title, equalling Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal).
26. ▶ Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane, Australia -
- 🏆 Bollywood movie 'Newton' secured 2 awards with Rajkummar Rao winning best actor award and Mayank Tewari and Amit V. Masurkar secured best screenplay honour. Newton is directed by Amit V. Masurkar.
27. ▶ Awards and Decorations announced on the eve of Republic Day.
- 🏆 50 people named for Prime Minister's Shram Awards 2016, including 3 women.
 - 🏆 Shram Ratna Award - No awardees.
 - 🏆 Shram Bhushan - 12.
 - 🏆 Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Award - 18.
 - 🏆 Shram Shree/Shram Devi Award - 20
 - 🏆 44 Persons honored by Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards 2017.
 - 🏆 7 girls and 11 boys honored by National Bravery Awards.
 - 🏆 President approved 390 Gallantry Awards and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel. This includes one Ashok Chakra (Air Force's Corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala), one Kirti Chakra (Army's Major Vijayanta Bisht), 14 Shaurya Chakras and Other Awards -
 - 🏆 28 Param Vishisht Seva Medals
 - 🏆 4 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals
 - 🏆 2 Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals
 - 🏆 49 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals
 - 🏆 10 Yudh Seva Medals
 - 🏆 2 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - 🏆 86 Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - 🏆 1 Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)
 - 🏆 3 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)
 - 🏆 2 Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty)
 - 🏆 38 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty)
 - 🏆 13 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty)
 - 🏆 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty)
 - 🏆 1 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal
 - 🏆 121 Vishisht Seva Medals.
28. ▶ Awards for Display at 37th IITF (*India International Trade Fair*) Delhi 2017 -
- 🏆 Gold - Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
 - 🏆 Silver - Ministry of Power
 - 🏆 Bronze - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
29. ▶ Badminton Player Prakash Padukone conferred with first Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by Badminton Association of India (BAI). He won 1980 All England and won a bronze at 1983 World Championship in Copenhagen (Denmark).
30. ▶ Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has been honored with France's highest civilian award, Legion d'Honneur.
31. ▶ Bengali writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen won *Author in Bengali language* category at 2nd edition of Big Little Book Awards, under Parag initiative of Tata Trusts to promote children's literature.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ Blue Planet Prize (*Noted as Most prestigious award in environmental science*), has been given to German theoretical physicist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber.
34. ▶ Cannes International Festival of Creativity (France) will honour Indians Piyush & Praseon Pandey with Cannes Lions' Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming 1st Asians to win this award.












35. ▶ Choti Kumari from Bihar won International acclaim for her efforts to uplift Musahar community in Bihar, considered most downtrodden community in state's caste-ridden society. Title was *Women's Creativity in Rural Life Award* and was given by Switzerland-based Women's World Summit Foundation.
36. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gave Republic Day Parade Awards 2018 -
- ✎ Total 23 tableaux participated, of which 14 were from States & UTs, 2 were from Ministry of External Affairs and rest from other Ministries/Departments -
 - ✎ Among states, Maharashtra depicted coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was adjudged best.
 - ✎ Among Ministries/Departments - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports depicting 'Khelo India' was given first prize.
 - ✎ Best marching contingent was Punjab Regiment Among 3 Services and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) among Among para-military and other auxiliary forces.
 - ✎ School children items category -
 - ✎ First prize went to South Central Zone Cultural Centre in Nagpur (Maharashtra), performing 'Baredi Dance' from Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✎ Consolation prizes was awarded to North East Zone Cultural Centre in Dimapur (Nagaland) and Oxford Foundation School, Najafgarh (Delhi).
37. ▶ Egyptian journalist Khaled el-Balshy won Individual Activist award of *Nelson Mandela – Graca Machel Innovation Awards*. He made several attempts to publicly reveal violations by Egyptian government.
38. ▶ Eric Vuillard's novel *L'ordre du jour* (in English 'Agenda'), story of how German industry and finance backed Adolf Hitler, won Goncourt Prize 2017 award (Top Award in French-speaking world).
39. ▶ FE Best Banks Awards 2015-16 held in Mumbai. Winners -

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

40. ▶ Filmmaker Ramesh Sippy will be awarded first *Raj Kapoor Award for Excellence in Cinema*, instituted by Asian Centre for Entertainment Education (ACEE) and other International Organizations. Ramesh Sippy will be presented with this honour at *Elevate 2K18* in Mumbai.
41. ▶ First ever Smita Patil memorial award given to Rekha for her contribution in film industry.
42. ▶ Former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, which is awarded to a democratically-elected outstanding African leader who served their stipulated term and finished their term within last 3 years. She is first female leader to receive this award.
43. ▶ Former PM Manmohan Singh will receive Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2017 for his services as PM between 2004 and 2014. It includes cash prize of INR 25 lakh and a citation.
44. ▶ French government will present *Legion of Honour* award to Indiann actor Soumitra Chatterjee, at 42nd International Kolkata Book Fair.
- ✎ France will be Theme country for International Kolkata Book Fair 2018.
45. ▶ Ghana-based Indian entrepreneur Birendra Sasmal won International Business Person of Year at Asian Achievers Awards in London, for for turning his company *Subah Group* into a thriving succes Through West Africa and employs around 350 people.
46. ▶ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which manages brand AMUL, has been awarded as best FMCG in food sector at 5th International Advertising Associations (IAA) Leadership Awards in Mumbai.
47. ▶ ISKCON's Govardhan Eco village (Maharashtra) received *spirit of humanity* award by AmeriCares, a non-profit organisation working for disaster relief and global health, in *livelihood* category.
48. ▶ Indian Actor Ishaan Khattar won Best Actor award for his debut film 'Beyond The Clouds' at the International Bosphorus Film Festival in Turkey. Film is directed by Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi, and Music composed by A. R. Rahman.
49. ▶ 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.
50. ▶ Indian Scientist Mahtab Bamji has been selected for Living Legend Award of International Union of Nutritional Sciences ((IUNS), to be presented at its General Assembly to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

-  IUNS Council presents Living Legend Awards to individuals of Adhering Bodies in good standing who are eighty (80) years or above.
51. ▶ Indian actor Priyanka Chopra has been honored with 2017 Mother Teresa Memorial Award for her support to social causes such as her recent visit to Syria where she met and interacted with refugee children. She is also UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador.
 52. ▶ Indian engineer Vikas Sathaye has been honoured with Scientific and Engineering Academy Award at Oscars Scientific and Technical Awards 2018 in Los Angeles (USA), for his contribution towards conceptualisation, design and implementation of *Shotover K1 Camera System* during his stint at Shotover Camera Systems in New Zealand.
 53. ▶ Indian princess Sophia Alexandra Duleep Singh honoured with a Royal Mail stamp of the UK to mark centenary of suffragette movement.
 Sophia, daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh, is only woman to have 1 of 8 stamps to herself. Image on stamp shows her selling copies of a Suffragette newspaper in 1913.
 54. ▶ Indian short film *The School Bag* won Best Short Film Award at South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM). Directed by Dheeraj Jindal, it , tells a Peshawar (Pakistan) based story of relationship between a mother and her 7 year old son.
 55. ▶ Indian-American Gitanjali Rao won 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge for inventing a quick, low-cost test to detect lead-contaminated water.
 56. ▶ India's first operational Smart City and IFSC, Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City) won Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Services Excellence Award.
 57. ▶ 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.
 58. ▶ Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana has been crowned Miss International 2017 at an event held in Tokyo (Japan). She also won award for as best dressed contestant.
 59. ▶ Industrial Awards in Feb 2018 -
 Reliance Industries (RIL) is awarded Golden Peacock Award 2017 for corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
 Tata Steel named *most ethical company* in 2018 by Ethisphere Institute, for 6th time in *Metals, Minerals and Mining* category.
 Morning Grocery Delivery Service Milkbasket is named as *Startup of the Year 2017* award at 7th Small Business Awards in New Delhi, organised by Franchise India Group.
 Sanjiv Bajaj (Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv) is named as *EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017*. EY presented awards in 9 other categories also for *Entrepreneur of the Year Programme*. Bajaj will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in June 2018 in Monaco.
 60. ▶ Industrial Awards in Jan 2018 -
 Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Mumbai) won *Samudra Manthan - Caring Organisation of the Year* award, instituted by maritime industry publication *Bhandarkar Shipping*.
 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).
 61. ▶ Infosys Cofounder N R Narayana Murthy and Mumbai-born scientist veena Sahajwalla have been conferred PLuS Alliance Prize. Murthy was chosen for Global Leadership while professor Sahajwalla was awarded for Research Innovation for her project.
 62. ▶ Israeli Actress Natalie Portman has been awarded Israel's 2018 Genesis Prize (Also called Jewish Nobel Prize), for her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots.
 63. ▶ Jaipur and Srinagar Airport won first and second rank in category of 2-5 million passengers in Airport Service Quality (ASQ)-Airport Council International (ACI) survey 2017. Jaipur Airport received award in same category in 2016 as well.
 64. ▶ Jitesh Singh Deo from Lucknow (UP) is declared winner of 2017 Mr India pageant.
 Footballer Prathamesh Maulingkar won Mr India Supranational title and will compete at Mr Supranational 2018.
 65. ▶ Journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh, who was shot dead recently has been posthumously accorded with prestigious Anna Politkovskaya Award, instituted by Reach All Women (RAW) in War. Pakistani activist Gulalai Ismail is also honored for her fight against Islamic extremism.
 66. ▶ Jurist Tahir Mahmood has been honored by N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award 2017 for his services to legal education.
 67. ▶ Karnataka Bank won *Best Bank* award among small banks for use of technology for financial inclusion at 13th IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards 2016-17.
 68. ▶ M K Sanu has been chosen for Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.
 69. ▶ Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar has been honoured with Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman Award 2018, becoming 2nd writer of Magahi language get this award.
 Sahitya Akademi honours writers from 24 regional languages, but Bhasha Samman identifies those languages which are equally spoken in different parts of country. Award prize consists of INR 1 lakh cheque and a memento.

70. ▶ Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) announced 2nd Edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017, beginning in 2016 with 15 Organizations / Individuals as winners. It includes cash prize of 5 lakh for enterprises and individuals and 10 lakhs for organizations and institutes. Winners are -
71. ▶ Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched Pledge for Khelo India at Khelo India School Games Carnival in Delhi. Its vision is to inspire youngsters to build mass participation and excellence in sports.
- ▶ Khelo India School Games were launched under Khelo India Programme. It encompassed 16 sports disciplines under which overall 199 gold medals, 199 silver medals, 275 bronze medals are to be awarded.
 - ▶ Khelo India Programme was launched in 2016 for building inclusive and comprehensive sports ecosystem in country.
 - ▶ Under Khelo India, Sports Ministry will select 1000 athletes every year Through School Games, for a scholarship of Rs 5 lakhs each for eight successive years.
 - ▶ It subsumed earlier 3 schemes into 1, namely *Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA)*, *National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS)* and *Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS)*.
72. ▶ Miss South Korea Jenny Kim won title of Miss Supranational 2017 at an event in Poland.
73. ▶ Miss Universe Beauty Pageant 2017, held in Las Vegas (USA)-
- ▶ Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters of South Africa won the contest.
 - ▶ Shraddha Shashidhar represented India in this pageant.
74. ▶ Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria has been awarded International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to ensure rights of Syrian refugee children.
- ▶ He has set up a school together with his family in a Lebanese refugee camp that currently provides 200 children with education.
75. ▶ Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) committee will bestow V. Shantaram lifetime achievement Award to noted producer and director Shyam Benegal. It includes a trophy, cash price of 10 lakh rupees, a certificate and a shawl.
76. ▶ NITI Aayog Member Vinod Paul has been awarded prestigious *IhsanDoğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize* by World Health Organisation (WHO), in recognition to his services in the field of family health. He is the first Indian to receive this global honour.
77. ▶ NSE Entity India Index Services & Products (IISL) launched *Nifty SME Emerge Index* as a new Nifty Index to measure performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) listed on NSE's EMERGE platform (dedicated NSE platform for small companies).
- ▶ Nifty SME Emerge Index represents about 62 % of full market capitalisation of all SMEs listed on EMERGE.
78. ▶ Nicaraguan author Sergio Ramirez Mercado won 2017 Cervantes Prize, Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor.
79. ▶ Nobel Prize 2017 -
- ▶ Physics - Rainer Weiss (USA), Barry C. Barish (USA) and Kip Thorne (USA) for decisive contributions to LIGO detector and observation of gravitational waves.
 - ▶ Chemistry - Jacques Dubochet (Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Germany) and Richard Henderson (Scotland) for developing a technique to produce detailed images of life's complex molecular machinery.
 - ▶ Physiology / Medicine - American trio of Jeffrey C. Hall (USA), Michael Rosbash (USA) and Michael W. Young (USA) for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.
 - ▶ Literature - Kazuo Ishiguro (Japan).
 - ▶ Peace - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for its work to draw attention to catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.
 - ▶ Economic Sciences - Richard H. Thaler (USA) for his contributions to behavioral economics. It is also called Sveriges Riksbank Prize (Sveriges Riksbank is Sweden's central bank).
- ▶ About Nobel Prize -
- ▶ Established in 1895, in memory of Swedish inventor Alfred Bernhard Nobel.
 - ▶ Prize ceremonies take place annually in Stockholm (Sweden), except peace prize which is held in Oslo (Norway)
 - ▶ Each recipient received US\$1.1 Million.
 - ▶ Among total 835 recipients so far, 12 are Indians (5 Indian citizens and 7 of Indian origin or residency). Rabindranath Tagore was first Indian citizen to be awarded (1913) and Mother Teresa is the only woman in list (1979).
80. ▶ Noted Actor Sharmila Tagore received Lifetime Achievement Award by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi for her contribution in field of cinema.
81. ▶ Noted Author Ruskin Bond presented with Lifetime Achievement Award by Chandigarh Literary Society during 5th Chandigarh Literature Festival.

82. ▶ Noted Bengali poet Joy Goswami will be honored with 31st Moortidevi Award for 2017, for his poetry collection *Du Dondo Phowara Matro*. He is first Bengali poet to get this title.
83. ▶ Noted British Indian Businessman Swraj Lord Paul (Chairman of Caparo Group) has been honoured with Life Time Achievement Award at the 2nd British Asian Achievers Awards organised by Jagatwani a Hindi weekly.
84. ▶ Noted Hindi Litterateur Krishna Sobti has been honored with 53rd Jnanpith Award for 2017. She is 8th women to win this prestigious award.
85. ▶ 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.
86. ▶ Noted Indian Multilingual Actor Mohan Joshi honoured with vishnudas Bhave award for his contribution to theatre. It is conferred with memory of Vishnudas Bhave, founder of Marathi theatre. It comprises a trophy, a citation and a cash prize worth Rs 25,000.
87. ▶ Noted Indian-American Ajay Raju has been honoured with 3rd American Bazaar Philanthropy award for his philanthropic activities in USA.
88. ▶ Noted Malayalam Poet K Satchidanandan selected for 2017 Ezhuthachan Puraskaram award, Kerala government’s highest literary honor.
 It award is instituted in name of Ezhuthachan, known as father of Malayalam language. It carries cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.
89. ▶ Noted Marathi filmmaker Sumitra Bhave will be honoured with Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Sanman, instituted by Kolhapur International Film Festival.
90. ▶ Noted Novelist T D Radhakrishnan’s is selected for 2017’s Vayalar award.
 Vayalar Award was instituted in 1977 by Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust in memory of Malayalam poet and lyricist Vayalar.
91. ▶ Noted Scientist G. Satheesh Reddy has been conferred with National Design Award, for his significant contribution towards indigenous design and development of diversified missile systems, guided weapons and avionics technologies.
92. ▶ Noted actor and playwright Girish Karnad will be honoured with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2017. He will receive the award as a playwright.
93. ▶ Noted journalist Manik Banerjee honored by *Life Time Achievement Award* by Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).
94. ▶ Noted journalist Prabha Varma selected for Padma Prabha Puraskaram 2017, by Mathrubhumi daily.
95. ▶ Noted lyricist Javed Akhtar will be honored with Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award 2017. He will receive INR 1 lakh and a memento.
96. ▶ Noted music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik and playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan have been selected for Madhya Pradesh government’s prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award.
97. ▶ Noted playback singer Asha Bhosle has been chosen for 5th Yash Chopra Memorial Award for her contribution to Hindi film industry.
98. ▶ Noted writer Namita Gokhale received first Centenary National Award for Literature, conferred by Asam Sahitya Sabha.
99. ▶ Odia poet Rabi Singh is named as winner of Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman 2017 instituted by Odisha Sahitya Akademi.
100. ▶ Odisha Government won *Geospatial World Excellence Award-2018* for successful IT application for tracking of mineral production, dispatch and value accrued on real-time basis through its i3MS web-based software. Award was presented at Geospatial World Forum Meeting IN Hyderabad.
101. ▶ Odisha’s Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust won United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Award for Innovation in Tourism Enterprise at 14th UNWTO Awards in Madrid (Spain), in recognition of Mangalajodi’s business model that is both economically viable and environmentally sustainable based on principles of community ownership and Eco Tourism.
102. ▶ Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards 2013 - 2017
 2013 - Najma Heptulla (Rajya Sabha).
 2014 - Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (Lok Sabha)
 2015 - Ghulam Nabi Azad (Rajya Sabha)
 2016 - Dinesh Trivedi (Lok Sabha)
 2017 - Bhartruhari Mahatab (Lok Sabha)
103. ▶ P.P. Chaudhary (Minister of State for Law and Justice & Corporate Affairs) has been conferred Honorary Fellowship of Institute of Company secretaries of India (ICSI).
104. ▶ Padma Awards 2018 -
 Conferred every year by President of India around March / April.
 In 2018, 85 Padma Awards including two duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one) have been announced.
 Awards comprise 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri Awards. 14 awardees are women. Padma awards do not carry any monetary incentives.
 Awardees are -

 **Padma Vibhushan**

Sl. No	Name	Field	State
1	Illaiyaraja	Art-Music	Tamil Nadu
2	Ghulam Mustafa Khan	Art-Music	Maharashtra
3	P. Parameswaran	Literature and Education	Kerala

 **Padma Bhushan**


Sl. No	Name	Field	State
1	Philipose Mar Chrysostom	Others-Spiritualism	Kerala
2	Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Sports-Cricket	Jharkhand
3	Pankaj Advani	Sports- Billiards/Snooker	Karnataka
4	Alexander Kadakin (Foreigner/Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Russia
5	Ramachandran Nagaswamy	Others-Archaeology	Tamil Nadu
6	Ved Prakash Nanda (OCI)	Literature and Education	USA
7	Laxman Pai	Art-Painting	Goa
8	Arvind Parikh	Art-Music	Maharashtra
9	Ms. Sharda Sinha	Art-Music	Bihar

 **Padma Shri**

Sl. No	Name	Sub Category	State
Sports			
1	Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Manipur
2	Somdev Devvarman	Tennis	Tripura
3	Kidambi Srikanth	Badminton	Andhra Pradesh
4	Murlikant Petkar	Swimming	Maharashtra
Science and Engineering			
5	Amitava Roy		West Bengal
6	Vikram Chandra		Uttarakhand
7	Rajagopalan Vasudevan		Tamil Nadu
8	Manas Bihari Verma		Bihar
Social Work			
9	Malai Haji Abdullah Bin Malai Haji Othman (Foreigner)		Brunei Darussalam
10	Sudhanshu Biswas		West Bengal
11	Ms. Sitavva Joddati		Karnataka
12	Ms. Subhasini Mistry		West Bengal
13	Ms. Sulagitti Narasamma		Karnataka
14	Sampat Ramteke (Posthumous)		Maharashtra
15	Ms. Lentina Ao Thakkar		Nagaland
16	Damodar Ganesh Bapat		Chhattisgarh

Medicine			
17	Yeshi Dhoden		Himachal Pradesh
18	Ms. Lakshmikutty	Traditional	Kerala
19	Pankaj M Shah	Oncology	Gujarat
20	Abhay Bang (<i>Duo</i>)		Maharashtra
	Ms. Rani Bang (<i>Duo</i>)		Maharashtra
21	M R Rajagopal	Palliative Care	Kerala
22	Sanduk Ruit (<i>Foreigner</i>)	Ophthalmology	Nepal
Literature and Education			
23	Prafulla Govinda Baruah	Journalism	Assam
24	Pandit Shyamlal Chaturvedi	Journalism	Chhattisgarh
25	Anwar Jalalpuri (<i>Posthumous</i>)		Uttar Pradesh
26	Piyong Temjen Jamir		Nagaland
27	Ms. Malti Joshi		Madhya Pradesh
28	Arvind Gupta		Maharashtra
29	Digamber Hansda		Jharkhand
30	Arup Kumar Dutta		Assam
31	Ms. Joyshree Goswami Mahanta		Assam
32	Zaverilal Mehta	Journalism	Gujarat
33	Krishna Bihari Mishra		West Bengal
34	Tomio Mizokami (<i>Foreigner</i>)		Japan
35	Keshav Rao Musalgaonkar		Madhya Pradesh
36	Habibullo Rajabov (<i>Foreigner</i>)		Tajikistan
37	Chandra Sekhar Rath		Odisha
38	Maharao Raghuveer Singh		Rajasthan
39	Bhagirath Prasad Tripathi		Uttar Pradesh
40	Panatawane Gangadhar Vithobaji		Maharashtra
41	A Zakia		Mizoram
Art			
42	Mohan Swaroop Bhatia	Folk Music	Uttar Pradesh
43	Ms. Langpoklakpam Subadani Devi	Weaving	Manipur
44	Doddarange Gowda	Lyrics	Karnataka
45	Ramli Bin Ibrahim (<i>Foreigner</i>)	Dance	Malaysia
46	Manoj Joshi	Acting	Maharashtra
47	Vijay Kichlu	Music	West Bengal
48	Pran Kishore Kaul		Jammu and Kashmir
49	Pravakara Maharana	Sculpture	Odisha
50	Sisir Purushottam Mishra	Cinema	Maharashtra


51	Ms. Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan	Folk Music	Tamil Nadu
52	I Nyoman Nuarta (<i>Foreigner</i>)	Sculpture	Indonesia
53	Gobaradhan Panika	Weaving	Odisha
54	Ibrahim Sutar	Music	Karnataka
55	R Sathyararyana	Music	Karnataka
56	Bhajju Shyam	Painting	Madhya Pradesh
57	Rudrapatnam Narayanaswamy Thyagarajan AND Rudrapatnam Narayanaswamy Tharanathan (<i>DUO</i>)	Music	Karnataka
58	Baba Yogendra		Madhya Pradesh
Trade & Industry			
59	Rameshwarlal Kabra		Maharashtra
60	Jose Ma Joey Concepcion III (<i>Foreigner</i>)		Philippines
Others			
61	Bounlap Keokangna (<i>Foreigner</i>)	Architecture	Laos
62	Narayan Das Maharaj	Spiritualism	Rajasthan
63	Ms. Nouf Marwaa (<i>Foreigner</i>)	Yoga	Saudi Arabia
64	Somdet Phra Maha Muniwong (<i>Foreigner</i>)	Spiritualism	Thailand
65	Ms. V Nanammal	Yoga	Tamil Nadu
66	Siddeshwara Swamiji	Spiritualism	Karnataka
67	Nguyen Tien Thien (<i>Foreigner</i>)	Spiritualism	Vietnam
68	Romulus Whitaker	Wildlife Conservation	Tamil Nadu
Civil Service			
69	S S Rathore		Gujarat
Public Affairs			
70	Tommy Koh (<i>Foreigner</i>)		Singapore
71	Hun Many (<i>Foreigner</i>)		Cambodia
72	Bhabani Charan Pattanaik		Odisha
73	Dr Thant Myint – U (<i>Foreigner</i>)		Myanmar

105. ▶ Portuguese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo won Ballon d'Or (title of best footballer of year) for a fifth time, to level Argentina's Lionel Messi haul.
106. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind Presented Pt. Ramnarayan Sharma National Ayurved Award 2008-2014 to to Jodhpur University's former Vice Chancellor Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur.
107. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred 3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award on Professor Hiroshi Marui of Japan.
108. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind gave National award for senior citizens to Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Bindeshwar Pathak.
109. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind honored four 4 artists and scholars in performing arts with *Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships* and 43 artists with *Sangeet Natak Akademi awards* 2016.
-  Fellowship awardees receive INR 3 lakh and Akademi Puraskar Awadees receive INR 1 lakh, along with angavastram and a tamrapatra.
110. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind presented Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.
111. ▶ Pune-based NGO Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) that workes for women farmers, won 2017 UN Equator Prize.

112. ▶ Raghunandan Industries Private Limited has been awarded with Krishi Pragati Award 2017 by National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
113. ▶ Rajesh Nath (MD of VDMA India) has been conferred *Cross of the Order of Merit* (also known as Bundesverdienstkreuz or Federal Cross of Merit), highest civilian honour in Germany.
114. ▶ 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*.
115. ▶ Reliance Foundation and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) received Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar. KVK was honored for its 'Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent' (IDCO) program.
116. ▶ Sahitya Akademi announced its annual awards 2017, recognising literary works of 24 writers in 24 different languages. Prize includes a cheque of Rs 1 lakh.
- ✍ Awards will be conferred during a ceremony on 12 February 2018.
 - ✍ Awardees -
 - ✍ English - Mamang Dai for *The Black Hill*.
 - ✍ Hindi - Ramesh Kuntal Megh won for *Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar*
 - ✍ Sanskrit - Niranjan Mishra for *Gangaputravadanam*.
 - ✍ Malayalam - KP Ramanunni for *Daivathinte Pusthakam*.
 - ✍ Punjabi - Nachhattar for *Slow Down*.
 - ✍ Poets -
 - ✍ Udaya Narayana Singh (Maithili)
 - ✍ Shrikant Deshmukh (Marathi)
 - ✍ Bhujanga Tudu (Santali)
 - ✍ Inqulab (Tamil)
 - ✍ Devipriya (Telugu).
 - ✍ Inqulab (Tamil). Though His poet 's family refused to accept the award he received for his collections of poems *Kaandhal Naatka*
 - ✍ Short Stories -
 - ✍ Shiv Mehta (Dogri)
 - ✍ Autar Krishen Rahbar (Kashmiri)
 - ✍ Gajanan Jog (Konkani)
 - ✍ Gayatri Saraf (Odia)
 - ✍ Baig Ehsas (Urdu).
 - ✍ Literary Criticism -
 - ✍ Ramesh Kuntal Megh (Hindi)
 - ✍ TP Ashoka (Kannada)
 - ✍ Urmi Ghanshyam Desai (Gujarati)
 - ✍ Bina Hangkhim (Nepali)
 - ✍ Neeraj Daiya (Rajasthani).
 - ✍ Essay - Jagdish Lachhani (Sindhi)
 - ✍ Play - Rajen Toijamba (Manipuri).
 - ✍ Academy also announced theme for Sahitya Akademi's next edition of 'Festival of Letters' – '70 years of Indian Independence'.
117. ▶ Sikkim CM Pawan Chamling has been honoured by Grand Prix Award for his work in field of organic farming, During a ceremony at Germany's Lagau on the occasion of the One World Festival.
118. ▶ Singer K S Chitra is selected for 2017 'Harivarasanam' award, awarded by Kerala government for spreading spirit of secularism, equanimity and universal brotherhood.
119. ▶ Six diplomats including an Indian were felicitated with inaugural Diwali 'Power of One' award by UN, on occasion of first anniversary of issuance of a 'forever Diwali stamp' by USA Postal Services.
- ✍ Awardees Include India's Lakshmi Puri (Indian head of the UN Women)
 - ✍ Others- Matthew Rycroft, Nawaf Salam, Maged Abdelaziz, Ion Botnaru, Yuriy Sergeyev.
120. ▶ South African Indian-origin researcher couple Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim honoured with prestigious US award for their contributions in field of HIV/AIDS Research.

121. ▶ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam bags Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2017 for his novel *The Story of a Brief Marriage*. Note that recently he also won \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2017 for the same novel.
122. ▶ Sri Lankan author Anuk Arudpragasam's *The Story of a Brief Marriage* won \$25,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2017, during Dhaka Literature Fest 2017 (Bangladesh).
123. ▶ Sri Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangam in Tamil Nadu won UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for cultural heritage conservation programme in Awards of Merit category, for its efforts for protecting and conserving cultural heritage.
124. ▶ Star Screen Awards 2017 Winners -
- ▶ Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal)
 - ▶ Best Actress: Konkona Sen Sharma (Lipstick Under My Burkha)
 - ▶ Best Actor: Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
 - ▶ Best Supporting Actor: Rajkummar Rao (Bareilly Ki Barfi)
 - ▶ Best Supporting Actor (Female): Neha Dhupia (Tumhari Sulu)
 - ▶ Best Music Director: Pritam (Dangal)
 - ▶ Best Playback Singer: Arijit Singh (Raees - Zaalima and Jagga Jasoos)
 - ▶ Best Playback Singer Female: Shashaa Tirupati (Kanha - Shubh Mangal Savdhaan)
125. ▶ Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palanichamy received UNESCO Award of Merit awarded to iconic Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple in Tiruchirappalli. This Award of merit was awarded by UNESCO Asia Pacific region for temple's reconstruction without affecting its traditional splendour and Vedic rituals.
126. ▶ Tata Literature Live Literary Awards (Mumbai) -
- ▶ Non-fiction - Pankaj Mishra's 'Age of Anger: A History of the Present'.
 - ▶ First Book – Prayaag Akbar's 'Leila' & Pranay Lal's 'Indica: A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent'
 - ▶ Fiction – Easterine Kire's 'Son of the Thundercloud'
 - ▶ Business Book of Year – YV Reddy's 'Advice and Dissent: My Life in Public Service'
 - ▶ Publisher of the Year – Penguin Random House India
 - ▶ Big Little Book Award – Nabaneeta Dev Sen
127. ▶ UK Govt. presented J.K. Rowling with a Companion of Honor award, as recognition of her services to literature and philanthropy. Rowling is creator of Fictional character *Harry Potter*.
128. ▶ US-based Marconi Society to honor 3 Indian Origin Person -
- ▶ Google research scientist Ananda Theertha Suresh, by Paul Baran Young Scholar award for 2017. He has been honored for creating technology that makes search faster and easier even on low-end mobile devices with basic Internet.
 - ▶ Thomas Kailath - Lifetime Achievement Award for his stellar contribution to modern communications.
 - ▶ Arun Netravalli - Marconi Prize for his pioneering work in digital video technology used in mobile phones and television sets.
129. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced winners of 2017 International Literacy Prizes. These Prizes are divided into 2 categories - Confucius Prize (sponsored by China) and King Sejong Literacy Prize (sponsored by South Korea). All winners will each receive a medal, a certificate and USD 20000, on International Literacy Day on 8 September 2017.
- ▶ Confucius Prize 2017 (recognises projects that benefit rural populations and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and women).
Winners are -
 - ▶ AdulTICoProgram - Initiative of Secretariat of Information and Communications Technologies of Armenia (Colombia) for teaching digital competencies to seniors.
 - ▶ Citizens Foundation (Pakistan) - For its Aagahi Literacy Programme for Women and Out-of-School Girls.
 - ▶ FunDza (South Africa) - It launched a project to develop a culture of reading and writing for pleasure through an online platform.
 - ▶ King Sejong Literacy Prize 2017 - Dedicated to mother-tongue literacy education. Winners -
 - ▶ Centre for the Study of Learning & Performance (Concordia University (Canada)) - For its 'Using Educational Technology to Develop Essential Educational Competencies in Sub-Saharan Africa's project'.
 - ▶ We Love Reading (Jordan) - It offers online read-aloud trainings for parents, mobilizes volunteers to read aloud in community spaces to children.
130. ▶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO) announced winners of 2017 UNESCO Prize for Girl's and Women's Education. Each of 2 winner organisations received prize money of USD 50000. Winners are -
- ▶ Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities Centre in Greater Mekong Sub-Region (DEPDC/GMS) in Thailand - For its project *Education and Life Skills Training Programme to Help Stateless Children and Women Migrating from*

Shan State to Thailand.

 Mini Academy of Science and Technology (MaCTec Peru) - For its project Mobile MaCTec Bus Labs/Mini Academy of Science and Technology.

131. ▶ United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is named as recipient of Harmony Foundation's Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2017 with 2017 theme *Compassion Beyond Borders*.
132. ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu honored film-maker S S Rajamouli (*Director of Famed Baahubali Series*) with prestigious ANR National Award for his contribution to Telugu film industry.
133. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred Badminton Association of India Lifetime Achievement Award to 1983 World Championship medallist Prakash Padukone.
134. ▶ Zannah Mustapha won annual Nansen Refugee Award for his *crucial mediating* role and efforts to help children affected by insurgency in Nigeria. His *Future Prowess Islamic Foundation School* provides free Islamic education to orphaned children.

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Books

1. ▶ *Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After 1998*, Book by former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit has been released.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ Actress Deepika Padukone launched Hema Malini's biography *Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl* written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee.
4. ▶ Actress Shilpa Shetty released her second book titled *The Diary of Domestic Diva*.
5. ▶ Book *Bhartiya Kala Mein Salil Kridayen Evam Sadyahsnata Nayika* authored by Kshetrapal Gangwar and Sanjib Kumar Singh has been launched.
6. ▶ Book *Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams* containing inspiring words of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has been released. It is co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John.
7. ▶ Book *Exam Warriors*, written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been released. It includes Insights from PM Modi about handling exam stress and help students conquer bigger peaks in life.
8. ▶ Book *Hari Singh Nalwa: Champion of the Khalsaji (1791-1837)*, written by Vanit Nalwa has been released.
9. ▶ Book *Hisaab Kitaab*, written by Actress Anjana Sukhani on household budgeting has been released.
10. ▶ Book *Home at Last: A Journey to Higher Consciousness*, written by Sarada Chiruvolu has been released.
11. ▶ Book *How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century*, written by Shyam Saran has been launched.
12. ▶ Book *India: Priorities for the Future*, authored by Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan has been launched.
13. ▶ Book *Journey of Women Law Reforms and The Law Commission of India – Some Insights*, written by Pavan Sharma has been launched by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.
14. ▶ Book *Majuli: Resources and Challenges*, that appreciates beauty and challenges of Majuli (Assam) has been released. It is by Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti.
15. ▶ Book *Mere Sapnon ka Bharat*, written by Tarun Vijay has been released. It is It compilation of interviews of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
16. ▶ Book *Staniya Svasasan Mei Addhi Aabadhi*, by Sadhana Pandey has been released.
17. ▶ Book *The Heartfulness Way*, authored by Kamlesh D. Patel has been released.
18. ▶ Book *The Shershah of Kargil*, is a biography of Kargil war hero Late Captain Vikram Batra has been released. It has been written by Deepak Surana.
19. ▶ Book *The Singing Tree* was launched by an international NGO Orbis India to spread awareness on preventing child blindness. Author of this book is Ken Youngstein.
20. ▶ Book *The Tall Man Biju Patnaik*, written by Sundar Ganesan has been released. Biju Patnaik was father of Odisha's CM Naveen Patnaik.
21. ▶ Book *Unstoppable: My Life So Far*, authored by Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova has been Launched.
22. ▶ Book titled *A to Z of Financial Management in Autonomous Institutions*, authored by Rajat Bhargava and Deenanath Pathak has been released.
23. ▶ Former Indian Cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar's autobiography *Imperfect* has been launched.
24. ▶ Indian Writer Ramendra Kumar has been felicitated (Honored) in Sri Lanka for his contribution to children's literature. His book *Dilemma and other stories* was also released on this occasion.
25. ▶ Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's first book *Hit Refresh* has been launched.
26. ▶ Noted Author Amish Tripathi's new Book *Immortal India* has been launched.

27. ▶ Noted cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched a book on child health care titled *Even When There Is A Doctor*, written by Yashwant Amdekar along with Rajesh Chokhani and Krishnan Sivaramakrishnan.
28. ▶ Noted lyricist Gulzar's debut novel in English named 'TWO' has been released. It examines status of refugees after Partition of India.
29. ▶ Poetry Collection Book *Poetry* written by Vikas Khanna has been launched.
30. ▶ Recently released book *The Golden House* by Noted Indian Writer Salman Rushdie is named as *New York Times Bestseller*.
31. ▶ Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched his biography *Trivendra Ek Zindaginama – Khairasain ka Sooraj*.

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Committees

1. ▶ 21-member Committee on corporate governance headed by Kotak Mahindra Bank Chief Uday Kotak submitted its report to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Recommendations Include -
 - ✎ Separation of roles - Roles of chairman and managing director at listed firms should be separated and chairmanship should be limited to only non-executive directors.
 - ✎ Minimum board strength - Should be increased to 6 members and at least one woman should be appointed as independent director.
 - ✎ Independent Directors - At least half of board members to be independent directors at listed companies.
 - ✎ Shareholder meeting and cash flow statement - Top 100 firms by market capitalisation should webcast shareholder meeting and all listed firms should have cash flow statement every six months.
 - ✎ Credit ratings - Updated list of all credit ratings obtained by the listed entity must be made available at one place, which would be very helpful for investors and other stakeholders.
 - ✎ Minimum remuneration - Independent directors must get minimum remuneration of Rs 5 lakh per annum and sitting fee of Rs 20,000-50,000 for each board meet.
 - ✎ Risk management and IT committee - Top-500 listed companies should have risk management committee of boards for cyber security.
2. ▶ 5 member committee headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash has been formed to select editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV).
3. ▶ A Parliamentary Committee has been formed to examine Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 in New Delhi. It has been chaired by Bhupender Yadav.
4. ▶ A Parliamentary Committee under B C Khanduri has been formed to examine operational preparedness of armed forces.
5. ▶ A committee headed by M Vinod Kumar (GST chief commissioner for Karnataka) started review of laws governing Goods and Services Tax (GST).
6. ▶ An Internal Committee has been formed by External Affairs Ministry to examine India-China relations. It will be headed by Shashi Tharoor and will primarily Focus on Doklam and Rohingya Muslims Issues.
7. ▶ An advisory committee of Securities and Exchange Board of India, headed by Jayanth R Varma will decide on proposal for extending stock market trading hours from 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m (starting 9 am).
8. ▶ Central Government formed committee headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to decide on old, pre-existing projects in ports, which have become unviable.
9. ▶ Committee headed by T K Viswanathan submitted its report on review of on Section 66A of the IT Act. It was constituted after Supreme Court struck down controversial Section 66A of IT Act in 2015.
 - ✎ Section 66A of the IT Act deals with arrests of people for posting content deemed to be *allegedly objectionable* on Internet.
10. ▶ Delhi Government has set up a panel to look into the functioning of private hospitals and nursing homes, under Kirti Bhushan.
 - ✎ Delhi Government also constituted 'Fee Anomaly Committees' in each district to look into complaints of fee hike by private schools in state, on recommendations of Justice Duggal Committee.
11. ▶ Election Commission constituted a 14 member committee headed by Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha, to suggest changes to Section 126 of Representation of People Act 1951 (RP Act) in view of social media expansion.
 - ✎ It will study impact of new media and social media during the silence period(48 hours period prior to elections) and its implications. It will suggest modifications to election law and model code of conduct.
12. ▶ Expert committee headed by TK Viswanathan to deal with cybercrimes especially online hate speech submitted its report. Committee recommended appointing cybercrime coordinators in all states and establishing cybercrime cells in each district.
13. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi to monitor and resolve IT challenges faced in implementation of GST.
















14. ▶ Finance Ministry constituted a task force Under Arbind Modi, to review Income Tax (IT) Act 1961 and draft new direct tax law in consonance with current economic needs. Task Force will draft appropriate Direct Tax Legislation keeping in view direct tax system prevalent in various countries, international best practices.
15. ▶ GST Council constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to make GST composition scheme more attractive, to be headed by Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
 - ▶ Committee will look to make GST Composition Scheme more attractive as only 15.50 lakh businesses out of total 98 lakh GST registered ones opted for composition scheme.
 - ▶ GoM will also revisit tax structure of different categories of restaurants in order to rationalise rates which is Currently 12% on non-AC restaurants and 18% on air-conditioned ones.
 - ▶ GST Composition scheme -
 - ▶ It is an alternative method of levy of tax designed for small taxpayers whose turnover is up to Rs 75 lakh (Rs 50 lakh in case of 8 north-eastern states and hilly state of Himachal Pradesh). Its aims to bring simplicity for small taxpayers as manufacturers have to pay 2% tax on their annual turnover and file returns quarterly. The tax rate is 5% for restaurant services and 1% for traders.
16. ▶ Government appointed Committee on Haj Policy recommended phasing out Haj pilgrims' subsidy and allowing women devotees above 45 years to travel in a group of at least 4 without a male. Panel was headed by Afzal Amanullah.
17. ▶ Government constituted a high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER), under Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman in Niti Aayog (Rajiv Kumar Currently).
18. ▶ Government formed committee headed by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar to study Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and neighbouring states.
19. ▶ Government has set up a 14-member panel to identify and suggest ways to address issues faced in implementation of Insolvency Law, to be headed by Injeti Srinivas. Committee will take stock of implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ Government has set up a committee tasked with simplification of GST returns filing, to make process convenient for businesses that have minimal transactions. It will be headed by GSTN Chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey.
22. ▶ Government reconstituted Multi-Agency Group (MAG) to investigate cases relating to recent 'Paradise Papers' data disclosure which is also probing Panama Papers leak. It will be led by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Sushil Chandra.
23. ▶ Home Ministry formed study group under Rina Mitra, to examine problems faced by people residing near International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir.
24. ▶ Insurance regulator IRDAI formed committee Under Pournima Gupte, to help in implementing new risk-based capital (RBC) regime.
 - ▶ RBC Committee was headed by Dilip C Chakraborty and it suggested that industry should move ahead with RBC to ensure that capital held by a company will take into account its overall risk profile, rather than current solvency regime.
 - ▶ New RBC Regime is expected to be implemented by March 2021.
25. ▶ Law Ministry created a panel (Second National Judicial Pay Commission) to recommend new salary structure for 21000 judges of lower courts in India. It will be headed by Former SC judge PV Reddi and will submit its recommendations in early 2019.
26. ▶ Maharashtra State government formed a panel to study feasibility of merging financially weak District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) with Maharashtra State Cooperative (MSC) Bank, to be headed by Yashwant Thorat.
27. ▶ Maharashtra government has set up a committee headed by Sudhir Shrivastava (*Additional Chief Secretary (Home)*) to recommend ways to stop custodial deaths.
28. ▶ Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Production) constituted a 17 member task force headed by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran to study use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military.
29. ▶ Ministry of Defence (MoD) constituted 13-member Raksha Mantri Advisory Committee on Ministry of Defence Capital Projects (RMCOMP), to be headed by former secretary Vinay Sheel Oberoi. It will monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for modernisation of armed forces and bolster armed forces preparedness.
30. ▶ National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has set up three member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in 8 states where their population is less than 50%. Committee will be led by George Kurien.
 - ▶ Govt also formed a committee for consultation on matters pertaining to implementation of drug price control order (DPCO) including technicalities involved in pricing and new launches.
31. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog constituted Expert Task Force to provide major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar. It will give sector-specific recommendations in key

- employment sectors for policy interventions and suggest measures to enhance trade in services with high employment potential.
32. ▶ PM Narendra Modi reconstituted Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to assist on economic issues, with Bibek Debroy appointed as its chairman. EAC was defunct since former C Rangarajan resigned as its chairman.
 33. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed a 5 member Committee headed by G Rohini to examine subcategorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), to ensure more backward among OBC communities can avail benefits of reservation.
 34. ▶ RBI panel under Chandan Sinha recommended a list of commodities which can be hedged in overseas markets by all Indian residents (including gold, silver, zinc, tin, crude oil and its derivatives, coal, natural gas, tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa).
 - ✎ Panel also recommended that domestic banks should be allowed to offer commodity hedging facility to their customers, on both Over The Counter (OTC) as well as international and domestic exchanges.
 35. ▶ Rajya Sabha Committee headed by Vinay P Sahasrabudhe has recommended body wearable cameras for traffic policemen and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) officials enforcing Motor Vehicles Act, to reduce arbitrariness and corruption by enforcement officials.
 36. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted an expert committee to look into issues relating to classification of bad loans, effectiveness of audits and rising incidents of frauds. It will be headed by Y H Malegam.
 37. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel on external benchmark rate for banks headed by Janak Raj submitted its report. Panel observed that several practices including violation of RBI guidelines, inflating of base rate and arbitrary adjustment of spreads are prevalent among major banks in India.
 38. ▶ Reserve Bank of India constituted a 10-member High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India, which will suggest a roadmap for developing a transparent, comprehensive and near-real-time PCR for India. It will be Headed by YM Deosthalee.
 39. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted a four-member Empowered Expert Committee headed by Former Chief Election Commissioner N Gopalaswami, for conducting appraisal of applications for shortlisting 20 Institutions of Eminence (IoE).

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Days

1. ▶ Dec 04, 2017 - 46th Indian Navy Day. On this day in 1971, Indian Navy carried out Operation Trident, which was a devastating attack on Pakistan's Naval Headquarters of Karachi.
2. ▶ Dec 1 - Formation day of Nagaland (Formed in 1963). It also marks beginning of 10 days Hornbill Premier festival of Nagaland. Dec 1 is also raising day of Paramilitary Force BSF (Border Security Force).
3. ▶ Dec 1 - World AIDS Day. 2017 Theme is Right to health.
 - ✎ To increase Reach of Free ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) services provided by Government to People affected by HIV Virus, Government launched National Strategic Plan 2017-24 and Mission *SAMPARK*. It aims at eradicating HIV / AIDS completely by 2030.
4. ▶ Dec 10 - Human Rights Day. 2017 Theme is *Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity*.
5. ▶ Dec 11 - International Mountain Day. 2017 theme is *Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger and migration*.
6. ▶ Dec 12 - UN International Day of Neutrality. It was declared in Feb 2017 by UN after being recommended by Turkmenistan.
7. ▶ Dec 12 - Universal Health Coverage Day.
 - ✎ On this Occasion, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched *LaQshya* Initiative and mHealth: Safe Delivery Application. Operational Guidelines for Obstetric High Dependency Units and Intensive Care Units were also released.
 - ✎ Laqshya - A Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative It is safe delivery mobile application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral area.
 - ✎ mHealth - Its a Safe Delivery Application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in peripheral areas.
8. ▶ Dec 14 - National Energy Conservation Day.
 - ✎ On this Occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled interactive online portal, ECO-NIWAS (Energy COnservation – New Indian Way for Affordable & Sustainable homes) for increasing awareness to build sustainable and energy efficient homes in country.
9. ▶ Dec 16 is observed as Vijay Diwas, marking India's military victory over Pakistan in 1971 during Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.
10. ▶ Dec 18 - International Migrants Day. 2017 theme is *Safe Migration in a World on the Move*. Dec 18 is also observed as National Minority Rights Day in India. On This Occasion, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released International Migration Report 2017 -
 - ✎ Approx 25 crore people are living in a country other than their country of birth, Increase of 49 % in number of migrants since 2000.
 - ✎ India has largest Diaspora in with over 1.7 crore Indians living overseas. Russia, China, Bangladesh, Syria, Pakistan and Ukraine have large migrant populations living abroad, ranging from 6 to 11 million each.

-  Largest number of international migrants reside in USA with over 2 crore international migrants in USA. Saudi Arabia, Germany and Russia are at next 4 places respectively.
11. ▶ Dec 2 - International Day for Abolition of Slavery. December 2 is also observed as computer literacy day.
 12. ▶ Dec 20 - International Human Solidarity Day.
 13. ▶ Dec 22 - National Mathematics Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of Noted Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. In 1918, he became a Fellow of Royal Society, becoming youngest person to achieve this feat.
 14. ▶ Dec 23 - Kisan Diwas (Farmer's Day) in India, observed to mark birth anniversary of 5th prime minister of India - Chaudhary Charan Singh.
 -  He worked distincively for welfare of farmers, also he never visited Lok Sabha during his term as PM of India (28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980).
 15. ▶ Dec 25 - Good Governance Day in India. It marks Birth Anniversary of Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was announced by Central Govt. in 2014.
 -  On this occasion, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions launched electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS), as a step towards the ease of governance and is in lines with Government's goal of minimum government, maximum governance.
 -  On this occasion, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) launched 'Atal Jan Aahar Yojana' for poor people to provide them meal at Rs 10.
 16. ▶ Dec 3 - Birth Annivwersary of first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
 17. ▶ Dec 3 - International Day of Persons With Disabilities. 2017 Theme is *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all*.
 -  On this occasion, Telangana Government signed agreement with Vindhya E-Infomedia, to set up world's first Information and Technology (IT) Campus for differently-abled persons (divyangs), in capital Hyderabad.
 -  On this occasion, Noted communication expert Sarvesh Kumar Tiwari is appointed as President of Para-Sports Foundation (PSF).
 -  On this occasion, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched Deen Dayal Divyangajan Sahajya Scheme in Guwahati, Assam. Under which, every differently abled person in Assam would be entitled to a one-time grant of Rs 5000 for their treatment.
 -  On this occasion, Disability Empowerment Awards was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind on this occasion in 14 categories to 52 individuals and institutions. Some important awards -
 -  Best State in Promoting Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - Chhattisgarh
 -  Best District in Providing Rehabilitation Service - Madurai
 -  Best Braille Press Award - Mumbai-based National Association for the Blind.
 18. ▶ Dec 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.
 19. ▶ Dec 5 - World Soil Day. 2017 theme is *Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground*.
 20. ▶ Dec 7 - Indian Armed Forces Flag Day.
 21. ▶ Dec 7 - International Civil Aviation Day. 2017 theme is *Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind*.
 22. ▶ Dec 9 - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD). 2017 Theme is *United against corruption for development, peace and security*.
 23. ▶ Disarmament Week celebrated every year from October 24-30, since United Nations founded it in 1978. Aim is to control usage of weapons of mass destruction.
 24. ▶ Feb 02 - World Wetlands Day. It marks adoption of Convention on Wetlands (also called as Ramsar Convention) in 1971 in Ramsar (Iran). Theme for 2018 is *Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future*.
 -  On this occasion, Floating Treatment Wetland (FTW) was inaugurated in Nekkampur Lake in Hyderabad to purify polluted lake. Plants planted on FTW can clean lake by absorbing nitrates and other pollutants in water.
 25. ▶ Feb 04 - World Cancer Day. 2018 Theme is *We can. I can*.
 -  Feb 4, 2018 is also 70th Independence Day of Neighboring Nation *Sri Lanka*. On Feb 4 in 1948, Sri Lanka achieved freedom from British rule.
 26. ▶ Feb 13 - World Radio Day. 2018 theme is *Radio and Sports*.
 -  India's 1st Online Radio Station *Radio Umang* Has been launched, accessible through web / app.
 -  India's first radio festival held in New Delhi to mark World Radio Day, organized by International Association of Women in Radio and Television AND UNESCO.
 27. ▶ Feb 20 - World Day of Social Justice. 2018 theme is *Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice*.
 28. ▶ Feb 21 - International Mother Language Day (IMLD). 2018 Theme is *Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development*.

29. ▶ Feb 28 - National Science Day. It marks discovery of Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman on 28 February 1928. For this, he was awarded Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

🔗 On this occasion, Department of Science and Technology awarded Raghbir Singh Khandpur for his contribution to science and his efforts to make Science City in Punjab's Kapurthala into an international-level facility.

30. ▶ Jan 01, 2018 - 125th Birth Anniversary of Noted Indian Scientist Satyendra Nath Bose.

🔗 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.

31. ▶ Jan 04 - World Braille Day. It commemorates contribution of Louis Braille who invented reading and writing system that helped blind people across world.

32. ▶ 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.

🔗 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*.

🔗 On this occasion, first ever Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference held in Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in New Delhi.

33. ▶ Jan 10 - World Hindi Day. It marks holding first *World Hindi Conference* on 10 January, 1975. Jan 10, 2018 also marks 25th Raising Day of Army Air Defence.

34. ▶ Jan 12 - National Youth Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of legendary social reformer Swami Vivekananda.

🔗 On this occasion, 22nd National Youth Festival (NYF) organised in New Delhi by Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports at Gautam Buddha University (Greater Noida).

🔗 On this occasion, Jharkhand Govt organized Skill Summit and Provided Employment to 27852 Youth in Private Sector.

35. ▶ Jan 15, 2018 - 70th Indian Army Day. It commemorates the day when K.M Carriappa took over command of Indian Army from F.R.R Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949.

36. ▶ Jan 21 - Statehood Day for North Eastern States of Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya.

🔗 On this occasion, Manipur Government launched *Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHTT)*, a health assurance scheme for the poor and disabled people. It will provide cashless treatment to poor at government hospitals, health centres and other empanelled selected private hospitals.

37. ▶ Jan 24 - National Girl Child Day.

🔗 Delhi Govt held *Girl Child Week programme* to celebrate girl child and spread awareness on gender equality.

38. ▶ Jan 25 - National Voters' Day. 2018 Theme is *Accessible Elections*.

39. ▶ Jan 26 - International Customs Day. 2018 theme is *A secure business environment for economic development*.

40. ▶ Jan 26, 2018 - 69th Republic Day of India.

🔗 As part of Republic Day celebrations, 6 days *Bharat Parv* event began at Red Fort (Delhi).






🔗 This year, Government heads of 10 ASEAN countries were Chief Guests at Republic Day Parade. Participating Guests are -

Name	Nation
Hassanal Bolkiah	Brunei
Hun Sen	Cambodia
Joko Widodo	Indonesia
Thongloun Sisoulith	Laos
Najib Razak	Malaysia
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	Myanmar
Rodrigo Roa Duterte	Philippines
Lee Hsien Loong	Singapore
Prayuth Chan-ocha	Thailand
Nguyen Xuan Phuc	Vietnam

🔗 Government advised not to use a national flag made of plastic and asked all states and UTs to ensure strict compliance of Flag Code in view of Republic Day celebrations.

41. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched National Deworming Initiative on National Deworming Day (10 February). It aims to reach over 32 crore children aged between 1 to 19 years to combat parasitic worm infections.

🔗 National Deworming Day was launched in 2015 and is a single fixed-day approach to treating intestinal worm infections in all children aged 1- 19 years. It is held on 10 February and 10 August each year.

42. ▶ National Nutrition Week observed throughout country from Sep 1 - 7, 2017 with theme *Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health*.
43. ▶ Nov 01 - World Vegan Day.
44. ▶ Nov 10 - World Science Day for Peace and Development. 2017 theme is *Science for Global Understanding*.
45. ▶ Nov 11 - National Education Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, first education minister of independent India.
46. ▶ Nov 12 - Public Service Broadcasting Day. It marks first and last visit of MK Gandhi to studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947. It is also observed as *World Pneumonia Day*.
47. ▶ Nov 16 - International Day of Tolerance.
48. ▶ Nov 16 - National Press Day in India.
49. ▶ Nov 16, 2017 - World Philosophy (Observed Every Year on 3rd Thursday of November).
50. ▶ Nov 17 - International Students Day.
51. ▶ Nov 19 - 100th Birth Anniversary of Former Indian PM Indira Gandhi. It is observed as National Integration Day. It is also observed as World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.
52. ▶ Nov 19 - International Men's Day. 2017 theme is *Celebrate Men and Boys*.
53. ▶ Nov 19 - World Toilet Day. 2017 Theme is *Wastewater*.
 On this occasion, world's biggest toilet pot model unveiled at Marora, popularly known as *Trump village* in Haryana.
54. ▶ Nov 20 - UN Africa Industrialization Day.
55. ▶ Nov 20 - Universal Child Rights Day with 2017 theme *It's a #KidsTakeOver*.
 Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017) from 16th - 20th November, 2017.
56. ▶ Nov 21 - World Fisheries Day AND World Television Day.
57. ▶ Nov 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW). 2017 theme is *Leave no one behind: end violence against women and girls*.
58. ▶ Nov 26 - Constitution Day in India.
 It commemorates 26 November 1949, when the Constituent Assembly adopted Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
59. ▶ Nov 26 - National Law Day in India. a 2 day conference on National Law Day held in New Delhi.
60. ▶ Nov 29 - UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
61. ▶ Nov 5 - World Tsunami Awareness Day. 2017 theme is *Reduce the Number of Affected People*. First WTAD was observed across the world in 2016.
62. ▶ Nov 8 - International Day of Radiology (IDoR). 2017 theme is *Emergency Radiology*.
63. ▶ Nov 9 - Legal Service Day in India, started by Supreme Court in 1995 to offer help and support to weaker and poor group of sections of people.
64. ▶ Nov 9, 2017 - Government Observed this day as National Entrepreneurship Day.
 On this occasion, 2 MoUs signed between Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Atal Innovation Mission – Niti Ayog and Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University. Haryana Government also signed MoU with Vyakti Vikas Kendra (Art of Living Foundation) for helping jail inmates to improve their health and reduce physical and mental stress.
65. ▶ Oct 08, 2017 - 85th Indian Air Force Day.
 IAF on this occasion launched mobile health App named *MedWatch*. It has features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
66. ▶ Oct 1 - UN International Day of Older Persons. 2017 Theme is *Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society*.
67. ▶ Oct 1 - World Vegetarian Day. It initiates month of October as Vegetarian Awareness Month that ends on November 1 as World Vegan Day.
68. ▶ Oct 10 - World Mental Health Day. 2017 theme is *Mental health in the workplace*. Oct 10 is also observed as World Day against the Death Penalty.
69. ▶ Oct 11 - International Day of Girl Child. 2017 theme is *The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030*.
70. ▶ Oct 13 - International Day for Disaster Reduction. 2017 theme is *Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement*.
71. ▶ Oct 14 - World Standards day. 2017 theme is *Standards make cities smarter*.
72. ▶ Oct 15 - UN International Day of Rural Women.

73. ▶ Oct 15 - UN World Students Day. It Commemorates Birth Anniversary of Noted Indian Scientist and Former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He was known as Missile Man of India and honored with highest Indian Honor *Bharat Ratna* in 1997. UN declared this day in 2010.
74. ▶ Oct 16 - World Food Day. 2017 Theme is *Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development*
75. ▶ Oct 17 - International Day for Eradication of Poverty (IDEP). 2017 theme is *Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies.*
76. ▶ Oct 17 - World Sawfish Day. Scientists announced that sawfish, sighted off Indian coast less than 10 times in over a decade appears to be more threatened than tigers and elephants.
77. ▶ Oct 2 - Birth Anniversary of Noted Leader Lal Bahadur Shastri (2nd Prime Minister of India). He gave famous slogan *Jai Jawaan Jai Kisaan.*
78. ▶ Oct 2 - International Day of Non-Violence, on occasion of Birth Anniversary of M K Gandhi (also referred as Gandhi Jayanti). UN approved this day in 2007.
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government launched Swachh Andhra Mission on this occasion, with Badminton Player PV Sindhu as brand ambassador.
 - ▶ On this occasion, Nepali version of MK Gandhi's autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* released in Kathmandu, translated by Shekhar Giri.
 - ▶ On This occasion, Bihar government launched drive against child marriage and dowry.
 - ▶ On This occasion, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) was conferred with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award.
79. ▶ Oct 2, 2017 - UN World Habitat day (First Monday of October every year). 2017 theme was *Housing Policies: Affordable Homes.*
80. ▶ Oct 20 - UN World Statistics Day. Theme for 2017 is *Better Data, Better Lives.*
81. ▶ Oct 21 - National Police Commemoration Day.
- ▶ On This Occasion, Uttar Pradesh Government announced to double ex-gratia amount for police officials martyred on duty. Now this amount becomes INR 40 lakh, compared to INR 20 lakh earlier.
82. ▶ Oct 22 - International Stuttering Awareness Day. 2017 Theme is *A World That Understands Stuttering.*
83. ▶ Oct 24 - First International Day of Diplomats celebrated in Brasilia (Brazil). Diplomats of Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey participated in Event, to recognise hard work and sacrifices of diplomats and their families.
84. ▶ Oct 24 - United Nations Day, started in 1948. Oct 24 is Raising Day of Indian Paramilitary Force ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police).
85. ▶ Oct 24 - World Development Information Day (WDID).
86. ▶ Oct 24 - World Polio day.
87. ▶ Oct 27 - Infantry Day. It commemorate sacrifices made by infantry who fought against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947. This was first infantry action by Indian Army after independence.
88. ▶ Oct 27- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. 2017 Theme is *Discover, remember and share.*
89. ▶ Oct 28 - International Animation Day.
90. ▶ Oct 31 - World Cities Day. 2017 theme is *Innovative Governance, Open Cities.* General theme of World Cities Day is *Better City, Better Life.*
91. ▶ Oct 31 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). Observed to commemorate birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel who played important role in unifying India pre-independence.
92. ▶ Oct 4 - World Animal Day.
93. ▶ Oct 5 - World Teachers' Day. It commemorates signing of 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. 2017 theme is *Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers.*
94. ▶ Oct 9 - World Post Day.
95. ▶ On 16th January, Goa celebrated Opinion Poll Day as Asmitai Dis (Identity Day). It marks historic poll in 1967, when people of Goa voted not to merge with Maharashtra.
96. ▶ Sep 02 - World Coconut Day.
97. ▶ Sep 12 - UN International Day for South-South Cooperation.
98. ▶ Sep 14 - Hindi Day. On this day in 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script was accepted as official language of India.
99. ▶ Sep 15 - Engineer's Day in India. It marks birth anniversary of Noted Indian Engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya.
100. ▶ Sep 15 - International Day of Democracy. 2017 theme is *democracy and conflict prevention.*
101. ▶ Sep 16 - International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer (World Ozone Day). 2017 theme is *Caring for all life under the sun.* Sep 16 is also known as International Coastal Cleanup day.
102. ▶ Sep 21 - International Day of Peace. 2017 theme is *Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.*

103. ▶ Sep 26 - International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. So far, 50 Nations have signed a recent UN Treaty putting complete ban on nuclear weapons.
104. ▶ Sep 27 - World Tourism Day with 2017 Theme is *sustainable tourism – a tool for development*.
- ✎ Cab aggregator Ola started a tourism promotion campaign in Karnataka State. with theme *GhoomoResponsibly*.
 - ✎ Madhya Pradesh won *Best Tourism State* national award for 3rd consecutive year at National Tourism Awards. The state bagged total 10 awards, including national award as Best Film Promotion Friendly State/Union Territory.
 - ✎ Event also saw launch of 'Incredible India 2.0 campaign' and 'Adopt a Heritage' project and new Incredible India website.
105. ▶ Sep 28 - International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). UNESCO hosted Conference under theme *Overcoming Divides and Achieving the SDGs in Africa* in Balaclava (Mauritius).
106. ▶ Sep 28 - World Maritime Day. 2017 theme is *Connecting Ships, Ports and People*.
107. ▶ Sep 28 - World Rabies Day. 2017 theme is *Rabies: Zero by 30*.
108. ▶ Sep 30 - International Translation Day. 2017 theme is *Translation and Diversity*.
109. ▶ Sep 5 - International Charity Day.
110. ▶ Sep 5 - National Teachers Day in India. It marks Birth Anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, first Vice President of India (1952 - 1962) and 2nd President of India (1962 - 1967).
- ✎ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu gave away National awards for teachers on Teachers day Function, honoring total 219 teachers.
 - ✎ He also launched DIKSHA, a national digital infrastructure for teachers. Web - diksha.gov.in.
 - ✎ Environment Ministry launched environment awareness initiative, under which an online environmental quiz competition named *Prakriti Khoj* will be conducted at national level. It aims to generate interest among school children about the science related to environment.
111. ▶ Sep 8 - International Literacy Day. 2017 theme announced by UNESCO is *Literacy in a digital world*.
- ✎ On this occasion, Government announced that *School Chalo Abhiyan* will be implemented in 2018, aimed at enrolling 80 lakh students.
112. ▶ UN Chosen India to host World Environment Day to be held on June 5 with theme *Beat Plastic Pollution*.

Top

Defence

1. ▶ *FIPSPHYSIOCON 2017* - Conference on Human Physiology - VII Congress of Federation of Indian Physiological Societies (FIPS) and XXIX Annual Conference of Physiological Society of India (PSI) organised at University of Delhi.
2. ▶ 13th edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017, joint military exercise between Indian and USA armies commenced in Washington (USA).
3. ▶ 12th India-Nepal joint military exercise - Surya Kiran XII held in Saljhandi (Nepal).
4. ▶ 14 day joint training exercise *PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017* between Indian and Kazakhstan Armies commenced at Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh)
5. ▶ 14-day long Combined India-UK Military exercise *Ajeya Warrior- 2017* began in Rajasthan.
6. ▶ 2nd indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) *Vijaya* has been commissioned into Indian Coast Guard.
7. ▶ 45 Member Contingent of Indian Air Force left for Israel to participate in exercise 'Blue Flag-17', onboard a C-130J special operations aircraft. Exercise will be conducted in First week of November 2017. This is first time the Indian Air Force is operating with Israeli AF in a multilateral exercise.
8. ▶ 5th India-Sri Lanka Joint Army Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 Organized in Pune.
9. ▶ 7th India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise SLINEX 2017 held near Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal.
10. ▶ 7th Joint Army exercise of Indian and Bangladeshi armies - *Sampriti 2017* began at Vairengte in Mizoram. It will last till Nov 18, 2017.
11. ▶ 8th Biannual Indo-Seychelles joint counter insurgency/counter terrorism exercise named *Lamitye* held in Seychelles.
12. ▶ 8th India - Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 held in Belagavi (Karnataka).
13. ▶ *DefExpo India 2018* will be hosted by Chennai (TN) for the first time in April 2018.
 - ✎ DefExpo India is a largest event of India's defence sector, held biannually. It displays latest technologies and products manufactured by both Indian and foreign companies.
14. ▶ Advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS, Developed Jointly by DRDO and Bharat Forge Limited of Kalyani Group) with special ammunition high explosive – base bleed (HE – BB) has set world record in terms of range by hitting targets at distance of 48 km during trial firings at Pokhran (Rajasthan).
15. ▶ Biennial Joint exercise by Indian and Japanese Coast Guards held in Bay of Bengal, as 8th in series of *National Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise*.

16. ▶ Central Government cancelled plan to produce 114 Single-engine Fighters with foreign collaboration under *Make in India* framework, in wake of political conflict between BJP and Congress over 36 French-manufactured Rafale fighter jets.
 - ✎ Point of contention in original plan was restriction on only single-engine fighters, which limited competition to just two jets (American F-16 and Swedish Gripen-E) Thus, Defence Ministry directed Indian Air Force to come up with a new proposal that will take both, single and twin-engine fighters into account.
17. ▶ DRDO successfully test fired Made-In-India Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), capable of deceiving enemy radars making it difficult to be detected. It can strike within 30 KMs and will supplement medium-range surface-to-air missile Akash.
18. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved Proposals worth INR 9435 Crores for Tri Services and Coast Guard. It includes procurement of 41000 LMGs and over 3.5 Lakh Close Quarter Battle Carbines under Buy and Make (Indian) category.
19. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accorded acceptance of necessity (AoN) for procurement 111 naval utility helicopters (NUHs) worth Rs 21,738 crore for Indian Navy.
 - ✎ DAC is Defence Ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement. After DAC gives AoN, request for proposal can be issued to firms, seeking their bids.
20. ▶ Defence Ministry Nirmala Sitharaman cleared 2 procurement proposals -
 - ✎ 131 Barak missiles will be procured from Israel's Rafael Advance Defence Systems of Israel for INR 460 crores.
 - ✎ 240 precision guided bombs will be procured from JSC Rosonboron Exports (Russia) for INR 1254 crores.
21. ▶ Defence Ministry approved procurement of 260 Software Defined Radios (SDR) for Indian Navy at cost of 490 crores to ramp up surveillance on high seas, Developed by DRDO's Defence Electronics & Applications Laboratory (DEAL). These SDRs will be first batch of indigenously designed and developed software defined radio sets to be procured by any of three services.
22. ▶ 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.
 - ✎ Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS) will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited for 470 crores.
 - ✎ P-8I Training SolutionThe P-8I Training Solution will be brought from Boeing (USA) for Rs.1949.32 crore.
23. ▶ Defence Ministry launched 'ARPAN Version 3.0' software for Defence Security Corp, developed by Tech Mahindra. It would simplify personal documentation and all issues related to DSC Personnel's progression.
24. ▶ 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.
 - ✎ 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.
25. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested India's first indigenously developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile - *NIRBHAY*. It has operational range of 1000 - 1500 KM.
26. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) test-fired 3rd generation Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) NAG. It has operational range of 500m to 4km (Land version) and 7-10km (when air-launched).
27. ▶ Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) conducted by Army's Andaman & Nicobar Command.
28. ▶ Exercise INDRA-2017, First ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces conducted in Eastern Military District of Russia.
29. ▶ First India-Myanmar Bilateral Military Exercise 2017 (IMBAX 2017) started at Umroi Joint Training Node in Meghalaya (6 days long).
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) conducted first flight of Hawk-i Trainer Jet, with indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS).
 - ✎ Hawk-i is first indigenous RTOS developed in India and certified by Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).
 - ✎ RTOS is system software that provides standard run-time environment for real-time applications execution in a safe and reliable manner.
32. ▶ INS Kalvari, first of 6 Scorpene-class submarines has been commissioned into Indian Navy, as a significant success for the Make in India initiative. Submarines are being indigenously built by Mazagaon Dockyard in Mumbai under Project 75 in collaboration with French industrial group DCNS.
33. ▶ INS Karanj, the 3rd Scorpene class submarine constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited has been commissioned into Indian Navy.
34. ▶ INS Sukanya Arrived in Indonesia for participating in 30th CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and 3rd Joint Naval exercise between India and Indonesia.
35. ▶ INS Tarasa (T94), fourth and last ship in series of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) commissioned into Indian Navy.

36. ▶ India and Oman Navies completed 11th Joint exercise *Naseem Al Bahr* OR *Sea Breeze*.
37. ▶ India cancelled a \$500 million deal for procuring Spike ATGM (Anti-Tank Guided Missile) from Israel, keeping in view the fact that importing a foreign ATGM would negatively impact indigenous development of weapon system by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
38. ▶ India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise (VINBAX-2018) conducted at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, as first military exercise between India and Vietnam.
39. ▶ Indian Air Force successfully fired BrahMos air version anti shipping missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
 - ✍ BrahMos missile is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of more than 400 kms. IAF is first Air Force in world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category.
40. ▶ Indian Army approved huge procurement plans for infantry modernization at a cost of nearly Rs 40,000 crore to replace aging weapons. Under this, Approx 7 lakh rifles, 44,000 light machine guns (LMGs) and nearly 44,600 carbines will be procured.
41. ▶ Indian Army launched Integrated Quarter Master Package (IQMP) software application for automating various logistics related functions of an Army Unit, developed by Army Software Development Centre in association with TCS.
 - ✍ It will replace numerous legacy applications such as 'Vastra' and 'Quarter Master Package' and will automate all logistics functions of Indian Army at unit level.
 - ✍ IQMP will help in effective logistics management and decision making, assisting Indian Army units to be battle ready all time.
42. ▶ Indian Army launched an independent and fully-integrated Joint Training Node (JTN) at Umroi cantonment in Shillong, aimed at hosting foreign armies in joint military exercises. It is the first of its kind in eastern command and is different from other joint training centres in Belgaum, Varangate and Bakloh.
43. ▶ Indian Army organized Operation Sadbhavana for National Integration in Jammu & Kashmir and North East states respectively
44. ▶ Indian Army will contribute 2300 personnel to support United Nations Peacekeeping Missions to South Sudan (UNMISS) in order to bring peace and normalcy in the war-torn african country. It includes deployment of 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry battalion group of Indian Army.
45. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned *Charlie-435* patrolling vessel at Karaikal in Puducherry.
46. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned two high-speed interceptor boats C-433 and C-434 boats. Interceptor boat V-409 has also been launched.
47. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship *Sujay* (6th (last) in series of 105m Offshore Patrol Vessels) has been commissioned.
48. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship C-161 (ICGS C -161) commissioned at Porbandar in Gujarat.
49. ▶ Indian Coast Guard conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise *Clean Sea - 2017* at sea off Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
50. ▶ Indian Coast Guard interceptor boat *V-410* has been launched. It is 6th in series of 15 interceptors for which BDIL had been given a contract.
51. ▶ Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo (Japan).
52. ▶ Indian Navy signed contract with Tata Power SED under *Buy and Make* category, through which Tata Power SED will supply Portable Diver Detection Sonar (PDDS) for Indian Navy.
53. ▶ Indian Navy's Andaman & Nicobar Command will host a multinational Naval Exercise MILAN 2018 in March, With underlying theme of *Friendship Across the Seas*, with 16 nations participating. Theme of 2018 MILAN International Maritime Seminar is *In Pursuit of Maritime Good Order - Need for Comprehensive Information Sharing Apparatus*.
54. ▶ Indian and Indonesian Armies begun 6th Garuda Shakti Joint exercise in West Java province of Indonesia.
55. ▶ Indian and Japan Navies initiated an intensive air anti-submarine warfare exercise in Indian Ocean. It has P-8 I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti Submarine Warfare of Indian Navy and 2 P-3 Orion Anti Submarine Warfare aircraft of Japanese Navy.
56. ▶ India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition *Navika Sagar Parikrama* flagged off in Goa, onboard Sailing Vessel *INSV Tarini*. It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018.
57. ▶ India's first ingeniously built INS Kalavari submarine handed over to Indian Navy, built by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai. INS Kalavari is first of six Scorpion class submarines built in India under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks Limited with technology transfer from France's DCNS (Direction des Constructions Navales Services).
58. ▶ Indigenously developed Prithvi Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile has been successfully test-fired.
59. ▶ Indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan has been commissioned into Indian Navy.
 - ✍ It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs.

60. ▶ Indo-US joint military exercise *Vajra Prahar* will be held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle (USA) in last week of Jan 2018.
61. ▶ Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over offshore patrol vessel (OPV) *Vikram* to Indian Coast Guard. It is country's first-ever such defence vessel to be built in a private shipyard.
62. ▶ Ministry of Defence (MoD) will raise 3 new tri-service agencies - Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and a Special Operations Division. These will be headed by officers of rank of Major General (equivalent in Navy and Indian Air Force).
 - ▶ Defence Cyber Agency will work in close coordination with National Cyber Security Advisor and It will focus on non-civilian cyber issues, including safeguarding critical infrastructure. It will be have over 1,000 personnel.
 - ▶ Defence Space Agency will work closely with ISRO and DRDO for better utilisation and integration of space resources. It will have over 200 personnel.
 - ▶ Special Operations Division will have components of Special Forces of Army, Navy and IAF and will be trained together for various external contingencies.
63. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs launched full-fledged intelligence wing of Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB), paramilitary force that guards India's borders with Bhutan and Nepal. It will have 650 field and staff agents to gather actionable information. Intelligence wing of and Welfare and Rehabilitation Board App (WARB) was also launched.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ Odisha and West Bengal held joint coast guard security exercise *Sagar Kavach*, to tighten existing coastal security mechanism.
66. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to Submarine Arm of Indian Navy.
 - ▶ President's Colour is highest honour which can be bestowed upon any military unit.
67. ▶ Surface to Air Missile AKASH has been tested successfully with indigenous radio frequency seeker.
 - ▶ AKASH missile is being inducted into Army as Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) with range under 25 KM. This is first Surface to Air Missile with indigenous seeker that has been test fired.
68. ▶ Tri-service maritime exercise *Paschim Lehar* held off India's western coast, to build interoperability between Three forces and Coast Guard.
69. ▶ USA will provide Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System(EMALS) technology to India for aircraft carriers. It will help to launch heavy combat planes from short runway of an aircraft carrier using electromagnetic force, instead of old steam-powered catapults.

Top

Economy

1. ▶ Finance Ministry imposed 18.95% countervailing duty (CVD) on certain Chinese flat steel products for 5 years to protect domestic players from cheap subsidised imports.
2. ▶ Fitch declared that Indian banks will need an additional capital of \$65 billion in order to satisfy all banking rules of global Basel III norms, by March 2019.
3. ▶ 25th Meeting of GST Council held in New Delhi, chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. Changes made in GST Regime -
 - ▶ Late fee for failure to furnish FORM GSTR-1 (supply details), FORM GSTR-5 (Non-resident taxable person), FORM GSTR-5A (OIDAR) or FORM GSTR-6 (Input Service Distributor) is reduced to 50 rupees / day (20 rupees per day for NIL filers).
 - ▶ Facility for generation, modification and cancellation of e-way bills is provided on trial basis on ewaybill.nic.in.
 - ▶ Recommended reduced GST rates for 29 goods and 53 services, to come into force from January 25.
4. ▶ *IndiaFirst Life Insurance* launched India's first-ever micro-insurance plan 'insurance khata' for those in informal sector and agricultural labourers with seasonal incomes.
 - ▶ It provides flexibility to pay premium in parts depending on periodicity of income, with minimum premium INR 500.
5. ▶ *Refining and Marketing - Asia Report* by credit rating agency Moody's -
 - ▶ India will surpass China as the fastest-growing product market in Asia for petroleum consumption, growing at 6 % in 2018, as compared to 2.5-3 % Growth rate for China.
 - ▶ In absolute terms, China will still account for nearly half of demand in region.
 - ▶ China and India will be key growth engines within Asia Pacific region, representing over 80 % of sector's expected growth in 2018.
6. ▶ India signed \$200 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank for Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project, to support Assam Government to facilitate agri-business investments and increase agriculture productivity and market access
7. ▶ 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).

- ✎ The Portal will -
 - ✎ Enable processing interest subsidy for NULM schemes, which will be credited to Aadhaar linked beneficiary accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).
 - ✎ Facilitate on-line validation of loans granted by Banks, through Urban Local Bodies.
- ✎ Self-Employment Component (SEP) of NULM and Need for Portal -
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ Allahabad Bank will charge a service fee of 1.05% of interest subsidy amount released.
- 8. ▶ ADB (Asian Development Bank) signed Loan deal worth \$200 Million with India's IndusInd Bank to provide loans for low income women in rural areas.
- 9. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank received Reserved Bank of India (RBI) approval to operate as Scheduled Commercial Bank.
 - ✎ With this, AU SFB's has been included in 2nd Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act 1934. Now, it can do borrowing and lending with RBI under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF).
- 10. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank signed MoU with LIC to offer Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). It will provide life cover of INR 2 lakh, at a premium of Rs 330 per annum.
- 11. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank signed MoU with Sahaj e-Village for providing its banking service in remote areas of India.
 - ✎ Sahaj e-Village Limited is an entity of SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and works for bridging digital divide between urban and rural India under flagship of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of Central Government.
- 12. ▶ AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to launch an INR 200 crore fund for providing loans to MSMEs. It will fund term loans in the 25 lakh to 2 crore ticket size.
- 13. ▶ Abu Dhabi Global Market (Abu Dhabi) and Yes Bank have signed MOU to boost cross-border exchange between United Arab Emirates and India. It will enable fintech innovators from Middle East region and India to apply into Yes FinTech programmes and ADGM's Regulatory Laboratory and will get to expand into each other's markets.
- 14. ▶ According to RBI's *Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies 2016-17* -
 - ✎ Mauritius was largest source of foreign investment (FDI) in India (21.8% share at market value) followed by USA, UK, Singapore and Japan.
 - ✎ Singapore (19.7%) was major ODI (Outward Direct Investment) destination, followed by Netherlands, Mauritius, and US.
 - ✎ The census carries information on market value of foreign liabilities and assets of Indian companies arising on account of FDI, ODI and other investments.
- 15. ▶ According to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Maruti Suzuki India is largest passenger cars exporter from India in first half (April-September) of ongoing fiscal with 57,300 units exported in period, followed by Volkswagen and Hyundai.
 - ✎ Additionally, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) left past Bajaj Auto to become 2nd biggest bike seller in India during first half of ongoing fiscal. While Hero MotoCorp continues to top the list.
- 16. ▶ Aditya Birla Group will shut down its e-commerce site *Abof.com* by December 2017, amid strong competition in sector.
- 17. ▶ Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd (ABIPBL) started operations, making it 5th payments bank in India.
 - ✎ Other payment banks - Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, Paytm Payments Bank and Fino Payments Bank.
 - ✎ ABIPBL is a JV between Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd (51 % stake) and Ideal Cellular (49 % stake).
- 18. ▶ Agri service solutions provider Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM) tied up with HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank to provide collateral management services, to improve farmers' access to post-harvest credits at affordable interest rates and provide access to scientific storage facilities.
- 19. ▶ Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched Livestock Disease Forewarning –Mobile Application (LDF-Mobile App) developed by ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (Bengaluru).
 - ✎ NIVEDI will use this app and Monthly Bulletin system to send out early warnings related to pertaining livestock diseases.
- 20. ▶ Air India received loan worth of Rs 1,500 crore from Bank of India to meet urgent working capital needs.
- 21. ▶ Airtel Business (part of Bharti Airtel) launched *GST Advantage* as a solution designed to enable small businesses and start-ups to file GST returns securely and seamlessly.

22. ▶ Airtel Payments Bank reduced its interest rate by 175 basis points to 5.5 % per annum from 7.25 % per annum earlier.
23. ▶ Airtel launched *Office-In-a-Box* for start-ups registered under Karnataka government's Start-Up Cell initiative.
24. ▶ Allahabad Bank signed agreement with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing NESL's Information Utility Services envisaged under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
- ✎ Government owned NeSL is first Information Utility entity registered by Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India under IBBI (IU) Regulations 2017.
25. ▶ Andhra Bank launched a new scheme for self-help groups (SHGs) to encourage entrepreneurship, named *Pattabhi Sitaramayya – Self Business Group (PS-SBG)*. Under this, SHGs having five years of association with Andhra Bank and having successfully completed 3 credit rotations with good repayment record, will be eligible for a loan.
26. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) operationalised its first desktop ATM in Warangal (Telangana), to facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts.
- ✎ 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.
27. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU with Mastercard to pave way for digital financial transactions in a secure environment.
28. ▶ Approved continuation of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) beyond 12th Plan for 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with outlay of INR 5500 crores.
- ✎ PMEGP will aim at creating sustainable estimated employment opportunities for 15 lakh persons in 3 years. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal implementation agency at national level.
 - ✎ Minimum target of 75 project/district is awarded to all districts in country to achieve Inclusive Growth. Higher rate of subsidy (25% to 35%) will be applicable for women, SC/ST, OBC, Physically Disabled, NER applicants in rural areas.
 - ✎ Portal can be accessed at <https://www.kviconline.gov.in/pmegpeportal/prneqphome/index.jsp>.
 - ✎ PMEGP -
 - ✎ It is a major credit-linked subsidy programme being implemented by Ministry of MSME since 2008-09, aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in non-farm sector.
 - ✎ 4.55 lakh micro enterprises have been assisted with a margin money subsidy of Rs 9564.02 crore providing employment to an estimated 37.98 lakh persons till now.
 - ✎ Modifications made in PMEGP Include -
 - ✎ 2nd loan of upto 1 crore to better performing PMEGP units for upgrading with subsidy of 15%.
 - ✎ Merger of Coir Udyami Yojana (GUY) in PMEGP.
29. ▶ As Per Govt Data, GDP Growth Rate for 2nd quarter (July-September) Q2 of 2017-18 remained 6.3 %, as compared to 5.7% in First quarter of FY 2017-18.
30. ▶ As per 2nd Advance Estimates of National Income in 2017-18 and Quarterly GDP estimates for 3rd quarter (Oct-Dec) by Central Statistics Office (CSO) -
- ✎ India's GDP grew 7.2% in 3rd quarter of 2017-18 (Oct - Dec 2017), more than 6.8% GDP growth rate of China in same period.
 - ✎ Quarterwise GDP Growth Rate in 2017-18 - Q1 (Apr - June) - 5.7 %, Q2 (July - Sep) - 6.5 % (*revised from 6.3 % earlier*), Q3 (Oct - Dec) - 7.2 %.
 - ✎ With such strong GDP Growth in 3rd quarter, India regained status of Fastest growing major economy. Manufacturing grew 8.1% in third quarter and is projected to expand at 5.1% for full year, indicating that factories / companies have come to terms with GST.
 - ✎ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in 2017-18 will remain 130.04 lakh crores, compared to 121.96 lakh crores in 2016-17, showing growth rate of 6.6 % as compared to growth rate of 7.1 percent in 2016-17.
 - ✎ While, Real GVA (Gross value added) at basic constant prices (2011-12) will be 119.64 lakh crore in 2017-18, compared to 112.48 lakh crores in 2016-17. So, growth of real GVA at basic prices in 2017-18 is 6.4 % as against 7.1 % in 2016-17.
 - ✎ Per capita net national income during 2017-18 is estimated to be INR 112764, showing rise of 8.6 % as compared to 103870 during 2016-17.
 - ✎ GDP growth rates for 2017-18 and Q1, Q2, Q3 of 2017-18 at constant (2011-12) and current prices are -

	Constant prices (2011-12)	Current prices
Annual 2017-18 (Second advance)	6.6	9.8
Q1 2017-18(April-June)	5.7	9.2
Q2 2017-18(July-Sep)	6.5	10.0
Q3 2017-18(Oct-Dec)	7.2	11.9

31. ▶ As per Data, Direct Tax Collections in first half (April-September) of FY 2017-18 shows growth of 15.8 % over previous year with net direct tax collections at 3.86 lakh crore rupees. These collections are 39.4 % of total budget estimates of Direct Taxes for FY 2017-18.
32. ▶ As per Morgan Stanley, India will be world's fastest-growing large economy by 2026-27 with digitisation providing enhancement of 50-75 bps to GDP growth. India will grow to a 6-trillion-dollar economy and achieve upper-middle income status by 2026-27.
33. ▶ As per RBI, housing loans in up to Rs. 2 lakh slab had the highest level of non-performing assets (NPAs).
 - ▶ For housing loan slab up to 2 lakh, NPAs of Public Sector Banks and HFCs was 10.4 % in FY17 as compared to 9.8 % in FY16.
 - ▶ Lowest NPAs were reported for housing loans in Rs. 25 lakh and above slab.
34. ▶ As per a world bank report -
 - ▶ India will maintain its place as top remittances receiving nation with overseas Indians sending in USD 65 billion in 2017, compared to 62.7 Billion USD in 2016.
 - ▶ Other top 5 remittances receiving countries after India - China (USD 61 billion), Philippines (USD 33 billion), Mexico (USD 31 billion), and Nigeria (USD 22 billion).
35. ▶ As per survey by Brand Finance, State Bank of India (SBI) is India's most trusted and popular bank, followed by HDFC Bank and Central Bank of India. On popularity charts, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank take 2nd and 3rd spots respectively.
36. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced to increase annual funding to India to up to \$4 billion from existing \$2.7 billion from next year to accelerate inclusive economic transformation. India is largest recipient of ADB Loans and will get about \$20 billion over next 5 years.
 - ▶ ADB approves \$500 mn loan under *Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme* to improve Over 12000 KM rural roads in West Bengal, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
37. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved loan of \$80 million (about Rs 524 crore) for modernization of Himachal Pradesh's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will increase its annual lending to India to maximum of \$4 billion between 2018 and 2022, much higher than average \$2.65 billion a year in loans extended during 2012 and 2016.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) will co-finance a USD 100-million loan for boosting power sector in India.
42. ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 335 million loan for an Bangalore Metro Rail Project – Reach 6 (R6).
 - ▶ India Became 1st Nation where AIIB has approved 1 Billion USD of Financing.
43. ▶ Axis Bank launched an instant international payment services using Ripple's enterprise blockchain technology solution for its customers.
 - ▶ Though an international offer, Axis Bank is offering facility only to its retail customers in country to receive payments from UAE-based Rak Bank and for its corporate customers to receive payments from Standard Chartered (Singapore).
44. ▶ Axis Bank subsidiary *Axis Securities* became first broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange by registering itself with NCDEX.
45. ▶ BNP Paribas Securities Services teamed up with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to deliver an innovative blockchain based platform named *Corporate Event Connect*. It will provide fast, accurate and secure corporate event announcements to clients around world.
46. ▶ BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) launched BEST (BSE Electronic Smart Trader) as an advanced hosted trading solution built on Thomson Reuters Omnesys NEST platform. It will facilitate smooth trading for BSE customers across multiple exchanges, including BSE, NSE, MCX and NCDEX for a wide range of investment categories like equity, equity derivatives, bonds etc.
47. ▶ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched *Pro-fit* platform that will act as a one-stop solution to all health-record tracking needs of customers.
48. ▶ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company started adoption of digital branch services through its offering *Mosambee*, to add depth to its service offerings.
49. ▶ Bandhan Bank appointed *Goldman Sachs*, JPMorgan Chase, Axis Bank, JM Financial and Kotak Mahindra Bank as lead managers to manage its proposed initial public offering (IPO). Bandhan Bank will look to raise INR 5000 crores by IPO in 2018.
50. ▶ Bank of Baroda launched digital Supply Chain Finance solution which aims to accelerate working capital loan opportunities for the small and medium enterprises and large corporate clients. BoB's digital Supply Chain Finance solution has been designed to ensure faster approvals, smoother transaction processing and availability of finance to the Small and Medium Enterprises.

51. ▶ Bank of Baroda signed MoU with POORTI (*Platform for Online Ordering and Rural Transformation of India*) Agri Services to help farmers buy agricultural inputs like seed, fertilizers and pesticides. POORTI is a platform for buyers and sellers of agricultural inputs.
52. ▶ Based on massive drive undertaken by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), around 2.24 lakh companies have been disqualified till date for remaining inactive for a period of two (2) years or more (Betwe FY 2013 - 14 to FY 2015-16).
53. ▶ Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) will become 8th Maharatna company, upgrading from its Navratna status.
 - ▶ *Maharatna* category for CPSEs was introduced in 2009, to empower them to expand their operations globally.
 - ▶ At present, there are 7 Maharatna companies — Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Coal India (CIL), GAIL (India), Indian Oil Corporation, NTPC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Steel Authority of India (SAIL).
 - ▶ Criteria for grant of Maharatna status Include annual turnover of Over INR 25000 crores, annual net worth of Over 15000 crores and annual net profit after tax of Over 5000 crores, during last 3 years.
54. ▶ Bharti Group Founder Sunil Bharti Mittal announced INR 7000 Donation for social causes, which includes setting up a university that will provide high quality professional education, preferably to socially and financially weaker sections of society.
55. ▶ Bhopal-based Prodigee Finance Limited received Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC-ND) license from Reserve Bank of India (RBI). ND indicates Non-Deposit accepting NBFC.
56. ▶ Bombay Stock Exchange's India International Exchange (India INX) listed Indian Railway Finance Corporation's (IRFC's) green bonds on its debt listing platform, Global Securities Market (GSM). India INX lists IRFC's green bonds, becomes first debt security at IFSC.
 - ▶ Green Bonds: Main difference between regular bond and Green Bond is that funds raised through Green Bonds are used for financing projects/business activities that are environment-friendly.
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ Cab *Aggregator Ola* acquired food delivery firm Foodpanda's India business from its German parent Delivery Hero AG in an all-stock deal. Ols will further Infuse \$200 million in Foodpanda's India operations.
59. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved implementation of Special Banking Arrangement (SBA) with SBI (State Bank of India) for INR 10000 crores for payment of outstanding claims on account of fertilizer subsidy in year 2016-17.
 - ▶ Government is making available P&K fertilizers and Urea to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers and importers. For making funds available to fertilizer companies against subsidy claims, Finance Ministry approved SBA for amount of 10000 crores Government interest liability limited to G-Sec rate.
60. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved revision in price of ethanol under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for supply to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) at INR 40.85 per litre.
61. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR)* for 2017-18 to 2019-20 with Financial allocation of INR 15,722 crores, aimed at making farming as a remunerative economic activity through strengthening farmer's effort and promoting agribusiness entrepreneurship.
 - ▶ RKVY-RAFTAAR funds would be provided to the States as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States).
 - ▶ RKVY is continuing scheme from XI Five Year Plan and provides considerable flexibility and autonomy to states in planning and executing programmes for incentivizing investment in agriculture and allied sectors.
62. ▶ Carmaker Maruti Suzuki became India's sixth most valued firm, crossing SBI with market capitalisation of INR 2.74 trillion, marginally ahead of SBI's 2.71 trillion.
 - ▶ Reliance Industries is most valued company with market value of 5.8 trillion, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ITC and Hindustan Unilever.
63. ▶ 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.
 - ▶ Minimum alternate tax (MAT) aims is to bring into tax realm the companies who do not pay any tax.
 - ▶ This exemption facility will be available only for companies against whom application for corporate insolvency resolution process has been admitted by the adjudicating authority.
 - ▶ 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.

64. ▶ Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) doubled import duty on wheat to 20% from 10% to curb cheap shipments and give positive price signal to farmers in ongoing Rabi season. It also imposed import duty of 50% on peas to check cheaper shipments.
65. ▶ Central Government divested 2.52 % of paid-up capital in National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) for approx INR 1200 crores.
66. ▶ Central Government has removed income limit for incentive under 'Dr Ambedkar scheme for social Integration through inter caste marriage'.
- ▶ Scheme was launched in 2013 to provide monetary incentive to at least 500 inter-caste couples (where either the bride or the bridegroom is a Dalit) per year.
 - ▶ Previously, couples whose total annual income does not exceed Rs 5 lakh were eligible to get a one-time incentive of Rs 2.5 lakh from Government, to help them settle down in initial phase of their married life.
 - ▶ Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has now removed max Income limit and now all Dalit couples are eligible for incentive under this scheme.
67. ▶ Central Government has set INR 10000 minimum balance in bank account as one of 21 parameters to assess poverty in gram panchayats under 'Mission Antyodaya', that aims to create 50000 poverty-free gram panchayats.
68. ▶ Central Government recognised Odisha as a 'Champion State' for exports recording highest growth in exports during 2016-17. Exports from Odisha during 2016-17 stood at Rs 40872 crores, marking growth of 114% from Rs 19082 crore in 2015-16.
69. ▶ Central Statistics Office (CSO) revised gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for 2015-16 to 8.2% from earlier estimates of 8% and kept 2016-17 growth unchanged at 7.1%.
- ▶ Real GDP (*GDP at constant (2011-12) prices*) for 2016-17 and 2015-16 stands at 121.96 trillion and 113.86 trillion INR, showing growth of 7.1% during 2016-17 and 8.2% during 2015-16.
 - ▶ In terms of real gross value added (GVA) at constant (2011-12) basic prices, It grew 7.1% in 2016- 17, as compared to 8.1% in 2015-16.
70. ▶ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) will develop Integrity Index of 25 Government Organizations in line with its broader strategy and emphasis on preventive vigilance. Index will be for bench-marking internal processes and controls within organisation as well as management of relationships and expectations of outside stakeholders.
- ▶ CVC will observe vigilance awareness week from 30 October to 4 November 2017 with theme *My Vision Corruption Free India*.
71. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government reduced rate of interest on loan given to women and their self-help groups (SHGs) under 'Saksham Yojna' from 6.5 % to 5 %, operated by Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh.
72. ▶ China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 2 Billion loan (Rs. 13,000 crores) for 5 projects in Andhra Pradesh.
73. ▶ Chkfake Brand Protection Solutions aunched global app named *Chkfake* to check authenticity of currency notes of all major currencies worldwide.
74. ▶ Commerce and Industry Ministry launched 3 tools to rank States / UTs on basis of measures taken to promote entrepreneurship. Tools are - *start-up-India ranking framework*, *compendium of good practices for promoting startups* AND *Startup India Kit*.
- ▶ *Startup India Compendium of Good Practises* aims at enriching startup ecosystem through ethical behaviours, currently followed by 18 States/UTs. It covers 95 good practises across 7 areas of intervention for evaluating the performance of startup ecosystem
 - ▶ *Startup India Kit* acts as a guide on all Startup India offerings and offers vital information and assistance through stats, tools, templates, events, competitions and a glossary on startup terms.
75. ▶ Commerce and Industry ministry appointed four institutes to interact with stakeholders and suggest measures to push India's ranking in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. They are National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
76. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved merger of IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion. It now awaits approval from RBI, Stock exchanges, SEBI, and National Company Law Tribunal.
77. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed fine of Approx INR 136 crores on search engine Google for unfair business practices in Indian market for online search. It was alleged that Google is indulging in abuse of dominant position in market for online search through practices leading to search bias and search manipulation.
78. ▶ 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.
79. ▶ Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and Asean Development Bank reviewed \$13.5 billion ADB Sponsered Project Portfolio in India -
- ▶ Works worth \$9.6 billion is ongoing and \$5.4 billion has been disbursed.
 - ▶ Best project implementation performance awards -

✍ Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission and Distribution System Improvement Project

✍ Kolkata Environmental Improvement Investment Program (Tranche-1)

✍ Uttarakhand Emergency Assistance Project.

80. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)'s Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), launched IPPrism for university students as a unique Intellectual Property (IP) Competition, in association with ASSOCHAM and ERICSSON India.
- ✍ It aims to foster culture of innovation and creativity in younger generation and invites students to submit films on piracy & counterfeiting under categories of 30 and 60 seconds.
81. ▶ Digital payments firm MobiKwik partnered with *IRCTC* to allow customers to book railway tickets using MobiKwik's payment gateway in IRCTC Rail connect app.
- ✍ Rukaiya Rangwala is recently Appointed as MobiKwik's Payment Gateway Business Head.
82. ▶ Digital payments firm Paytm registered two 2 insurance units with named *Paytm Life Insurance Ltd* and *Paytm General Insurance Corporation Ltd*, to enter growing Insurance sector.
83. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted scheduled commuter operator (SCO) permit to Air Deccan, enabling it to operate flights under regional air connectivity scheme *UDAN*.
84. ▶ E-commerce Firm *Myntra* launched its CSR initiative in association with Textile Ministry to work directly with weavers and elevate their economic stature and uplift handlooms Industry in India.
85. ▶ Economic Survey 2017-18 Presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, prepared by chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian.

✍ **Goods and Services Tax (GST) -**

✍ GST Regime was launched at midnight on July 1, 2017. This induced Twin Balance Sheet (TBS) problem that was addressed by sending major stressed companies for resolution under Indian Bankruptcy Code and implementing major recapitalisation package to strengthen Public sector banks.

✍ Under GST Regime, there has been 50% increase in number of indirect taxpayers, with 9.8 million GST registrants till Dec 2017. It is more than total Indirect Tax registrants under old system (where many taxpayers were registered under several taxes). After adjusting multiple countings of a single entity, GST has increased number of unique indirect taxpayers by over 50 % (3.4 million).

✍ Business-to-consumer (B2C) transactions account for only 17 % of total, while business-to-business (B2B) and exports are collectively 30-34 % of all transactions.

✍ **GDP Growth** - Economic Survey Predicts 7-7.5 % Growth in 2018-19 and 6.75 % in 2017-18. GDP growth averaged 7.3% for 2014-15 to 2017-18, highest among major economies of the world.

✍ **Sectoral Growth** - Agriculture, industry and services sectors are expected to grow at the rate of 2.1 %, 4.4 %, and 8.3 % respectively in 2017-18.

✍ **Facts about Services Sector -**

✍ Out of the 32 States and UTs, 15 have Services Sector as dominant sector, contributing over half of Gross State Value Added (GSVA).

✍ However, wide variation in seen in terms of share and growth of services GSVA -

✍ In terms of services GSVA share- Delhi and Chandigarh are at top with over 80 % share, while Sikkim is at bottom (31.7 %)

✍ In terms of services GSVA growth - Bihar is at top and Uttar Pradesh at bottom with 14.5 % and 7.0 % growth respectively.

✍ FDI equity inflows to services sector grew by 15.0 % during 2017-18 (April-October), amid number of reforms by govt to ensure that India remains an increasingly attractive investment destination.

✍ During April-September 2017-18, Growth in Services Exports and Services Imports stayed good at 16.2 % and 17.4 % Respectively. India was 8th largest exporter in commercial services in 2016 with share of 3.4 %, double to India's merchandise exports in world at 1.7 %.

✍ **Other Factors -**

✍ Forex Reserves are on an all time high of \$409 Billion.

✍ Fiscal Deficit is on a 4 year low in 2017 - 18, being 3.2% of GDP. It was 3.5 % of GDP in 2016-17.

✍ Inflation - WPI Based Inflation expected to be 2.9 % in 2017-18 (compared to 1.7 % in 2016-17). While, CPI Based Inflation expected to be 3.3 % in 2017-18 (compared to 4.5 % in 2016-17). Economic Survey sees average crude oil prices rising 12% in FY19.

✎ GVA (Gross Value Added) growth seen at 6.1% in 2017-18 vs 6.6% in FY2016-17.

✎ India's External Sector -

✎ Exports grew positive during 2016-17 (5.2%) and expected to grow faster in 2017-18 (12.1%).

✎ India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) stayed 1.2 % of GDP in Q2 of 2017-18, less than 2.5 % of GDP in Q1 of 2017-18.

✎ Notable Points about Indian Economy -

✎ India's formal sector (formal non-farm payroll) is greater than what it currently is believed to be.

✎ When *formality* was defined in terms of social security provisions like EPFO/ESIC, formal sector payroll was 31 percent of non-agricultural work force.

✎ When formality was defined in terms of being part of GST net, formal sector payroll share was found to be 53 %.

✎ For first time in India's history, data on international exports of states has been dwelt in Economic Survey. It indicates States that export internationally and trade with other states are richer.

✎ There has been addition of 1.8 million in individual income tax filers since November 2016.

✎ India's firm export structure is substantially more egalitarian than in other large countries. Top 1 % of Indian firms account for 38 % of exports, much less than greater share such as 72, 68, 67 and 55 % of exports in Brazil, Germany, Mexico and USA respectively.

✎ Sanitation coverage in rural India increased substantially from 39 % in 2014 to 76 % in January 2018, post launch of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) on October 2, 2014. So far, 296 districts and over 3.7 lakh villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).

✎ India is improving in Science and Technology with 14 % growth of annual publications between 2009 to 2014. This increased India's share in global publications from 3.1% in 2009 to 4.4% in 2014 as per Scopus Database.

✎ Relief from embedded state taxes (ROSL) announced in 2016 boosted exports of ready-made garments (but not others) by 16 %.

✎ Indian society exhibits strong son "Meta" preference as Parents continue to have children until they get the desired number of sons.

✎ There is substantial avoidable litigation in tax arena which government action could reduce. Tax department's petition success rate is very low (below 30 %). Note that 0.2 % of cases accounted for 56 % of value at stake; whereas 66 % of pending cases (under 10 lakh) accounted for only 1.8 % of value at stake.

✎ Own direct tax collections by Indian states and local governments are significantly lower than that in other federal countries.

✎ Impact of climate change is evident and extreme weather adversely impacts agricultural yields.

✎ INR 20339 crores approved by Government in 2017-18 to meet various obligations arising from interest subvention being provided to farmers on short term crop loans.

86. ▶ Eminent classical singer late Girija Devi will be honoured with Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement. She has Passed Away Recently.

87. ▶ Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India inked MoU with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to provide easy access to export finance for SMEs and merchant exporters of council.

88. ▶ Equitas Small Finance Bank rolled out *selfeSavings*, an interactive digital savings account that can be opened online with Aadhaar, PAN and other basic details. Balance Under INR 10 lakh fetches interest at 6 % and that above INR 10 lakh will get 6.5 % interest.

89. ▶ European Securities & Markets Authority (ESMA) certified clearing arms of National Stock Exchange (named *National Securities Clearing Corporation Ltd*) and Bombay Stock Exchange (named *Indian Clearing Corporation Limited*) as qualified central counterparty (CCP).

✎ CCP is a corporate entity which guarantees the terms of a trade even if a buyer or seller defaults on the agreement.

✎ As per Basel III framework, entities are subjected to lower capital requirement/charges while participating in capital markets through qualified central counterparty (CCP).

✎ This certification will now enable European entities to have lower capital requirements to participate in Indian Capital Markets.

90. ▶ Federal Bank forayed into investment banking by acquiring 26 % stake in Equirus Capital, to add additional products to its portfolio, including financial solutions for debt and equity capital markets, capital market products, structured finance and advisory.

91. ▶ Federal Bank partnered with *Hedge Equities Ltd* for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.

92. ▶ Federal Bank partnered with Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Exchange to leverage blockchain technology for cross-border remittances.

93. ▶ Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley launched India's First Agri-commodity Options in Guar Seed by National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX). It is first-of-its-kind hedging tool in India, as an effort to make agri-economy more efficient

and bring huge amount of value for the farmers.

94. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched mandatory use of Public Finance Management System (PFMS) for all Central Sector Schemes, to ensure that benefits of Government Schemes reach directly to real beneficiaries. He stated that soon PFMS will become a Government wide Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS) as a comprehensive Payment, Receipt and Accounting System.
95. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley officially launched the *Paytm Payments Bank* as 4th Payments Bank in India, along with Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank. Features of Paytm Payments Bank Include -
 - ▶ Money Transfer services such as IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, UPI are all free on Paytm Payments Bank.
 - ▶ Paytm Payments Bank offers free personalised RuPay digital debit card. A physical debit card can be provided on request.
 - ▶ Paytm Payments Bank offers interest of 4 % on savings, payable monthly.
 - ▶ Account holders will also be offered a free insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh in case of death or permanent disability.
96. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched *CriSidEx* as India's first sentiment index for Micro and small enterprises (MSEs) developed jointly by credit rating body CRISIL and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
 - ▶ CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of 8 parameters and measures MSE business sentiment on a scale of 0 (extremely negative) to 200 (extremely positive).
 - ▶ CriSidEx's readings will flag potential headwinds in production cycles and help improve market efficiencies. It will also offer actionable indicators on foreign trade, by capturing sentiment of exporters and importers.
97. ▶ Finance Ministry Approved Granting Infrastructure status to *Logistics Sector*, in view of the fact that the logistics cost in India is very high compared to developed countries and it reduces competitiveness of Indian goods in domestic and export market. It will enable Logistics Sector to avail infrastructure lending at easier terms with enhanced limits, access to larger amounts of funds, longer tenor funds from insurance companies etc.
98. ▶ Finance Ministry allowed public sector banks and top 3 private banks (ICICI, HDFC and Axis) to accept deposits under various small savings schemes to encourage savings. Until now, most of small savings schemes were sold through post offices.
 - ▶ Now banks will sell National Savings Time Deposit Scheme 1981, National Savings (Monthly Income Account) Scheme 1987, National Savings Recurring Deposit Scheme 1981 and NSC VIII issue.
 - ▶ So far, these banks were allowed to receive subscription only under Public Provident Fund (PPF), Kisan Vikas Patra-2014, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme-2004.
99. ▶ Finance Ministry announced to launch *Project Insight* from October 2017, to restrict black money holdings and transactions.
 - ▶ Project Insight has been developed by L&T Infotech Ltd and costs approx \$156 Million USD.
 - ▶ It will observe and check high value transactions and track tax evaders with the help of technology to restrict black money holdings.
 - ▶ It will also check social media posts and activity of people, to determine tax evasion practices.
100. ▶ Finance Ministry approved post of 4th Whole time member in Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI's), whose need was being felt due to increased workload post merger of Forward Markets Commission (FMC) with SEBI in 2015.
 - ▶ SEBI board comprises a chairman (Ajay Tyagi Currently), 1 member each from RBI, Finance Ministry and corporate affairs Ministry.
 - ▶ SEBI's Current 3 whole time members - Madhabi Puri Buch, G Mahalingam and Sanjeev Kaushik.
101. ▶ Finance Ministry extended deadline for linking Aadhaar number with PAN card till 31-03-2018.
102. ▶ Finance Ministry imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of certain steel wire rods from China for a period of five years.
103. ▶ Finance Ministry reduced interest rates on Small Saving Schemes for January -March 2018 quarter by 20 basis points (0.2%)as compared to October- December 2017 quarter. New interest rates for January -March 2018 quarter are -

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

104. ▶ Finance Ministry will launch *Project Insight* in October 2017 to monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders using technology, in partnership with IT Major Infotech. Linking of Aadhaar and PAN will be key mechanism in this project.
105. ▶ Financial services firm JM Financial received approval from National Housing Bank (NHB) for carrying out housing finance activities through its subsidiary JM Financial Home Loans.

106. ▶ Fincare Small Finance Bank (previously *Disha Microfin Limited*) started its banking operations with branches across Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
107. ▶ Fino Payments Bank signed agreement with Rajasthan government's RajCOMP as its corporate business correspondent and will offer banking services to people across state. Now, 55000 e-Mitra points of RajCOMP across Rajasthan will act as banking points of Fino Payments Bank.
108. ▶ First Small Finance Bank in North East India commenced operations with name RGVN (North East) Microfinance Limited. It is based in Guwahati. In April 2017, it received final licence from RBI under Banking Regulation Act 1949 to carry on business as a small finance bank.
109. ▶ From January 1 2018, farmers in Telangana will get 24-hour free power supply, making Telangana first state to do so. Power utilities in Telangana have spent Rs 12610 crore in setting up new power lines, transformers and sub-stations for this purpose.
110. ▶ GDP Forecasts in Feb 2018 -
- ▶ Moody's Investors Service stated that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 7.6% in 2018 - 19.
111. ▶ GDP Growth Rate Forecasts -
- ▶ Japanese financial services company Nomura stated that India's GDP growth will be around 7.1 % in 2017-18.
 - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted 7 % for India in 2017 - 18 and 7.4 % in 2018 - 19.
 - ▶ OECD (Paris based think tank) announced that Indian economy will grow at 6.7 % in 2017-2018.
 - ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) trimmed India's growth forecast for 2017-18 to 6.7% from 7.2 earlier. Forecast for 2018-19 is 7.4 %.
 - ▶ World Bank reduced India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier.
 - ▶ NITI Aayog expects GDP to grow at 6.9-7 % in 2017-18 and 7.5% in 2018-19.
112. ▶ GDP Growth Rate Forecasts -
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 - ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) predicted 7 % for India in 2017 - 18 and 7.4 % in 2018 - 19.
 - ▶ OECD (Paris based think tank) announced that Indian economy will grow at 6.7 % in 2017-2018.
113. ▶ GST Council 23rd Meeting (Guwahati) -
- ▶ Under GST Composition Scheme - Annual turnover eligibility increased to 2 crore from 1 crore Presently, Making eligibility for composition increased to 1.5 Crore per annum.
 - ▶ Major Changes in GST Rates for several goods / services (213 Headings (*Items / Class of Items*)) -
 - ▶ 28 % to 18% - 178 Headings . Now Only 50 Headings are in 28 % Slab.
 - ▶ 28 % to 12% - 2 Headings
 - ▶ 18 to 12 % - 13 Headings
 - ▶ 18 % to 5 % - 6 Headings
 - ▶ 12 % to 5 % - 8 Headings
 - ▶ 5 % to 0 % - 6 Headings
114. ▶ GST Council reduced tax rates on 27 items Including dried mangoes, Khakhra, plain chapatis, unbranded Namkeen, unbranded ayurvedic medicines and paper wastes to (5 % from 12 %). Food packets used in ICDS scheme, plastic and rubber wastes will now be taxed at 5 % instead of 18.5. GST Council approved quarterly filing of returns for businesses with turnover up to 1.5 crore rupees and raised threshold for composition scheme from 75 lakh rupees to 1 crore rupees.
115. ▶ GST Network (GSTN) reopened registration for *composition scheme* for small taxpayers with turnover of up to Rs.75 lakh, that offers easy compliance for business as returns are to be filed only quarterly (not monthly).
116. ▶ Global Environment Facility (GEF) partnered with India's Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for project named *Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency*, as a result of India's efforts towards energy efficiency programmes.
- ▶ Project will receive a composite funding of \$454 million comprised of GEF grant of \$20 million and co-financing of \$434 million as loans. It includes a \$200 million loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 - ▶ EESL proposed Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF) for sustainable funding mechanism of energy efficiency projects in country.
 - ▶ It aims to mitigate 60 million tons of CO₂ that will enable a total direct energy savings of 38.3 million GJ by 2022 and 137.5 million GJ by 2032.
 - ▶ About GEF -
 - ▶ Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on eve of 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle most pressing environmental problems.
 - ▶ GEF is located in Washington (USA) with as Naoko Ishii as CEO and Chairperson.

117. ▶ Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) launched excel-based offline tool for businesses to file initial GSTR- 3B returns. Taxpayers can download the offline utility and upload on GST portal after filling. It will automate filing GSTR-3B Returns.
118. ▶ Google launched mobile wallet and payments app *Tez* in India, that will let users link their phones to their bank accounts to pay for goods in physical stores and online, also enabling person to person money transfers.
119. ▶ Government extended Deadline for linking Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar extended by 4 months to 31st December, 2017.
120. ▶ Government approved creation of National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) for INR 60000 crores, in Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ▶ NUHF will facilitate raising requisite funds in next four years so that flow of Central Assistance under different verticals Including Beneficiary Linked Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).
121. ▶ Government announced Bank Recapitalisation Plan to infuse Rs. 2.11 lakh crore (\$32.4 billion) capital over next 2 years into public sector banks (PSBs) and prioritised financing support for MSMEs in 50 clusters.
- ▶ Capital infusion will be done to check widening losses of PSB Banks due to Rise in NPAs. NPAs of banks had more than doubled to Rs. 7.33 lakh crore in June 2017 from Rs. 2.75 lakh crore in March 2015.
 - ▶ Under this plan, PSBs will get Rs 1.35 lakh crore from Recapitalisation Bonds, 18,000 crore from Budgetary and 58,000 through sale of share of banks.
 - ▶ Government also constituted Alternative Mechanism Panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to oversee merger proposals of public sector banks (PSBs).
122. ▶ Government announced that subscribers to General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds shall get interest at rate of 7.8% with effect from 1st October, 2017 to 31st December, 2017.
123. ▶ Government announced to build 83,677km of roads, highways, greenfield expressways with investment of Rs.6.92 lakh crore by 2022. It also includes first phase of new umbrella programme BharatMala Pariyojana that involves construction of 34,800 km highways by 2022.
- ▶ It was announced as part of INR 9 lakh crore package to Boost economy, that also includes 2.11 lakh crore for bank recapitalisation.
 - ▶ Bharatmala -
 - ▶ It will include economic corridors (9,000 km), inter-corridor and feeder route (6,000 km), national corridors efficiency improvement (5,000 km), border roads and international connectivity (2,000 km), coastal roads and port connectivity (2,000 km) and greenfield expressways (800 km).
 - ▶ BharatMala project will be funded in three-pronged manner – market, private investment and asset recycling of NHAI's toll assets. Of total INR 5,35,000 crore, 2.09 lakh crore will be raised as debt from market, 1.06 lakh crore will be mobilised through public-private partnership (PPP) mode and 2.19 lakh crore will flow from accruals of Central Road Funds and toll collections.
124. ▶ Government approved Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) with outlay of Rs 10881 crore during 2017-18 to 2028-29.
- ▶ DIDF will be set up as a corpus of INR 8004 crores with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), INR 2001 crores shall be end borrowers contribution, Rs 12 crore would be NDDB/NCDC's share and Rs 864 crore shall be contributed by DADF towards interest subvention.
 - ▶ DIDF activities will include building efficient milk procurement system by setting up of chilling infrastructure & installation of electronic milk adulteration testing equipment, creation/modernization/expansion of processing infrastructure.
 - ▶ DIDF will be implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Dairy Development Cooperation (NCDC) through End Borrowers such as Milk Unions, State Dairy Federations, Multi-state Milk Cooperatives, Milk Producer Companies etc. End borrowers will get the loan @ 6.5% per annum with repayment period 10 years.
 - ▶ With this, Approx 1 crore farmers in about 50,000 villages would be benefitted in form of Additional Milk processing capacity of 126 lakh litre per day, milk drying capacity of 210 MT per day, milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh litre per day etc.
125. ▶ Government has launched Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 – Series-III, from October 09, 2017 to December 27, 2017.
- ▶ Sovereign Gold Bonds were launched under sovereign gold bond scheme in November 2015, to reduce demand for physical gold and shift part of domestic savings, used for purchase of gold, into financial savings.
 - ▶ Features of Sovereign Gold Bonds -
 - ▶ Denomination in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof. Minimum investment in bonds is one gram. Maximum limit will be of 4 kg for individual and HUF (Hindu Undivided Family) and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities.

- ✎ Issue price will be fixed in Rupees on basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association.
- ✎ Interest rate will be 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually on nominal value.
- ✎ Tenor will be 8 years with exit option from 5th year, that can exercised on the interest payment dates.
- ✎ Bonds can be used as collateral for loans and will be also tradable on stock exchanges.
- ✎ Capital gains tax on it has been exempted.

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

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

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

128. ▶ Government kept unchanged interest rates on small savings schemes for October-December quarter.

- ✎ Investments in Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme - 7.8 percent
- ✎ Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) - 7.5 percent (matures in 115 months)
- ✎ Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme - 8.3 percent annually.
- ✎ 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme - 8.3 percent (interest paid quarterly)

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

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

✎ S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index

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

130. ▶ Government launched Savings Bonds with 7.75% Interest, commencing from 10th January 2018. Features -

- ✎ Applications in form of Bond Ledger Account will be received in designated bank branches and SHCIL (numbering about 1600).
- ✎ Bonds will be issued in multiples of INR 1000 (face value).
- ✎ Interest on the Bonds will be taxable under Income-tax Act 1961. Bonds will be exempt from Wealth-tax under Wealth Tax Act 1957.
- ✎ 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).

131. ▶ Government lowered additional borrowing requirement for current fiscal to INR 20000 crores from previous estimate of 50000 crores, considering revenue receipts and expenditure pattern. Lesser borrowing will enable restricting fiscal deficit within target.

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


- ✎ Government already made mandatory to link Aadhaar to PAN by December 31, 2017 and SIM connections by February 2018.
- ✎ Some 135 welfare schemes are to be linked to Aadhaar by March 31, 2018.
- ✎ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) also launched new online facility for its members to Aadhaar number with their Universal Account Number (UAN) to ensure speedy EPFO services.




133. ▶ Government made amendments in *Prevention of Money-laundering Act 2002 (PMLA)* through Finance Act 2018 to enhance its effectiveness and widen its scope.

- ✎ Definition of *proceeds of crime* has been amended to include *property equivalent held outside country*.
- ✎ Applicability of bail conditions has been made uniform to all offences under PMLA.
- ✎ Section 447 of Companies Act dealing with 'fraud' is being included as scheduled offence under PMLA.
- ✎ 90 days more time has been given for investigation to Enforcement Directorate, before prosecution is filed.
- ✎ Special Court has been permitted to consider claims for purposes of restoration of confiscated properties even during trial.

134. ▶ Government notified terms of Scheme of Electoral Bonds, to curb flow of illegal money into political activities -

- ✎ 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.
 - ✎ Electoral bonds will be available at specified SBI branches for 10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October.
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ To receive the electoral bonds, Political party must have secured over 1% of the votes polled in last general elections.
135. ▶ Government notified that Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and thus regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✎ It will help P2P lenders to gain official recognition and opens new avenues for fund-raising and business expansion.
 - ✎ P2P lending is a form of crowd-funding used to raise loans which are paid back with interest. It enables individuals to borrow and lend money, without use of an official financial institution as an intermediary.
136. ▶ Government proposed merger of Government Savings Certificates Act 1959 and Public Provident Fund Act 1968 with Government Savings Banks Act 1873, to remove ambiguities due to multiple Acts and Rules for Small Saving Schemes, in line with *Minimum Government, Maximum Governance*. This will also bring certain flexibilities for the investors, Including -
- ✎ Foreclosure of PPF Account - Depositors will be able to withdraw money from their PPF Account before 5 years.
 - ✎ Investment in Small Savings Schemes can be made by Guardian On behalf of minors.
 - ✎ Provisions for differently-abled people - In new umbrella Act, government will allow accounts in name of differently abled persons.
 - ✎ Right of Nominees - As per existing provisions of the Acts, if depositor dies and nomination exists, the outstanding balances will be paid to nominee(s).
 - ✎ Grievance redressal - New act will allow Government to put in place mechanism for redressal of grievances and for expeditious settlement of disputes relating to Small Savings.
 - ✎ No change in interest rate or tax policy.
137. ▶ Government raised import duty on crude palm oil to 30 % from 15 % and refined oil to 40 % from 20 %, to curb cheaper shipments and boost local prices for supporting farmers and refiners.
138. ▶ Government reconstituted 6 Cabinet Committees after recent ministry reshuffle.
- ✎ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is inducted as full time member of Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committees on Economic and Political Affairs.
 - ✎ Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan are included in Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
 - ✎ Cabinet Committees Constituted under Transaction of Business Rules (TBR) 1961 are -
 - ✎ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
 - ✎ Cabinet Committee on Accommodation (CCA).
 - ✎ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
 - ✎ Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA).
 - ✎ Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA).
 - ✎ Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
139. ▶ Government reduced Basic Excise Duty rate on Petrol and Diesel by Rs. 2 per litre, to contain impact of rising international prices of crude petroleum oil and keep petrol and diesel Prices under control. Revenue loss on account of these reductions in excise duty is about Rs. 26,000 crore annually.
140. ▶ Government signed agreement with ONGC for strategic sale of its 51.11% equity share-holding in HPCL for INR 36,915 crores. After this, ONGC will become India's first vertically integrated 'oil major' company, having presence across entire value chain. However, HPCL will continue to be a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).
141. ▶ 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.
142. ▶ Government tasked ICICI Bank with enabling online payments at 470 mandis integrated with national portal of electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).
- ✎ e-NAM was launched in April 2016 to revolutionise agri markets by bringing in better price discovery and transparency to enable farmers to get better remuneration for their produce.

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

143. ▶ Government will infuse INR 88139 crores in 20 public sector banks during current fiscal ending 31st March, to boost lending and revive growth. IDBI Bank is biggest recipient with INR 10610 crores, followed by Bank of India (9232 Crores) and SBI (8800 crores).
144. ▶ HDFC Bank Removed Services Charges on Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and the National Electronics Funds Transfer (NEFT) Online transactions to promote digital economy. HDFC Bank also limited availability of cheque book to 25 Cheques per year.
145. ▶ HDFC Bank has retained its No.1 position in BrandZ India Top 50 report 2017, with its brand value doubled from \$9.4 billion to \$18 billion since 2014. Others in top 5 are - Airtel, State Bank of India, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank.
146. ▶ HDFC Bank launched *SmartUp zones* in its branches across India, to become preferred banker for the start-up community. An exclusive area inside the branch premises of HDFC Bank (SmartUp Zones) will be dedicated to start-ups and trained bank staff will offer tailor-made banking and advisory solutions to entrepreneurs.
147. ▶ 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.
148. ▶ HDFC Bank surpassed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become country's 2nd most valued firm in terms of market valuation on Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
 Reliance Industries is India's most valued firm with market cap of Rs. 533818.72 crores.
149. ▶ HDFC Life Insurance Company launched service bot *Neo* that uses artificial intelligence for customer service. It is second bot put in operation by HDFC Life after SPOK, which was an email answering bot for customer queries.
150. ▶ HDFC has sold its realty brokerage business 'HDFC Realty' and its digital real estate business 'HDFC Red' to online advertisements platform Quikr, for approx 350 crores.
151. ▶ HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) launched mobile app *Trade Transaction Tracker* to help customers track status of their trade transactions on a real-time basis. It will provide global view of import and export documentary transactions across markets in single app.
 HSBC recently appointed John Flint as its next CEO.
152. ▶ Haryana Government will form a non-banking financial company named *Haryana State Financial Services Limited*, for efficient management of funds. It will be in-house treasury manager and will be responsible for efficient management of surplus funds of State public enterprises. Authorised capital of this NBFC will be Rs.10 crore while the paid up capital will be Rs. 2 crore.
153. ▶ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) signed agreement with Indian microfinance industry association Sa-Dhan to develop digital ecosystem for India's unbanked segment.
154. ▶ ICICI Bank announced a new home loan scheme that offers borrowers benefit of 1% cashback on every EMI, for entire tenure of loan (15 - 30 years). Cashback will be accrued from first EMI and will given to customer after completion of 36th EMI.
155. ▶ ICICI Bank became first bank to enable customers to open a Public Provident Fund (PPF) account online, eliminating the need for furnishing paper documents.
156. ▶ ICICI Bank committed assistance of INR 10 crores to Indian Armed Forces in 2 equal tranches. First tranche will support post-graduation education of widows of soldiers and education for their children. Second program will provide financial assistance for marriages of daughters of ex-servicemen.
157. ▶ ICICI Bank launched India's first voice-based international remittance service to enable non-resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to any bank in India. Now, an NRI customer can instantly initiate a remittance to India with just a simple voice command to Apple's virtual voice assistant, Siri, on their iPhone/iPad, using ICICI Bank's Money2India app.
158. ▶ ICRA Management Consulting Services (IMaCS) launched four fixed income indices, to create more depth in Indian debt market.
 Four indices - ICRA Gilt Indices, ICRA Liquid Indices, ICRA Corporate Bond Indices and ICRA Composite Debt Indices. It would help asset managers and financial services companies make objective analysis and provide benchmarking of debt portfolios.
159. ▶ IDBI Bank has disengaged Moody's Investors Services (Moody's) to rate its bond programmes, terminating all contracts with Moody's pertaining to various issues made under its MTN (medium term note) Bond Programme.
160. ▶ IDBI Bank launched 'Project Nishchay' in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to accelerate its turnaround program and improve financial performance.
161. ▶ Income Tax Department clarified that cash sales of agricultural produce by a cultivator to a trader for less than 2 lakh rupees will not attract tax under Income Tax Act and PAN is not needed for them.
162. ▶ Income Tax Department launched *online chat* service for taxpayers so that they can seek answers to their basic queries and doubts relating to direct tax issues. Experts and independent tax practitioners have been deputed to answer the general queries of a taxpayer.

163. ▶ India Government Mint (A Unit of *Security Printing and Minting Corp of India*) launched India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard – Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201).
- ▶ BND-4201 is reference material for gold of '9999' fineness (gold that is 99.99% pure with impurities of only 100 parts-per-million). It will be beneficial to the consumers and public at large to ensure purity of gold.
 - ▶ BND-4201 is developed through collaboration between IGM, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), National Physical Laboratory (New Delhi) and National Centre for Compositional Characterisation of Materials (Hyderabad).
164. ▶ 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.
165. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will become operational in all 650 districts of the country by April 2018 to facilitate financial inclusion.
- ▶ Payments Banks may accept Deposit upto INR 1 Lakh. IPPB will offer Interest Rates Upto 5.5%.
 - ▶ Other Payments Banks in India - Paytm PB (upto 4 %), Fino PB (upto 4 %), Airtel PB (Upto 7.25%)
166. ▶ India Signed Loan Agreement with Beijing (China) Based New Development Bank for USD 100 Million for Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for Desert Areas. This is first tranche approved by NDB under Multi Tranche Financing Facility of USD 345 million for this project.
167. ▶ India Signed World Bank loan agreement of USD 250 million for *Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project*.
168. ▶ India signed \$100 million Loan Agreement with World Bank to help Boost Rural Economy of Tamil Nadu.
169. ▶ India signed \$120 million Loan Agreement with World Bank to improve access to Water Supply Services in Uttarakhand.
170. ▶ India signed \$250 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance construction of 6254 kilometres all-weather rural roads in States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal under Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY).
171. ▶ India signed \$300 Million Loan Deal with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Promote Further Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal and improve quality of public service delivery in state.
172. ▶ India signed \$318 million Loan agreement with World Bank for Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project to promote climate resilient agriculture technologies, improve water management practices, and increase market opportunities for small and marginal farmers.
173. ▶ India signed Financing Agreement for IBRD loan of US\$ 119 million for *Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity (OHEPEE) Project*.
174. ▶ India signed Financing Agreement with world bank for USD 125 million for *Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project*.
- ▶ World Bank also approved USD 825 million loan for Pakistan, for upgrading its energy and public finance sectors.
175. ▶ India signed USD 40 Million Loan agreement with world bank for Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project.
176. ▶ India signed a Loan agreement worth \$100 Million with World Bank for increase solar generation capacity through establishment of large-scale parks in India.
- ▶ It Includes Grant Agreement for USD 2 million for *Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project* and IBRD/CTF loan of USD 98 million.
 - ▶ It will help in government's plan to install 100 Gigawatts (GW) of solar power out of a total renewable-energy target of 175 GW by 2022.
177. ▶ India signed a loan deal worth \$76 million with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to upgrade environment management plan at Alang-Sosiya ship recycling yards in Gujarat.
178. ▶ India's YES Bank and European Investment Bank (EIB) released announced co-finance programme of \$400-million for renewable power generation in India (50 - 50 %).
179. ▶ 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.
180. ▶ Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology organized 15th Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) Conference in New Delhi with theme *Building Trust in the Digital Economy*. It is first ever APCERT conference held in India.
181. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Forecasts in Jan 2018 -
- ▶ HSBC predicted 6.5 % GDP Growth for India in FY 2017-18 and 7.0 % in 2018-19.

- ✎ 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 grew by 5.7% in Apr - June Quarter and 6.3% in July - September quarter.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ India Ratings and Research projected GDP will improve to 7.1% in 2018-19 as compared to 6.5 per cent in 2017-18.
- ✎ International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected Indian GDP to grow at 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019. India's growth rate dropped to 6.7%. In its latest World Economic Outlook update released in Davos (Switzerland).

182. ▶ Indian GDP Growth Projections -

- ✎ International Rating Agency Fitch lowered 2017-18 growth projection to 6.7%, from 6.9%.
- ✎ Morgan Stanley predicts Indian economy to witness cyclical growth recovery, with real GDP growth likely to accelerate from 6.4% to 7.5% in 2018 & to 7.7% in 2019.
- ✎ Global investment bank Nomura predicted India's economy to register a 7.5% growth rate in 2018.
- ✎ As per *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018* report by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)UN, Indian economy will grow by 7.2% in 2017-18 and will go up to 7.4% in 2019.
- ✎ Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal by 0.3% to 6.7%. It also revised GDP outlook for next fiscal beginning from March 2018 to 7.3% from 7.4%.

183. ▶ Indian Government signed \$65.5 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on Western Coast in Karnataka. It is 2nd Tranche of a \$250 million financing facility under Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program.

184. ▶ Indian IT Firm Infosys acquired London-based Brilliant Basics for GBP 7.5 million.

185. ▶ Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed agreement for training of IPPB employees in area of payment banking.

- ✎ IPPB is Government's attempt to boost *financial inclusion* by providing basic banking services to unbanked population.

186. ▶ Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) and Blockchain Education Network (BEN) will jointly set up Kerala Blockchain Academy in Thiruvananthapuram, as first of its kind in India and aims to utilise blockchain technology for welfare of public, promote innovations and entrepreneurship with blockchain technology.

187. ▶ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Hyderabad) developed *tGST* app to ease up process of GST calculations for Commercial Taxes Department of Telangana.

188. ▶ Indian Overseas Bank signed MoU with National Housing Bank for Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHISS) of Ministry of Rural Development. RHISS provides subsidy for housing loans taken by those living in rural areas for construction and modifications of their dwelling units. Interest subsidy is 3% for a loan amount of 2 lakh for 20-year tenure.

189. ▶ Indian online payments firm BillDesk-owned Hatio Innovations launched cryptocurrency exchange 'Coinome' in India offering trading of Bitcoin and Bitcoin Cash.

- ✎ Coinome allows users to register via an instant e-KYC process by using Aadhaar number.

- ✎ Unlike many other cryptocurrency exchanges, Coinome is an open order book cryptocurrency exchange which enables direct deals between buyers and sellers just like conventional stocks and commodities exchanges.

190. ▶ India's factory output, measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose to 17 Months high of 8.4% in November 2017, up from 2% in October 2017, due to better performance by manufacturing and capital goods sectors.

191. ▶ India's most-valued Bank *HDFC Bank* crossed INR 5 trillion market capitalisation for first time (Approx 85 Billion USD), making it only 3rd Indian company (after TCS and Reliance) to achieve this milestone.

192. ▶ India's top 50 brands report by WPP Plc and Kantar Millward Brown -

- ✎ HDFC Bank remains India's Top Brand for 4th year in a row. Airtel is 2nd and State Bank of India is 3rd.

193. ▶ IndusInd Bank acquired Micro-lender *Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd* for \$2.4 billion. It will boost IndusInd's presence in microfinance lending and rural banking.

194. ▶ IndusInd Bank and e-Wallet Firm MobiKwik launched co-branded wallet 'IndusInd MobiKwik' that allows its customers to pay at the MobiKwik merchant network using their accounts, with a 'Direct Debit Feature'.

195. ▶ IndusInd Bank launched its new Sonic Identity, a musical logo called *MOGO*. Its aims to build brand imagery with strategic use of music and sound for brand experiences and audience connection.

196. ▶ IndusInd Bank partnered with Blockchain solution provider Ripple, to facilitate cross border remittances. Through this, IndusInd Bank will leverage Ripple platform based on blockchain technology for global payments as it lowers both costs and transfer time for customers.

197. ▶ IndusInd Bank will introduce India's first battery-powered, interactive payment cards, in association with Dynamics Inc (Pennsylvania(USA) based firm that manufactures intelligent, battery-powered payment cards). New card will have multiple buttons which will allow consumers to pay in multiple ways (through credit points / monthly instalments).
198. ▶ Information and Broadcasting Ministry approved Merger of Direct-to-home (DTH) operators Dish TV India (owned by Zee Group) and Videocon d2h. Merged entity will be *Dish TV Videocon Limited* and will serve combined subscriber base of 29 million users.
199. ▶ Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) will exit infrastructure and private equity funds management business, called *IDFC Alternatives* that has assets worth \$2.6 billion. IDFC is currently engaged in merger discussions with Shriram Group.
200. ▶ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approve online non-life insurance company Acko General Insurance Ltd. and it will start operating in December 2017. It will sell multiple insurance products through online channel.
201. ▶ Insurance firm Bajaj Allianz launched India's first ever insurance cover for individual victims of cyber crime. Under this, insurance cover (1 Lakh to 1 Crore) will be provided against online fraud, identity theft, cyber-stalking and extortion, phishing and malware attack.
202. ▶ International Finance Corporation (Member of World Bank Group) invested \$10 million in Indian Power Sector startup firm Power2SME.
 - ▶ IFC will also invest USD 50 million (about Rs 320 crore) in realty firm Mahindra Lifespace Developers industrial park projects.
203. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) released Financial System Stability Assessment (FSSA) and Financial Sector Assessment (FSA) respectively. Second comprehensive Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) for India too has been conducted during 2017.
 - ▶ FSAP is a joint program undertaken by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) to comprehensively assess and conduct in-depth analysis of a country's financial sector. FSAP has been conducted since September 2010 in 29 countries (including India) at interval of every five years.
204. ▶ International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggested a 3-pronged approach for structural reform in India that includes -
 - ▶ Addressing banking and corporate sector weaknesses
 - ▶ Continued fiscal consolidation through revenue measure
 - ▶ Improving efficiency of labour and product markets.
205. ▶ International investment firm *KKR & Co* became first foreign investor to fully own an asset reconstruction company (ARC) in India, as it received an approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start an ARC.
206. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Bank launched *Sahafat Finance Scheme* as a special financial scheme for journalists of state, to avail financing between 50000 - 3 Lakh for buying cameras, laptops, tablets and books.
207. ▶ Karnataka Bank partnered with Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd for its transformation project 'KBL Vikaas'.
208. ▶ Karnataka Government will hold a Blockchain Hackathon for Governance, for students, startups, and other IT professionals. Cloud-based blockchain technology providers will be invited to provide platforms for use in this hackathon. Karnataka is 3rd Indian State (After Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) to announce plans to adopt blockchain for governance.
209. ▶ Kerala Government signed a MOU with Intel and UST Global for exploring possibility of transforming the state into an electronic hardware manufacturing hub. Additionally, Cab Aggregator Ola partnered with Microsoft To choose microsoft as its preferred cloud provider.
210. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) launched *Smart Banking 24x7* e-lobbies in Mumbai, that will give customers freedom to complete banking transactions at any hour of day.
211. ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank and Fintech Firm *Zeta* launched multi-wallet digital prepaid solution for salaried employees named *Paymint*. Paymint's single digital interface will enable firms to manage multiple reimbursements and allowances offered to employees including meal vouchers, medical reimbursements etc.
 - ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank also tied up with Samsung Pay to enable its credit and debit cardholders to tap and pay using Samsung smart phones at merchants. It uses the Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST) that enables consumers to make in-store payments without need for a physical card.
212. ▶ Law ministry approved Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2017 to empower government to confiscate property of economic offenders and defaulters who flee India.
 - ▶ A fugitive economic offender is any individual against whom warrant for arrest in relation to economic offence has been issued and person has left India to avoid criminal prosecution.
213. ▶ Madhya Pradesh, which was first state to switch to January-December financial year from existing April-March cycle starting 2018, has put plan on hold till Central Government shifts to January-December fiscal cycle.
214. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna, with expenses of INR 4000 Crores INR. It will be active between 2018-19 to 2023-24.

- ✎ Scheme will be implemented in 5,142 villages across 15 districts, to improve soil quality, develop foodgrain varieties which can sustain climate variations and effect necessary changes in crop pattern as per availability of water.
 - ✎ 70% of cost will be borne by World Bank while state will contribute 30% over six years.
215. ▶ Maharashtra is top contributor in first 5 months since rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in July 1, 2017. Uttar Pradesh is ranked 2nd in terms of total GST Collection (CGST+IGST+SGST+CESS). Govt has so far received approx 3.7 Lakh Crores as GST Collections till Nov 30, 2017.
- ✎ Also, Central Government has released INR 24500 crore compensation to states to make up for revenue loss on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation. Karnataka got maximum compensation (Rs 3271 crore) followed by Gujarat (Rs 2282 crore) and Punjab (Rs 2098 crore). This compensation comes from cess (on top of the highest tax rate of 28 %) on luxury, demerit and sin goods.
216. ▶ Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha today Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase reach of Philately (*collection and study of postage stamps*). SPARSH stands for **Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby**.
- ✎ Under this, annual scholarships will be given to children of Standard VI to IX with good academic record and pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.
 - ✎ Every Postal Circle will select a maximum of 40 scholarships representing 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX. Amount of Scholarship will be Rs. 6000 per annum.
217. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industries has set up Contact@DGFT online service for effective resolution of foreign trade-related issues of importers and exporters. It will enable traders to raise all trade related matters to Directorate or other agencies of Centre and States.
218. ▶ Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution brought into effect Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 that replaces Bureau of Indian Standards Act 1986.
- ✎ It aims to help in ease of doing business, enhance 'Make In India' campaign and ensure availability of quality products and services to consumers.
 - ✎ BIS Act 2016 establishes BIS as the National Standards Body of India for the purpose of standardization, marking and certification of articles and processes. It has broadened BIS's ambit and allows central government to make it mandatory for certain notified goods, articles, processes, etc to carry standard mark.
219. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) signed MoU for automatic and regular exchange of tax information, to curb menace of shell companies, money laundering and black money.
220. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will roll out Condonation of Delay Scheme to provide a three-month window for defaulting companies and their director to submit their annual filings. It will be operational from January 1 to March 31, 2018.
221. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directed all NGOs, individuals and business entities receiving foreign funds to open accounts in any of 32 designated banks (including one foreign) within a month, as per MHA powers under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) 2010.
- ✎ These accounts will be integrated with central government's Public Financial Management System (PFMS), to provide higher level of transparency and hassle-free reporting compliance.
222. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MHUA) ordered review of Floor Space Index (FSI) and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) norms in mega cities.
- ✎ FSI is ratio of building's total floor area to size of piece of land on which it is built. It will be taken up in all 53 cities with population above 1 million.
223. ▶ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs announced that 30.76 lakh houses for urban poor have been sanctioned so far since launch of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Scheme in June 2015.
224. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Start-up Sangam initiative to develop new business models, marketing plans, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups. For this, 10 oil and gas PSUs have setup Rs. 320-crore venture capital fund to encourage start-ups based on innovative ideas in energy sector.
225. ▶ Ministry of Shipping extended period of Coastal Berth scheme of flagship Sagarmala Programme for three years upto March, 2020. Its scope was also expanded to cover capital dredging at Major Ports and preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for coastal berth project.
- ✎ Ministry of Shipping also undertook projects worth INR 2302 crore for financial assistance under Coastal Berth Scheme.
226. ▶ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will revise base years of gross domestic product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) to 2017-18. While for CPI (retail inflation) it will be 2018.
227. ▶ Mobile Wallet Firm Paytm tied-up with ICICI Bank to launch *Paytm-ICICI Bank Postpaid* short-term credit facility to ICICI customers using Paytm App. Current Borrowing Limit is INR 20000, to be repaid in 45 days.

- ▶ Paytm also acquired undisclosed stake in Urja Money Pvt. Ltd, that evaluates creditworthiness of people seeking loans to buy two-wheelers., under Brand name *CreditMate*.
- 228. ▶ Mobile payments Firm Paytm and Alibaba Group-owned AGTech Holdings formed a joint venture to launch 'Gamepind' a gaming platform aimed at mobile users in India, with AGTech holding 45% in JV and Paytm owns 55%. Capital invested is \$16 Million.
- 229. ▶ Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI kept policy rates unchanged with current values -
 - ▶ Repo Rate - 6.00 %
 - ▶ Reverse Repo - 5.75 %
 - ▶ Bank Rate - 6.25 %
 - ▶ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25 %
 - ▶ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 - ▶ SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - 19.5 % (**Changed from 20 %**)
- 230. ▶ Moody's Investors Service upgraded India's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa3 and changed outlook on rating to stable from positive. India's rating has been upgraded after a period of 13 years, that was last upgraded in January 2004 to Baa3 (from Ba1).
 - ▶ Moody's also upgraded ratings of 9 Indian PSUs -
 - ▶ BPCL, HPCL, IOC and Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) -upgraded to Baa2 from Baa3.
 - ▶ ONGC's rating upgraded to Baa1 from Baa2.
 - ▶ NTPC, NHPC, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and GAIL India upgraded to Baa2. As Per CRISIL, NHAI reforms resulted in doubling of daily highways construction rate from 12 km to 23 km in 2017.
- 231. ▶ Moody's affirmed Baa3 rating on SBI's senior unsecured debt (issued via its London branch) and (P)Baa3 rating on its senior unsecured medium-term note (MTN) program. Baa3 denotes lowest rating in investment grade on long-term corporate obligation, which carries moderate risks.
- 232. ▶ Multi-Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) launched India's first commodity options in Gold. with bi-monthly duration. The option will also have existing gold kilo futures contract as its underlier.
 - ▶ Options are an instrument that gives buyer right to buy or sell an underlined at present price on a future date. They are of two types: puts (right to sell) and calls (right to buy).
- 233. ▶ Multilateral funding agency ADB approved USD 300 million loan for carrying forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal.
 - ▶ West Bengal for the first time in 2012 received a USD 400 million from ADB.
- 234. ▶ NBFC *Capital First* has been merged with IDFC Bank. Merged entity will have assets under management of Rs 88000 crore, customer base of over 5 million and branch network of 194.
- 235. ▶ NITI Aayog recommended setting up independent Debt Management Office for better servicing of loans that will lead to substantial reduction in India's interest payment. Currently, government debt (including market borrowings) is managed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - ▶ Independent Debt Management Offices will help to resolve issues relating to conflict of interest as RBI decides on key interest rates as well as undertakes buying and selling of government bonds. It will also help in strengthen bond market and help to promote investment.
 - ▶ It will be in pursuance global practice of shifting public debt management from central bank to a debt management office.
- 236. ▶ NITI Aayog will launch a special cell called *Women Entrepreneurial and Innovation Cell* to support women entrepreneurs and give a boost to their initiatives. It will be headed by Niti Aayog advisor Anna Roy. It will offer women financial support through INR 10000 crores fund of Micro Unit Development and Refinance Agency, or MUDRA micro-loan scheme.
- 237. ▶ NPA report by CARE Ratings -
 - ▶ With NPA Ratio of 9.85 %, India is ranked 5th on list of countries with highest non-performing assets (NPA) levels. Only countries with More NPAs than India are Greece (36.67%), Italy (16.35%), Portugal (15.52%), and Ireland (11.85%).
- 238. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) acquired 7% stake in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for INR 900 crores from IDBI Bank. NABARD now holds 10% Stake in SIDBI.
 - ▶ NABARD also sanctioned amount INR 273 crore to Andhra Pradesh Government for Rural Water supply, Road and Bridge projects. These funds have been sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- 239. ▶ 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).
- 240. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned loan of Rs.119 crore for Haryana to construct 7 bridges and improvement of one rural road project in five districts.

241. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) created National Highways Investment Promotion Cell (NHIPC) for attracting domestic and foreign investment for highways projects. It will focus on engaging with global institution investors, developers, construction companies and fund managers for building investor participation in road infrastructure projects.
242. ▶ New Gross State domestic product data by Central Statistics Office, with 2011-12 as base year -
- ▶ Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh were fastest expanding State economies in 2015-16. Arunachal Pradesh's gross State domestic product (GSDP) expanded 16.5 % and that of Jammu and Kashmir 14.7 %. National growth rate remained 8 %.
 - ▶ Top 5 - Maharashtra (16.6 lakh crores), Tamil Nadu (9.4 lakh crores), Gujarat (9.013 Lakh Crores), Uttar Pradesh (9.012 Lakh crores).
243. ▶ Norway's fertiliser firm *Yara International* acquired India's Tata Chemicals' 1.2 million tonnes per annum production capacity urea plant at Babrala in Uttar Pradesh, for INR 2682 crores. It is first foreign direct investment (FDI) in India's urea sector.
244. ▶ Odisha government's Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection and State Bank of India signed MOU for integration of SBI e-Pay with State's cyber treasury to facilitate revenue collection from citizens through digital banking platform.
- ▶ Odisha government also launched porta for Open State Government Data Platform at odisha.data.gov.in, to share data with people.
245. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to raise crude oil production by 4 metric tonne (MT) and double natural gas output by 2020, inline with Government's aim to cut country's oil imports by 10% from 77% in 2013-14. by 2022.
246. ▶ PFRDA identified 21 Banks as Makers of Excellence under Atal Pension Yojana Outreach Programme, with Number of APY subscribers crossing 86 Lacs mark. The list is topped by Canara Bank and it contains 6 Public sector banks, 14 Regional Rural Banks and 1 Cooperative Bank.
247. ▶ PNB Housing Finance tied up with World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) to raise \$800 million for green and affordable housing. As per tie-up, PNB and IFC will bring in \$400 million each.
248. ▶ 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.
249. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank unveiled 3000 'Paytm Ka ATM' outlets that allows customers to open Saving Accounts and deposit/withdraw money from their bank accounts.
250. ▶ 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.
251. ▶ Paytm partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a RuPay-powered digital debit card for its Payments Bank users. Customers will be able to transact at merchants accepting credit / debit cards.
252. ▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) approved expansion of Government's Atal Pension Yojana (APY) through operational Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks in India. Participation in APY builds a pensioned society and adds sustainable fee income to Banks by way of attractive incentive for mobilizing APY @ Rs 120-150 for each Account. Currently, operational Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks are -
- ▶ Small Finance Bank-
 - ▶ Ujjivan SFB
 - ▶ Janalakshmi SFB.
 - ▶ Equitas SFB.
 - ▶ A U SFB.
 - ▶ Capital SFB.
 - ▶ ESAF SFB.
 - ▶ Utkarsh SFB.
 - ▶ Suryoday SFB.
 - ▶ Fincare SFB
 - ▶ Payment Bank
 - ▶ Paytm PB
 - ▶ Airtel PB
 - ▶ India Post PB
 - ▶ Fino PB.
253. ▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will conduct State specific APY mobilization Campaigns under name *People First*, to Increase APY Outreach.
- ▶ Campaign is being launched from Uttar Pradesh with over 17,000 APY touch points (Including banks and post offices).

254. ▶ Private Bank *Yes Bank* established a Medium Term Note (MTN) programme to raise USD 1 billion by issuing debt securities in international capital markets to eligible investors.
255. ▶ Private Sector's Federal Bank obtained RBI approval to open representative offices at Kuwait and Singapore.
256. ▶ Private sector lender Yes Bank signed an agreement with the government to provide Rs 1,000 crore financing for food processing projects. The funding will be provided to around 100 food processing projects with an average ticket size of Rs 10 crore each.
- ▶ Yes Bank also recently updated its BHIM Yes Pay app and integrated 3 other products of National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)– RuPay Virtual Card, BharatQR and Bharat Bill Payment Service (BBPS) in addition to other payment infrastructures like UPI and IMPS.
257. ▶ 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.
258. ▶ Public Sector Banks Wrote Off Bad Loans Worth INR 81683 Crores in 2016-2017, led by SBI which wrote off bad loans worth INR 20339 Crores in 2016-17. Loans written off by PSBs in past years are -
- ▶ 2012 - 13 -> 27231 crores
 - ▶ 2013 - 14 -> 34409 crores
 - ▶ 2014 - 15 -> 49018 crores
 - ▶ 2015 - 16 -> 57585 crores
259. ▶ 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).
- ▶ Persons with annual family income below 40000 in rural areas and 55000 in urban areas are considered to be below double poverty line.
260. ▶ Punjab National Bank (PNB) detected fraudulent transactions worth over 11300 crore at its Mumbai branch. Amount is 1/3rd of bank's market capitalisation (36000 crores). It caused sharp fall in PNB's Shares.
- ▶ PNB lodged 2 complaints with Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against billionaire jewellery designer Nirav Modi and a jewellery company about fraudulent transactions.
 - ▶ Jeweller Nirav Modi allegedly acquired fraudulent letters of undertaking from a PNB branch in Mumbai to secure overseas credit from other Indian lenders.
 - ▶ After This, A K Pradhan has been appointed as Group Chief Risk Officer of Punjab National Bank (PNB).
261. ▶ RBI asked banks to provide doorstep banking facilities to senior citizens who are more than 70 years of age and differently-abled persons by December 2017. RBI also asked banks to provide a minimum of 25 cheque leaves every year for a savings bank account free of charge.
262. ▶ RBI issued guidelines to banks will provide funds to women self-help groups, SHGs, in rural areas at 7 % under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in the current fiscal (2017-18).
263. ▶ RBI's 5th Bi-Monthly Policy Review for FY 2017-18 -
- ▶ RBI Kept Key policy rates Unchanged. However, It increased SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) by 50 Basis points, to 20 % (From 19.50).
 - ▶ Current Monetary Policy Rates -
 - ▶ Repo Rate - 6.00 %
 - ▶ Reverse Repo - 5.75 %
 - ▶ Bank Rate - 6.25 %
 - ▶ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate - 6.25 %
 - ▶ CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio) - 4 %
 - ▶ SLR(Statutory Liquidity ratio) - **20 %** (Increased from 19.5 %)
 - ▶ Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India -
 - ▶ It has 6 Members - RBI Governor Urjit Patel (Chairperson), Viral A Acharya, Michael Patra, Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua, Ravindra H. Dholakia.
 - ▶ RBI also allowed overseas branches of Indian banks to refinance external commercial borrowings (ECB) of AAA-rated private and public sector companies.
 - ▶ Currently, Indian banks are allowed to fund dollar loans but are not allowed to refinance these borrowings abroad.
 - ▶ 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.
 - ▶ This will also benefit the borrowers as improved liquidity in refinance market will reduce cost of borrowing, .

264. ▶ Rajasthan State Government has set up Automatic Service ATMs, 'E-Mitra Plus' at 9900 Atal Seva Kendras and 2500 urban location across state, to enable people to access 380 various government services and over 100 services of private sector.
265. ▶ Rating Agency Fitch placed Punjab National Bank on Rating Watch Negative (RWN), reflecting a possibility of downgrade following recent USD 1.77 billion fraud, biggest ever fraud in Indian banking history.
266. ▶ Rating agency CRISIL upgraded its outlook on 18 Indian public sector banks (PSBs) from "negative" to "stable", after recent news of INR 88139 Crores Infusion by Government into PSBs. Along with capital infusion announcement, Government also unveiled 'Enhanced Access and Service Excellence (EASE)', a six-fold roadmap for reforms in PSBs which will improve the overall functioning of these banks.
267. ▶ Rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) classified Indian Banking sector under 'Group 5' of its Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA), along with Spain, Italy, Ireland, Panama, Poland, Bermuda, Peru, South Africa, Qatar and UAE.
- ▶ As per S&P, risk of rising economic imbalances for banks in India is 'low' on account of good franchise, extensive branch networks and large domestic savings base.
 - ▶ However, issue of massive non-performing assets (NPAs) in Indian banking system needs to be addressed.
268. ▶ Ratings firm *Crisil* and *Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)* signed MoU to launch *CriSidEx* - a sentiment Index for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Index will provide insights into employment, business environment and foreign trade trends in MSME sector. *CriSidEx* will be compiled on basis of real-time, ground-level information procured directly from MSMEs.
269. ▶ Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd signed agreement with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) for INR 300 crore loan.
270. ▶ Reliance Communication received final approval from Department of Telecommunication (DoT) for its merger with Sistema. It will extend validity of RCom's spectrum portfolio in highly valued 800 and 850 MHz band in 8 major telecom circles across country for 12 years period (2021 to 2033).
271. ▶ Reliance Communications (RCom) unveiled Eagle express submarine cable system to lay a 68000-km undersea cable for carrying data across Europe and Asia, as a *cloud and fiber initiative* which will be laid at a cost of \$600 million. This submarine cable system will connect its base in India with Italy to west and Hong Kong on east. It is expected to be operational by 2020.
272. ▶ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became first Indian company to cross Rs 6 trillion market capitalization after its shares surged over 75% and hit a fresh lifetime high with current market cap of INR 6.02 trillion. Recent rally in stocks was due to 15% tariff hike by its telecom arm *Jio* that is expected to improve company's profitability.
273. ▶ Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd will launch its own cryptocurrency based on Blockchain Technology, named *JioCoin*, led by Mukesh Ambani's son Akash Ambani.
274. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Masala bonds (*rupee-denominated overseas bonds*) will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), thereby freeing up more investments by FPIs. Current limit for investment by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in corporate bonds is Rs 244323 crore (including masala bonds of 44,001 crores).
275. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved directions for peer-to-peer (P2P) lending. P2P lending is online mechanism which raises loans for people who need to borrow, from people who want to invest.
- ▶ Recently RBI notified that peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms would be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
 - ▶ RBI has now stated that aggregate exposure of a lender to all borrowers and Aggregate loans taken by a Borrower shall not exceed 10 lakh, across all P2P Platforms.
 - ▶ Exposure of a single lender to the same borrower is capped at Rs. 50,000. Tenure of the loan should not exceed 36 months.
276. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed banks to link SWIFT (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System platform) with their core banking solutions (CBS) by end of April 2018. It aims to tighten internal controls in banks following Recent Over 12000 crores fraud at Punjab National Bank (PNB).
- ▶ The Mega PNB fraud surrounds around SWIFT technology which was misused by its branch officials to fraudulently issue LoUs (letters of undertaking), kind of Bank guarantees to diamond importer Nirav Modi-linked companies without getting proper approvals and without making entries in CBS. Failure of SWIFT-CBS link led to big fraud at PNB and enabled these transactions to go undetected for over 7 years.
 - ▶ SWIFT (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication Systems) is global financial messaging service that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in secure, standardized and reliable environment.
 - ▶ SWIFT was founded in 1973 and is headquartered in La Hulpe (Belgium).
277. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has Put penalties on Yes Bank and IDFC Bank -
- ▶ Yes Bank - 6 crore penalty for misreporting data on non-performing assets. Yes Bank reported Its NPAs to be INR 748.9 Crores as of March 2016 while RBI stats tell that its is 5.5 Times more than this figure. Yes Bank has also been penalized for failing to report a

security incident involving its ATMs on time.

✎ IDFC Bank - 2 crore penalty for breaching regulations on giving loans. RBI said That IDFC Bank failed to comply with regulations pertaining to sanction/renewal of loans and advances.

278. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked co-operative societies not use the word 'Bank' in their names as it violates Section 7 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

279. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed INR 3 crore penalty on IndusInd Bank for violation of Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms.

280. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalty of INR 5 crore on Syndicate Bank for non-compliance with its directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, Cheque Purchase or Discounting and Bill Discounting.

281. ▶ 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 o existing note.

282. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) compulsory for companies having with Loans of Rs 5 crore. Banks will capture this number in Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database that captures details of loan above Rs 5 crore.

✎ LEI number will help banks in monitoring the aggregate exposure of corporate borrowers. Firms can obtain their LEI code from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd. (LEIL).

✎ LEI is a global reference number that uniquely identifies every legal entity or structure that is party to a financial transaction. It is a unique 20 digit alphanumeric code that is assigned to a legal entity.

✎ LEI system has been set up Global authorities to enable identification and linking of parties to financial transactions in order to manage counterparty risk.

283. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to \$100 million (from \$15 Million Previously) across all currency pairs involving Indian rupee. It aims to help entities engaged in forex transactions to maintain their currency risks in better manner.

✎ ETCD is financial instrument that trades on regulated exchange, and whose value is based on value of another asset. They can be used to hedge exposure or speculate on wide range of financial assets like commodities, currencies, equities and even interest rates.

✎ Raised exposure limit permits persons resident in India and FPIs to take positions, without having to establish existence of underlying exposure, up to limit of \$100 million equivalent across all currency pairs involving Indian rupees, put together, and combined across all exchanges.

284. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rationalised merchant discount rate (MDR) to increase the number of non-cash transactions.

✎ Fee charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card payment services is referred to as merchant discount rate (MDR).

✎ MDR has been rationalised on basis of merchant turnover rather than existing slab rates based on the transaction value.

285. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its 2017 list of the Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) and added private lender HDFC Bank Ltd as a D-SIB. Now, HDFC has joined State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI bank, that are tagged as D-SIBs or too-big-to-fail for consecutive 3rd year.

286. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) simplified Foreign Exchange Management Regulations to ease up norms for foreign investors to invest in India-

✎ All 93 amendments have been put under one notification. New regulation combines earlier two regulations on foreign investments - FEMA 20 (investment in Indian company or partnership or in a limited liability partnership) or FEMA 24 (investment in a partnership firm).

✎ Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)

✎ FEMA was passed by Parliament in 1999 and so far was amended 93 times. It replaced FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulations Act), 1973 that become incompatible after economic reforms and pro-liberalization policies of Government.

287. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio for NBFCs has increased to 5 % at end of March 2017 from 2.9 % in March 2012.

✎ Bad loans of NBFCs amount to around Rs.74,230 crores. However, compared to banks, NBFCs reported a fairly higher Return on Assets.

✎ Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of NBFCs has declined in recent years. Still, it was higher than the prescribed regulatory level of 15 %.

✎ Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) OR Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) is ratio of a bank's capital to its risk. It marks bank's ability to absorb a reasonable amount of loss.

288. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that all the 14 designs of Rs 10 coin are valid and legal tender for transactions, as it was observed that some traders and members of public were reluctant to accept INR 10 coins owing to a doubt about its genuineness.
289. ▶ Reserve Bank of India announced setting up ombudsman for addressing customer grievances in non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). RBI will start with deposit-taking NBFCs and widen the scope to cover NBFCs with asset size of INR 100 crore. There are 20 banking ombudsmen across India Currently.
290. ▶ Reserve Bank of India increased limits for investment by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) for the January-March 2018 quarter by Rs 6,400 crore in Central Government Securities (G-Secs) and Rs 5,800 crore in State development loans (SDLs).
- ✎ From January 1, 2018, revised investment limit for FPIs in G-Secs will be Rs 2,56,400 crore against existing limit of Rs 2,50,000 crore.
 - ✎ RBI also granted license for operating a Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) to Global mobile payments company OBOPAY.
291. ▶ Reserve Bank of India opened a branch in Dehradun (Uttarakhand) to ease up Related financial transactions for State government. Earlier, state government had to do financial transactions through Kanpur (UP) branch of RBI.
292. ▶ Reserve Bank of India rejected HDFC Bank's plea to declassify its parent Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC) as a foreign institutional investor (FII), impacting HDFC Bank's fundraising program from qualified institutional placement (QIP).
293. ▶ Reserve Bank of India relaxed priority sector norms for banks by classifying all loans to micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) as priority sector lending, a long time demand from banks. Till now, loans up to INR 10 crore per MSME borrower was considered for priority sector calculation.
- ✎ Sub-target for lending to micro enterprises is 7.50 % of net credit. Foreign banks will also have to follow 8% sub-target for lending to small and marginal farmers.
294. ▶ Reserve Bank of India will introduce 100 rupees coin to mark 100th birth anniversary of AIADMK founder M G Ramachandran, weighing 35 grams.
295. ▶ Reserve Bank of India will link base rate with MCLR from 1st of April 2018 to ensure expeditious transmission of its policy rate to borrowers.
- ✎ RBI Observed that large proportion of bank loans continued to be linked to Base Rate, even after RBI introduced Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rates (MCLR) system in 1st April 2016.
 - ✎ This will enable faster propagation of Effects of RBI Rate Changes to Interest rates of consumer Loans.
296. ▶ Reserve Bank of India will soon allow inter-operability among prepaid payment instruments (PPI) like e-wallets (Paytm, Mobikwik etc.). It will enable users to transfer funds from one mobile wallet to another as per vision for Payment and Settlement Systems in country.
- ✎ RBI also announced fresh KYC guidelines for PPIs (Prepaid Payment Instruments). With these guidelines to complete full KYC formalities, mobile wallet user can now send-receive money between wallets of different companies and banks seamlessly through Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
 - ✎ E-Wallet firms have been instructed to ensure KYC compliance of existing users by December 31, 2017.
 - ✎ Users who do not have stipulated KYC in place, will be allowed to keep only up to Rs 10,000 in wallets post deadline.
 - ✎ No credit facility will be provided to such users, if KYC is not completed within next 12 months.
297. ▶ Reserve bank of India (RBI) allowed Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to hold more than 26% post-conversion of debt into equity in companies undergoing restructuring.
298. ▶ Reserve bank of India (RBI) tightened rules for bank loan defaults and asked banks to immediately identify defaults and make disclosures every Friday to the RBI credit registry from February 23.
- ✎ To accelerate resolution of bad loans, RBI abolished several loan-restructuring mechanisms including *Corporate Debt Restructuring Scheme*, *Flexible Structuring of Existing Long Term Project Loans*, *Strategic Debt Restructuring Scheme (SDR)*, *Framework for Revitalising Distressed Assets*, *Change in Ownership outside SD*, *Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)* and *Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF)*.
 - ✎ Revised Framework for Early identification and reporting of stress -
 - ✎ Lenders shall identify stress in loan accounts, immediately on default, by classifying stressed assets as special mention accounts (SMA) as per given categories -
 - ✎ SMA - 01 to 30 days
 - ✎ SMA-1 - 31 to 60 days
 - ✎ SMA-2 - 61 to 90 days
 - ✎ Lenders shall report credit information, including classification of an account as SMA to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) on all borrower entities having aggregate exposure of INR 5 crore or more.
 - ✎ CRILC-Main Report will now be submitted on a monthly basis with effect from April 1, 2018.

- 🔗 Lenders shall also report to CRILC, all borrower entities in default (with aggregate exposure of Rs 5 crore and above), on a weekly basis on Friday, from Feb 23 Onwards.
299. ▶ Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) reduced interests rate on deposits to 8.55% for 2017-18 from 8.65%. It will affect around 6 crore subscribers and leave EPFO with a surplus of INR 586 crores against INR 695 crores in previous FY.
- 🔗 EPFO made it mandatory to file online claims for provident fund withdrawals above Rs 10 lakh, and also made it mandatory to file online claims for withdrawals of above 5 lakh under Employees Pension Scheme 1995.
300. ▶ SBI Collaborative Innovation Centre (CIC) launched 2nd edition of its Hackathon named *Digitize For Bank* and to be held in first half of November 2017. It focuses on 4 Cognitive themes - Facial Recognition, Signature Recognition, Voice based Authentication and Cheque Truncation Value Enhancers. It aims to bring out solutions based on digital technologies to counter challenges faced by Banking sector.
301. ▶ SBI Foundation granted INR 10 crore for conservation and restoration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSTM) of Mumbai over 3-5 years.
302. ▶ SBI Life Insurance received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India for an IPO (Initial Public Offering) of up to Rs 8,400 crore (\$1.3 billion). SBI owns 70.1 % of SBI Life Insurance and BNP Paribas Cardif holds 26 % stake.
- 🔗 SEBI also allowed ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company to launch its approx INR 6,000 crores initial public offer (IPO).
303. ▶ 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.
304. ▶ 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 %.
305. ▶ SBI will raise INR 8000 crores through various sources, to meet Basel III capital norms.
- 🔗 Indian Banks have to comply with global capital norms under Basel III by March 2019, 3 months later than internationally agreed time frame by January 2019.
306. ▶ SEBI announced that listed companies not following the norms with regard to Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) would face penalty as INR 5000 / Day. If non-compliance continues for over 1 year, amount of fine per day will double to 10,000.
- 🔗 As per MPS Norms, Any listed company must have at least 25 % as public shareholders and 75 % can be held by promoters.
307. ▶ SEBI capped cross-holding in credit rating agencies (CRAs) at 10 % and also raised minimum worth requirement to INR 25 crore from current 5 crores.
308. ▶ SEBI reorganised its committee on Market Infrastructure Institutions (MII) that advises it on reviewing norms related to stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depository participants. Now the panel will be headed by former RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi.
309. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed Rs 2,423 crore fine on PACL Ltd, as highest ever Sebi penalty on a defaulter for illegal fund mobilisation through various schemes.
310. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) raised investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in central government securities to over 1.91 lakh crore from January 2018.
- 🔗 Current investment limit for FPIs is 1.89 lakh crore rupees. It aims to push inflow from overseas investors in Indian capital markets.
311. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised framework for *block deals* on stock exchanges by providing two separate trading windows of 15 minutes each and increasing minimum order size to Rs 10 crore.
- 🔗 Earlier, a trade with a minimum quantity of 5 lakh shares or minimum value of Rs. 5 crore, executed through a single transaction was referred to as 'Block Deal'. Buyers and seller were allowed to enter Block Deal Orders only during first 35 minutes of continuous trading session i.e. from 9:15 am to 9:50 am.
312. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will bring Initial Coin Offerings (ICO) under its existing legal framework.
- 🔗 Recently, popularity of crypto currencies (bitcoin, ethereum etc) has increased rapidly and number of entities looking at raising funds through ICO. RBI believes that these instruments are securities and so SEBI should be regulating body. But crypto-currencies are neither 'commodities derivatives' nor 'securities' under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956.
- 🔗 Initial Coin Offering (ICO) -
- 🔗 Its an unregulated means of crowd funding for project via use of cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin etc. ICOs are not controlled by any legal entity, unlike IPOs that are regulated by SEBI.
- 🔗 In ICO, rights of ownership are offered to investors in form of digital coins in exchange for legal tender or other cryptocurrencies.
- 🔗 China's Central Bank recently banned ICO as dubbed it as an illegal public finance mechanism used for issue of securities and money laundering.
313. ▶ Singapore Based DBS Bank received RBI approval to convert its existing India franchise to a locally incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India.

314. ▶ Singapore Telecommunications (Singtel) invested \$413 million on shares in Bharti Telecom, lifting its stake in Bharti Airtel to 48.9 % and 39.5 % in Bharti Airtel.
315. ▶ Singapore's DBS Bank lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for current fiscal (FY 2017-18) to 6.6 % from the previous 6.8 %.
316. ▶ Smallest paper denomination note from India of INR 1, completed 100 years of existence, since it was first printed on November 30, 1917, with photo of King George V.
317. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched FTSE SBI Bond Index series in partnership with global index provider FTSE 100, which will give tools to investors from India, the UK and globally to analyse India's government bond market, and drive growth in market.
318. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) launched its first ever chatbot called *SBI Intelligent Assistant or SIA*, which would be powered by AI and will assist customers. It has been developed by Artificial intelligence banking platform Payjo.
319. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) signed agreement with Escorts Ltd to finance farmers for purchase of Escorts tractors under name *Powertrac and Farmtrac*.
320. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) waived off account closing charges for Savings accounts that are over an year old. Earlier, SBI levied closure charges of Rs 500 for its savings account customers.
321. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) will do major restructuring of its business in United Kingdom from April, transforming it into subsidiary named *State Bank of India UK Limited* from April 2018, in compliance with wider ring-fencing of capital requirements by Bank of England. All SBI branches in UK will fall under a new UK-incorporated banking entity instead of their status as overseas branches of Indian entity.
322. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) will lend 2317 Crore rupees (\$357 million) to 6 companies for 575 megawatts of grid-connected rooftop solar projects under a World Bank programme. SBI already has given approx 12000 Crore as loans in Solar Sector.
- ▶ India aims to raise renewable energy capacity to 175 gigawatts (GW) by 2022, from 57 GW currently. Solar Energy accounts for 100 GW in that target.
323. ▶ State Bank of India has slashed Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) charges up to 80 %. New IMPS service charges are -
- ▶ No charges for transactions under Rs 1000.
 - ▶ INR 1 - Between 1000 - 10,000
 - ▶ INR 2 - Between 10001 - 100000
324. ▶ State Bank of India launched a new product to provide a short-term working capital demand loan to MSME clients, called SME Assist. It would offer loans to MSME customers on basis of their input credit claims under Goods and Services Tax (GST).
325. ▶ State Bank of India launched a unified integrated app called YONO (You Need Only One), that offers all kinds of financial and lifestyle products from 14 categories.
326. ▶ State Bank of India lowered Minimum Average Monthly Balance (MAB) requirement in a savings account to Rs 3,000 from Rs 5,000 and also revised downwards penalties for not maintaining such balance.
327. ▶ State Bank of India will create a 15,000-sqft innovation center in Navi Mumbai, investing around Rs 100 crore. It will be largest innovation center by any financial services company in India.
328. ▶ State Government Budgets 2018-19 -
- ▶ Kerala -
 - ▶ INR 2000 crores package for restoration works in wake of cyclone Ockhi. Additionally, INR 900 crores investment will be made in coastal areas through Kerala Infrastructure Investment Board (KIIFB).
 - ▶ To shore up revenues, sales tax on IMFL has been increased by 200 % and beer by 100 %.
 - ▶ Allocated INR 2,500 crore to *Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE) project* that ensures housing for all.
 - ▶ 40,000 smart classes will be set up in 4,775 schools.
 - ▶ Women welfare schemes have budget of INR 1250 Crores. It Includes *She Lodges* to be set up in Kochi and *Nirbhaya Homes* for survivors of Sexual Assaults. Financial assistance for unwed mother raised to INR 2000 per month.
 - ▶ A Malayalam University will come up at Tirur.
 - ▶ Uttar Pradesh -
 - ▶ Total budgetary allocation is 4.28 lakh crores (11.4% higher than last fiscal).
 - ▶ 20 new agriculture centres to be opened, with 5500 centres to be opened to procure wheat from farmers.
 - ▶ Startup fund of Rs 250 crore has been created.
 - ▶ INR 7482 crores for cleaning Ganga and keeping it pollution free.
 - ▶ Goa
 - ▶ Goa Govt. presented 17123 crores budget for 2018-19, an increase of 6.84% over the ongoing fiscal.
 - ▶ Gujarat

- ▶ Gujarat Deputy CM and Finance Minister Nitin Patel presented state budget 2018-19. Budget size is INR 183666 crores. New scheme named *Mukhyamantri Apprenticeship Scheme* has been announced, under which Youth will get INR 3000 per month with training.
329. ▶ TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) announced that Reliance Communications will shut down voice call service from 1st December 2017 and its customers can move to other networks by the end 2017.
330. ▶ Tata AIA Life launched Chatbot *Eazy Connect* that will extend online customer service to social media platforms. It will be available through social media platforms and is developed to respond to most frequently asked queries.
331. ▶ Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Governor E S L Narasimhan launched first regional language version of 'GST Rate Finder' App in Telugu. English version of *GST Rate Finder* was launched in July 2017 and now telugu version is first regional language version of this app.
332. ▶ 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.
333. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has cut mobile termination charges (MTC) by 57% to 6 paise per minute (currently 14 paise per minute) with effect from October 1, 2017. MTC would be completely cut by January 1, 2020.
- ▶ MTC is paid by operator whose subscriber makes a call to the operator whose subscriber receives the call.
- ▶ This will lead to reduction in call rates and will benefit subscribers further.
- ▶ This decision has originated from a dispute between Reliance Jio and other top telecom operators.
334. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended 40% reduction in carbon emissions in telecom networks by 2022-23 considering 2011-12 as base year in order to make telecom sector greener.
335. ▶ Telecom services provider Aircel filed for bankruptcy in National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT), along with its units *Aircel Cellular and Dishnet Wireless*, amid fierce competition and high levels of debt.
- ▶ Aircel is 4th telecom firm after Telenor, Tata Tele services and Reliance Communications to wind up after Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio debuted in September 2016. Jio started a disruptive price war in sector with its free voice calls and cheap data.
336. ▶ UN Agency International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) approved USD 30 million soft loans for 4th phase of North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP).
337. ▶ Union Bank of India launched Bilingual (Hindi and English) Android app *Union Sahyog* to digitise customer-facing banking services such as missed call/SMS-based services, Internet banking, deposit and loan product information, online account opening and online loan application etc.
338. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE's) second largest bank, Emirates NBD started operations in India by opening a branch in Mumbai. It is Emirates NBD's fifth international branch.
339. ▶ United Bank of India (UBI) received SEBI's approval for issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,000 crore by way of institutional placement.
340. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government launched 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' Scheme, a free household power connection scheme for the poor in the state.
341. ▶ Visa tied up with Andhra Pradesh government for Digital Dhan Sankalp project to develop Visakhapatnam into India's first 'less cash' city.
342. ▶ West Bengal government sold its 10-year-tenure securities for an aggregate amount INR 2000 crores, for several developmental projects, after obtaining consent of central government for this stock sale.
343. ▶ World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) will provide \$440 million debt to *Mahindra Renewables Pvt. Ltd, Acme Group and global private equity fund Actis Llp* to build Rewa solar park in Madhya Pradesh.
- ▶ Earlier, three 250MW projects were awarded to *Acme Solar Holdings, Mahindra Renewables and Actis LLP's Solenergi Power*.
344. ▶ World Bank approved a loan worth USD 40 million for a tourism project in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
345. ▶ YES Foundation (*social development arm of YES Bank*) launched 5th *YES! i am the CHANGE' (YIAC)* campaign to inculcate spirit of responsible youth citizenship and drive social impact through the medium of films.
- ▶ Yes foundation invited participation in *YIAC Social Filmmaking Challenge*, to depict stories of change in a three-minute film. Selected entities will receive a grant of Rs 7.5 crore, for scaling up and capacity building and will also receive three-year mentoring for creating onground tangible social impact.
346. ▶ 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.
347. ▶ Yes Bank listed \$600 million bond issued under its maiden \$1 billion MTN programme on Global Securities Market (GSM) of India INX. Yes Bank's MTN (medium term note) bonds issuance is already listed on London Stock Exchange International Securities Market (LSE ISM) and Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX).

India International Exchange (India INX) is India's first international exchange at IFSC Gujarat International Financial Tech (GIFT) City, Gandhinagar (Gujarat), as a subsidiary of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

It is one of world's most advanced and fastest trading technology platforms with turn-around time of 4 micro seconds. It operates for 22 hours a day.

348. ▶ Yes Bank signed MoU with Innovation Centre Denmark – India (ICDK India), to bring financial technology innovations and startups from Denmark to India, and facilitate entry of Indian startups in Denmark.

YES Bank also signed bancassurance agreement with Reliance General Insurance.

[Top](#)

International

1. ▶ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) become first Indian Oil Marketing Company (OMC) to enter lubricant market in Myanmar.

2. ▶ 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.

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).

3. ▶ 2 Democratic lawmakers, Ami Bera and Frank Pallone introduced a legislation in USA House of Representative to support India's permanent membership to UN Security Council.

4. ▶ 2 Indian institutes featured in top 50 Asian institutes in *TIMES Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings for educational institutes in Asia*. These institutes are Indian Institute of Science (29th) and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (44). List is Topped by National University of Singapore.

5. ▶ 2017 Global Talent Competitiveness Index by INSEAD -

India is ranked 81st among 118 countries, improving from 92nd rank last year.

Top 5 Nations - Switzerland, Singapore, United Kingdom, United States, Sweden.

6. ▶ 2017 Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index by Australian Centre for Financial Studies (ACFS) -

India has ranked 28th out of 30 countries. India's overall index value in 2017 is 44.9, which marks an improvement over index value of 43.4 in 2016.

Denmark has retained the top spot in this index for sixth consecutive year.

7. ▶ 2018 *World Economic League Table* report released by Centre for Economics and Business Research (UK) -

India will overtake UK and France to become fifth largest economy in 2018, and will further move to 3rd spot by 2032.

China is likely to overtake USA as world's largest economy by 2032.

Russia will fall to 17th place among world's largest economies by 2032, from 11th place in 2017, mainly because of low commodity (oil) prices in international market and its excessive reliance on energy sector.

8. ▶ 2018 Edelman Trust Barometer Report -

In Both Categories of General Public and Informed Experts - China ranked 1st and India ranked 3rd. Indonesia is at 2nd place in both categories.

Note that In 2017 report, India was at top in both categories.

9. ▶ 2nd India-Afghanistan air cargo route linking Kabul to Mumbai inaugurated at Hamid Karzai international airport in Kabul, to boost export of fresh fruits and medicinal plants from Afghanistan. First air corridor between both countries linking Kabul-New Delhi was inaugurated in June 2017.

10. ▶ 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.

11. ▶ 5 Day youth film festival of Nordic-Baltic European nations started at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

Nordic-Baltic countries are *Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden*. They are tied together geographically and historically through trade, culture and many other value systems.

12. ▶ *Feminism* is named as Merriam-Webster's Word of the year 2017.


Feminism word has its roots in the Latin language, where it was used for "woman" and "female" in 14th century English.

Other Words of The year 2017
















Populism - Cambridge Dictionary.

Kwaussie - Australian National Dictionary.

13. ▶ *Global Manufacturing Index* released by World Economic Forum (WEF), titled *Readiness for the future of production report* -







 Japan is at top, while India is ranked 30th. Top 5 Nations -

1	Japan
2	South Korea
3	Germany
4	Switzerland
5	China

14. ▶ *Government at a Glance 2017* report by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) -
 -  Indian government is ranked 3rd most trusted government in world, with 74 % Indians trusting their current PM Modi led Government.
 -  List is topped by Switzerland, followed by Indonesia.
15. ▶ *The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017* (149 countries) -
 -  India ranks 100th in this list of prosperity.
 -  Top 5 - Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden.
16. ▶ A 910-carat gem diamond, considered 5th largest gem-quality diamond ever found has been discovered in a Lesotho mine (Africa). It is more valuable as it is colourless, with worth of approx \$40 million.
17. ▶ A consortium of chinese firms is Constructing Bangladesh's first eco-friendly thermal power plant with ultra-modern clean coal technology, near sea port in Payra town in Patuakhali district of Bangladesh. Estimated cost of the project is USD 1.56 billion.
18. ▶ A painting of Christ by Italian Renaissance painter Leonardo da Vinci is sold for USD 450 million, breaking all previous records of artworks sold or auctioned. Previously, Highest price ever for a work of art at auction was USD 179.4 million for Pablo Picasso's painting 'Women of Algiers (Version O)' in May 2015. While, highest sale price for any artwork was USD 300 million for Willem de Kooning's painting 'Interchange'.
19. ▶ A tomb belonging to a royal goldsmith who lived more than 3500 years ago has been discovered in Luxor (Egypt).
20. ▶ ADIA (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)) became first institutional investor in India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)'s Master Fund and a shareholder in NIIF's investment management Company. ADIA invested approx 1 Billion USD in NIIF.
21. ▶ According to *Military Balance 2018* report by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) -
 -  India overtook UK to become 5th largest defence spender in world in 2017, with \$52.5 billion defence expenditure in 2017 (compared to UK's \$50.7)
 -  Top 5 - USA (\$602.8 billion), China (\$150.5 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$76.7 billion), Russia(\$61.6 billion), India (\$52.5 billion).
22. ▶ According to Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, Hui Ka Yan (chairman of Chinese real estate giant Evergrande Group) is now Asia's richest man with net worth of \$41.1 billion. Asia's second and third richest persons are Tencent Holdings Chairman Ma Huateng (\$39.1 billion), Alibaba Group Chairman Jack Ma (\$38.9 billion).
23. ▶ According to International Energy Agency, USA will overtake Russia as world's biggest oil producer by 2019. USA's crude oil output rose above 10 million barrels per day late last year for first time since 1970s, overtaking top oil exporter Saudi Arabia.
24. ▶ According to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s Trade and Development Report (TDR) 2017, India and China at their current levels of growth will not serve as "growth poles" for global economy in near future.
 -  Global Growth will reach 2.6% this year, well below pre 2008 financial crisis average of 3.2%.
 -  India's Growth will slow down to 6.7% in 2017 from 7% in 2016.
 -  China's Growth has been retained at 6.7%, same as in 2016. China's estimated debt-to-GDP ratio is 249%, so it needs to introduce measures to contain its rising debt as domestic demand could be squeezed, with adverse consequences.
25. ▶ According to World Energy Access report by International Energy Agency (IEA) -
 -  Half a billion people have gained access to electricity in India since 2000, almost doubling country's electrification rate. It paves way for India to achieve access to electricity for all in early 2020s.
26. ▶ According to World Steel Association (WSA), India overtook USA to become 3rd largest steel producer in 2017, with crude steel production growing 6.2% to 101.4 million tonnes (MT). China remains 1st by producing 831.7 MT in 2017, followed by Japan (104.7 MT).
27. ▶ According to global airlines' grouping IATA -
 -  India's domestic aviation sector grew the fastest and India topped domestic growth chart again in September with 15.5 % Growth, compared to 5.7 % Globally. China is at 2nd place.
28. ▶ According to global traffic scorecard published annually by *Inrix*, top 5 most congested cities are -
 -  Los Angeles (USA)
 -  New York City (USA)
 -  Moscow (Russia)
 -  Sao Paulo (Brazil)

 San Francisco (USA)

 Further, most congested country is Thailand, followed by Indonesia and Colombia.

29. ▶ Adani Power signed 25 year Power purchase agreement (PPA) for net capacity of 1,496 MW with Bangladesh Power Development Board to supply electricity from its upcoming 1,600 MW plant at Godda in Jharkhand.
30. ▶ African country Burundi became first nation to withdraw from International Criminal Court (Hague, Netherlands) that has authority to prosecute individuals for international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
 -  In recent years, 3 African Nations South Africa, Gambia and Burundi expressed their intent to leave ICC citing reason that it focuses too much on African nations.
31. ▶ Agricultural Minister Radha Mohan Singh sent a proposal to United Nations for declaring 2018 as *International Year of Millets*.
 -  Mr. Radha Mohan also stated that total fish production in India remained 11.41 million tonnes in 2016-17, making India 2nd largest fish producing country.
32. ▶ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched promotion of north eastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar. Exports of APEDA scheduled products to Bangladesh during 2016-17 were US \$396.44 million and US \$24.15 million for Myanmar.
33. ▶ Air India launched its direct flight from New Delhi to Copenhagen (Denmark), as 11th destination for Air India in Europe (described as connecting *Maharaja with the Mermaid*).
34. ▶ Air New Zealand has been named *2018 Airline of the Year* for 5th consecutive year. It is followed by Qantas Airways, Singapore Airlines, Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic.
35. ▶ Airbus Perlan 2 Engineless aircraft has set a new altitude world record for a glider, climbing to 52,172 feet in El Calafate (Argentina)
36. ▶ Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft launched open-source and deep learning interface *Glue* that will help developers to deploy machine learning models across several platforms. It will give developers a place to prototype, build, train and deploy machine learning models.
37. ▶ American and Japanese armies launched 13th edition of their joint exercise named Iron Fist, in California (USA).
38. ▶ American digital payments company PayPal launched domestic operations in India.
 -  Merchants offering PayPal will be able to process both local and global payments through the platform, getting access to PayPal's more than 20 Crore customers across world.
39. ▶ American electric Carmaker TESLA has built world's biggest lithium-ion battery to be plugged into an Australian state grid, capable of powering 30,000 homes for up to an hour in the event of a severe blackout.
40. ▶ An Indo-German MOU has been signed for *Implementation Agreement in Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities in India*, to develop and apply concepts for sustainable urban development about the provision of urban basic services and housing in selected cities and Smart Cities in India.
41. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government and Zurich (Switzerland) signed a letter of intent to promote mutual prosperity and development.
42. ▶ Andijan Region of Uzbekistan and India signed agreement for cooperation in pharmaceutical industry, for implementation of program for production of pharmaceutical, bio-pharmaceutical products and medical equipment in Andijan region of Uzbekistan.
43. ▶ Annual survey of *Gallup International* ranked Indian PM Narendra Modi as 3rd among world leaders, with German chancellor Angela Merkel at top and French president Emmanuel Macron at 2nd place.
44. ▶ Apple and Google respectively took 2 top spots in list of world's 100 most valuable brands, as per report by consultancy group Interbrand. This is the fifth consecutive year with Apple and Google at top of the list.
45. ▶ Arab Nation Jordan, that is 90% desert, has launched *Sahara Forest Project* near Aqaba City to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water. It is funded by Norway and European Union.
46. ▶ As per *Authentic Brands Study* by Cohn & Wolfe -
 -  Indian consumers regard Google as most authentic brand, followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki and Apple.
 -  Amazon tops list globally, followed by Apple.
47. ▶ As per *Water Resources Research*, Phosphorus levels in freshwater bodies across world are escalating, posing serious threat to ecosystem. About 1.5 teragrams of phosphorus (1.5 billion kilograms) is dumped annually into freshwater systems. China contributes most with 30%, followed by India (8%), USA (7%). Huang He river basin of China has highest phosphorus-related water pollution. India's Ganges basin is ranked 4th in list.
48. ▶ As per Airports Council International (ACI), Dubai International Airport retained No 1 rank as world's busiest airport for international travel, with 88.2 million passengers.
 -  Dubai witnessed 15% growth in tourist arrivals from India in 2017, hosting 2.1 million visitors, retaining top spot as source market.
49. ▶ As per Credit Suisse Research Institute's (CSRI) report CS Family 1000 -

- India has 108 publicly-listed family owned businesses, 3rd highest in world. With average market capitalization of USD 6.5 billion, India ranks 5th in Asia Pacific and 22nd globally, in terms of average m-cap.
- Top 5 countries in terms of number of family-owned companies - China, USA, India, France AND Hong Kong
- 50. ▶ As per Data by Forbes, based on a recent research by Transparency International (TI) -
 - India beats Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan and Myanmar inn terms of corruption, making India most corrupt asian nation with 69 % bribery rate.
- 51. ▶ As per Data by Twiplomacy (Burson Marsteller research project that tracks use of Twitter by governments and international organizations) -
 - USA Prez Donald Trump is most followed leader on Twitter, followed by Pope Francis and Indian PM Narendra Modi.
- 52. ▶ As per HSBC, India ranks 14th in terms of best country for expats to live and work in. The list is topped by Singapore.
- 53. ▶ As per Report by Tourism Australia, Maharashtra is leading Indian tourist source market for Australia with over 59,000 tourists having visited Australia in year ended June 2017, folowed by Delhi and Karnataka.
- 54. ▶ As per consultancy and research firm Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) -
 - India will 3rd largest aviation market for departures by 2019, up from 4th place with 131 Million passengers in 2016.
 - USA is largest aviation market with 815 million passengers, followed by China (490 million) and Japan(141 million).
- 55. ▶ As per data by *International Air Transport Association (IATA)*, India topped worldwide growth chart of domestic air passenger traffic for November 2017 with growth by 16.4 %, highest in world.
- 56. ▶ 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.
- 57. ▶ As per new discovery, *Mount Hope* is new tallest mountain in British Antarctic Territory (BAT) with height measured at 3,239 meters above, more than 3,184 meters tall *Mount Jackson*.
- 58. ▶ As per rankings released by *Fortune Magazine*, Qatar is World's Richest Country in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita.

Top 5 Nations -

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

- India is Ranked 126th with USD 7170 GDP Per Capita.
- 59. ▶ As per survey by personal finance platform *GoBankingRates*
 - India is 2nd cheapest country to live or retire among 112 countries, after South Africa. It is based on four metrics - local purchasing power index, rent index, Groceries index, and Consumer price index. These metrics evaluate relative affordability as compared to New York city.
 - Most Expensive - Bermuda (112), Bahamas (111), Hong Kong (110), Switzerland (109) and Ghana (108).
- 60. ▶ Asia Index Pvt Ltd (joint venture of S&P Dow Jones Indices and BSE) launched Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) index, to measure exposure to securities meeting sustainability investing criteria.
- 61. ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide USD 152 million to Nepal for implementation and enhancement of its power transmission and distribution.
- 62. ▶ Assam government signed MoU with Singapore for skilling youth of state. Additionally, Indiana (USA State) and Karnataka signed agreement to establish sister-state ties for cooperation in economic, educational and cultural fields.
- 63. ▶ Australia and East Timor (Known as *Timor - Leste*) agreed on a maritime boundary and revenue sharing agrement from a natural gas field beneath seabed between them.
- 64. ▶ Australia became 25th country to recognize same-sex marriage as it passed a bill that changed a 2004 law that stiplated a legal marriage as the one between a man and a woman.
- 65. ▶ Australian Government announced that it will establish a national space agency as a part of long term plan to develop Australia's domestic space industry. It will be called ARSE (Australian Research & Space Exploratio).
- 66. ▶ Australia's last car factory was shut down as USA carmaker GM Holden Ltd closed its plant in South Australia. It marks end of car manufacturing industry in Australia.
- 67. ▶ Austria's law banning face veils such as burkhas or niqabs came into effect, to promote cohabitation between majority Austrian population and people from third countries living in Austria.
- 68. ▶ BRICS - themed subway train with carriages representing five member nations started test operations in China's Xiamen city.

- ✎ Indian carriage depicts elephants and yoga.
 - ✎ Chinese carriage is red and displays icons such as the Great Wall and Tian'anmen Square.
 - ✎ Brazilian carriage is green and decorated with images of footballs and football stars.
 - ✎ Russian carriage shows country's ballet and matryoshka dolls.
 - ✎ South African carriage displays pictures of diamonds.
 - ✎ Sixth carriage combines cultural elements from all the five BRICS countries.
69. ▶ BRICS Nations' New Development Bank (NDB) approved 2 development projects in India and Russia with loans of \$400 million -
 - ✎ In India, funds procured by means of NDB loan will be used to rehabilitate the Indira Gandhi canal system.
 - ✎ In Russia, loan will be used to build a toll transport corridor connecting M-5 federal highway to Ufa city centre.
 - ✎ New Development Bank is Headquartered in Shanghai (China) with India's K V Kamath as Current President.
 70. ▶ Bangkok Bank (Thailand) selected India based iGTB (Intellect Global Transaction Banking - a specialist firm of Intellect Design Arena Ltd) as tech partner to implement a cash management platform and corporate portal.
 71. ▶ Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina floated a five-point peace proposal at United Nations to find a permanent solution to Rohingya crisis (Over 430,000 refugees fleeing violence in Bangladesh's Rakhine State from Myanmar since August 2017). These Points Include UN Intervention to ensure safe return of all displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar and implementing Kofi Annan Commission Recommendations immediately.
 72. ▶ Bangladesh and USA Armies held Joint Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka.
 73. ▶ Bangladesh, India and Nepal approved operating procedures for passenger vehicle movement (Passenger protocol) in sub-region under Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA).
 74. ▶ Bank of Baroda will cease its 21 years long operations in South Africa by March-end, amid a probe into alleged compliance lapses by BOB there.
 75. ▶ 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.
 76. ▶ Belgium became first country to send a female ambassador (Dominique Mineur) to Saudi Arabia.
 77. ▶ Bengaluru based IT Firm Mindtree inaugurated its first international Digital Pumpkin innovation hub in New Jersey (USA).
 78. ▶ Bengaluru city signed MoU with C40 cities network to work together to tackle air pollution.
 - ✎ C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is grouping of cities aims at tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas.
 79. ▶ Bermuda became first country to legalize and then repeal same-sex marriage, after it reversed right of gay couples to marry.
 80. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed agreement with USA's networking solutions provider Coriant to study possibilities of bringing and expanding 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) in India.
 81. ▶ Bharti Airtel acquired Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Ltd (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd (TTML) with over 4 crore TTSL customers joining Bharti Airtel. Bharti Airtel will absorb TTSL's CMB operations across country in nineteen circles (17 under TTSL and 2 under TTML).
 82. ▶ Bharti Airtel received Ghana's National Communications Authority's approval for merger between Bharti Ghana (Airtel) and Millicom Ghana (Tigo). Merger will result in 2nd largest mobile network operations in Ghana.
 83. ▶ Bharti Airtel signed agreement with Millicom International, under which *Airtel Rwanda Ltd* will acquire 100% equity in Tigo Rwanda Ltd.
 84. ▶ 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.
 85. ▶ Bollywood Film Padmaavat has been banned in Malaysia by country's censor board, stating that it touches on the *sensitivities of Islam*.
 86. ▶ Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017 -
 - ✎ India ranked 8th most valuable nation brand while USA retained its top position and China took second spot.
 - ✎ In terms of valuation, India's National Brand Value in 2017 is \$2.04 trillion, down by 1% from last year's \$2.06 trillion. However, India's brand rating has improved from 'AA-' to 'AA'.
 87. ▶ Brazil declared *social emergency* on Venezuela border, to tackle influx of people fleeing crisis hit Venezuela. The declaration will free the authorities to allocate infrastructure funds and other humanitarian measures on Venezuela border.
 88. ▶ Brazil's securities regulator prohibited local investment funds from buying cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum.
 89. ▶ Britain launched a new plastic 10-pound note featuring Jane Austen (*renowned British Author*), To tackle counterfeiting. Apart from Queen, Austen is 3rd woman (after Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth Fry) to feature on a modern-day British banknote.

90. ▶ Britain's Prince Charles launched a new 10-million-dollar Development Impact Bond (DIB) to help improve education for over 200,000 children in India, as largest such bond in South Asia. It is the latest fundraising initiative by British Asian Trust (BAT) set up by royal 10 years ago to fight poverty in South Asia.

91. ▶ Bulgaria taken over European Union's six-month revolving presidency, from Estonia.

92. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

✍ CCEA Approvals -

✍ Approved proposal of Department of Commerce to give focused attention to 12 identified Champion Services Sectors for promoting their development, Including IT & ITeS, Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services. Fund of INR 5000 crores has been proposed for this purpose. It will enhance competitiveness of India's service sectors, thereby promoting GDP growth, creating more jobs and promoting exports to global markets.

✍ Approved extension of Govt. Guarantee provided to lender Bank for providing credit limit to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) to 19000 crores from INR 9500 crores for undertaking procurement operation of pulses and oilseeds under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

✍ These Government Guarantees are provided for a period of five years i.e. till 2021-22 by Govt. of India and with waiver of 1% Government Guarantee fee.

✍ Provision of Govt. Guarantee will help in protecting farmers producing these commodities from making distress sales during peak arrival period and to provide remunerative prices to encourage higher investment and production.

✍ MOUs -

✍ With Jordan for cooperation in Customs, Health, Manpower and mining / beneficiation of Rock Phosphate & MOP and setting up facility in Jordan for Phosphoric Acid / DAP / NPK Fertilizers.

✍ With Vietnam on Economic and Trade Cooperation.

✍ With Fiji on Cooperation in Renewable Energy.

✍ With Macedonia on cooperation in Health.

✍ Misc -

✍ Government reduced airfares for devotees travelling to Saudi Arabia or Haj, with prices of round tickets being slashed by INR 20000 (to INR 97000 now).

93. ▶ Cabinet Approvals-

✍ Approved enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years.

✍ MOU with Ethiopia in field of Information, Communication and Media.

✍ MoU with Belarus in the oil and gas sector

✍ MoU with Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development

✍ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a Letter of Intent with Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to extend cooperation in health sector.

✍ Letter of Intent (LoI) with Norway to extend cooperation within health sector through Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for 3 years starting from 2018.

94. ▶ Cabinet approvals -

✍ Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Japan on *Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)*. Under this, India will send 3-lakh youth to Japan for on-job training for 3-5 years.

✍ MOC with Japan on establishing a Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market.


✍ MoU between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Services Commission (Gibraltar) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.

✍ MOU between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Capital Markets Authority (Kuwait).

✍ MoU with Morocco on cooperation in water resources.

✍ Government approved updating status of *International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)* from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and will enable more safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels.

✍ Extradition Treaty with Lithuania to provide legal framework for seeking extradition of economic offenders, terrorists and other criminals from and to Lithuania.
















95. ▶ Canada has been chosen as partner country for 23rd Technology Summit to be held in November 2017 in New Delhi, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
96. ▶ Central American Nation Guatemala announced to move its Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem, after USA recently recognized Jerusalem as capital of Israel and announced to move USA's Israeli embassy to Jerusalem.
97. ▶ Central American country Nicaragua signed Paris Agreement on climate change, leaving USA and Syria as only 2 countries left to sign this global climate pact.
98. ▶ China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) launched Algeria's first telecommunications satellite, Alcomsat-1, aboard a Long March 3B rocket.
99. ▶ China and Australia joint military training exercise *Panda-Kangaroo 2017* concluded in Kunming (China).
100. ▶ China and Pakistan Joint Air Exercise *Shaheen VI* has been organized.
101. ▶ China commissioned its first radar-evading J-20 stealth fighter jets into military service.
102. ▶ China constructed a 330-foot tall air purifying tower in Xian (Shaanxi Province), biggest in world. It has produced more than 10 million cubic meters of clean air since launch.
103. ▶ China displayed its first unmanned combat helicopter AV500W for foreign buyers. The aircraft's length is 7.2 meters.
104. ▶ 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.
105. ▶ China has shut down its legal government-sanctioned ivory (*elephant teeth*) trade.
106. ▶ China is elected as vice chair of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), global body mandated to combat terror financing and money laundering. Further, FATF in its plenary meeting in Paris, placed Pakistan under *grey list*, subject to direct monitoring and intense scrutiny by International Cooperation Review Group till June 2018 for compliance of Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Finance of Terrorism regulations.
107. ▶ China launched 2 BeiDou-3 satellites to provide navigation and positioning services to countries along Belt and Road initiative (BRI) by end of 2018. Launched satellites were BeiDou-3 M7 and BeiDou-3 M8 (26th and 27th satellites) in BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS).
108. ▶ China launched 2nd Land Surveying Satellite LKW-2 (also known as Yaogan Weixing-32), to be used for remote sensing exploration of land resources. It was launched on board of Long March-2D rocket.
109. ▶ China launched BeiDou-3 M1 and BeiDou-3 M2 Navigation satellites on board Long March-3B rocket.
110. ▶ China launched remote sensing VRSS-2 satellite for Venezuela by Long March-2D carrier rocket. This is 3rd Venezuelan satellite launched by China after Venesat -1 (2008) and VRSS - 1 (2012).
111. ▶ China launched world's fastest bullet train *Fuxing* between Beijing and Shanghai at 350 kms per hour, covering 1,250-km in 4 hours and 30 minutes.
112. ▶ China launched world's first all-electric ship, which can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge. It is 70.5-metre-long and weighs about 600 tonnes.
113. ▶ China resumed Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathu La route, which was stopped by China amid Doklam military face-off with India last year.
114. ▶ China started trial operations of world's biggest automated container terminal at Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai. Terminal covers 2.23 million square metres and has a 2,350-metre shoreline.
115. ▶ China successfully launched 'Zhangheng 1', its first seismo-electromagnetic satellite to study seismic precursors. The Long March-2D rocket carried China Seismo- Electromagnetic Satellite (CSES) of 730 kg. Zhangheng 1 will let scientists monitor the electromagnetic field, ionospheric plasma and high-energy particles for five years.
116. ▶ China today launched three remote sensing satellites to improve observation capability to promote commercial use for remote sensing industry. Satellites are Jilin-1 04, Jilin-1 05 and Jilin-1 06.
117. ▶ China unveiled Asia's largest artificial island-building ship named *magic island maker*, with 140-metre length and capable of digging 6,000 cubic metres an hour.
118. ▶ China will build its second foreign naval base in Pakistan, after Djibouti (Nation in Horn of Africa).
 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.
119. ▶ China will establish 3 international courts (*in Beijing, Shenzhen and Xi'an*) to deal with disputes related to its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a development strategy focused on road connectivity and maritime cooperation between Eurasian countries.

120. ▶ China will launch 10 satellites into space over next three years to maintain non-stop surveillance on disputed waterway of South China Sea. It would provide scientific support for China's One Belt One Road initiative and emergency response efforts at sea.
121. ▶ China will provide financial support to construct counter-terrorism base in Badakshan province of northern Afghanistan that would prevent cross-border infiltration of Chinese Uyghur militants.
122. ▶ China's Shanghai will have first Tesla Electric Car factory outside USA. Tesla is headed by Noted Entrepreneur Elon Musk.
123. ▶ China, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Pakistan signed USD 4 million agreement to provide assistance to people of Fata and Balochistan region in Pakistan.
124. ▶ China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will issue its first US dollar-denominated bond with minimum worth of \$1 billion by June 2018.
- ▶ Minimum size of issuance will be 1 billion USD, which will be increased upon increase in demand for first bond.
 - ▶ Bond Maturity will be 3 - 5 years, depending on investor demand. AIIB plans to cap its total 2018 borrowing volume at US \$3 billion.
125. ▶ China's Zhejiang Electric Power Company will construct world's tallest power supply pylon in east Zhejiang Province, with 380-metre height. It will get past China's Dabaoshan pylon (370 m).
126. ▶ Chinese Air Force commissioned its new generation J-20 fourth-generation stealth fighter into combat service. China is 2nd country (after USA) to commission domestically developed stealth aircraft.
127. ▶ Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2018 by environmental organisation Germanwatch (56 Nations) -
- ▶ India - Ranked 14th This year, up from 20th Rank Last Year.
 - ▶ Top 5 - Sweden (1), Lithuania (2), Morocco (3), Norway (4), UK (5)
 - ▶ Bottom 5 - Russia , USA, Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia (Last)
 - ▶ BRICS - Brazil (19), Russia (53), China (41), South Africa (48)
128. ▶ Cobra Gold training exercise held in Thailand, that includes activities such as drinking cobra blood. This year, 7 countries participated - USA, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Singapore.
129. ▶ Corruption Perceptions Index 2017 by Transparency International (180 Nations) -
- ▶ India ranked 81st.
 - ▶ Neighbours - Sri Lanka (91), Pakistan (117), Myanmar (130) and Bangladesh (143), Bhutan (26) and China (77).
 - ▶ Top 5 - New Zealand (1), Denmark (2), Finland (3), Norway (4), Switzerland (5)
 - ▶ Bottom 5 - Somalia (180), South Sudan (179), Syria (178), Afghanistan (177), Yemen (176)
 - ▶ BRICS - Brazil (95), Russia (136), **India (81)**, China (77), South Africa (72)
130. ▶ Cross Border Train Service between India & Bangladesh, Kolkata-Khulna Bandhan Express has been inaugurated.
131. ▶ Cuba began a five-month political transition expected to end with Raul Castro's departure from Presidency, due to his family's dominance in country's political system for 60 years.
132. ▶ Delhi Government signed twin city agreement with Seoul (South Korea), to strengthen cooperation i fields of smart city, e-governance, climate change and transportation.
133. ▶ Denmark launched USA based global alliance to manage Climate change in Copenhagen. It is called Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G).
- ▶ P4G is supported by China, Indonesia and C40(group of more than 90 large cities of world that represent 25% of global economy).
134. ▶ Disney acquired certain assets of 21st Century Fox (FOXA), for approximately USD 52.4 billion in stocks, with transaction valued at USD 66.1 billion including 21st Century Fox's debt.
135. ▶ East African country Zimbabwe banned import of fruits and vegetables to preserve scarce foreign currencies.
136. ▶ Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index 2017 -
- ▶ Japanese capital Tokyo topped the list of 60 cities. Singapore and Japanese city Osaka ranked second and third.
 - ▶ Indian cities Delhi and Mumbai have been ranked 43rd and 45th respectively.
137. ▶ Ecuador granted citizenship to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.
- ▶ In 2012, Assange, an Australian-Ecuadoran, was granted asylum at Ecuadorian Embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he faced an investigation over rape allegations.
138. ▶ Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) of India launched UJALA (Unnati Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme in Melaka State of Malaysia. Malaysia became 2nd country after United Kingdom (UK) where EESL launched UJALA scheme. Under this, each household in Melaka will get 10 high quality 9-watt LED bulbs at a cost of only RM 10.
139. ▶ Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018 by World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with Yale University and Columbia University -
- ▶ India is ranked 177 among 180 countries.

- ▶ Top 5 countries - Switzerland, France, Denmark, Malta and Sweden.
- ▶ Bottom 5 countries - Nepal (176), India (177), Congo (178), Bangladesh (179), Burundi (180)
- 140. ▶ Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and Netherlands joined UN Security Council as non-permanent members.
 - ▶ UN Security Council has 15 members, including 5 with permanent seats who have power to veto resolutions – Britain, China, France, Russia and USA.
- 141. ▶ 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.
- 142. ▶ European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) launched to monitor general and provincial polls in Nepal to be held in Nov - Dec 2017, with 3.5 million euros allocated for entire election observation process.
- 143. ▶ Export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement included India as its 42nd member, during its plenary meeting in Vienna (Austria).
 - ▶ Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, is a multilateral export control regime established to ensure regional and international security by promoting transparency in transfer of arms and dual-use goods and technologies.
 - ▶ This will enhance India's credentials in field of non-proliferation, although, India is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- 144. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will lead a ministerial delegation to the ASEAN-India 'Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas' (PBD) to be held in 2018, in Singapore. PBD 2018 will also mark 25 years of the ASEAN-India partnership.
- 145. ▶ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) partnered with Department of Science and Technology (DST) to implement ASEAN India Research Training Fellowship (AIRTF).
 - ▶ AIRTF scheme was introduced to promote scientific cooperation between India and ASEAN member countries.
 - ▶ It provides opportunities to upto 50 young researchers annually from ASEAN member countries to undertake research and training for period of 6 months at Academic and Research Institutions in India.
 - ▶ Note that FICCI in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and DS&T also gives away C V Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers, in line with efforts of promoting scientific and technological cooperation between India and Africa.
- 146. ▶ Fifty Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan awarded with UN Medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in conflict-ridden South Sudan.
- 147. ▶ Fiji (island nation in South Pacific Ocean) signed partnered with India's The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for assistance in tackling climate change effects and achieving environmental sustainability.
- 148. ▶ Fiji, Niger, Tuvalu and Seychelles ratified ISA Framework Agreement and became members of ISA framework agreement.
 - ▶ ISA will need the ratification of just 4 more countries to become a recognized inter-governmental body (Total 15 were needed). After which, ISA can embark on its task to channelise \$300 billion in 10 years to promote renewable energy globally.
- 149. ▶ Financial Times London's Global MBA Ranking 2018 -
 - ▶ Rankings of Prominent Indian B-schools -
 - ▶ Indian School of Business (ISB) - 27th (28th last year)
 - ▶ IIM Ahmedabad - 31st (29th last year)
 - ▶ IIM-Bangalore - 35th (49th last year)
 - ▶ IIM-Calcutta - 78th (95th last year)
 - ▶ Stanford Graduate School of Business, US has topped the ranking followed by France's INSEAD.
- 150. ▶ First India-UK Createch Summit will be held in Mumbai in February 2018, to explore convergence of creativity and technology, 'Createch' and its application across a range of areas.
- 151. ▶ First USA crude oil cargo of 1.6 million barrels bought by Indian Oil Corporation reached Paradip Port (Odisha). Indian Oil became placed order of 3.9 million barrel from USA.
- 152. ▶ First ever *Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - India* Music Festival held at Purana Quila in New Delhi, to celebrate 25 year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- 153. ▶ First metro train of Pakistan arrived from China as a gift. It has been called *Orange Line Metro Train service* and will begin operations in December 2017. Also, Pakistan and Iran signed MoU to improve border security.
- 154. ▶ First project funded BRICS *New Development Bank* has started operations in Shanghai (China), that was set up using \$76 million loan granted to Shanghai Lingang Distributed Solar Power Project from NDB.
- 155. ▶ For the first time, WHO will add gaming disorder to its International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
 - ▶ ICD is a diagnostic manual published by WHO that was last updated 27 years ago. 11th edition of the manual is due in 2018.
- 156. ▶ Forbes Highest Paid TV Actresses 2017 -

- ▶ Modern Family' star Sofia Vergara earned USD 41.5 million (Rs 271 crore), topping the list for the sixth consecutive year.
- ▶ India's Priyanka Chopra ranked 8th, as she made USD 10 million (INR 65 crore).
- 157. ▶ Forbes annual list of the highest-paid musicians -
 - ▶ Top 3 -
 - ▶ Diddy (\$130m) (USA)
 - ▶ Beyonce (\$105m) (USA)
 - ▶ Drake (\$94m) (Canada)
- 158. ▶ Forbes' First Ever Crypto Rich List (comprising 20 wealthiest people in cryptocurrency space)-
 - ▶ Ripple Co-founder Chris Larsen at atop with crypto net worth of \$7.5-8 billion.
 - ▶ Ethereum Co-founder Joseph Lubin (\$1-5 billion) is 2nd and Founder of cryptocurrency exchange Binance Changpeng Zhao (\$1.1-2 billion) is 3rd.
- 159. ▶ Forbes' Highest Paid Women in Music List 2017 -
 - ▶ American singer Beyonce at top with earnings of \$105 million (Rs682 crore).
 - ▶ Top 5 - Beyonce (\$105 million-USA), Adele (\$69 million-ENG), Taylor Swift (\$44 million-USA), Celine Dion (\$42 million-Canada), Jennifer Lopez (\$38 million-USA).
- 160. ▶ Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes of All Time-
 - ▶ Retired American Basketball Legend Michael Jordan is named as highest-paid athlete of all time with \$1.7 billion income, followed by golfer Tiger Woods (\$1.7 billion) and Late American golfer Arnold Palmer at 3rd place (\$1.4 billion).
- 161. ▶ Forbes' best countries in world for business in 2018 (153 Nations) -
 - ▶ UK stayed at top of List, followed by New Zealand and Netherlands.
 - ▶ India is ranked 62nd on list. China ranks 66th.
- 162. ▶ Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers' List -
 - ▶ Indian-American California senator Kamala Harris topped the List. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is ranked second in list and Indian-origin stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj ranked 3rd.
- 163. ▶ Foreign ministers of India, US and Japan held a trilateral meeting in New York on sidelines of 72nd annual session of UN General Assembly. It was attended by Sushma Swaraj on India's Behalf.
 - ▶ Miroslav Lajcak (Slovakia) is president of 72nd UN General Assembly.
- 164. ▶ Fortune Most Powerful Women in Business List -
 - ▶ USA - Indian Origin PepsiCo chairman Indra Nooyi ranked at 2nd, led by General Motors chairman and CEO Mary Barra.
 - ▶ Outside USA - Chanda Kochhar (ICICI Bank CEO) ranked 5th and Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma ranked 21st. List is topped by Banco Santander group executive chairman Ana Botin.
- 165. ▶ Fortune magazine's *World's Most Admired Companies* List 2018
 - ▶ Apple topped the for 11th Consecutive year.
 - ▶ E-commerce firm Amazon retained 2nd spot, followed by Google's parent Alphabet.
- 166. ▶ Fortune's 'Businessperson of the Year' list -
 - ▶ It is annual ranking of world's top 20 heads of companies.
 - ▶ Aditya Puri, Managing Director of HDFC Bank, is the only Indian on (ranked 18th).
 - ▶ Top 3 - Jensen Huang (Nvidia), Jamie Dimon (JPMorgan Chase), Marc Benioff (Salesforce)
 - ▶ Indian Origin Person on list -Ajay Bagga (Mastercard, 6th), Shantanu Narayan (Adobe)
- 167. ▶ France's lower house of parliament approved new Anti-Terror Law. Now several controversial measures under state of emergency that has been in act for nearly two years have been made permanent.
- 168. ▶ French Govt. approved banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within country and its overseas territories.
- 169. ▶ French anti-doping laboratory of Chatenay-Malabry provisionally suspended by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), upon self-reported analytical issues to WADA by laboratory.
- 170. ▶ German Development Bank KfW signed agreement with India's North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) for Providing \$20 Million of Additional Funding for India's *Pare Hydroelectric Plant* project under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation.
- 171. ▶ Germany will assist Indian Railways to make country's existing rail corridors semi high speed (max speed of 200 km per hour) on existing 643 km Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways.
- 172. ▶ Gevora Hotel in Dubai became *world's tallest hotel* with 356.53 Metres height, 1 metre taller than previous title holder *JW Marriott Marquis*.

173. ▶ Global Democracy Index by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) (165 Nations and 2 Territories) -
- India slipped to 42nd place among 165 Nations, from 32nd place last year.
 - List has been divided into 4 broad categories - *full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime and authoritarian regime*.
 - North Korea is ranked lowest 167th, while Syria is a 2nd worst at 166th place.
 - Top 5 - Norway (1), Iceland (2), Sweden (3), New Zealand (4) and Denmark (5).
174. ▶ Global Financial Centres Index 2017 by Z/Yen Partners and the China Development Institute (CDI). It is released twice a year, in March and September, and ranks 92 financial centres. Top 10 -
- London
 - New York
 - Hong Kong
 - Singapore
 - Tokyo
 - Shanghai
 - Toronto
 - Sydney
 - Zurich
 - Beijing
175. ▶ Global Human Capital Report 2017 by World Economic Forum (130 Nations) -
- Top 5 - Norway (1), Finland (2), Switzerland (3), United States (4), Denmark (5)
 - Bottom 5 - Mali (126), Ethiopia (127), Senegal (128), Mauritania (129), Yemen (130)
 - Neighbours - Bangladesh (111), Pakistan (125), Nepal (98), Sri Lanka (70)
 - BRICS - Brazil (77), Russia (16), **India (103)**, China (34), South Africa (87)
176. ▶ Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2017 report released by Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) -
- India ranked 100th position among 119 countries, slipping 3 positions as compared to 97th rank in 2016 GHI.
 - Neighbours - Nepal (72), Bangladesh (88), Sri Lanka (84) and China (29), Pakistan (106).
 - BRICS - Brazil (18), Russia (22), **India (100)**, China (29), South Africa (55)
 - Top 5 - Belarus (1), Bosnia & Herzegovina (2), Chile (3), Croatia (4), Cuba (4)
 - Bottom 5 - Zambia (115), Madagascar (116), Sierra Leone (117), Chad (118), Central African Republic (119)
177. ▶ Global TB Report 2017, released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) -
- India tops list of seven nations, accounting for 64 % of the 10.4 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in 2016.
 - India is followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa.
 - Estimated 1.7 million people died from TB in 2016.
178. ▶ Global ranking for least and most stressful cities, by Zipjet (150 Cities) -
- Top 5 - Stuttgart (Germany), Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Hannover (Germany), Bern (Switzerland), Munich (Germany)
 - Bottom 5 - Cairo (Egypt), Dakar (Senegal), Lagos (Nigeria), Kabul (Afghanistan), Baghdad (Iraq) (150th)
 - India - New Delhi (142), Mumbai (138), Kolkata (131), Bangalore (130)
179. ▶ Google acquired a part of electronics company HTC Corporation's engineering and design teams for \$1.1 billion. Bought team of approx 2000 engineers are the ones that worked on *Pixel smartphones*.
180. ▶ Google launched *Bulletin* app that allows anyone to submit stories related to their local communities. Users can do this easily with their phone and it will be published straight away in the web. Google has not mentioned how it will verify the authenticity of the content.
181. ▶ Google launched *Datally* App that will help users understand, control and save on their mobile data. It will enable users to track their data usage in real time, and get personalized recommendations on saving data along with notifications of public Wi-Fi spots available nearby.
- Google also launched *Files Go* app that takes a mobile-first approach to freeing up space, finding files faster and easily sharing them with others, even when offline.
182. ▶ Google signed USD 1.1 billion deal with HTC for talent acquisition, to acquire nearly 2000 HTC engineers, to expand in hardware sector and in Asia Pacific region.
183. ▶ Google will open a research lab focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Beijing (China), its first such centre in Asia.
184. ▶ Google will shut down its high-end smartphone Augmented Reality (AR) platform named *Tango* and will focus on its mass market product *ARCore*. Tango, support will stop on March 1, 2018.
- Tango was introduced in 2014 and relied on advanced camera hardware to build 3D meshes of spaces.

-  It was difficult for Google to get phone manufacturers to build this expensive functionality into their products.
185. ▶ Government of India will assist Mauritius to develop and set up digital locker services, under DigiLocker (a key initiative of Indian government under its flagship Digital India program).
-  This service provides citizens a shareable private space on a public cloud wherein they can store their documents, aimed at paperless governance.
186. ▶ Government of South Australia approved building a major solar thermal plant which will be largest such thermal power plant in world and will power 35 % of households in South Australia. It will be developed by a US Firm, Solar Reserve at cost of Australian Dollar 650 million.
187. ▶ Grant Thornton's International Quarterly Business Report (IBR) -
-  India remained 7th in *business optimism* index In Jul - Sep 2017 quarter, compared to 2nd slot in previous Quarter.
-  Indonesia is at top, followed by Finland and the Netherlands.
188. ▶ Guinea became a member of International Solar Alliance (ISA) as it handed over its instrument accession to India-initiated ISA (headquarters in Gurugram (Haryana)).
-  Additionally, International Solar Alliance (ISA) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed Joint Financial Partnership Declaration for cooperation on renewable energy projects around world.
189. ▶ Gulf Nation Qatar announced that it will introduce a minimum wage for workers, amid increasing global scrutiny over its alleged ill-treatment of migrant labourers.
190. ▶ HSBC (Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation) Pledged to provide \$100billion of finance for low-carbon technology and sustainable development by 2025 as part its commitment to tackling climate change and other "green" goals.
191. ▶ Haryana Agriculture University (HAU) and Netherlands government will jointly work on a project to tackle issues like crop residue management, bio-defence strategy, protected cultivation, peri-urban and urban horticulture, floriculture and hydroponic vegetables. An Indo-Dutch Horticulture Centre at Jhajhar would also be set up.
192. ▶ Henley & Partners – Kochenov Quality of Nationality Index (QNI) Report -
-  Top 3 - Germany (1st), France and Denmark (Joint 2nd), Iceland (3rd)
-  Afghanistan is ranked at bottom of index
-  India is ranked 101 among 159 countries
193. ▶ Hinduja Group's Ashok Leyland signed MoU Russian Firm Rosoboronexport for supplying tracked vehicle solutions to armed forces.
194. ▶ Hindustan Shipyard Ltd partnered with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd of South Korea for construction of fleet support ships (FSS) for Navy in both countries.
195. ▶ 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).
196. ▶ Hurricane Nate has hit Louisiana (USA) with maximum wind speed of 137 kilometres per hour.
197. ▶ IMD Talent Rankings 2017 (63 Nations)
-  India ranked 51st (as compared to 54th rank last year). Rankings based on performance in three categories — investment and development, appeal, and readiness.
-  Top 5 - Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Finland. Leading Asian economies in rankings are Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.
198. ▶ Inclusive Internet Index (III) 2018 report by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -
-  2018 edition of report covered 91% of the world's population and expanded data set of 86 countries, up from 75 countries in 2017.
-  India ranked 47th out of 86 countries, slipping by 11 positions compared to 36th rank in 2017.
-  Top 3 Nations - Sweden, Singapore, USA.
199. ▶ India & Sri Lanka signed MoU to upgrade Thondaman Vocational Training Centre in Srilanka. India would provide LKR 199 million to upgrade training facility.
200. ▶ India - UK Joint research projects on *Water Quality Research (WQR)* and *Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment (EDR)* have been launched. WQR programme has 8 projects and EDR programme has 4 projects, with joint investment of up to £15 million.
201. ▶ India Stated to UN General Assembly that there is no possibility of India joining Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as non-nuclear weapon state.
-  As per NPT, those countries that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before January 1, 1967 are nuclear-weapon states. Note that Pokhran I (Codename *Smiling Buddha*) was India's first successful nuclear test that was held on 18 May, 1974.
-  India advocates maintaining a credible minimum deterrence based on a No-First Use policy. India also committed to not using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.

202. ▶ India and Bhutan jointly unveiled *Special logo* for Golden Jubilee (50 years) celebrations through video-conference. During 2018, India and Bhutan will conduct several high-level exchanges.
203. ▶ 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.
204. ▶ India and Israel Jointly Launched a centre for excellence in floriculture, Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.
 - ▶ A similar centre specialising in vegetables such as capsicum, cucumber and tomatoes will be established in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu in January 2018, as part of a 3-year Indo-Israel agricultural partnership.
 - ▶ These centres will develop agricultural practices suitable for that particular geographical region and will share the best practices with local farmers.
205. ▶ India and Pakistan extended agreement of Thar Link Express, second solitary rail service between both countries for upto 2021. It links Jodhpur (India) and Karachi (Pakistan) via Munabao (Rajasthan)-Khokhrapar (Sindh) border crossing and carries only passengers.
206. ▶ 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.
207. ▶ India and Spain signed Techno-commercial agreement to provide institutional mechanism for mutual cooperation in field of urban transport and for construction of the three Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
 - ▶ 3 RRTS corridors Delhi-Meerut, Delhi – Panipat and Delhi – Alwar will be implemented in 1st phase.
 - ▶ RRTS is first of its kind project in India, with design speed of 180 kmph. It will use state-of-the-art technologies for track structure, rolling stock and signalling system. RRTS corridors will significantly reduce travel time between important NCR towns.
208. ▶ India announced collaboration with Russia to build a nuclear plant in Bangladesh, as first initiative under Joint deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third-world nations. It is also India's first atomic energy venture abroad.
 - ▶ Rooppur Nuclear project (capacity of 2*1200 MWs) is Bangladesh's first atomic energy project.
209. ▶ India approved granting long-term visa (LTV) to minorities from Afghanistan seeking refuge in India.
210. ▶ India became biggest importer of U.S. oil refinery by-product 'petcoke', by Importing 8 Million Tonnes of USA's total export of 20 Million Tonnes of Petcoke in 2016.
 - ▶ Petroleum coke called as 'petcoke', a U.S. oil refinery by-product, is cheaper and burns hotter than coal. But it also contains more planet-warming carbon and heart and lung-damaging sulfur.
211. ▶ India become top borrower from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans in 2017.
 - ▶ Indonesia is at second position with USD 600 million worth loans.
 - ▶ AIIB is headquartered in Beijing (China) and has authorized capital of 100 Billion USD. India is 2nd largest shared holder in AIIB (8.52%) after China (26%). AIIB is preferred lender as it charges only 1 to 1.5 % interest with long term repayment and 5 year grace period.
212. ▶ India contributed \$50,000 to United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres's Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in UNs goals.
213. ▶ India contributed additional \$1 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund, earmarked for South-South cooperation. It aims to intensify partnerships with other developing countries in south
 - ▶ India pledged multi-year contribution of \$100 million to the fund established in June 2017. India has already provided \$6 million within 7 months since launch of fund.
214. ▶ India donated 500 metric tonnes of rice to Kingdom of Lesotho, in Southern Africa, which is facing acute food shortage due to famine.
215. ▶ India emerged as 5th most attractive market for investments and the optimism over global economic growth is at a record level, as per survey of CEOs by global consultancy PwC.
 - ▶ USA remains as top spot for global investment with 46% global CEOs considering USA as most attractive market for investment, followed by China (33%) and Germany (20%).
216. ▶ 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.
 - ▶ NKN will be connected from these countries either to Delhi, Mumbai or Kolkata, depending on the proximity.
217. ▶ India handed over *Varuna* off-shore patrol vessel to Sri Lanka as a part of stepping up co-operation between coast guards of 2 nations.
218. ▶ 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).

219. ▶ India initiated dumping probe on imports of 'Sodium Nitrite' from Russia, used in industries such as pharma and food processing.
 - ✎ If it is proved that dumping has caused material injury to domestic industry, DGAD would impose anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite.
220. ▶ India is planning to launch major connectivity initiative, connecting Chennai with Russian port Vladivostok via sea route with an aim to harness natural resources from Northeast Asia and Western Pacific region. It will enable to transfer cargo between Chennai and Vladivostok in 24 days in comparison to over 40 days currently taken to transport goods from India to Far East Russia via Europe.
221. ▶ India is selected as Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Review & Reforms to look into various issues pertaining to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPSC) at KP Plenary Session in Brisbane (Australia), with Angola chosen as Vice Chair.
 - ✎ India was chosen KP Vice Chair for 2018 & Chair for 2019 in last plenary of KP in Dubai in November 2016.
 - ✎ Kimberley Process is joint initiative of governments, industry and civil societies to stem flow of 'conflict diamonds', rough diamonds used by rebel groups to finance wars against legitimate governments.
222. ▶ India joined *Australia Group*, an informal bloc (group) of countries that keeps a tight control over exports of substances used in making of chemical weapons. It is expected to strengthen India's bid to enter 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
 - ✎ India is now part of 3 of 4 key export control groups in world dealing with non-proliferation. Other 2 are -
 - ✎ Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) - an informal partnership among 35 countries that regulates trade in sensitive equipment and technologies to ensure there is no proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying payloads above 500kg for more than 300km.
 - ✎ Wassenaar Arrangement - An informal grouping of 42 countries, exercising control over the export of dual-use goods and technologies in December 2017.
223. ▶ India joined Ashgabat Agreement which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and Persian Gulf to significantly boost up trade and investment.
 - ✎ Ashgabat Agreement aims at establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, signed in April 2011.
224. ▶ India launched *Incredible India* campaign in Cairo (Egypt Capital) to woo Egyptian travellers and make them aware of magnificent holiday options in India.
225. ▶ India opened 2nd second Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) in Sharjah (UAE), To provide support and counseling to Indians in distress. It will help overseas Indian community in any matter. Indians may call 80046342 from anywhere in UAE to get help.
226. ▶ India pledged additional US \$100 million towards UN-India Partnership Fund to significantly scale up its support to sustainable development projects across developing world, in addition to US \$10 million already contributed by India to various UN programmes.
 - ✎ India-UN Development Partnership fund was set up as partnership between India and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on 9 June 2017 (World Oceans Day).
227. ▶ India provided financial assistance of USD 45.27 million to Sri Lanka for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour (northern Sri Lanka) into a commercial port, through Export and Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
228. ▶ India re-elected to Council of the International Maritime Organization [IMO] under Category "B" at 30th session of IMO Assembly in London.
 - ✎ IMO is headquartered in London (UK) with Kitack Lim as Current Chief.
229. ▶ India received its first High Horsepower Locomotive with bodyshell of 12000 HP loco from Alstom France at Kolkata port, to be used to haul freight trains at twice the existing speed by 2018 (120 KM/H)
 - ✎ It is first major FDI project in rail sector and each such locomotive costs approx INR 30 crores.
230. ▶ India refused to be a part of Bali Declaration adopted at conclusion of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bali (Indonesia), to show solidarity with Myanmar. It was not adopted because it carried inappropriate reference to violence in Rakhine State from where 1,25,000 Rohingya Muslims fled to Bangladesh.
231. ▶ India remained biggest importer of Ukraine's agriculture products in 2017 so far, importing 11.3 % of \$14.7 Billion worth of exports of Ukraine's Agricultural Produce.
232. ▶ India replaced China as the top retail destination in 2017 as part of global retail development index. Change in ranking was an outcome of four factors increased consumer spending beyond essentials, rising mobile and internet penetration, favorable foreign investment climate and bold action on cashless transaction and GST.
233. ▶ India revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Kenya, to enhance transparency in tax matters, control tax evasion, and eliminate double taxation. It offers reduced withholding tax rate on dividend and interest to 10 % from 15 %.

234. ▶ India will be guest of honour during 6th World Government Summit to be held in February 2018 in Dubai (UAE). The summit is first global forum for governments, countries, organizations and private sector leaders interested in industry of the future.
235. ▶ India will provide USD 2.87 million to Afghanistan for renovation of 350 buses that will help in strengthening the public transport system of Kabul (Afghanistan).
236. ▶ India will set up a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at Al Azhar University (Egypt), to high-tech education and skills to youngsters of Egypt.
237. ▶ India's Numaligarh Refinery that supplies High Speed Diesel to Bangladesh, despatched first diesel consignment of 30 MT to Myanmar through NH 37. It is to enhance hydrocarbon synergy with neighbouring countries as well as promoting India's Act East Policy.
238. ▶ India's TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) ranked 30th in Fortune's annual list of Top 50 companies that are changing the world. TCS's mKRISHI® App is one of important reasons that got TCS into list, that lets farmers to access customised expert advice, market information and weather data. Top 3 - JP Morgan Chase, DSM, Apple.
239. ▶ India's exposure to US government securities increased sharply to \$135.7 billion, with China at top with \$1.166 trillion, followed by Japan with exposure worth \$1.113 trillion. India is 12th largest holder of US government securities.
240. ▶ Indian Automobile Major Mahindra opened its new manufacturing plant with an investment of \$230 million in Detroit (USA), Known as world's car capital. It is Detroit's first automotive production facility in 25 years.
241. ▶ Indian IT Major HCL acquired automation driven data management platform *Datawave* (UK) to accelerate data integration and migration for clients.
242. ▶ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) will set up a Centre of Excellence in Kochi (Kerala), to facilitate exchange of research findings and studies in field of fisheries and ocean studies among IORA member countries.
- ▶ Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an international organisation consisting of 21 coastal states bordering Indian Ocean. Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius. India's K V Bhagirath is current Secretary General of IORA.
243. ▶ Indian Pharma Firm *Dr. Reddy's Laboratories* introduced anti cancer injection drug Melphalan Hydrochloride in USA. Melphalan hydrochloride for injection is indicated for the palliative treatment of patients with multiple myeloma for whom oral therapy is not appropriate.
244. ▶ Indian President Ram Nath Kovind visited African Nations Djibouti and Ethiopia as his first Foreign Visit.
245. ▶ 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.
246. ▶ Indian software company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed a pact with National University in Philippines to launch a comprehensive training programme aimed at enhancing the skills of university graduates for the job market.
247. ▶ Indian startup *Kheyti* won prestigious award in Israel for developing an affordable modular greenhouse that aims to give farmers steady & dependable income. It was chosen in MassChallenge Israel contest that saw participation from over 500 companies.
248. ▶ India's IndiGo is ranked 4th most *Punctual mega carrier* in world, ahead of British Airways and Lufthansa in a List by Aviation Analytics Company OAG. The list ranks Japan Airlines is at top.
249. ▶ India's NTPC will supply 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity to Bangladesh for 15 years, earning 900 Crores in annual revenue. It is under a Tender by Bangladesh for supply of 500 MW power from India.
250. ▶ India's first sovereign wealth fund National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and Dubai-based ports operator *DP World Pvt. Ltd* Jointly created an investment platform to invest up to \$3 billion in ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India. This is the first investment platform from NIIF.
251. ▶ Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) Ghaziabad announced as one of champions of United Nations' initiative on Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), at World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland).
- ▶ PRME Champions Group consists of B-Schools involved as PRME signatories, working on real-time implementation of sustainability principles from various part of world. It aims to create activities that focus on UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
252. ▶ International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) launched IBM Blockchain as first international payments network of its kind to Help financial institutions in cross-border payments. IBM partnered with KlickEx Group and Stellar.org, a nonprofit organization that supports an open source blockchain network for financial services.
253. ▶ International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has released *The Paradise Papers* as global investigation that reveals offshore activities of some of most powerful people and companies.
- ▶ Among 180 countries represented in data, India ranks 19th in terms of number of names. In all, 714 Indians have been figured in this largest ever black money data leak.
254. ▶ International Intellectual Property (IP) Index report by Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of US Chambers of Commerce (50 Nations) -











🇮🇳 India Ranked 44th, increasing substantially from 25% in 5th edition of Index to 30% in 6th edition.

🇺🇸 Top 3 - USA, United Kingdom, Sweden.

255. ▶ 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.
256. ▶ International Monetary Fund approved USD 88 billion credit line for Mexico, replacing existing line of credit.
257. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended its Brazilian arm and Honorary Membership of head of Brazil's Olympic committee Carlos Nuzman, amid proven corruption allegations.
258. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) announced target to support setting up 1000GW of solar energy capacity by 2030 across its member countries, during a ceremony in Bonn (Germany). This target does not take into account renewable energy targets or projects that countries are pursuing on their own as part of their national efforts 16 countries have ratified framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and it will come into force on 6 December 2017.
259. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) became treaty-based international intergovernmental organization, nearly a Month after Guinea became 15th country to ratify it.
- 🇮🇳 ISA is first treaty-based international government organisation to be based in India, with its secretariat in campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurgaon (Haryana).
 - 🇮🇳 So far, 46 countries have signed and 19 ratified Framework Agreement of ISA International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 - 🇮🇳 ISA was launched by India and France in November 2015 during COP-21 of UN Climate Conference in Paris (France).
 - 🇮🇳 ISA aims at addressing obstacles to deployment at scale of solar energy through better harmonization and aggregation of demand from solar rich countries by bringing standardization in solar technologies and fostering research and development.
 - 🇮🇳 Ministry of External Affairs has set aside US\$2 billion for solar projects in Africa out of India's US\$10 billion concessional Line of Credit (LOC) for Africa. France also pledged Euro 300 million soft loan for solar related projects in ISA member countries.
 - 🇮🇳 Australia also announced Joining ISA.
260. ▶ Iran banned English from being taught in primary schools, amid suspected Western cultural invasion.
261. ▶ Iran inaugurated first phase of Chabahar port located in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province. Port will bypass Pakistan and will open new strategic transit route between Iran, India and Afghanistan. First phase is expected to increase its cargo handling capacity to 8.5 million tons annually, by over 3 hree times from previous 2.5 million tons.
262. ▶ Iran's key strategic port of Chabahar became operational with First shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan, from Kandla port in Gujarat.
- 🇮🇳 Its a major push for India's Afghan outreach as it completely bypasses Pakistan, under 2016 Indo-Afghan-Iran trilateral pact.
 - 🇮🇳 Chabahar port is strategically located in Sistan-Balochistan province on energy-rich Iran's southern coast and can be easily accessed from India's western coast.
263. ▶ Iraq PM Haider al-Abadi declared victory in a 3year war by Iraqi forces against Islamic State jihadist group. He claimed that Iraqi forces are in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border.
264. ▶ Israel Parliament passed a controversial law that limits police's ability to recommend charges following their investigations, after criticism that lawmakers were seeking to protect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu The move was undertaken after widespread criticism and large protests against corruption.
265. ▶ Israel formally withdrawn from UNESCO (*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*). Tensions began after UNESCO admitted Palestine as a member state in 2011.
- 🇮🇳 Israel has been a UNESCO member since 1949, having 9 sites on UNESCO heritage list.
266. ▶ 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.
267. ▶ JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) approved Official Development Assistance loan for Yen 45 billion for Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3) (I). People of this area will be provided with safe water supply and sewerage services.
268. ▶ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully launched Michibiki-4 satellite (QZSS-4) as 4th satellite in Michibiki series i.e. Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), which is a satellite-based high-precision global positioning system similar to US operated GPS.
269. ▶ Japan approved Aid of Approx 73 Crores INR for Implementation of Advanced Traffic Information and Management System in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
270. ▶ Japan will offer grant of 8.4 million Yen (Approx 48 Lakh INR) for construction of a vocational training centre for poor women and youth in Rajasthan's Baran district.

271. ▶ Japanese Emperor Akihito will abdicate on April 30, 2019, becoming the first Japanese monarch to leave the post in 200 years. Afterwards, Crown Prince Naruhito will take the post of Japanese emperor.
272. ▶ Japanese PM Shinzo Abe Visited India, arriving in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- ✎ He participated in 12th India - Japan Annual Meeting.
 - ✎ 15 MOUs signed during Mr. Abe's Visit to India, Including -
 - ✎ Disaster Risk Management
 - ✎ Japanese Language Skills Development
 - ✎ India Japan Act East Forum will be established to enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in northeastern region of India.
 - ✎ Arrangement between Postal departments for implementation of cool EMS service, through which fresh food can be sent from Japan to India in cool boxes for Japanese expatriates in India.
 - ✎ India-Japan Investment Promotion Road map to facilitate Japanese investments in India.
 - ✎ MoC between Japanese Trade Ministry and Gujarat State on *Japan-India special programme for Make In India* in Mandal Beachraj-Khoraj.
 - ✎ Civil Aviation
 - ✎ Science and technology
 - ✎ Life sciences and biotechnology.
 - ✎ Sports
 - ✎ India and Japan signed open sky arrangement to allow airlines from both countries to operate unlimited number of flights.
 - ✎ Foundation stone of India's first high-speed rail project (bullet train) project has been laid. This 508km-long Mumbai to Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project will be built at cost of Rs 1.10 lakh crore. It is expected to be completed by 2022. (It was recently advanced by year from earlier deadline of 2023). An INR 600 Crores high-speed rail training centre for first bullet train project will be set up in Vadodara (Gujarat), to become operational by December 2020.
273. ▶ Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched *new Earth observation satellite ASNARO-2*. It will perform Earth-observation tasks for 5 years from its orbit at an altitude of about 500 km.
274. ▶ Jet Airways and Air France-KLM partnered to route more traffic through Europe and on to North America.
275. ▶ Johannesburg (South Africa) based Global Market Research Group New World Wealth Report 2017 -
- ✎ Based on Total wealth of countrymen, Top 10 wealthiest countries are (amount in USD Billion)-
 - ✎ USA - 64584
 - ✎ China - 24803
 - ✎ Japan - 19522
 - ✎ United Kingdom - 9919
 - ✎ Germany - 9660
 - ✎ **India - 8230**
 - ✎ France - 6649
 - ✎ Canada - 6393
 - ✎ Australia - 6142
 - ✎ Italy - 4276
 - ✎ Report in Context of India -
 - ✎ India is now 6th richest in terms of wealth held by its people.
 - ✎ Since 2016, Indians' wealth increased 25% from 6584 to 8230 Billion USD in Just 1 year, which is more than china's 22 % increase over the period.
276. ▶ Joint Army Exercise of Pakistan and Russia, DRUZBA 2017 held in Russia.
277. ▶ Kazakhstan surpassed Iraq as biggest oil over-producer in among Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Nations. Kazakhstan's oil output in November and December 2017 was nearly 130000 barrels a day and Kazakhstan promised to pump out 20000 barrels a day less as per OPEC pact.
278. ▶ Lebanon approved country's first animal welfare bill into law, to ensure that domestic and wild animals will be legally protected from abuse.
279. ▶ Lebanon's parliament approved country's first budget in 12 years, to reform fragile economy and prevent rising debt.
- ✎ Political crisis gripped Lebanon since the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in 2005, thereby preventing successive government from passing the budget.

280. ▶ Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. signed MOU with Turkey's Armagan family for acquiring 100% of Erkunt Traktor Sanay (4th largest tractor manufacturer in Turkey) for approx \$70 Million.
281. ▶ Maldives Govt. declared a state of emergency deepening political crisis, after armed troops stormed country's top court.
282. ▶ Middle Asean Nation Kazakhstan will change its name to Qazaqstan, as part of a transition from Cyrillic to a Latin-based script. A national commission will oversee this transition and will complete it by 2025.
283. ▶ Middle asean Nation Tajikistan banned women from wearing veils and asked women to *stick to traditional national clothes and culture*.
284. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs started Operation Insaniyat to provided assistance to Bangladesh in response to humanitarian crisis being faced by it due to large influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.
285. ▶ Morocco launched an earth observation satellite called 'Mohammed VI-A', aboard European consortium Arianespace's Vega rocket from French Guyana Space Centre.
286. ▶ Mount Agung, a volcano In Bali (Indonesia) erupted for the first time in over 54 years.
287. ▶ Mumbai is named among top 15 wealthiest cities globally, with a total wealth of \$950 billion. New York (USA) topped the list. Mumbai also features among top 10 cities in terms of billionaire population, with 28 billionaires.
288. ▶ Myanmar will launch its own satellite system MyanmarSat-2 in June in 2019, with 6 C-band and 6 Ku-band transponders.
 - ✎ Myanmar is currently using MyanmarSat-1 on lease system, whereas MyanmarSat-2, will be used on joint ownership system with an undisclosed partner.
289. ▶ National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and China's Dalian Municipal People's Government signed agreement to create a platform called Sino-Indian Digital Collaboration Plaza (SIDCOP) in Dalian.
290. ▶ National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) signed MoU with Finland's Fortum Oyj for developing electric vehicle charging infrastructure in upcoming development projects in India.
291. ▶ National Highway Authority of India awarded its first international project in Myanmar to a joint venture of Punj Lloyd-Varaha, for upgradation of Yagyi-Kalewa section in Myanmar.
292. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and International Road Federation (Geneva) signed Statement of Intent (SoI) to cooperate in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). ITS Policy will be covering Traffic Management, Parking Management, Electronic Enforcement of Traffic Rules and Regulations, Fleet Management and Monitoring, Innovation in field of ITS.
293. ▶ Nepal Electricity Authority signed a joint venture agreement with China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC) to construct 750 MW West Seti Hydropower Project, with expenses estimated at 1.8 billion USD. CTGC will have 75% stake and NEA will hold remaining 25% in JV.
294. ▶ Nepal and India will conduct joint head tigers count in protected areas along border in November 2017, using a similar camera tapping method.
295. ▶ Nepal began its first-ever survey to remeasure Mount Everest to check if Its height was altered by 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck in 2015.
 - ✎ Official Height of Mt. Everest is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet), first recorded by an Indian survey in 1954.
296. ▶ Nepal cancelled a \$2.5 billion deal with China's Gezhouba Group Corporation to build Nepal's biggest hydropower plant of 1200 MW Capacity - *Budhi Gandaki hydroelectric project*. The project has been reportedly cancelled amid delays and lack of transparency in processes.
297. ▶ Nepal signed USD 635 million UN assistance package for 2018-2022 to lay out country's development strategy for next 5 years. The package involves 26 individual UN agencies.
298. ▶ Nepal started accessing internet from China after commercial operations began at Nepal-China optical fibre link via Rasuwagadhi gateway across Himalayan Mountains. It ends Nepal's dependence on India for internet bandwidth, considered strategic loss for India. It is believed that initial speed by Chinese fibre link will be 1.5 Gigabit per second (gbps), less than 34 gbps provided by India.
299. ▶ Nepalese tea received an international trademark, after over 150 years of beginning of cultivation in country. Now, tea will be sold in international market with a common logo, representing national identity.
300. ▶ New Manchester-India Partnership (MIP) aimed at connecting Indian companies with Northern regions of England has been launched in London (UK). This partnership is aimed at advancing trade, investment, science and innovation ties between India and Britain.
301. ▶ New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) imposed fine of USD 225 million on Pakistan's Habib Bank Limited (HBL) for failure to comply with New York laws and regulations designed illicit financial transactions.
302. ▶ North African country Tunisia abolished decades-old ban on Muslim women marrying non-Muslims.
303. ▶ North Korea successfully launched nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) *Hwasong-15*, said to be North Korea's most powerful Missile Yet. It has operational range of over 5000 KMs.
304. ▶ North Korea successfully tested a hydrogen bomb, placable on an intercontinental ballistic missile. It triggered a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in area, marking it biggest test so far.

-  In Response, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed new sanctions against North Korea over its sixth and most powerful nuclear test. It was 9th sanctions resolution adopted by UNSC since 2006 over North Korea's missile programs.
305. ▶ Norway became world's first country to shut down national broadcasts of its FM network by completing its transition to digital radio, to allow for better sound quality, a greater number of channels and more functions, at a cost eight times lower than FM radio.
306. ▶ Norway's sovereign wealth fund (Largest in world) just reached value of \$1 trillion for the first time. It means \$189,000 for everyone of 5.3 million Norwegians. With stakes in over 9,000 companies, it owns 1.3 % of world's market capitalization and 2.3 % in Europe.
307. ▶ ONGC Videsh Ltd (overseas arm of ONGC) acquired 30 % interest in Namibian Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) 37, from UK's Tullow Oil.
308. ▶ Oman revised tourist visa for people from India, China and Russia in order to attract more tourists from these countries. Oman granted non-sponsored tourist visas for the citizens of India, China and Russia.
309. ▶ Oxford Dictionaries declared Youthquake as 2017's Word of the Year, reflecting what it calls a political awakening among millennial voters. Other Words of The year 2017 -
-  *Populism* - Cambridge Dictionary.
 -  *Kwaussie* - Australian National Dictionary.
 -  *Feminism* - Merriam-Webster's.
310. ▶ Pakistan allowed Chinese currency Yuan for exports and financing transactions. Chinese Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan.
311. ▶ 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.
312. ▶ Pakistan declared Mandarin as an official languages of Pakistan, along with Urdu and English.
313. ▶ Pakistan inaugurated its 5th nuclear power plant (C-4 plant) in Mianwali (Punjab). This 340 MW Chasma – IV (C – 4) nuclear power plant is developed in collaboration with China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).
314. ▶ Pakistan will up a new hydropower project on Jhelum River, of over 700 megawatts in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), named Azad Pattan Hydropower Project (APHP). Project cost of USD 1.51 billion will be procured from foreign entities.
315. ▶ Palestinian political parties Hamas and Fatah signed reconciliation deal to end a decade-long rift, brokered by Egypt. This was signed to implement a unity agreement that was signed in 2011 but was not put to action.
316. ▶ Passport Index developed by advisory firm Arton Capital -
-  Singapore's passport become most powerful in world with Visa-Free Score of 159.
 -  India secured 75th rank in index with Visa-Free Score of 51.
 -  Afghanistan stayed at bottom position (94th) while Pakistan second worst (93rd).
317. ▶ People's Bank of China (PBC) banned raising funds through initial coin offerings (ICO), where unregulated means of crowd funding for project are used via use of cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin etc. Ownership or royalties of project is offered to investors in form of digital coins. It allows entrepreneurs create their own digital currencies and selling "coins" on web under ICO route, allowing them to raise millions of dollars quickly.
318. ▶ Peru Government authorized medicinal and therapeutic use of cannabis (marijuana) in country, becoming sixth Latin American country to legalise cannabis.
319. ▶ Philippines expressed its displeasure over construction of an apparent airbase on a man-made island in the South China Sea by China.
-  China reportedly uses cabbage strategy for militarization of large areas in disputed south china sea, which is protested by neighboring nations (including *India, Japan, Bhutan, Philippines, Japan, Malaysia and Brunei*) claiming control on various parts of mineral rich south china sea.
 -  Cabbage strategy is also called *salami-slicing* strateg, Under which a contested area is surrounded by multiple security layers to deny access to the rival nation and is claimed subsequently. As per the observers, China, for a long time, has been pursuing this strategy.
320. ▶ Poland will quit a precautionary Flexible Credit Line (FCL) from International Monetary Fund (IMF) worth \$9.2 billion, after Polish economy gaining strength recently. Polish budget reported a surplus for January - August 2017 amid rise in revenue from value-added tax.
321. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind will make his first foreign trip to African Nations Ethiopia and Djibouti in October 2017.
322. ▶ Qatar Airways became first in world to launch double beds in business class sections of Flights from London to Doha in Qatar, called Qsuites.
323. ▶ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2018 -
-  Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) emerged as top-ranked Indian institute in List with rank 34th. Note that IIT Bombay was ranked 179th in QS World University Rankings. Other top 4 Indian Institutes in List are IIT Delhi (41st rank), IIT Madras (48th rank), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (51st rank).

🇸🇬 Singapore's Nanyang Technology University has topped QS Asia University Rankings 2018.

324. ▶ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings : BRICS 2018 () -

🇨🇳 Top 10 Universities in BRICS Nations -

- 🇨🇳 Tsinghua University (China)
- 🇨🇳 Peking University (China)
- 🇨🇳 Fudan University (China)
- 🇨🇳 University of Science and Technology of China (China)
- 🇷🇺 Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia)
- 🇨🇳 Zhejiang University (China)
- 🇨🇳 Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)
- 🇨🇳 Nanjing University (China)
- 🇮🇳 **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)**
- 🇮🇳 **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore**

🇮🇳 India Facts -

🇮🇳 Top 10 Public Institutions in India

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

🇮🇳 Private Universities in India

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

325. ▶ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is world's 3rd biggest energy company behind Russian gas firm Gazprom and German utility E.ON, according to Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings.

🇮🇳 Indian Oil Corp (IOC) climbed to 7th position, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) placed 11th and Coal India Ltd ranked 45.

326. ▶ Report by analyst firm Canalys -

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

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

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

328. ▶ Ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) proposed amending China's Constitution to allow 3rd term of any Individual as President of China. It will allow Xi Jinping to continue as President beyond 2023.

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

330. ▶ Russia and Iraq restored commercial airline services for first time since 2004.



🇮🇳 Russia had suspended flights to Iraq after 2003 US-led invasion pushed Iraq into war.

331. ▶ Russia and USA space agencies (Roscosmos and NASA) will jointly build a *deep space gateway* as first astronaut-tended space station around Moon. It would help prepare for manned missions to deep space destinations including Mars.

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

333. ▶ Russia launched world's largest and most powerful icebreaker ship, Sibir. It is designed to transport cargo via Northern Sea Route in Arctic Ocean.

334. ▶ Russia liquidated last arsenals of its chemical weapons, 3 years ahead of schedule (2020).

335. ▶ Russia signed agreement with Northern African Nation Sudan to build its first nuclear power plant, to help Sudan solve its energy security problems.
336. ▶ Russia used its veto power to block a UN Security Council resolution to extend work of International inspectors to determine who was behind deadly chemical weapons attacks in Syria that took place on 4 April 2017 in Syria.
337. ▶ Russian government will develop an 'independent internet' for BRICS Nations, that would operate separately from Domain Name System used worldwide, that would continue services in the event of a global internet infrastructure collapse. It would be totally independent of international bodies and international infrastructure, yet still remaining linked to the global internet.
338. ▶ Russian space agency Roskosmos launched *Progress MS-08* unmanned cargo spacecraft for International Space Station (ISS). It carried equipments for German-Russian ICARUS research project aimed at studying wildlife-migration patterns and other material.
339. ▶ Russian-drafted resolution on a technical rollover of Yemen sanctions regime is adopted by United Nation Security Council (UNSC). Note that a Britain-drafted resolution failed to adopt after being vetoed by Russia. It committed for action against Iran and censured it for providing missiles and drones to Houthi rebels in Yemen.
340. ▶ Rwanda (East Africa) became first low-income country to provide universal eye care for its 12 million population. Its Government partnered with *Vision for a Nation (VFAN)* to train over 3,000 eye care nurses based in over 500 local health centres.
341. ▶ Saudi Arabia Govt. allowed women to open their own businesses and benefit from government e-services without having to prove consent from husband or male guardian, as a major step away from country's strict guardianship system that has ruled it for decades. Saudi Arabia has also for the first time opened applications for women to enlist in military in rank of Soldiers.
342. ▶ Saudi Arabia and Britain signed framework deal for military cooperation, as Britain seeks to explore lucrative trade deals outside Europe after leaving European Union.
343. ▶ 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.
344. ▶ Saudi Arabia became first country to give citizenship to a robot, after it named a robot *Sophia* as its Citizen during a business event named Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh.
345. ▶ Saudi Arabia issued a decree that allows women to drive cars. Women are now also allowed to enter national stadiums in national sports events.
346. ▶ Saudi Arabia lifted 35 year old ban on providing licenses to commercial movie theatres, aimed at economic growth and diversification.
347. ▶ Saudi Arabia lifted ban on voice and video calling apps such as WhatsApp and Skype and will make them widely available to users, to improve business confidence as reduce dependence on oil revenues.
348. ▶ Saudi Arabian Oil Firm *Saudi Aramcos* (Known as Aramco) Opened Its India Office named ARAMCO ASIA INDIA in Gurugram (Haryana).
 In 2016 Saudi Aramco established its formal business in India through its subsidiary ARAMCO Asia India (AAI). It will focus on crude oil and LPG marketing, engineering & technical services, and other business development activities.
349. ▶ Saudi Arabian government approved practice of yoga as a sports activity. Yoga can now be freely practiced as a sport in Saudi Arabia.
350. ▶ Scientists developed new military watch for Russian army kit, which is capable of resisting high impact and can even survive a nuclear explosion.
351. ▶ Scientists from New Zealand have developed world's first artificial intelligence politician named *SAM*, that can answer queries regarding local issues such as policies around housing, education and immigration.
352. ▶ Singapore will impose a 'carbon tax' from 2019 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions and make companies more competitive as global agreements on climate change take effect. Tax will be SG\$5.0 (USD 3.8) per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions from 2019 to 2023.
353. ▶ 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.
354. ▶ South Africa declared a *national disaster* over a drought that has ravaged parts of country and threatened to leave city of Cape Town without domestic tap water.
 Cape Town is in grip of a catastrophic 3 year long drought as sparse winter rains have failed to bring relief, and dam levels have dropped to dangerously low levels.
355. ▶ South Korea and Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) signed MoU for industrial co-operation, with a focus on automobile, defence and textiles sectors. It aims to help Gujarat-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to explore opportunities through joint ventures with South Korean firms.
356. ▶ South Korea banned its financial institutions from dealing in virtual currencies including Bitcoin, in wake of recent surge in Bitcoin price.
357. ▶ South Korean and USA air forces held *Vigilant Ace* joint exercises.

358. ▶ Spanish Colony Catalonia declared independence from Spain, following a parliamentary referendum. After this declaration, Spanish government dismissed Catalan President, allowing Spain to directly administer the region.
359. ▶ Sri Lanka became 163rd nation to accede to anti-personnel mine ban convention, as it agreed for Prohibition of use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.
- ✎ Convention on Prohibition of Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, commonly referred to as the Mine Ban Treaty or Ottawa Treaty, was adopted on September 18, 1997.
360. ▶ Sri Lanka formally handed over its southern strategic port of Hambantota to Chinese firm *China Merchants Port Holdings Company (CM Port)* on a 99-year lease. Hambantota port is strategically located right in the middle of vital energy supply lines in the Indian Ocean, connecting the Middle East and East Asia.
361. ▶ Sri Lanka signed MoU with India to build 1,200 houses in strategically located southern port city of Hambantota. 600 will be constructed in Southern Province while remaining will be built across Sri Lanka, through one model village in each of country's 25 districts.
- ✎ Hambantota port is located right in middle of vital energy supply lines in Indian Ocean, connecting Middle East and East Asia. Hambantota gained significance recently after Sri Lanka decided to build deep-sea port and airport with huge Chinese loans.
 - ✎ India also provided equipment and vehicles worth USD 585,000 to University of Jaffna in Sri Lanka.
362. ▶ Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissioned Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) SURAKSHA gifted by India at Colombo port, as first OPV of Sri Lankan Coast Guard.
363. ▶ Sweden hosted large scale war exercise named *Aurora*, with NATO.
364. ▶ Sweden signed Strategic Partnership Agreement with United Nations for committing record \$370 million dollars to UN World Food Programme, for next 4 years (2018-2021). It is biggest ever contribution made by a donor within a WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement.
365. ▶ Switzerland unveiled world's steepest funicular railway link to alpine resort of Stoos. It rises 743 metres along gradients as steep as 110% and has a track length of 1720 metres. It has been built at cost of INR 333 crores.
366. ▶ Tanzania withdrew from United Nation's *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework*, citing security reasons and lack of funds. Tanzania is considered as safe haven for refugees, particularly from conflict hit Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi.
367. ▶ Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp of Germany signed MoU for creating 50:50 Joint Venture as one of Europe's largest steel companies.
368. ▶ Tata Steel and Wipro are 2d Indian companies in US-based Ethisphere Institute's list of World's Most Ethical Companies for 2018, containing 135 companies from 23 countries. Tata Steel and Wipro are receiving the award for the sixth and seventh time respectively.
369. ▶ Tech Firm Apple acquired music recognition app Shazam, for approx \$400 million.
370. ▶ Telecom services provider Bharti Airtel and SK Telecom of Korea partnered for leveraging the SK Telecom's expertise to build advanced telecom network in India.
371. ▶ Tencent became first Chinese company to be valued at more than \$500 billion in Asia. Alibaba is Asia's second-highest-valued firm at \$474 billion.
372. ▶ Term *Fake news* has been named the word of the year by Collins dictionary due to its widespread use around the world. Note that it has been heavily used and popularised by USA President Donald Trump.
373. ▶ Thomson Reuters Corp's First *Top 100 Global Technology Leaders* list 2018 -
- ✎ Top 3 - Microsoft (1), Intel (2), Cisco Systems (3)
 - ✎ 45 % of 100 tech companies are headquartered in USA. Japan and Taiwan are tied for second place with 13 companies each, followed by India with 5 tech firms (TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra).
374. ▶ Three Indian entrepreneurs - Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal and Vinod Khosla have been included in Forbes's special list of world's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds.
375. ▶ Times World University Rankings 2018 -
- ✎ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru retained top position among Indian Universities, although its global position fell to IISc 251-300 band. IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur are in 501-600 band, IIT Bombay in 351-400 club and IIT Kharagpur and IIT Roorkee retained their positions in 501-600 bracket.
 - ✎ Top 10 - Oxford University (UK), Cambridge University (UK), California institute of Technology (USA), Stanford University (USA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), Harvard University (USA), Princeton University (USA), Imperial College London (UK), University of Chicago (USA), ETH-Zurich (Switzerland).
376. ▶ To expedite skill development in North East region of India, Singapore will set up a Skill Development Centre in the region.
377. ▶ Top 150 universities on Global University Employability Ranking 2017 published by Times Higher Education -

✎ 1	California Institute of Technology	United States
2	Harvard University	United States
3	Columbia University	United States
4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States

5	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
6	Boston University	United States
7	Stanford University	United States
8	Technical University of Munich	Germany
9	University of Tokyo	Japan
10	Yale University	United States

Indian Universities in List -

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru (29th)

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (145th)

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (148th)

378. ▶ Travel guide company Lonely Planet ranked Chile as Most worth visiting country in 2018, followed by South Korea and Portugal. Seville of Spain was ranked as number one city in most visit worthy cities.
379. ▶ Tropical cyclone Gita hit small South Pacific island country Tonga with Category 4 intensity. with winds upto 145 mph. India contributed 1 Million USD as rehabilitation aid to Tonga.
380. ▶ Turkey Approved a controversial legislation to let state - approved clerics (Muftis / Civil Servants) to conduct and register marriage ceremonies. It will pave way for child marriages.
381. ▶ Turkey opened its largest military base in Africa, in Mogadishu (capital of Somalia) to train Somali Soldiers.
382. ▶ Twitter officially increased number of characters in tweets from 140 to 280, except tweets in Japanese, Chinese and Korean languages that can convey more information in a single character.
383. ▶ Typhoon Tembin struck Philippines, causing huge human and financial losses.
384. ▶ UAE begun collecting new *sin* taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks, with tobacco and energy drinks taxed at 100 % and soft drinks at 50 %.
- ▶ All six members of Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to begin collecting so-called VAT taxes. GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.
385. ▶ UAE, UK, US and French armies participated in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi (UAE), named as *Flag4*.
386. ▶ UK government extended a pilot student visa scheme to 23 more universities under which Indian and other non-EU students will get six months time to find a job after finishing their course (upto 13 months duation). Scheme was introduced last year on a pilot basis in four British universities - Oxford, Bath, Cambridge and Imperial College London.
387. ▶ UN announced end of 13 year old military peacekeeping mission in Haiti, that helped maintain order in Haiti through 13 years of political turmoil and disaster.
388. ▶ UN will mark 100th Birth anniversary of South African Social Reformer Nelson Mandela (July 18, 2018) with a high-level meeting on world peace, named as *Nelson Mandela Peace summit*.
389. ▶ 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.
390. ▶ UNICEF released its report *The State of the World's Children*, with theme *Children in a digital world*. Report states that India's girls and women are at risk of becoming further marginalised in society and at home if they remain digitally illiterate.
391. ▶ UNICEF report on newborn mortality rate -
- ▶ Pakistan has worst NMR in world, with 45.6 babies dying out of every 1,000 births in 2016. Pak is Followed by Afghanistan and Central African Republic.
 - ▶ Japan has best NMR, followed by Iceland and Singapore.
 - ▶ India's NMR is 25.4, making it 12th worst among 52 'lower-middle-income countries' that pose risk for newborns. India aims to attain NMR of 12 by 2030.
 - ▶ Further, As per report by NITI Aayog, sex ratio at birth (SRB) declined in 17 out of 21 large states of India, with Gujarat recording 53 points fall. Gujarat is followed by Haryana (35 points drop) and Rajasthan (32 points drop).
392. ▶ US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced USD 1 million support for Ending Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic in India and to raise TB awareness to help India in its fight against TB.
- ▶ USAID also announced its first impact bond across globe by launching 'Rajasthan Development Impact Bond (Utkrisht Impact Bond) aiming to reduce number of mother and baby deaths by improving quality of maternal care in Rajasthan's health infrastructure.
393. ▶ US Consulate General, Kolkata launched *Youth for Business-Y4BIZ*, a support programme for young entrepreneurs in eastern region of India.
394. ▶ US Trade and Development Agency signed MOU with Airports Authority of India, to support a 20-year master plan aimed at expansion of operational capacities of Kolkata and Lucknow international airports.

395. ▶ US and UAE Armies begun joint military exercise in Abu Dhabi, with name *Iron Union 5*.
396. ▶ US media company Meredith Corporation acquired US Based Publishing Brand *Time Inc.* for USD 2.8 billion. Time Inc. is a multinational mass media corporation owns over 100 magazine brands including *Time, Sports Illustrated, Travel + Leisure, Food & Wine, Fortune, People, InStyle, Life, Golf Magazine, Southern Living, Essence, Real Simple, and Entertainment Weekly*.
397. ▶ US-India Business Council (USIBC) launched a collaborative initiative for Women Entrepreneurs titled 'Women for Women Innovators, Social Leaders & Entrepreneurs' (WISE), launched during USIBC's Road to GES event 'Creating the Foundations of Innovation'.
- ▶ WISE will be led by Country Head of Intel, Nivruti Rai and will comprise prominent female business person like Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Vanitha Narayanan and Amita Vyas.
398. ▶ USA Army Opened Its First permanent base in Middle Eastern Nation Israel.
399. ▶ USA Congress authorised \$700 million in Coalition Support Fund (CSF) to reimburse Pakistan for activities carried out in support of US operations in Afghanistan.
400. ▶ USA President Donald Trump announced to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition. USA became 1st country to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, since foundation of Israel in 1948. USA will also move its Israel Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- ▶ Israel has always regarded Jerusalem as its capital, while Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as capital of a future Palestinian state.
 - ▶ Later, United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution that stated this US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as 'null and void'. The resolution was moved by Turkey and Yemen.
401. ▶ USA President Donald Trump scrapped an amnesty programme introduced during Obama's term that granted work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as Children. It is likely to impact over 800,000 undocumented workers including more than 7000 Indian-Americans.
402. ▶ USA Space Firm *SpaceX* launched secret Zuma Mission for USA government, onboard Falcon 9 rocket.
- ▶ Zuma mission remains a secret as its nature or purpose and the agency behind it has not been made public.
403. ▶ 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.
404. ▶ USA and Israel withdrew from UNESCO, accusing UNESCO of "anti-Israel bias".
405. ▶ USA announced grant of nearly USD 500,000 for organisations that work to promote religious freedom in India and Sri Lanka.
406. ▶ USA approved sale of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) anti-missile defence system to Saudi Arabia at an estimated cost of \$15 billion (Rs. 98,000 crore). It includes 44 THAAD launchers and 360 missiles along with fire control stations and radars.
407. ▶ USA central bank fined global banking giant HSBC \$175 million for failing to oversee foreign exchange traders who misused confidential client information and colluded with traders at competing banks. This action comes 2 months after Fed also fined BNP Paribas USD 246 million over similar violations.
408. ▶ USA lifted ban that it had imposed on refugees from 11 nations, which it termed as high-risk countries. The 11 Nations are - *Egypt, Iran, Libya, South Sudan, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, Mali, North Korea, Somalia and Syria*.
409. ▶ USA lifted economic and trade sanctions against Sudan that were put in 1997, in response to Sudanese Govt's efforts to end hostilities in conflict areas, improve humanitarian access and maintain cooperation with USA in regional conflicts to tackle terrorism.
410. ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
411. ▶ USA will issue a 4 level travel advisory to its citizens from January 2018, based on a four- level classification system with clearly recommended actions. Four levels will be -
- ▶ Level one – exercise normal precautions
 - ▶ Level two – exercise increased caution
 - ▶ Level three – reconsider travel
 - ▶ Level four – do not travel
412. ▶ USA withdrawn itself from a United Nations pact to improve handling of migrant and refugee situations deeming it 'inconsistent' with policies.
413. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) in Mid-2020, as a next-generation space telescope to provide largest picture of universe ever seen, with same depth and clarity as Hubble Space Telescope.

414. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia formed new economic and partnership group named *Joint Cooperation Committee*, separate from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- ▶ JCC will coordinate between UAE and Saudi Arabia in all military, political, economic, trade, cultural and other interest of 2 countries.
 - ▶ It will be headed by *Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.
415. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched its first space programme aimed at sending four Emirati astronauts to International Space Station within 5 years.
416. ▶ United Kingdom (UK) government formed a dedicated national security unit to counter fake news and disinformation. It will flag fake information on social media.
417. ▶ United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that considers right of peoples to self-determination as a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights.
418. ▶ 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.
419. ▶ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Health Organisation (WHO) will collaborate to accelerate curbing environmental health risks.
420. ▶ United Nations General Assembly approved regular budget of \$5.397 billion for 2018-2019, marking 5% cut (286 million dollar) as compared to budget for 2016- 2017.
421. ▶ Valletta (capital of Malta), is officially named European Capital of Culture 2018, along with Netherlands' city Leeuwarden.
422. ▶ Vanuatu (South Pacific island nation) became first nation to accept bitcoin in exchange for citizenship. Vanuatu's citizenship program costs \$200,000 USD, meaning that at current prices the residency program costs less than 42 bitcoins.
423. ▶ Venezuela Government announced 40 % increase to minimum wage, amid hyperinflation in oil-rich but crisis-stricken southern american nation.
424. ▶ Venezuela and Libya were suspended from voting in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018-19 session for not paying UN dues. It was for third time in three years these countries have been suspended from voting for unpaid dues. Their dues are - \$25 Million (Venezuela) and \$6 Million (Libya).
425. ▶ Venezuela become first country to officially launch its own cryptocurrency called *Petro*, backed by oil, gas, gold and diamond reserves to circumvent US-led financial sanctions. Venezuelan Government claimed that pre-mined cryptocurrency Petro raised US \$735 million on first day of its pre-sale.
426. ▶ 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.
427. ▶ Victoria became first Australian state to legalise assisted dying (euthanasia), as lawmakers voted to allow terminally ill patients the right to request a lethal drug to end their lives from June 2019.
428. ▶ WHO released first tranche of emergency funding of \$175,000 to provide lifesaving healthcare to vulnerable Rohingya muslims population in Bangladesh.
429. ▶ 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*.
430. ▶ World Bank allocated \$8 billion for infrastructure projects under China's Silk Road initiative.
- ▶ Purpose of Silk Road initiative is to create an economic corridor connecting China with Asia, Europe and the rest of world.
 - ▶ Silk Road project has two components - Silk Road Economic Belt (land-based connectivity) and Maritime Silk Road (ocean based connectivity).
431. ▶ World Bank announced \$1.15 billion development policy loan for Egypt to support its economic reform programme, with \$500 million from World Bank Group, \$150 million from Britain and \$500 million from African Development Bank.
- ▶ Additionally, International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved \$ 44.5 million credit for Madagascar, to support the country's economic recovery.
432. ▶ World Bank will end its financial support for oil and gas exploration after 2019, in response to growing threat posed to climate change.
433. ▶ World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business index' 2017 (190 Nations) -
- ▶ India - India Improved 30 positions to rank 100th amongst 190 countries, Ranking India among top 10 improvers in 2017.
 - ▶ Top 5 - New Zealand (1), Singapore (2), Denmark (3), South Korea (4), Hong Kong (5)
 - ▶ Bottom 5 - Somalia (190th), Eritrea (189th), Venezuela (188th), South Sudan (187th), Yemen (186th)

- Neighbours - Bangladesh (177), Nepal (105), Pakistan (147), Sri Lanka (111)
 - BRICS - Brazil (125), Russia (35), China (78), South Africa (82)
434. ▶ World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Inclusive Development Index 2018 -
- India ranked at 62nd place. China is on 26th position, Pakistan is on 47th and Bangladesh is ranked 34th.
 - Top 5 Advanced Economies - Norway, Ireland, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Denmark.
 - Top 5 Emerging Economies - Lithuania, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Poland
435. ▶ World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Global Risks Report 2018 -
- On dimensions of Likelihood and impact, 5 environmental risks - *extreme weather, major natural disasters, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, man-made environmental disasters, and failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation* are accorded highest weightage.
 - Top-ranking global risk on dimension of impact was *use of weapons of mass destruction* while on dimension of likelihood, *extreme weather events* ranked top.
436. ▶ World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) 2017-18 (137 Nations) -
- Top 5 - Switzerland (1st), United States (2nd), Singapore (3rd), Netherlands (4th) and Germany (5th)
 - Bottom 5 - Mauritania (133), Liberia (134), Chad (135), Mozambique (136) Yemen (137)
 - BRICS - China (27th), Russia (38th), **India (40th)**, South Africa (61st) and Brazil (80th).
 - Neighbours - Bangladesh (99), Nepal (88), Pakistan (115), Sri Lanka (85)
437. ▶ World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index 2017 (144 Nations) -
- India - India came down 21 places to ranked **108** in 2017 List, due to less participation of women in economy and low wages.
 - Top 5 - Iceland (1), Norway(2), Finland (3), Rwanda (4), Sweden (5)
 - Bottom 5 - Iran (140), Chad (141), Syria (142), Pakistan (143), Yemen (144)
 - BRICS - Brazil (90), Russia (71), India (108), China (100), South Africa (19)
 - Neighbours - Bangladesh (47), Sri Lanka (109), Nepal (111), Pakistan (143)
438. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) for first time has formulated clinical guidelines on responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused. These guidelines provide first line support to child or adolescent in response to the disclosure of sexual abuse.
439. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) released report *Non-communicable Disease Progress Monitor 2017*, as a measure of status of implementation of 19 indicators of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in WHO's 194 Member States.
- Costa Rica and Iran are best performing countries, with each achieving 15 of 19 indicators. They are followed by Brazil, Bulgaria, Turkey and UK.
440. ▶ World Health Organisation Central African Nation Gabon as *Polio-free*.
441. ▶ World Inequality Report 2018 by World Inequality Lab based at the Paris School of Economics (France) -
- Deregulation and related economic reforms in India since 1980s have led to significant increase in inequality. Inequality is increased to such an extent that In 2014, India's top 1% of earners grabbed 22% share of national income, while bottom 50% managed to get only 15% share.
 - Globally, since 1980, richest 1% earners have captured twice as much as the poorest 50% of world population.
442. ▶ World Migration Report 2018 by *UN International Organisation for Migration* -
- Indian diaspora is the largest in world, with 1.5 crore Indians living abroad India also receives highest amount in remittances (\$68.91 billion last year).
 - Largest migration corridor is from India to UAE, where 3.5 million Indians were residing in 2015.
 - USA is top destination for migrants, with 46.6 million migrants moving to USA in 2015.
443. ▶ World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017 -
- India is third in world in number of nuclear reactors being installed with 6 reactors. China is leading at 20. Total operational units across the world are 53 currently.
444. ▶ World Payments Report 2017 by Capgemini and BNP Paribas -
- China is ahead of India in digital payments space with 38 Billion Transactions in 2015, as compared to 4.5 Billion Digital Transactions in India in 2015. India had 25 billion non-cash transactions for 2017-18..
 - China will have growth of 36 % in digital transactions during 2016-20 while India will grow at average 26.2 % during the period.
 - Globally, Debit cards account for 46 percent of non-cash transactions followed by credit cards with 19.5 percent in 2015.
445. ▶ World Trade Organization (WTO) formed a panel to look into Qatar's complaint against measures imposed on it by UAE for Qatar's alleged financial support for militant groups.
446. ▶ World skills competition 2017 held in Abu Dhabi (UAE) -

- ▶ Indian team consisting of 28 competitors won 2 medals and 9 Medallions of Excellence in key skills. Mohit Dudeja won a silver for Patisserie and Confectionery and Kiran won a bronze for Prototype Modelling.
- 447. ▶ World trade in goods is estimated to grow at a higher 3.6 % in 2017, compared to earlier estimate of 2.4 %. This change was mainly due to intra-regional shipments picking up and a recovery in import demand in North America.
- 448. ▶ World's first camel hospital opened in Dubai (UAE).
- 449. ▶ World's 100 Most Powerful Women list 2017 by Forbes -
 - ▶ CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar is most powerful woman in India, 32nd globally.
 - ▶ List is topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, making it her 7th consecutive year at top and 12th overall. She is followed by UK Prime Minister Theresa May (rank 2).
- 450. ▶ World's deepest lake - Lake Baikal (Russia) is reportedly undergoing its gravest crisis in recent history.
 - ▶ It Holds 23 % of world's unfrozen fresh water. It is as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and includes over 3,600 plant and animal species.
 - ▶ Since past few years, it has been crippled by a series of damaging phenomena such as disappearance of the omul fish, rapid growth of putrid algae and death of endemic species of sponges across its vast 3.2 million-hectare area.
- 451. ▶ World's first robot ski competition *The Edge of Robot: Ski Robot Challenge* held near PyeongChang (South Korea), with Eight humanoid robots participating and \$10000 Prize Money.
- 452. ▶ World's largest airplane (by wingspan) Stratolaunch successfully completed its initial engine tests in USA, designed for launching for sending satellite-carrying rockets into low-Earth orbit. Its wingspan measures 118 m between ends. It weighs about 227,000 kg and can carry nearly 250,000 kg between two fuselages. It has operational range of approximately 2,000 nautical miles.
- 453. ▶ World's longest glass bridge opened in Shijiazhuang (China). It lies 218 meters above hanging between the two cliffs in Hongyagu Scenic Area in Pingshan county, with 488 Meters length and capacity to hold 2000 people.
- 454. ▶ Zimbabwe's military seized control of nation by placing longtime leader Robert Mugabe under house arrest.
- 455. ▶ 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. ▶ 11th meeting of Conference of the Parties to Vienna Convention and 29th Meeting of Parties to Montreal Protocol held in Canada -
 - ▶ During this, UN Environment pledged \$540 million to developing countries to continue their work in phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals, for 3 years starting from 2018. Funds will be provided through the Multilateral Fund for Implementation of Montreal Protocol, which has disbursed over \$3.7 billion to developing countries since 1991 for phasing out ozone-depleting chemicals.
2. ▶ 14th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi (October 06, 2017). EU was represented by European Council President Donald Tusk. 3 MOUs were Signed on this occasion -
 - ▶ Implementing Arrangement for Indian Researchers hosted by European Research Council grantees in Europe
 - ▶ Finance Contract of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2-Line R6 for Euro 300 million out of total loan of Euro 500 million
 - ▶ Joint Declaration between International Solar Alliance and the European Investment Bank
3. ▶ 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit-2017 (GES 2017) held in Hyderabad (Telangana) -
 - ▶ It was jointly organized by NITI Aayog and USA Government.
 - ▶ Theme for 2017 GES is *Women First, Prosperity for All*.
4. ▶ 105th Indian Science Congress will be held at Manipur University in Imphal (Manipur) in March 2018. The venue has been changed from Osmania University (Hyderabad) earlier.
5. ▶ 10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) held in Kathmandu (Nepal) with theme *Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia*.
6. ▶ 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health held in New Delhi with theme *Investing in Adolescent Health—the Future is Now*.
7. ▶ 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties 12 (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Held in Manila (Philippines) with theme *Their Future is Our Future – Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People*. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that India will host next CMS Conference of the Parties 13 (CMS COP13) in 2020.
 - ▶ 34 species of vultures including 4 from India on their migratory routes were awarded highest protection by Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) 2017 held in Manila.
8. ▶ 13th Asia-Europe (ASEM) foreign ministers' meeting Held in Naypyidaw (Myanmar).

9. ▶ 14th SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Law conference and 11th SAARC chief justices conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka).
10. ▶ 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting will be held in New Delhi in April 2018. India will host this in association with China and South Korea.
11. ▶ 2018 World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) held at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi), with theme *Partnerships for a Resilient Planet*.
12. ▶ 21st World Congress of Mental Health organized in New Delhi, in association with World Federation for Mental Health. Theme of conference is '*Partnerships for Mental Health*'.
13. ▶ 22nd World Information Technology Congress (WITC) 2018 held in Hyderabad (Telangana), with theme *Future Enterprises*. India is hosting WITC for first time. Further, 26th Nasscom India Leadership Forum (ILF) was also held alongwith.
 - ▶ During this, Telangana government signed MOU with Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in state.
14. ▶ 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began in Bonn (Germany). India is being represented by Harsh Vardhan (Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), who inaugurated Indian Pavilion at Conference of Parties (COP) 23 with theme *Conserving Now, Preserving Future*.
15. ▶ 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP-24) meet held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) with theme *Space Technology for Enhanced Governance and Development*.
16. ▶ 25th National Children Science Congress (NCSC-2017) held at Gandhinagar (Gujarat) with theme *Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development* with special focus on persons with disabilities.
17. ▶ 2nd World Congress on Marxism will be held in Peking University in Beijing in May 2018 with theme *Marxism and the current world and China*
18. ▶ 2nd meet of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Santiago (Chile). During this, China invited Latin American and Caribbean countries to join its 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, to deepen economic and political cooperation. CELAC was formed in Venezuela in 2011 and it does not include USA and Canada.
19. ▶ 3 Day Organic World Congress 2017 organized by International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) and OAFI at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida (UP).
 - ▶ OWC is organized every 3 years in different countries with last edition held in 2014 in Turkey. 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states showcased 4,000 varieties of seeds.
20. ▶ 3 day International Hindu Conference held in Kathmandu (Nepal), with theme *Emerging spiritualism: Renaissance of Hinduism*.
21. ▶ 39th Bi-annual General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) held in Paris (France). It was attended by Prakesh Javedkar (Minister of Human Resource Development) on India's Behalf.
 - ▶ India has been re-elected to UNESCO's Executive Board. European Nation Finland has been elected to UNESCO's Executive Board after 20 years.
22. ▶ 42nd World Congress of International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) organised by Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) in New Delhi with Theme *Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead*.
23. ▶ 48th annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) held in Davos (Switzerland) -
 - ▶ Theme for event was *Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World*.
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi Visited On India's Behalf, along with several other union ministers. He became First Indian PM to Visit Davos WEF Meet in past 20 years, after H D Deve Gowda's Visit in 1997.
 - ▶ World Economic Forum (WEF) launched Global Centre for Cybersecurity to safeguard world from hackers and growing data breaches. Headquartered in Geneva, centre will become operational from March 2018.
 - ▶ Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with 24th Crystal Award at WEF Meet in Davos, for his *leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India*
 - ▶ During this Visit, India and Vietnam signed MOU for cooperation in field of Information and Broadcasting and space. India and Vietnam also launched first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to highlight bilateral ties between them, with theme *ancient architecture*.
 - ▶ India announced to host informal Ministerial meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) in March 2018 in New Delhi.
24. ▶ 4th ASEAN-INDIA Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry held in New Delhi .ASEAN stands for *Association of SouthEast Asian Nations*.
25. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 will be hosted by India in New Delhi in November 2017.
26. ▶ 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 (GCCS 2017) hosted by New Delhi with theme *Cyber4All*.

27. ▶ 61st IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) General Conference held at Vienna (Austria). It was attended by Sekhar Basu (Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission & Secretary in Department of Atomic Energy) on India's Behalf.
28. ▶ 7th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Seoul (South Korea) with Theme *Innovative Partnership for Inclusive Prosperity*.
29. ▶ 7th Asia Steel International Conference will be organized in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) in February 2018, by Tata Steel and Indian Institute of Metals.
30. ▶ 8th Conference of SAARC Nations' Speakers and Parliamentarians held in Colombo (Sri Lanka), attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on India's Behalf.
31. ▶ 9th *CMS Vatavaran* global film festival on environment and wildlife held in New Delhi with Theme *Conservation 4 Water*.
32. ▶ 9th BRICS Summit 2017 in Xiamen (China) with Theme *BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future*. Documents signed -
 - ▶ Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation
 - ▶ BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation(2017-2020)
 - ▶ BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Co operation.
 - ▶ MoU between BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation.
 - ▶ Five banks of BRICS Nations (*Brazilian Development Bank, Vnesheconombank, Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank and Development Bank of South Africa*) established credit lines in national currencies and cooperate on credit ratings. Also, New Development Bank (NDB) approved 1.4 billion US dollar loans for sustainable development projects in India, Russia and China.
 - ▶ China will give \$76.4 million for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at BRICS countries' New Development Bank.
33. ▶ ASEAN–India (Association of Southeast Asian Nations-India) Connectivity Summit (AICS) held in New Delhi with theme *Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century*.
34. ▶ An International Peace Conference held in Imphal (Manipur), to promote peace and harmony in the North Eastern region of India.
35. ▶ 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).
36. ▶ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Da Nang (Vietnam) with theme *Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future*.
 - ▶ APEC is 21 Pacific Rim countries Grouping. APEC summit for 2018 will be held in Papua New Guinea.
37. ▶ China will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit at Qingdao (Shandong Province) in June 2018.
38. ▶ Chinese electronic firm Huawei unveiled *Balong 5G01* as world's first 5G chip at Mobile World Congress 2018 in Barcelona (Spain). It offers 3GPP standard 5G connectivity and provides downlink speeds of up to 2.3Gbps.
39. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in Russian port city of Vladivostok, to attend 3rd Eastern Economic Forum. Eastern Economic Forum includes representatives from Russia, Pacific Region and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
40. ▶ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Visited USA for participating in G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C. He also participated in Annual Meetings of World Bank and IMF in Washington D.C.
41. ▶ First 5-day *International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2017)* started in Jaipur (Rajasthan), organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in partnership with World Bank, and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).
42. ▶ First International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness 'Arogya 2017' Organized in New Delhi, with theme *Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH*.
43. ▶ First ever Conference of Partners NGOs organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi with theme *Implementation of Policies, Schemes and Programmes for Women and Children: Challenges and Way Forward*.
44. ▶ First ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India - *India Mobile Congress 2017* held at Pragati Maidan, Led by Department of Telecom and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI),.
45. ▶ First-ever meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BITFM) was held at Parvasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi, organized by Ministry of AYUSH.
46. ▶ Global Clubfoot Conference organised by CURE India and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi. Clubfoot is one of most common orthopaedic birth defects where one or both feet are rotated inwards and downwards.
47. ▶ Global Digital Health Partnership Summit held at Canberra (Australia), attended by J P Nadda (Minister for Health and Family Welfare) on India's behalf.

48. ▶ Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) Conference held in New Delhi, jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), World Bank and United Nations Development Programme with Theme *Peoples' participation in wildlife conservation*.
- ▶ During this, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) unveiled 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031, aimed at improving wildlife conservation. First action plan was released in 1983 to 2001 and 2nd from 2002 to 2016.
49. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 4 day First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) in New Delhi. Main exercise will comprise of Table Top Exercise (TTX), Field Training Exercise (FTX) and After Action Review (AAR).
50. ▶ India attended meeting of international military cooperation departments of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for first time, in Beijing (China).
51. ▶ India will conduct first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (DMEx-2017) in October 2017 in New Delhi.
52. ▶ India will host 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health in October 2017 with theme *Investing in Adolescent Health : the Future is Now*.
53. ▶ India will host 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB at Mumbai in June 2018, with Theme *Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration*.
- ▶ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) also approved its first Loan to China as USD 250 million loan aimed at reducing its dependence on coal by building a natural gas distribution network for villages.
 - ▶ AIIB is headquartered in Beijing (China) with Jin Liqun and President.
54. ▶ India will host first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit in March 2018 in Delhi.
- ▶ International Solar Alliance is a treaty based inter-governmental alliance. It comprises of 121 solar energy abundant nations located between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn. It aims to make solar energy affordable.
55. ▶ India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) signed IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries, during 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban (South Africa).
- ▶ Each country will contribute US \$1 million annually to this fund which is managed by UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.
 - ▶ Meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on India's behalf.
56. ▶ India-ASEAN commemorative summit meeting held in New Delhi to mark Silver jubilee (25 Years) of India-ASEAN partnership.
- ▶ A day before, India - ASEAN business and investment conference was held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Bharat-ASEAN Maitri Park in Delhi.
 - ▶ ASEAN consists of 10 countries - *Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei*.
57. ▶ Indian Government and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organized International Conference on *Consumer Protection for South, South East and East Asian Nations* with theme *Empowering Consumers in New Markets* in New Delhi. India didn't invite Pakistan and North Korea to attend the same.
58. ▶ International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)'s Global Conference and General Assembly 2017 held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). During it, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) retained its seat as Director on Global Board of ICA, for 2nd time in a row.
59. ▶ International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organized ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2017 Held in New Delhi with Theme *Heritage and Democracy*.
60. ▶ International Dam Safety Conference held at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
61. ▶ International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s 15 day meeting started in Geneva (Switzerland).
62. ▶ International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted *International Solar Alliance Forum* at Future World Energy Summit (WFES) 2018 in Abu Dhabi (UAE). It is ISA's first global Outreach Program after it came into force On 6th December 2017, upon being ratified by 15 Nations. Some key announcements were made during the event -
- ▶ Raj Kumar Singh (*Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy*) stated that India will achieve its target of 175 GW of installed Renewable Energy capacity well before 2020. India will set up of a \$ 350 million solar development fund for solar projects financing.
 - ▶ Upendra Tripathy (Interim DG of ISA) informed that 2nd RE-INVEST meet will be held in India in April 2018, and over 100 projects shall be signed by ISA by April 2018.
 - ▶ YES Bank committed financing solar projects of over \$5 Billion. While CLP and NTPC announced partnership with ISA and committed contribution of \$1 million each to ISA fund corpus. Yes Bank also tied up with *Amplus Energy Solutions* to co-finance solar energy projects in India.
63. ▶ J P Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare visited Moscow (Russia) to attend 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB. He reaffirmed India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. The conference focused on eliminating TB across globe by 2030.

64. ▶ Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan visited Astana (Kazakhstan) to co-chair 13th Meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) with Kazakhstan.
65. ▶ Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi Visited Argentina for attending 4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held in Buenos Aires.
66. ▶ Ministry of Culture and National Geographic Society hosted 4th international conference on *Dialogue of Civilizations – IV* in Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira. It was initiated by NGS in 2013 to promote knowledge about 5 ancient literate civilizations of world - Egypt, China, Mesopotamia, South Asia and Mesoamerica.
67. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with USA will host 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES 2017) in Hyderabad (Telangana) in November 2017 with theme *Women First, Prosperity for All*. This is the first time GES is being held in South Asia.
68. ▶ PM Narendra Modi will be first Indian Prime Minister in past 20 years to attend annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos (Switzerland), to be held in January 2018.
69. ▶ South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) organized *Across Barriers-International Business Women's Summit* at Kathmandu, (Nepal).
70. ▶ UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference 2017 held in Vancouver (Canada).
71. ▶ UNFCCC Climate Change Conference (COP23) held in Bonn (Germany), presided over by Government of Fiji.
 - ✎ It concluded with countries putting in place a roadmap for 'Talanoa Dialogue', a year-long process to assess countries' progress on climate actions. Talanoa is a traditional approach used in Fiji and other Pacific islands to engage in an inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue to resolve differences without putting any blame on any one.
 - ✎ Next UNFCCC Climate Change Conference will be held in 2018 in Poland.
72. ▶ United Nations conference on nuclear energy held at Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), to engage in dialogue on role of nuclear power in meeting future energy demand, contributing to sustainable development and mitigating climate change. Iran has boycotted the conference.
73. ▶ World Youth Forum 2017 held in Egypt with Minister of State (IC) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore attending on India's Behalf.

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1. ▶ Government also asked Odisha government to enhance its rural road construction target under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from 7,000 km to 10,000 km during the current fiscal year.
2. ▶ Election Commission announced that State Assembly elections will be held for 3 North East states in Feb 2018 - Meghalaya and Nagaland (Feb 27) and Tripura (Feb 18).
3. ▶ Maharashtra government signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth Approx 35000 Crores Thrust Aircraft Pvt Ltd, company led by Amol Yadav who built six-seater aircraft. Under the MoU signed at *Magnetic Maharashtra* investors' summit, state will give Yadav's firm 157 acres of land in Palghar district.
 - ✎ During the summit, Reliance Industries announced to invest over 60000 crore in Maharashtra in 10 years for establishing an integrated digital industrial area.
 - ✎ Indian Railways signed MOU with Maharashtra government to set up a coach factory in Latur with an investment of INR 600 crores.
4. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government in association with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched 'DASTAK', a door to door campaign to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis (AE) Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis (JES) disease from state, with tagline *Darwaja khatkhatao, AES aur JE ko bhagao*.
5. ▶ 1.5-mw small hydropower plant in Biaras Drass of Kargil became first project to be commissioned under *Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative (LREI)*, developed at cost of approx INR 17 crores.
6. ▶ 10 Days long Traditional festival of Losar celebrated in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir to mark beginning of New Year in this Himalayan region.
7. ▶ 10th Global Forum for Food & Agriculture was held in Berlin (Germany) with theme *Shaping the future of livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently*. India was represented by Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
8. ▶ 11 days Dhanu Yatra festival held in Bargarh district of Odisha.
9. ▶ 12th International Film Festival on Art and Artist began in Bhubaneswar, organised by Bhubaneswar-based Jatin Das Centre of Art (JDCA).
10. ▶ 15th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) for Documentary, Short and Animation films will be held in January – February 2018, to be organized by Films Division of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B).

11. ▶ 171st Araadhanai Music Festival started in Thiruvaiyaru (Tamil Nadu). Thyagaraja is one of Trinities of Carnatic music.
12. ▶ 2 day *International Conference on Yoga for Wellness* held in New Delhi. It is 3rd International Conference on Yoga.
13. ▶ 2 day Korea festival showcasing Korea's rich art, culture and heritage held by Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO) in Gurugram (Haryana).
14. ▶ 20th International Children's Film Festival (ICFFI) will be held in Hyderabad (Telangana) in November 2017. It will be hosted by Telangana government jointly with CFSI (Children's Film Society of India) and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
15. ▶ 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will get largest portion of loans on offer under Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) scheme.
 - ▶ RISE Scheme was in Budget 2018-19, with a corpus of INR 100000 crores. Under this, all centrally-funded institutes (CFIs) can borrow funds over next 4 years to expand and build new infrastructure.
 - ▶ Out of allotted funds, INR 25000 crores will be set aside exclusively for 23 IITs.
 - ▶ Central Universities can borrow upto 20000 crores, National Institutes of Technology (NITs) can borrow INR 11300 crores.
 - ▶ All financing will be done through the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA).
16. ▶ 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival will be organized in November 2017 in Shillong (Meghalaya).
17. ▶ 2nd Iranshah Udvada Utsav, a Parsi cultural festival organized in Gujarat.
18. ▶ 2nd edition of 'Nobel Prize Series India 2018' started in Panaji (Goa). Its a month-long Nobel Science Exhibition in which Nobel laureates interact with school children and teachers. Theme of Nobel Prize Series India 2018' is *Science Impacts Life*.
19. ▶ 3 Government PSUs - *National Aluminium Company (NALCO)*, *Hindustan Copper (HCL)* and *Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL)* signed MoU to form a joint venture *Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (Kabil)* -
 - ▶ *KABIL* will identify, explore, acquire, develop and process minerals overseas for commercial use and to meet domestic supply needs. It will deal with 12 strategic minerals that are not available in India or available in a very low quantity.
20. ▶ 3 Municipal Corporations of Delhi jointly brought out mobile application named *311*, to enhance engagement of citizens in the resolution of grievances and improvement of civic services in city. It aims to empower users by giving them locations of nearby police / metro stations / petrol pumps / toilets / parking / hospitals and other public places.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 3-Day World Food India 2017 Organized in New Delhi with Theme *Transforming the Food Economy*, Inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi -
 - ▶ Purpose is to transform food economy and double farmers' income by establishing India as a preferred investment destination for global food processing industry. This is first such grand event hosted by India in Food processing sector.
 - ▶ PM Modi launched "Nivesh Bandhu", an Investor Facilitation Portal in Food Sector.
 - ▶ Germany, Japan and Denmark are partner countries to World Food India, while Italy and the Netherlands are the focus countries.
 - ▶ Team of 50 chefs created a world record by cooking 918 kg "khichdi" live at the World Food India 2017 event, led by Noted Chef Sanjeev Kapoor.
 - ▶ MoU worth INR 10, 000 Crore signed between Government and Patanjali Ayurved Limited.
 - ▶ Telangana Government launched its 'Food Processing Policy'
23. ▶ 3rd India International Science Festival (IISF-2017) held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in October 2017, organised by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
 - ▶ During IISF 2017, New Guinness World Record for Largest Biology Lesson has been created with 1049 students participating.
24. ▶ 3rd India International Science Festival (IISF-2017) will be held in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in October 2017, organised by Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
25. ▶ 3rd Science Film Festival of India will held in Goa, titled *SCI-FFI Goa*.
26. ▶ 3rd Women of India Organic Festival held at Dilli Haat in New Delhi, aimed at promoting women entrepreneurs and farmers in organic sector.
27. ▶ 44th Indian Handicrafts and Gifts (IHGF) - Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida (UP), by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
28. ▶ 4th India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow, on dates to be decided later.
29. ▶ 5 day annual Konark dance festival started in Odisha, near famous Sun Temple of Konark.
30. ▶ 5th biennial State Ranking Survey by hospitality consulting firm Hotelivate and World Travel & Tourism Council-India Initiative (WTTC-II) -
 - ▶ Delhi is the top tourist destination of India. Followed by Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

31. ▶ 600-year-old Walled City in Gujarat's Ahmedabad has been formally accorded status of India's first World Heritage City by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
 - ▶ Walled city was founded in 15th century by Ahmed Shah of Gujarat Sultanate, on eastern bank of Sabarmati River. It presents rich architectural heritage from sultanate period.
 - ▶ It is India's first city to get World Heritage status, 3rd in Asia after Bhaktapur (Nepal) and Galle (Sri Lanka). India now has total 36 World Heritage Inscriptions 28 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site.
32. ▶ 6th Edition of 4-day international textile and apparel fair named *VASTRA* organized in Jaipur (Rajasthan).
33. ▶ *Advantage Assam*, Assam's first Global Investors summit held in Guwahati. During this, Assam Government signed MoU with National Building Construction Corporation (India) Limited for setting up a twin tower trade centre in Guwahati with a project cost of INR 1950 crores.
 - ▶ During this, it was decided that Assam State Government would set up *Invest Assam*, as dedicated agency to look into all aspects of business and investment in state.
34. ▶ *Bandhan Tod* app launched by Bihar Government as a unique initiative of Gender Alliance's strategy to end child marriage and dowry in state.
35. ▶ *No helmet, no petrol* campaign came into force in Andhra Pradesh, with CM Chandrababu Naidu allocating INR 10 crores for equipment to implement it.
36. ▶ *Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017* held in Ahmadabad (Gujarat), India's 1st World Heritage City.
37. ▶ *Sammakka Saaralamma Maha Jathara* tribal festival began in Eturunagaram (Telangana). Tribal people from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh would participate in this festival.
38. ▶ *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.
39. ▶ MSME Minister of State (Independent Charge) Giriraj Singh launched MSME Delayed Payment Portal *MSME Samadhaan* at URL <http://msefc.msme.gov.in>. It will enable MSME entrepreneurs to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments by Concerned Government Departments.
40. ▶ Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment launched *Divyang Sarathi* mobile app for easy dissemination of information to 'Divyangjans'.
41. ▶ A MoU was signed between National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and *IL&FS Transportation Networks* for construction of over 14 km long 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir.
 - ▶ This would be India's longest road tunnel and longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia. It will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.
 - ▶ Cost of project is INR 6808 crores and will completed in 7 years.
42. ▶ According to report by green energy market tracker Mercom Capital, India has achieved 20 GW (Giga watt) cumulative solar power capacity, Out of which, utility-scale cumulative installations is 18.4 GW and rooftop solar is 1.6 GW.
 - ▶ By 2022, India is targeting installation of 175GW of renewable energy capacity. It Includes 60GW of large and medium-scale gridconnected solar power projects, 60GW wind, 40GW solar rooftop projects, 10GW of bio-power and 5GW of small hydro.
43. ▶ According to state-wise analysis of state of women entrepreneurship in India by Sheatwork -
 - ▶ Tamil Nadu has highest number of women entrepreneurs in India, followed by Kerala and West Bengal.
44. ▶ Actor Kamal Haasan launched his political party Makkal Needhi Maiam (*People Justice Centre*) in Madurai (Tamil Nadu).
45. ▶ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) developed *Hortinet* mobile app for farmers to facilitate registration, testing and certification of certain fruits and vegetables.
46. ▶ Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched 6 new features in National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform to make it more user-friendly -
 - ▶ MIS dashboard for better analysis
 - ▶ BHIM payment facility by traders
 - ▶ Mobile payment facility by traders
 - ▶ Enhanced features on mobile app such as gate entry and payment through mobile
 - ▶ Integration of farmer's database
 - ▶ e-Learning module.
47. ▶ Airports Authority of India (AAI) allocated Rs 3400 crore for upgradation of airports in North East region.
 - ▶ Assam - INR 1720 crores
 - ▶ Tripura - INR 525 crores

- ✎ Manipur - INR 800 crores
- ✎ Arunachal Pradesh - INR 211 crores
- ✎ Mizoram - INR 60 crores
- ✎ Nagaland - INR 42 crores

48. ▶ All India Institute of Ayurveda has been set up on a budget of Rs 157 crore as first medical institute under AYUSH ministry to hold National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) accreditation. Oct 17 also marks 2nd Ayurveda Day of 2017.
 - ✎ Kerala Government will organise an international seminar and Global Ayurveda meet in Kochi in February 2018.
49. ▶ American e-commerce company Amazon opened its largest fulfillment center (FC) in India at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad (Telangana).
50. ▶ An MoU signed by Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya under 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' programme, to boost cultural ties.
51. ▶ An Olive workshop on *Olive Research and Development in India* organized by Department of Agriculture and Corporation & Farmers Welfare at ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture Srinagar.
52. ▶ An important heritage attraction at National Rail Museum (New Delhi) - a 108 years old monorail became operational, that was used by Maharaja of Patiala *Bhupinder Singh*. The Museum takes visitors on an exciting journey into Railway history and heritage and depict their contribution to industrial and economic progress of country.
53. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu declared Friday as *Day of Helping Hand*, when he will meet with poor and underprivileged people and hear their grievances and try to resolve them.
54. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu laid foundation for *Universal Peace Retreat Center of Prajapita Brahmakumari Eswariya University* in Amravati. It will propagate and teach Raja yoga, Dhyana, Youth development, women empowerment, stress relief activities, child care, positive attitude, life skills and moral values.
55. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government along with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) is planning to set up a gaming and e-learning hub, as first of its kind in Asia-Pacific region.
56. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government announced new programme *Jala Siriki Haarati*, aimed at offering prayers to water bodies and to create awareness among public regarding water preservation.
57. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government released *People First* mobile grievance redressal app, to enable people to register complaints about government services and schemes by dialing 1100.
58. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government signed MoU with NITI Aayog to create an online dashboard for the 115 most backward districts of India, under *Transformation of Most Aspirational Districts Scheme*.
 - ✎ Backward districts were selected based on education, health, nutrition, rural road connectivity, rural household electrification, access to potable water, individual toilets, etc.
 - ✎ Jharkhand has the highest number of the listed backward districts.
 - ✎ Note that West Bengal, Kerala and Odisha recently opted out of Central Government's *Transformation of Aspirational Districts* scheme. Bringing down number of districts to 102 (from 115).
59. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government announced that transgender community can avail government schemes and Andhra Pradesh will be declared ODF by March 2018.
60. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. providing pension of INR 1500 to transgenders (above 18 years age) in state. Among other states, Kerala and Odisha have already introduced pension schemes for transgenders.
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU with Alphabet Inc's X (Google X) to bring Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) technology to India, to provide high quality & affordable digital services through internet under state government's Fiber grid project.
 - ✎ This association with X labs to implement FSOC in Andhra Pradesh is first in world to provide wireless internet connection at higher speed of up to 20 Gbps and to a distance of up to 20kms.
63. ▶ Andhra Pradesh government signed MoU with USA-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) to build India's first Hyperloop system, aimed at connecting Amravati and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh by covering 35 km in just 5 minutes.
64. ▶ Andhra Pradesh state Government will build 5.4 lakh affordable houses in urban areas of State under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in next 15 months.
65. ▶ Annual Tribal cultural Festival Odisha - Parab-2017, held in Koraput.
66. ▶ Annual multicultural festival *Kala Ghoda Arts Festival* held in South Mumbai (Maharashtra). This year's theme is 'Hara Ghoda' (Green Horse), focusing on sustainability and environment-friendliness.

67. ▶ Annual 'Balijatra' festival held in Odisha on banks of river Mahanadi.
68. ▶ Archaeologists discovered an ancient Buddhist site dating back to 1st century AD, in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
69. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh Assembly approved creation of a new district - *Kamle*, as 23rd district of state.
70. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu inaugurated World War II Memorial Museum in Changlang district. It is located adjacent to historic Stilwell Road and is expected to boost tourist inflow especially from Southeast Asian countries.
71. ▶ Arunachal Pradesh became 2nd Northeast state (after sikkim) to be officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Overall, it is 5th to be declared ODF State, after Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Haryana.
72. ▶ 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.
73. ▶ As per *Rise of the Millennials: India's Most Valuable Celebrity Brands* report by Duff & Phelps -
- ▶ Cricketer Virat Kohli named as India's top-ranking celebrity brand in 2017, with brand value of \$144 million. He replaced actor Shah Rukh Khan.
74. ▶ As per *Airpocalypse II* report by environmental Non-governmental organization (NGO) Greenpeace India -
- ▶ *Airpocalypse II* analysed PM₁₀ (*inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller*) annual averages for 280 cities monitored by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under its national air quality monitoring programme. Highlights of *Airpocalypse II* -
 - ▶ 47% of population in India is living in areas where there is no air quality monitoring.
 - ▶ Out of 63 crore million people living in 280 cities where air quality is monitored by CPCB, 55 crore live in areas exceeding national safe standards for PM₁₀. CPCB has set 60 micrograms per cubic metres PM₁₀ as safe standard.
 - ▶ Top 5 Polluted Cities
 - ▶ Delhi - 290
 - ▶ Faridabad (Haryana) - 272
 - ▶ Bhiwadi (Rajasthan) - 262
 - ▶ Patna (Bihar) - 261
 - ▶ Dehradun, (Uttarakhand) - 238
 - ▶ Least Polluted Cities
 - ▶ Hassan (Karnataka) - 26
 - ▶ Pathanamthitta (Kerala) - 26
 - ▶ Nongstoin (Meghalaya) - 26
 - ▶ Darjeeling (West Bengal) - 29
 - ▶ Tura (Meghalaya) - 30
75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ As per Data by Census Directorate, 42 Indian languages are heading towards extinction as only few thousand people speak them.
- ▶ There are total 22 scheduled languages and 100 non-scheduled languages in India, spoken by one lakh or more people.
 - ▶ Andaman and Nicobar Islands has most Number of Languages headed towards Extinction (11 Languages), followed by Manipur (11).
77. ▶ As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Uttar Pradesh is at top in number of cyber crimes in India, followed by Maharashtra. 12,317 cases of cybercrimes were reported in India in 2016, annual increase of over 6 %.
78. ▶ As per an agreement between Uttar Pradesh and South Korea Government, *Ayodhya Mahotsav* would be held in Seoul and Gimhe cities of South Korea in 2018, depicting Its cultural heritage. In return, a 'Korea Festival' will be held in Lucknow and Ayodhya in 2018.
79. ▶ As per data from Central Pollution Control Board -
- ▶ Varanasi (UP) is most polluted Indian city among 42 cities, with Air Quality Index (AQI) of 491 on 500-point scale.
 - ▶ Gurugram (Haryana) is 2nd most polluted with an AQI of 480. Delhi at 468, Lucknow at 462 and Kanpur at 461.
80. ▶ As per report by Coeus Age Consulting -
- ▶ Madhya Pradesh emerged as top state in terms of digital initiatives with score of 100.1, followed by Maharashtra (99.9) and Andhra Pradesh (99.8).
81. ▶ As per reports, Parali I island (Lakshadweep) has disappeared due to coastal erosion and another four such islands in Lakshadweep sea are shrinking fast.
82. ▶ Assam Assembly will introduce digital budget in its upcoming session, instead of conventional printed booklet. Apart from digital budget, new features to be introduced will be *Members Hour (tuesday)*, *a year-long calendar*, *Best Legislator Award*, *formation of Pay*

Commission for MLAs' salary and fellowships for research work on history of Assembly.

83. ▶ Assam Government extended term of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and declared entire state a Disturbed Area for six more months. This is first time that a state government has extended AFSPA and Disturbed Area provision on its own. Previously, AFSPA provisions were always extended by Central Government.
84. ▶ Assam Government released a postage stamp in memory of eminent football player Talimeren Ao.
85. ▶ Assam Government rolled out 647 schemes entailing an investment of Rs 24.57 crore for development of world's largest river island Majuli.
 - ▶ Assam Government also launched a web portal *Assam Darpan* where details of government schemes and projects would be available to the people. URL - <https://as.cmdashboard.nic.in>
86. ▶ 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.
87. ▶ Assam Govt. launched skill development training centres across state, to carry forward central Govt.'s vision for skilling the youth of nation through 'Skill India' programme.
88. ▶ Assam State Government and Isha Foundation signed MOU for rejuvenation and conservation of rivers. Isha Foundation is led by spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.
89. ▶ Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) launched Majuli Sustainable Tourism Development Project (MSTDP) to encourage carbon-free tourism experience in the country's largest river island, Majuli. Objective is to create an environmental protocol for tourism industry in the island.
 - ▶ Assam government also recently announced Majuli as *first carbon neutral district* in India.
90. ▶ Assam become 4th state (1st in North East) to issue Right of Way (RoW) guidelines for telecom service providers.
 - ▶ A legal right, established by usage or grant is referred to as Right of Way (RoW).
 - ▶ These guidelines will regulate establishment of underground and overground telecom infrastructure in Assam.
91. ▶ Assam government has set up a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Cell for implementation of DBT across various schemes, to coordinate efforts at the state level in taking DBT initiative forward.
92. ▶ Assam government signed MoU with Google India to take Internet connectivity to remote areas. Google will provide Internet connection to 26,000 villages and 1,500 tea garden areas to increase digital literacy. Gujarat government also signed MoU with Google for 'Digital Gujarat' movement.
93. ▶ Assam government will observe September 22 as Rhino Day (*On World Rhino Day*) to generate public awareness on protection of one-horned rhinoceros (pachyderm).
94. ▶ Assam government will provide skill development training to around 30,000 surrendered militants and over 24000 Assamese youth under Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojna.
95. ▶ Assam government would celebrate 'Lachit Divas' at various state capitals in India from 2018, to promote ideals of Lachit Borphukan – the legendary general of Assam's history.
 - ▶ Lachit Borphukan was a commander and Borphukan in Ahom kingdom known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat that thwarted a drawn-out attempt by Mughal forces under the command of Ramsingh I to take back Kamrup.
96. ▶ Assam passed Industrial Disputes (Assam Amendment) Bill 2017 regarding lay off of employees. It enables employers to lay off up to 300 employees without prior permission from government. Government also increased compensation of a labourer from 15 days salary to up to 60 days salary, in case of lay off.
97. ▶ Assam state Assembly passed PRANAM(Parental Responsibility And Norms for Accountability and Monitoring) bill, making it mandatory for state government employees to take care of their parents and needy siblings. Assam is the first state to approve such a legislation. Government will deduct 10-15 % of salary of employee and give it to the parents for their survival, if not taken care by employee.
98. ▶ Assam state government will set up a well-equipped skill city with a capacity of 10000 training seats in state, to give skill development training to 30000 former militants as announced earlier. Assam government will upgrade employment exchanges to Modern Career Centres.
99. ▶ Assam will host its first Global Investors Summit in Guwahati in February 2018, to attract more investments.
 - ▶ State government of Assam has also launched a new Tourism policy, to increase tourist inflow in state, effective from January 2018 to December 2022.
 - ▶ Assam Government also launched a new Information Technology (IT) Policy under which IT Startups will be provided financial support ranging 1.2 Lakh to 2.5 Lakh Per employee depending on type of operations and headcount.
100. ▶ BSE Institute Limited (subsidiary of BSE) signed MOU with DLT Labs to set up the India's first state-of-the-art Block Chain Lab in Mumbai. It aims to provide knowledge driven, in class education and training in the field of financial technology, with a special emphasis

on Block Chain.

101. ▶ Bangalore International Airport (Kempegowda International Airport) will be India's first airport to have complete Aadhaar-enabled entry and biometric boarding system by December 2018.
102. ▶ Bengal Global Business Summit 2018 held in Kolkata with *Japan, Italy, Poland, Germany, Republic of Korea, Czech Republic, Great Britain, France and UAE* as Partner countries and theme *Bengal Means Business*.
103. ▶ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) bagged order worth INR 560 crores from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for setting up flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) system at National Capital Power Station (capacity 2×490 MW) at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, aimed at controlling various harmful emissions.
104. ▶ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) completed work on 4000 MW Yadadri supercritical thermal power project of Telangana State Power Generation Corporation, valued at approx INR 20,400 crores. It is highest value order ever placed in power sector in India.
105. ▶ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed MoU with Chinese gear maker ZTE to work on Pre5G and 5G wireless systems to make a virtual network architecture of a 5G ecosystem for research and commercialization in India.
 - ▶ BSNL also signed MOU with Aeris Communications to provide packaged Internet of Things (IoT) solutions and services to small, medium businesses and public sector undertakings (PSUs) in India.
106. ▶ Bhogali Bihu harvest festival, also called as *Magh Bihu* festival began in Assam.
107. ▶ Bihar Government approved *Safe City Surveillance* scheme for curbing eve-teasing, harassment and other crimes against women at public places.
108. ▶ Bihar Government approved reservation for persons with disabilities in government jobs and educational institutions. Cabinet also approved establishment of a state advisory board for empowerment of 'Divyangjan' as envisaged in Act.
109. ▶ Bihar Government banned sale of loose cigarettes, to be deterrent to kids and youngsters who start smoking by buying loose cigarettes.
110. ▶ Bihar Government will set up *State Ayush Society* to promote usage of alternative medicine in state.
111. ▶ Bikaner camel festival celebrated in Rajasthan to honour camels.
112. ▶ Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed world's highest motorable road in cold desert of Ladakh, at over 19000 Feet and 54 KM Length, under *Project Himank*. It will boost troop movement along Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern sector.
113. ▶ Brand Trust Report India Study 2017 ranked Patanjali as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand and most attractive brand.
114. ▶ Business Info Provider *Dun & Bradstreet* released *Port Logistics: Issues & Challenges in India* report, looking into various roadblocks and suggests policy recommendations to resolve challenges across ports in India.
 - ▶ Report proposes 60 policy measures to strengthen ports sector, that represents bulk of India's merchandise trade.
 - ▶ Report introduces a 'Port Performance Index' to benchmark performance of various ports by combining qualitative perception of stakeholders with quantitative outcome based data. It covers 13 ports that handle around 67 % of India's maritime trade.
 - ▶ Out of 13 major ports, 3 ports (*Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), Kamarajar Port, Visakhapatnam Port*) received 'Good' score.
115. ▶ Cab Aggregator Ola and Assam Government signed MoU to pilot an app-based river taxi service in Guwahati. River taxis will be machine-operated boats and users will be able to book rides through Ola app.
116. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -
 - ▶ Establishment of National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST, to ensure that benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services are passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in prices. It has been done soon after recent sharp reduction in the GST rates of a large number of items of mass consumption.
 - ▶ Agreement with Belarus on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
 - ▶ MOU with Poland for promotion of Civil Aviation Cooperation.
 - ▶ CCEA approved continuation of sub schemes Under ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) till Nov 30, 2018 with outlay of over INR 41,000 crores. Approved Schemes include -
 - ▶ Anganwadi Services
 - ▶ Scheme for Adolescent Girls
 - ▶ Child Protection Services
 - ▶ National Crèche Scheme
 - ▶ Cabinet approved increase in carpet area of houses eligible for interest subsidy under Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for Middle Income Group (MIG) under Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana (Urban).
 - ▶ Increasing carpet area in MIG I category of CLSS from existing 90 sq.m. to up to 120 sq.m. Under MIG-I, 4% interest subsidy is provided to beneficiaries with annual income between 6 - 12 lakh on loan of up to Rs 9 lakh.

- ✎ Increasing carpet area in MIG II category of CLSS from 110 sq.m. to 150 sq.m. Under MIG-II, beneficiaries with annual income 12 - 18 lakh get an interest subsidy of 3% on loan of up to Rs 12 lakh.

117. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ MoU with Philippines on agriculture and related fields.
- ✎ MOU with Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Kyrgyzstan for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- ✎ Joint Interpretative Declaration with Colombia regarding Agreement for Promotion and Protection of Investments.
- ✎ Appointment of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) for Subordinate Judiciary in country, under J P.Venkatrama Reddi.
- ✎ Following proposals of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion are approved -
 - ✎ Development of Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre at Dwarka (Delhi) at an estimated cost of INR 25703 crore by 2025.
 - ✎ Incorporation of a new Government company as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for implementation of project with 100% equity from Government through Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- ✎ Creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) as a Society registered under *Indian Societies Registration Act 1860* as a premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions. NTA will be given a one-time grant of 25 crores from Government and will be financially self-sustainable after 1st year.
- ✎ Continuation of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) with Outlay INR 23050 crores approved for programme for 14th Finance Commission (FFC) period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
 - ✎ 14th Finance Commission is headed by Y V Reddy.
- ✎ Government revised House Building Advance (HBA) rules for Central Government Employees -
 - ✎ Total amount of advance that a central government employee can borrow has been revised up to 34 months of basic pay (max 25 lakhs), compared to earlier limit of INR 7.50 lakhs.
 - ✎ Amount for expansion of house is revised to max INR 10 lakhs or 34 months of basic pay (whichever is least), compared to earlier limit of INR 1.80 lakhs.

118. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ Philippines on co-operation and mutual assistance in customs matters.
- ✎ India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development.
- ✎ India - Russia Agreement on cooperation in combating terrorism and organized crime.
- ✎ Continuation of the scheme on Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) for another 3 years (FYs 2017-18 to 2019-20) , providing aid of INR 18 crore to Institute to make It self-sustainable by end of 2019-20.
- ✎ Govt approved setting up of 15th Finance Commission Under Article 280 (1) of Constitution, to be enacted from 01-04-2020. Currently, 14th finance commission (headed by Y V Reddy) is active.
- ✎ Schemes Expansion (Total Outlay of 3636.85 Crores) -
 - ✎ Expansion of schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development under Umbrella Scheme *Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women*, with outlay of Over 3500 Crores between 2017-18 to 2019-20.
 - ✎ New Scheme *Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra* has been approved, which will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realize their full potential, through Mahila shakti kendras in 115 backward districts.
 - ✎ Expansion under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to all 640 Districts, based on successful implementation in 161 districts, for a pan India coverage from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

119. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ MoU with Cuba and Italy for cooperation in field of Health and Medicine.
- ✎ Establishing India's First National Rail and Transportation University at Vadodara , to skill its human resources and build capability.
- ✎ New skill development scheme named *Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)*, covering entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector. It has outlay of INR 1300 crores from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It aims to provide demand driven, placement oriented skilling programme to incentivize the efforts of industry in creating jobs in organized textile and related sectors.
- ✎ MoU with Myanmar for developing Myanmar's Rakhine state. India will take up building prefabricated housing in Rakhine State, to meet immediate needs of returning people. India has pledged \$25 Million for this purpose.
- ✎ Railways Ministry planned to make all stations 100% LED lit by March 2018.

- ✎ Extension of term of Commission to examine issue of sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by 12 weeks (upto 2 April, 2018). Commission is headed by G. Rohini.
- ✎ Auction of 683 private FM radio frequencies in 236 cities across country under Phase III of FM radio privatization. It aims at expanding FM reach in remote cities and generate over 10,000 jobs.

120. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

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

121. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ Cooperation Agreement with Morocco to develop long-term cooperation in railways.
- ✎ Agreement with Israel on Film Co-production.
- ✎ Cabinet approved Introducing 2 new Bills in Parliament, aimed at protecting savings of investors -
 - ✎ Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill 2018 - It aims to tackle menace of illicit deposit taking activities.
 - ✎ Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill 2018 - It aims at facilitating orderly growth of Chit Funds sector and remove bottlenecks being faced by Chit Funds industry. Amendments Proposed in Chit Funds Act 1982 Include Increasing ceiling of foreman's commission from a maximum of 5% to 7%, as rate has remained static since commencement of Act.
- ✎ CCEA approved construction of 4.531 km long 2-Lane Bi-Directional *Silkyara Bend - Barkot Tunnel* along NH-134 (old NH-94) in Uttarakhand, under Chardham Plan. It will be built over 4 years, at cost approx INR 1383 crores. Tunnel will provide all weather connectivity to Yamunotri (one of Chardhams).
- ✎ CCEA approved methodology for auction of coal blocks for sale of coal to private sector under Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act 2015 and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957. It will open coal sector to commercial mining by private sector, ending 41 year old monopoly of Coal India Ltd (CIL). It will allow power cement and steel producers to source coal more efficiently.
 - ✎ SC in September 2014 cancelled 204 coal mines and blocks allocated to various Companies since 1993 under Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act 1973. After this, Parliament enacted Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act 2015 to bring transparency in allocation of coal mines by way of auction and allotment for the sale of coal.
- ✎ Approved setting up of tribunal for adjudication of long-pending dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over Mahanadi river waters. Tribunal was constituted under Inter-State River Disputes (ISRWD) Act 1956 on request of Odisha and is in line with SC's January 2018 order.
- ✎ Approved Setting up crèche facility in Parliament House premises, to establish inclusive and supportive work environment for women employees, in line with Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017. Creche Facility is *a nursery where babies and young children are cared for during the working day.*

122. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on 04-01-2018,

- ✎ Establishment of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- ✎ CCEA Approvals -
 - ✎ 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).
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ 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.
- ✎ MOUs Approved -
 - ✎ With London's transportation authority *Transport for London* to improve public transport in India.
 - ✎ With Italy for co-operation in Renewable Energy.
 - ✎ With Israel for co-operation in Oil and Gas Sector.
 - ✎ With Belgium for co-operation in ICT&E.
 - ✎ With Myanmar on Land Border Crossing, as an enabling arrangement for movement of people across border of both countries.

- Will sign MOU with Sri Lanka for cooperation in traditional systems of medicine and homoeopathy.

123. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on 10-01-2018 -

- FDI Policy Changes -

- 100% FDI under automatic route for Single Brand Retail Trading
- 100% FDI under automatic route in Construction Development
- Foreign airlines allowed investing up to 49% under approval route in Air India
- FIIIs/FPIs allowed investing in Power Exchanges through primary market

- CCEA Approvals-

- 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.
- 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.

- MOUs -

- With Canada for cooperation in Science & Technology.

124. ▶ Cabinet Approvals on Feb 7, 2018 -

- MoU with Tunisia for cooperation on Youth matters.

- Protocol amending Agreement between with China for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.

- MOU with USA on Law Enforcement Training.

- MoU with UK on Cooperation in Skill Development, Vocational Education and Training.

- MoU for Secondment Programme with Australia.

- Ratification of Minamata Convention on Mercury, enabling India to become a Party of Convention. It gives flexibility for continued use of mercury-based products and processes involving mercury compound up to 2025. Minamata Convention was signed in October 2013 in Kumamoto (Japan), aimed to protect human health and environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

- Government approved 2nd round of Discovered Small Field (DSF) auctions under Discovered Small Field Policy, to offer total 60 unmonetized discoveries with an estimated 194.65 Million Metric tonnes of oil.

- Of these, 22 fields belong to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), 5 to Oil India Limited (OIL), 12 are relinquished discovered fields from New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) blocks, and 21 fields that did not receive any investor interest in first round of DSF.

- Amendment to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act 2006 for classifying MSMEs from current *investment in plant and machinery* criteria to *annual turnover* criteria. It aims at encouraging ease of doing business, make MSME classification norms growth oriented and align them to new indirect tax regime revolving around Goods & Services Tax (GST). The amendment also empowers Central Government to vary turnover limits. New Classification Criteria -

- Micro - It will be unit with annual turnover under INR 5 crores.

- Small - It will be unit with annual turnover Between 5 - 75 crores.

- Medium - It will be unit with annual turnover Between 75 - 250 crores.

125. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- National -

- Creation of one circle office of Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) for carrying out functions of Commission of Metro Railway Safety.

- Economy -















- Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) applicable on all debit card/BHIM UPI/ Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions upto and including a value of 2000 will be borne by Government for 2 years starting 1st January 2018, by reimbursing it to banks.

- Continuation of *Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources* (NLCPR) scheme with funding pattern of 90:10 till March 2020 with outlay of 5300 crores. It would enable completion of ongoing projects.

- New Central Scheme *North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme* (NESIDS) also approved from 2017-18 with 100% funding from Central Government to fill up gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors till March 2020. NESIDS will strengthen health care, education facilities, tourism and employment opportunities in region.

132. ▶ Central Government approved assistance of INR 10,000 crores to fund 107 irrigation projects in drought-hit Vidarbha and Maratha regions of Maharashtra.
133. ▶ Central Government approved combined development of phase II and phase III of Harohalli industrial zone in Ramnagara district of Karnataka at cost of INR 1,561 crores. It is expected to generate 23,500 jobs.
134. ▶ Central Government approved establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Raichur (Karnataka), as 2nd IIIT in Karnataka after one in Dharwad.
135. ▶ Central Government approved state Logo designed by West Bengal Government, highlighting the “Biswa Bangla” theme with Ashoka Pillars.
136. ▶ Central Government disapproved execution Karnataka Government's *Mukhya Mantri Anila Bhagya Yojane* that promises free LPG gas connections for Below Poverty Line families.
 - ▶ Central Govt wants State Govt to execute it through oil marketing companies (OMCs), unlikely current practice of directly going through the distributors' network.
137. ▶ Central Government received 260 applications from foreign scientists for Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty scheme. Out of these, 70 will be shortlisted for this year.
 - ▶ Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty scheme is a project by Department of Science and Technology and intends to select 1,000 scientists every year at Public funded academic institutions and national laboratories.
 - ▶ Selected scientists will co-guide and mentor students as well as will help in developing collaborative programmes.
 - ▶ Scientists selected under VAJRA will be paid US \$15,000 in first month and US \$10,000 per month for next 2 months. They will work in India for a minimum of a month and a maximum of three months.
138. ▶ Central Government sanctioned INR 275 crores for establishing a Global Centre for Security and Counter-Terrorism in Jaipur (Rajasthan).
139. ▶ 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.
140. ▶ Central Government sanctioned a special package to strengthen security in 3 eastern districts of Arunachal Pradesh - Tirap, Changlang and Longding.
141. ▶ Central Government will set up 562 more Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in tribal areas, aimed at providing best quality education to tribal children in their own environment. Currently, 190 EMRSs are operational, with approx 56000 tribal students enrolled.
142. ▶ Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) signed Agreement with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru for Development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for parts of Karnataka.
143. ▶ Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) joined hands with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) to identify Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ), an area in sea where fishes are seen in abundance, under project *Samudra*. It is aimed at helping fishermen easily locate fish without wasting time and fuel.
144. ▶ Central Water Commission (CWC) has signed MoUs with IIT Roorkee and MNNIT Allahabad to support dam rehabilitation efforts of various implementing agencies and CWC.
145. ▶ Chandigarh Administration launched smart city cards, in collaboration with Bank of India. It can be used to make payments for various government utilities and at retail merchants, fuel stations. It will also be a valid ID Proof.
146. ▶ Chennai (Tamil Nadu) became Third Indian City to be Included United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) Creative Cities Network for Contribution in Music.
 - ▶ Now, UNESCO Creative Cities Network has gone up to 180 cities in 72 countries.
 - ▶ India's Jaipur (added as City of Music) and Varanasi (City of Crafts and Folk Art) were added in 2016.
147. ▶ Chennai Metro Rail Limited introduced free bicycle ride scheme for its customers to provide 100-hours of bicycle ride free of cost every month. There are 10 cycles in each of the stations and people can gain access to them at any time of the day.
148. ▶ Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport (Mumbai) created new world record for single-runway operations by handling 980 arrivals and take-offs in 24 hours. It has thus become world's busiest single-runway airport.
149. ▶ Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh launched *Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shram Anna Sahayata Yojna*, under which nutritious meal will be provided to laborers at price of INR 5.
150. ▶ Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (CGECB) ordered closure of 1200 MW thermal power plant of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) in Korba district, due to ash slurry water from damaged ash dam polluting water of a Belgiri nullah passing near plant that drains into Hasdeo river.
151. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government flagged-off 'Cancer diagnosis Ambulance', fitted with ultra-advanced equipment to detect cancer. Patients will be treated free-of-cost.

152. ▶ Chhattisgarh Government imposed ban on bursting of firecrackers in six of its cities - Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai, Durg, Raigarh and Korba.
153. ▶ Chhattisgarh High Court asked all trial courts in state to obtain Aadhaar Cards of accused persons and sureties before issuing release warrant of a prisoner/accused, to curb rampant practice of obtaining bail on the basis of forged revenue papers or by impersonating real surety.
154. ▶ Chhattisgarh High Court ordered state government to grant books and uniform instead of cash to Below Poverty Line (BPL) students studying in private schools under Right to education, in place of current arrangement of providing INR 650 per year as cash grant.
155. ▶ Chhattisgarh become first state to award citizenship to Minority Hindus from Other nations, as it offered citizenship to 51 Hindu families who had migrated from Pakistan several years ago and have been living on outskirts of Raipur.
156. ▶ Chhattisgarh government banned use of chlorinated plastic and Polyvinyl Chloride -PVC, to conserve and improve environment.
157. ▶ Coffee output in India stayed at record 3.50 lakh tonnes in 2017-18, compared to 3.12 lakh tonnes in 2016-17.
158. ▶ Committee of Governors submitted report titled *Rajyapal – Vikas Ke Rajdoot: Catalytic Role of Governors as Agents for Change in Society* to President Ram Nath Kovind. Committee of Governors was Formed in October 2017 during 48th Conference of Governors in New Delhi.
159. ▶ Committee set up for technical and safety standards of India's first pod taxi project or Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) invited fresh bids for strictest safety standards on lines of those prescribed in USA. It is meant for a 12.3-km stretch from Delhi-Haryana border on NH 8.
 - ✏ PRT or pod taxi is an advanced public transport using automated electric pod cars to provide taxi-like demand responsive feeder and shuttle services for small groups of travellers.
160. ▶ Competition Commission of India (CCI) penalized Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for INR 52 Crores for Anti-Competitive conduct through abusing dominant position in sport for imposing restriction that deny access to market for organization of Professional Domestic Cricket League/ Events.
161. ▶ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) signed MoU with Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for designating Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow (CSIR-CIMAP) as Coordinating Centre on Medicinal Plants.
162. ▶ Dabur India has tied up with e-commerce Firm Amazon for online Ayurveda marketplace which will house all ayurvedic brands and products of country.
163. ▶ Delhi Government approved setting up Delhi Village Development Board (DVDB) for civic works in 300 rural and urban villages of Delhi. It will subsume Delhi Rural Development Board (DRDB) that carried related works so far.
164. ▶ 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.
165. ▶ Delhi Govt. launched a common card for rides on public buses and metro, becoming first Indian city to have such common mobility card.
166. ▶ Delhi government and Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched *Clean Air Campaign*, to focus on improvement of air quality, with 70 teams formed as a part of the campaign.
167. ▶ Delhi government launched *Mission Buniyaad* for improving learning skills of children studying in state and municipal-run schools. It will run from April to June for Class 3 to 5 in MCD schools and for Class 6 to 8 in government's schools. Children will undergo a reading level assessment based on which they will be enrolled in specialised *Mission Buniyaad* classes.
168. ▶ Delhi government will launch accident victim policy which will cover all hospital expenses of victims of road accidents, acid attacks or burns. There is no upper limit on the cost of treatment and all victims irrespective of residence, and even foreigners will get free treatment in any Delhi hospital, if accident happens in Delhi.
169. ▶ Department of Economic Affairs (Finance Ministry) signed loan agreement worth US \$ 375 million with World bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP), JMVP for capacity augmentation of navigation on National Waterway-1(River Ganga) from Varanasi to Haldia.
 - ✏ Total project cost is \$800 Million and is expected to be completed by March 2023. It will enable commercial navigation of vessels of capacity 1500-2,000 tons on NW-I and will lead to generation of upto 84000 jobs in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.
170. ▶ 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.
 - ✏ 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.
171. ▶ Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) signed agreement with Anna University to establish India's 2nd Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR) in Anna University, Under World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.

-  TISC aims to stimulate a dynamic and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development.
-  India's First Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) has been set up at Patent Information Centre (Punjab).
172. ▶ Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) provided quota to people with autism, mental illnesses, intellectual disability and victims of acid attacks in Central government jobs. In direct recruitment, 4% of vacancies (up from existing 3%) in groups A, B and C will be reserved for people with over 40% specified disability.
173. ▶ Department of Telecom (DoT) and IIT Chennai, will jointly set up a development centre for 5G technologies. It will help provide applications like Internet of Things and Machine-to-Machine internet. A similar tie up had already been made between Ericsson and IIT Delhi.
174. ▶ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) allowed Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) manufactured *Dornier 228* for civilian flights, the 19-seater aircraft that was till now used only by defence forces. It became first 'Made in India' plane to be used for commercial flights.
175. ▶ Eastern Railways brought into service, the first rake of upgraded Sealdah – New Delhi 'Swarna' Rajdhani, under *Project 'Swarna'* that gives a free hand to Zonal Railways to develop and create aesthetic and passenger friendly coach interiors on running rakes of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains.
176. ▶ Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) will procure 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) from Tata Motors, as world's largest single electric vehicle procurement. Tata Motors quoted lowest price of Rs 10.16 lakh exclusive of GST in the competitive bidding. Procurement will be in Phases - 500 e-cars in first phase in November 2017 and remaining 9,500 EVs in second phase.
177. ▶ Environment Minister Harshvardhan launched *Mihir*, a 2.8 PetaFlops capacity high-performance computer system in Noida (UP). It will help Meteorological department to predict climate based calamities and issue warnings for fishermen.
178. ▶ Environment Ministry accorded environmental clearance for Kaleshwaram Irrigation Project in Telangana.
-  Project is estimated to cost Approx INR 80499 crores and is proposed to be completed in three years.
-  Project aims to provide drinking water facility for Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Submergence area is estimated to be about 13706 hectares.
179. ▶ External Affairs Ministry announced that Passports will no longer serve as a valid proof of address as Its last page will not printed from now onwards, that includes Names of father / guardian, and address.
-  Additionally, Passport holders with ECR (Emigration Check Required) status would be issued a passport with orange passport jacket and those with non-ECR status would continue to get a blue passport. As per Govt., This is meant to identify less educated (under 10th) labourers and prevent them from exploitation abroad.
-  Note that Indian passports have a blue cover, diplomatic and official passports have white and red jackets, respectively.
- Applicants who haven't cleared 10th standard are given a passport with ECR category (now with orange jackets).
180. ▶ FSSAI CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal inaugurated Nestle Food Safety Institute in Manesar (Gurugram), as first such institute in India. Nestle already runs a similar Institute each in China and Lausanne, Switzerland.
181. ▶ FY 2017 - 18 Winter Session passed Bills -
-  Lok Sabha Passed Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill 2017, that seeks to amend Central Road Fund Act 2000.
-  Under CRF Act 2000, cess levied and collected on high speed petrol and diesel is distributed for development of rural roads, national highways, railways, state roads and border area roads.
-  CRF (Amendment) Bill 2017 seeks to allocate 2.5 % of funds collected to accelerate development and maintenance of national waterways by reducing equal percentage from share of national highways. It aims at generating INR 2300 crore revenue for national waterways.
-  Parliament passed Companies (Amendment) Bill 2017 to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies and help improve ease of doing business. Bill provides for over 40 amendments to Companies Act 2013.
-  Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill 2017, to declare IIMs as institutions of national importance and extend greater autonomy to them, by restricting government's role in their functioning.
-  Lok Sabha passed Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill 2017, to make it easier for government to acquire immovable property for "national security and defence purpose". It amends Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act 1952 and changes rules for payment of compensation.
-  Rajya Sabha passed *Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) Bill 2017*, to establish IIPE Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) as an institution of national importance. It aims to provide high quality education and research focussing on all aspects and themes of petroleum, hydrocarbons and energy. The bill was passed by Lok Sabha Earlier.
-  Lok Sabha passed Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill 2017, amending GST (Compensation to States) Act 2017 and replaces an Ordinance promulgated in Sep 2017. The amendment increases maximum rate at which Compensation Cess

can be levied from 15 to 25% on motor vehicle for transport of not more than 13 persons (mostly luxury vehicles).

- ✎ Parliament passed National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Amendment Bill 2017, to amend National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act 2011. It extends deadline for relocating slum dwellers and Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters, regulating street vendors, unauthorised colonies in Delhi and calls for creating policy for farm houses constructed beyond permissible limits.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill 2017 declaring instant triple talaq illegal and criminalises it with up to three years in jail for husband. Bill will now will be sent to Rajya Sabha for passage.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2017 to pave way for tightening loopholes in existing code and to make resolution process more effective. It Bill amends Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016. Main Features Include -
 - ✎ It Bill prohibits certain persons from submitting a resolution plan in case of defaults.
 - ✎ A penalty of minimum Rs 1 lakh and maximum Rs 2 crore has been proposed for contravening any of the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
 - ✎ It allows asset reconstruction companies, banks and alternative investment funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India to bid for insolvent companies.

182. ▶ FY 2017 - 18 Winter Session passed Bills in Jan 2018 -

- ✎ 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 -
 - ✎ It Bill prohibits certain persons from submitting a resolution plan in case of defaults.
 - ✎ A penalty of minimum Rs 1 lakh and maximum Rs 2 crore has been proposed for contravening any of the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
 - ✎ It allows asset reconstruction companies, banks and alternative investment funds registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India to bid for insolvent companies.
- ✎ 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 -
 - ✎ Allows Government to increase capital of NABARD from Rs. 5000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore (even beyond if required, upon Consultaion with RBI).
 - ✎ 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.
 - ✎ 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.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ 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.
 - ✎ It amends HC Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act 1954 and SC Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act 1958.
 - ✎ Hiked Monthly Salaries will be (INR) -
 - ✎ Chief Justice of India (CJI) - 2.80 lakh
 - ✎ Judges of Supreme Court and Chief Justices of High Courts - 2.5 lakh
 - ✎ Judges of High Courts - 2.25 lakh

183. ▶ Facebook and Andhra Pradesh government signed MOU to take up innovative pilot projects in state.

184. ▶ Feb 12 - National Productivity Day. 2018 theme is *Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India*.

185. ▶ First Mega Food Park in Maharashtra (10th in India) has been opened as *Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd* at Village Degaon in Satara District. Aim is to boost food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of supply chain with particular focus on perishables.

- ✎ Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market with strong forward and backward linkages through a cluster based approach.

186. ▶ First Namami Barak festival held at Silchar in Assam, to pay tribute to River Barak and to showcase its potential to emerge as hub of trade and commerce.

- Assam government also inaugurated its air ambulance services for people, equipped with emergency medical equipment to take care of patients.
187. ▶ First all-women staff (41 females) railway station in India, Matunga on Central Railway (CR) in Mumbai, entered Limca Book of Records.
188. ▶ 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.
189. ▶ First e-court of Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated in Srinagar, as first paperless court of Jammu and Kashmir. It will use digitised case records, thus paper usage and space requirements would be reduced to a great extent.
190. ▶ First high speed electric locomotive of Indian Railways, will be launched in March 2018, capable of running at of a maximum speed of 120 kmph.
- It will be launched during French President Emmanuel Macron's Indian visit. It has capacity of 12000 horsepower and is produced in collaboration with French Firm Alstom. It has been assembled at Madhepura plant in Bihar.
191. ▶ First phase of national optic fibre network Project called *Bharat Net* will be completed by December 2017, providing internet access (2 to 20 Mbps speed) to 100,000 gram panchayats. It was announced in 'i-Bharat 2017' conference organised by FICCI in New Delhi.
- BharatNet is Government's ambitious rural internet connectivity programme which is implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL). It is world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre.
192. ▶ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched *FoSCoRIS* as an online platform to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling. It will help in verifying compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses as per government norms.
193. ▶ Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) has been declared as an *Institute of National Importance* under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, by virtue of Footwear Design & Development Institute Act 2017.
- FDDI can now award degrees and will now have autonomy to design its courses as per the requirement of the industry.
- Presently, FDDI imparts skill based graduate and post graduate courses in footwear, leather goods, retail and management to around 2500 students across eight campuses over India.
194. ▶ Forbes India Celebrity 100 list 2017 -
- Actor Salman Khan topped the list, With earnings of INR 233 crores.
- Shah Rukh Khan 2nd with earnings of 170 crores, cricketer Virat Kohli 3rd with 100.72 crore earnings.
195. ▶ Forbes Magazine released its India Rich List 2017. Top 10 Richest Indians are -
- Mukesh Ambani - \$38 billion. Reliance Industries Chairman Mr Ambani topped the list for 10th Consecutive year.
- Azim Premji - \$19 billion.
- Hinduja brothers - \$18.4 Billion
- Lakshmi Mittal - \$16.5 Billion
- Pallonji Mistry - \$16 Billion
- Godrej family - \$14.2 Billion
- Shiv Nadar - \$13.6 Billion
- Kumar Birla - \$12.6 Billion
- Dilip Shanghvi - \$12.1 Billion
- Gautam Adani - \$11 Billion
196. ▶ Former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched Mission-24, a programme to improve quality of life in Mumbai's poorest wards through collaborative efforts in next 24 months.
197. ▶ Foundation of Rhodendron Park laid in Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh). Tawang has 50 plus species of Rhodendron (*a genus of 1,024 species of woody plants*). More than 30 species of rhododendrons would be planted and conserved in park.
198. ▶ Foundation stone for India's first Industrial Training Institute exclusively for Divyangjans laid at Dibrugarh (Assam). It will have sixty seats for three different trades with 20 seats per trade.
199. ▶ GAIL India placed orders for 2,100 km of Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project.
- Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga* project (also known as JHBDPL project) originates at Jagdishpur (Uttar Pradesh). The main trunk of pipeline ends to Haldia (West Bengal) and Dhamra (Odisha).
- Pipeline passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. Cost of project is Rs. 12,940 crore and is to be completed by 2019.
200. ▶ 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.

- ▶ Largest rooftop solar plant in India was commissioned in December 2015 by Tata Power Solar in Amritsar (Punjab) with 12 MWp capacity.
- 201. ▶ GAIL will set up *coal to synthesis gas* conversion plants in Odisha, with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) as technology partner.
 - ▶ Synthesis gas is expected to be cheaper than domestic gas as its a mixture comprising of hydrogen, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.
- 202. ▶ GE Aviation (USA) and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) partnered to manufacture, assemble, integrate and test aircraft components in India, Including CFM International LEAP engine (considered world's leading jet engine).
- 203. ▶ Gandhi Nagar railway station in Jaipur (Rajasthan) became railway station to be fully-managed by women, with 40 women staff at station.
- 204. ▶ Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) by Child development NGO *Plan India* -
 - ▶ Goa is at top, followed by Kerala and Mizoram.
 - ▶ Bihar is at bottom with Uttar Pradesh as second worst.
 - ▶ Index is developed after analysing situation of girls and women in on the basis of Health, Education, Protection and Poverty.
- 205. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -
 - ▶ 11th Annual MedTech Summit of Biodesign Programme (Department of Biotechnology) today in New Delhi.
 - ▶ 6th International Tourism Mart held in Guwahati (Assam).
 - ▶ 22nd conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) held at New Delhi.
 - ▶ First International Conference on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences SAICON 2017 held in Delhi. Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore stated that -
 - ▶ Under *Khelo India*, national school games would be organised from January 31 to February 8 in 2018 for under 17 age group. Top 1,000 athletes from this event will be entitled to Rs 5 lakh scholarships for eight years. 1,000 more athletes will be added each year for creating a pool of young talent.
 - ▶ School Games will be followed by College Games for under the age group of 21 years.
 - ▶ Khelo India programme will be launched at cost of INR 1756 crore for 2017-18 to 2019-20.
 - ▶ National Conference on PDS (Public Distribution System) Reforms held in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh).
 - ▶ Shared Value Summit 2017 held in New Delhi with theme *Equity and Empowerment*.
 - ▶ 7th International Groundwater Conference held in Delhi, with theme Groundwater Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges, and Climate Change Adaptation.
 - ▶ First Meet of 15th Finance Commission held in New Delhi, under Chairmanship of N.K. Singh.
 - ▶ India and Japan held first meeting under the newly established 'India-Japan Act East Forum' in New Delhi, aimed at identifying specific projects for economic development of the North-Eastern region of India.
 - ▶ New Delhi Hosted *Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage*, as part of celebrations of 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC.
 - ▶ UN Women and Facebook held an event in Mumbai named *We The Women* to empower and recognise magnificent contribution of women in our society
- 206. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
 - ▶ 19th International Workshop on Physics of Semiconductor Devices (IWPSD-2017) held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit held in New Delhi, aimed at building consensus on strategies and a unified vision for achieving universal financial inclusion in India.
 - ▶ Three day media workshop on Climate Change Reporting in Himalayas organised in Kohima (Nagaland).
 - ▶ 54th meeting of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) programming committee held at SAARC secretariat in Kathmandu (Nepal).
 - ▶ CSR Summit for Pioneering Cochlear Implant Surgery held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ 90th Annual General Meeting of FICCI held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ 49th Annual Conference of the Society of Nuclear Medicine – India (SNMICON) held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ World Conference on Vedas (Vishwa Ved Sammelan) held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ 2nd edition of Serendipity Arts festival is held in Goa, bringing together 7 art forms.
 - ▶ National Workshop on Role of Sakhi One Stop Centres (OSCs) in Strengthening Multi Sectoral Response to Violence held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ 3rd World Telugu Conference held in Hyderabad (Telangana).
 - ▶ International Herbal Fair held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).
 - ▶ Global Partnership Summit (GPS) 2017 held in New Delhi, organised by India Center Foundation (ICF).

- 1st national-level training of trainers programme to sensitise Central Ministries and Departments on utilisation of Sendai Framework for developing action plans for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) held in New Delhi, organised by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-Global Education and Training Institute (UNISDR-GETI).
207. ▶ General Conferences (Feb 1 - 10, 2018) -
- ▶ Lalit Kala Akademi organized First International Kala Mela in New Delhi.
 - ▶ International Conference on 'Demetrios Galanos and His Legacy' held in New Delhi.
 - ▶ 17 day Surajkund International Crafts Mela (32nd) began in Faridabad (Haryana). Uttar Pradesh is theme state and Kyrgyzstan is Partner Nation this year.
 - ▶ 7th India Energy Congress was held in New Delhi with theme *Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030*. It is organized by World Energy Council India (WEC India).
 - ▶ NITI Aayog organized Conference on Jobs and Livelihood opportunities in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industries in Delhi.
 - ▶ 2 day International conference on Unani Medicine held at New Delhi.
 - ▶ 5th South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference held in New Delhi, with theme *Public Procurement and Service Delivery*.
 - ▶ 3 day International Conference on Operations and Maintenance - *Indian Power Stations 2018* held in delhi.
 - ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 88th Mahamastakabhisheka of Lord Gomateshwara at Shravanabelagola in Hassan (Karnataka).
 - ▶ 4th meeting of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) held in New Delhi under chairmanship of Bibek Debroy.
 - ▶ Institute Of Directors organised 12th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
 - ▶ National Informatics Centre (NIC) organized 3 day National Meet on Grassroot Informatics - *VIVID 2018* at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, with Theme *Cyber Security and Innovation*.
208. ▶ General Conferences (Feb 11 - 20, 2018) -
- ▶ International Agricultural conference *Agricon 2018* and *Agriexpo 2018* held at Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (CSAUT) at Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh).
 - ▶ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare organized a National Conference *Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers' Income* at National Agriculture Science Complex (NASC) in New Delhi.
 - ▶ National Banana Festival 2018 held in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
 - ▶ India's biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices held in Bengaluru with theme '*Driving NextGen Pharmaceuticals*'.
 - ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) organized Youth Exchange Programme *Watan Ko Jano*, with special focus on youth of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ▶ 3rd Global Procurement Summit in New Delhi, organized by All India Management Association (AIMA) and World Bank with Theme *New Frontiers faced in the Transformation process of Procurement Today*.
 - ▶ 10th international plastics exhibition, *PlastIndia* held in Gandhinagar (Gujarat), organized by Plastindia Foundation.
 - ▶ 12th International Conference on corporate social responsibility (CSR) held in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
 - ▶ 3 day International Conference on Operations and Maintenance, *Indian Power Stations 2018* held in New Delhi with theme *Technological Challenges: Risks and Challenges in Power Generation*. It is hosted by NTPC to commemorate synchronization of its first Thermal plant at Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station on February 13, 1982.
 - ▶ 54th annual Munich Security Conference held in Munich (Germany).
 - ▶ 6th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) of India Region held in Patna (Bihar).
 - ▶ Scientists observed *Darwin Week* in Kolkata, to effectively put an end to any confusion regarding Charles Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution'.
 - ▶ *International R&D Conclave* 2 day conference on Emerging Opportunities and Challenges of R&D in Indian Power Sector organised by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in Delhi.
 - ▶ National Seminar on *Emerging Building Materials and Construction Technologies* held in New Delhi. During This, Hardeep Puri (Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs) launched Mobile App *Bamboo Housing & Construction. Technologies*.
209. ▶ General Conferences (Feb 21 - 28, 2018) -
- ▶ 3 day India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) held in Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.
 - ▶ Regional conference of southern states on water resources held in Hyderabad (Telangana).
 - ▶ 44th Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018 held at Khajuraho temple (UNESCO world heritage site) in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.

- ✎ Central Govt.'s Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Government Telangana organized 21st National Conference on e-Governance in Hyderabad.
- ✎ 2 day International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels organized by Department of Biotechnology at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.
- ✎ Ministry of Culture organized a week long diversified cultural carnival 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav' in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh).
- ✎ Economic Times Global Business Summit held in New Delhi with theme *New Economy – New Rules*.
- ✎ Andhra Pradesh Government Organized 3rd Partnership Summit 2018 in Vizag, aiming to facilitate investments, foster innovations in creating business models.
- ✎ 15th edition of BioAsia (*annual flagship event of Telangana Government*) held in Hyderabad (Telangana), with theme *Right Time, Right Now*. During it, Telangana government stated that it aims to double valuation of its life sciences ecosystem to \$100 billion in 10 years.
- ✎ 7th Youth Festival held in New Delhi organised by Sahitya Kala Parishad and Delhi Government with theme *Let Love Live*.
- ✎ 15th Vodafone Odeon Theatre Festival held in Kolkata, (West Bengal), to provide a platform for theatre artists to display their talent.
- ✎ *Aadi Mahotsava*, a tribal festival organized by Assam Government held in Guwahati (Assam).

210. ▶ General Conferences (Jan 01 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ 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.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ Annual Conference of DGPs and IGPs held at BSF (Border Security Force) Academy in Tekanpur (Madhya Pradesh). It was attended by PM Narendra Modi.
- ✎ 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.
- ✎ Conference on Transformation of Aspirational Districts held in New Delhi, organized by NITI Aayog. During This, NITI Aayog announced to issue a ranking of 115 aspirational districts by April 2018.
- ✎ Centre for Transportation Research and Management (CTRAM) organized a National Rail Transport Seminar with theme *Railways for Sustainable Development* in New Delhi.

211. ▶ General Conferences (Jan 11 - 20, 2018) -

- ✎ Ministry of Culture organized 7th *Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav* under *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* matrix in Karnataka.
- ✎ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 'Economic Democracy Conclave at Thane (Maharashtra), organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (charitable organisation in domain of training of social-political activists).
- ✎ International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR) organized by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in Delhi.
- ✎ 65th Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held under Chairmanship of HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar in Delhi.
- ✎ 3rd geo-political conference *Raisina Dialogue* held in New Delhi, attended by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and jointly organised by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF). 2018's theme is *Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idiom*.
 - ✎ Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference held in New Delhi, envisioned as India's flagship conference of geopolitics and geoeconomics.
 - ✎ Indian and Israeli PM duo also launched *I4Fund Call for Proposal*, that provisions establishing a 40 million USD Fund by India's Department of Science and Technology and National Innovation Authority of Israel.
- ✎ A single day Conclave called *Nirman Samvaad*, first ever interaction between Railways Ministry and Construction Industry held in Delhi, organized by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL).
- ✎ Lalit Kala Akademi's 59th National Exhibition of Art held in New Delhi, to exhibit brilliance of works of various artists.
- ✎ 60th India International Garment Fair (IIGF) held at Pragati Maidan (New Delhi).
- ✎ National Conference on Improving Accessibility held in New Delhi. During this, 100 accessible websites for Divyangs have been launched to empower Divyang persons.

212. ▶ General Conferences (Jan 21 - 31, 2018)

- ✎ Raipur Municipal Corporation (Chhattisgarh) organized *Kachra Mahotsav 2018* as India's first Garbage Festival. It aims to increase waste usage awareness.

- ✎ Election Commission of India (ECI) hosted International Conference on 'Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Election Process' in New Delhi.
- ✎ 21st India International Seafood Show (IISS) held in Margao (Goa). IISS is a biennial meeting point for various stakeholders of marine products sector such as producers, processing machinery manufacturers, processors, and technical experts.
- ✎ First *Khadi Haat* of India launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in New Delhi, to help artisans earn better.
- ✎ Axis Bank launched 4th edition of *Evolve*, its annual multi-city knowledge series for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) customers, titled *Transform your Family Business into your dream company*.
- ✎ 19th India International Watch and Clock Fair *Samaya Bharati 2018* held in Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- ✎ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted a 'Day at Sea' event for children of fishing hamlets at Frazerganj in South 24 Parganas district (West Bengal).

213. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 11 - 20) -






- ✎ NITI Aayog in partnership with USA government organized India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit at Dantewada (Chhattisgarh), To promote spirit of entrepreneurship in tribal youth.
- ✎ International Buffalo Symposium 2017 held in Nepal.
- ✎ Andhra Pradesh's first Hot Air Balloon Festival held in Araku Valley.
- ✎ 12th North East Business Summit held in New Delhi.
- ✎ Andhra Pradesh AgTech Summit 2017 held in Visakhapatnam with American Tech Firm Microsoft Co-Funder Bill Gates as Chief Guest.
- ✎ Karnataka State Government launched ambitious project to install Wi-Fi facility in 2500 gram panchayats across state by end of 2017. It was announced at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017.
- ✎ 12th Biennial International Conference & Exposition of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG) India held at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- ✎ Conference *Build The Ship – 2017* held in Cochin. Shipping and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari -
 - ✎ Laid foundation for INR 970-crore International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) for Cochin Shipyard Limited.
 - ✎ Launched Center of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) as a start up in skill development for maritime and shipbuilding sector, to have campuses at Vishakhapatnam and Mumbai. It is being set up by Shipping Ministry with Siemens under Sagarmala programme.
- ✎ International Seminar on Indian Space Programme - *Trends and Opportunities for Industry* organized in Delhi by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Antrix Corporation and FICC.
- ✎ Indian National Bar Association (INBA) organised *Bar Leadership Summit on Reforms in the Indian Legal Sector* in New Delhi

214. ▶ General Conferences (Nov 21 - 30) -

- ✎ International Gita Mahotsava 2017 held in Kurukshetra (Haryana).
- ✎ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas organised a consultative workshop on New National Policy on Biofuels & Pradhan Mantri Jivani Yojana (VGF for 2nd Generation Ethanol Bio Refineries) in New Delhi.
- ✎ 12th meeting of Standing Committee of Inter-State Council held in Delhi.
- ✎ International Ambedkar Conclave, organised by Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians in New Delhi.
- ✎ 1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health held in New Delhi.
- ✎ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare observed Vasectomy Fortnight to raise awareness about male sterilisation and to promote the participation of men in family planning.
- ✎ Conference of all Commanders of Eastern Air Command held at Shillong (Meghalaya).
- ✎ Inaugural edition of Proffer Hackathon held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – New Delhi. Proffer is a blockchain startup founded by graduates of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard. During it, Researchers from Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) won a special recognition prize from NITI Aayog.
- ✎ Zurich (Switzerland) based global think-tank Horasis' first Asia Meet held in Kolkata (West Bengal).
- ✎ Aadi Mahotsav, a celebration of the spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce Organized in New Delhi, with theme *A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce*.
- ✎ 7th *Kathakar: International Storytellers Festival* held at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi.
- ✎ Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh chaired 22nd meeting of Board of Management (BOM) of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) in New Delhi.
- ✎ India-Myanmar media interaction programme held in Imphal (Capital of Myanmar).

215. ▶ Geographical Indication Registry (GIR) gave Geographical Indication (GI) tag to traditional Etikoppaka toys (Etikoppaka Bommalu) from Andhra Pradesh, made by artisans in Etikoppaka village located on banks of river Varaha in Visakhapatnam district.

216. ▶ German auto major Mercedes-Benz unveiled India's first BS-VI-compliant S Class car produced at its Pune facility.
- ▶ Government's deadline for switching to new BS-VI emission norms is of April 2020.
 - ▶ BS-VI-compliant S Class can run on BS-IV fuel, which will bring down NOx emissions by 68% and PM by 82% and will lower CO2 burden by 13% and fuel demand by 10%.
217. ▶ Goa CM Manohar Parrikar launched *Jai Kisaan App* as a farmer engagement app containing features and functions to fulfill the needs of the farmer community.
218. ▶ Goa Government approved Solar Power Policy, under which State Government will look to generate 150 MW of solar power by 2021.
219. ▶ Goa government executed MoU with Central Government and Nobel Media (Sweden) to hold *Nobel Prize Series – India 2018 (Science Impacts Life)* in February 2018, along with a month-long exhibition brought from Nobel Museum, Sweden.
220. ▶ Google and Tata Trusts extended their *Internet Saathi* programme to 4,000 villages in six districts of Tamil Nadu, aimed at *Bridging the online gender divide in rural India*.
221. ▶ Government declared urban Maharashtra open defecation free (ODF) under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Maharashtra is third big state after Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh to become Open Defecation Free in urban areas.
222. ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
223. ▶ Government announced names of 9 new cities selected under Smart Cities Mission, with proposed investment of INR 12824 crores. After four rounds of selection, 99 cities have been selected for Smart Cities Mission so far.
224. ▶ Government announced that installation of bio-toilets in all passenger trains will be completed by March 2019.
225. ▶ Government approved 2018 as *National Year of Millets* to boost production of the nutrient-rich millets and the sunrise agri industry involved in it.
226. ▶ Government approved Highway and Shipping Projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore for the state of Tamil Nadu.
227. ▶ Government approved INR 7000 crores for construction of permanent campuses of six new Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) - Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwad (Karnataka), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Bhubaneswar (Chhattisgarh) and Goa.
228. ▶ Government approved National Medical Commission Bill 2017, to replace Medical Council Act 1956 and bringing reforms in medical education sector. It will replace existing apex medical education regulator Medical Council of India (MCI) with 25-member National Medical Commission (NMC).
229. ▶ Government approved disinvestment of 5% of its 89.32 % Stake in NLC India Limited through Offer for Sale (OFS) mechanism, expecting to raise INR 750 Crores.
230. ▶ Government approved merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Press Units (GIPUs) into 5 GIPUs located at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri in New Delhi, Nashik (Maharashtra) and Temple Street (Kolkata, West Bengal).
231. ▶ Government approved revamped Khelo India programme for period 2017-18 to 2019-20, aimed at mainstreaming sport as tool for development.
- ▶ Pan India Sports Scholarship scheme - It will cover 1,000 most talented young athletes each year, with Each athlete receiving annual scholarship of INR 5 lakh for 8 consecutive years.
 - ▶ Sports Universities - 20 universities across country will be promoted as hubs of sporting excellence.
 - ▶ National physical fitness drive - It will cover about 20 Crore children in age group of 10-18 and will support their fitness related activities.
232. ▶ Government approved setting up India's first mega coastal economic zone (CEZ) at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Maharashtra. It will stretch along north Konkan region spread across Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nashik and Raigarh.
- ▶ CEZs are spatial economic regions comprising group of coastal districts or districts with strong linkage to ports in region to tap into synergies with planned industrial corridor projects.
233. ▶ Government approved setting up National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with 3 year budget of INR 9046 crores -
- ▶ It will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide nutrition related interventions across Ministries.
 - ▶ All districts will be covered in a phased manner - 315 districts in 2017-18, 235 districts in 2018-19 and remaining districts in 2019-20.
 - ▶ Outlay of INR 9046 crores will be funded by Government Budgetary Support (50%) and 50% by IBRD or other MDB. Government support would be 60:40 between Centre and States/UTs, 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% for UTs.
 - ▶ NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
 - ▶ NNM would strive to achieve reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25 by 2022).

-  Govt. also launched a contest inviting people to design a logo and suggest a tagline for *National Nutrition Mission*, with a prize money of INR 1 lakh to winner of contest.
234. ▶ Government decided to end Haj subsidy from this year, as a part of its policy to 'empower minorities without appeasement'.
-  Note that despite withdrawal of subsidy, record number of 1.75 lakh Muslims would be Haj undertaking pilgrimage this year from India after Saudi Arabia increased India's quota by 5,000.
235. ▶ Government extended waiver of IRCTC Online ticketing service charges (INR 20 - 40 Per Ticket) till March 2018, that was announced in Sep 2016 to promote digital transactions after demonetization last year.
236. ▶ Government formulated water conservation scheme Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) to tackle ever-deepening crisis of depleting groundwater level, with allocation of INR 6000 crores. It aims to create sufficient water storage for agricultural purposes. It will cover 78 districts, 193 blocks and more than 8,300 gram panchayats across Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
237. ▶ Government gave green clearance for a greenfield airport project at Hirasar near Rajkot in Gujarat at cost of INR 1400 crores.
238. ▶ Government has set Minimum Export Price of onion at 850 dollars per tonne to ensure its availability in domestic market.
239. ▶ Government has undertaken drive to rationalize 38 Labour Acts by framing 4 labour codes viz *Code on Wages*, *Code on Social Security*, *Code on Industrial Relations* and *Code on occupational safety, health and working conditions*. It will ease up the process by synchronizing various labour Laws.
-  Code on Wages Bill 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha recently and It repeals 4 existing Laws - Minimum Wages Act 1948, Payment of Wages Act 1936, Equal Remuneration Act 1976 and Payment of Bonus Act 1965.
240. ▶ Government inaugurated India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for skilling in Smart Cities at New Delhi, aiming to bring momentum in skilling through collaborative efforts.
241. ▶ Government is developing tool named *soft power matrix*, aimed at calibrating effectiveness of India's soft power outreach. It will help in dealings with neighbouring countries and serve better as operational instrument in India's broader diplomatic doctrine.
-  Currently, articulation of India's soft power abroad is done through Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), with some 36 foreign cultural centres working to promote artistic and cultural traditions through range of activities such as Festivals of India abroad.
-  Standing Committee on External Affairs recommended that MEA should formulate comprehensive and well-structured policy delineating India's soft power resources and their articulation abroad.
242. ▶ Government launched 3rd version of its National Procurement Portal, Government e Marketplace (GeM).
-  GeM 3.0 will offer several features as standardised and enriched catalogue management, search engine, real time price comparison, template-based Bid and RA creation, demand aggregation, e-EMD, e-PBG, user rating, advanced MIS and analytics and more.
243. ▶ Government launched Diploma in Elementary Education programme for in-service untrained elementary teachers, developed by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and specifically designed for untrained teachers working in primary and upper primary schools country.
-  It will be last opportunity for such teachers who have not done teacher training courses. Parliament earlier extended deadline to December 2019 for untrained teachers to get qualified.
244. ▶ Government launched SECURE Himalaya, a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
245. ▶ Government launched Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and expanded coverage of Postal Life Insurance (PLI) in a bid to provide affordable life insurance services to people particularly those living in rural areas.
-  Under SBG Yojana, at least one village (min 100 households) will be identified in each of revenue districts of country to cover all households of identified village with minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each. Coverage of all households in identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is primary objective of this scheme.
-  Expansion of PLI will no more be confined to government and semi-government employees only, but will also be available to other professionals. Postal Life Insurance (PLI) was introduced in 1884 and is one of oldest life insurance schemes.
246. ▶ 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.
247. ▶ Government launched a ASH TRACK Web based and mobile application based Fly Ash monitoring System. It will enable better management of the ash produced by thermal power plants by providing an interface between fly ash producers (Thermal Power Plants) and potential ash users such as – road contractors, cement plants etc.

- ▶ ASH TRACK Mobile App will manage 200 million tonnes of fly ash by tracking coal based power plants situated within 100 km and 300 km from given location and availability of fly ash, along with prospective users within same radius.
- 248. ▶ Government launched phase 2 of BharatNet project to connect 1.5 lakh gram panchayats with high-speed broadband by March 2019.
 - ▶ Bharat Net (formerly *National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)*) launched by Government in October 2011, to deploy high-speed optical fibre cables across rural areas of India to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats in India. Project cost of BharatNet is estimated to be around 45000 crore, out of which Rs. 11200 crore have been used for the phase 1.
 - ▶ Under Phase One, 1 lakh gram panchayats will have broadband connectivity by end of 2017.
- 249. ▶ Government released Swachta Ranking 2017 of Higher Educational Institutions -
 - ▶ University - O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat (Haryana)
 - ▶ Colleges - Kongu Arts and Science College, Erode (Tamilnadu)
 - ▶ Technical institutions - Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore (Tamilnadu)
 - ▶ Government institutions - G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand)
- 250. ▶ Government ruled that all mobile phones unlinked with Aadhaar numbers will be deactivated after February 2018.
- 251. ▶ Government sanctioned INR 1500 crore to promote organic farming in Uttarakhand, to be disbursed over 3 years.
- 252. ▶ Government sanctioned a new project to control pollution in River Sal at Navelim town (Goa), under National River Conservation Plan. It will be completed at cost of INR 61.74 crores (to be borne by Centre and State on 60:40 basis), scheduled for completion by January 2021.
- 253. ▶ Government will club phase I and phase II of Ken-Betwa inter linking river (ILR) project, upon demands raised by Madhya Pradesh Govt.
 - ▶ Cost will now be revised, which was initially 18,000 crore (Phase 1), and 8000 crore (Phase 2).
 - ▶ Ken-Betwa Inter Linking project aims to transfer surplus water from Ken River to the Betwa basin through concrete canal to irrigate India's worst drought-prone Bundelkhand region.
 - ▶ It will benefit Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in terms of meeting irrigation, drinking water and electricity needs of people across 6 districts in the MP & UP.
- 254. ▶ Government will observe 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi from 2 October 2019 to 2 October 2020. For this, Government constituted a National Committee headed by PM Narendra Modi.
- 255. ▶ Government will provide up to Rs 60000 crore to Maharashtra in next 2 years for river-linking and irrigation projects to tackle the recurring water crisis.
- 256. ▶ Government will safeguard fast-eroding Majuli island in Assam (world's largest riverine island) using research carried out on floating Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat (B4) labs along Brahmaputra River.
- 257. ▶ Government will set up an international educational institution for minorities in Rajasthan's Alwar city, as 1 of 5 such institutes that Government is planning to set up across India. This plan was prepared in 2016 by a committee headed by Afzal Amanullah.
- 258. ▶ Government's Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issued alert on spread of new malware "Locky Ransomware" that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them.
- 259. ▶ Govt initiated formulating comprehensive 'safe-city' plans for women in eight metropolitan cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Lucknow and Hyderabad.
- 260. ▶ Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani announced setting up of 16 new Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) townships in Gujarat, aimed at attracting 15000 industrial units and 1 lakh jobs.
- 261. ▶ Gujarat Government has announced State Garments and Apparel Policy-2017 aimed at make Gujarat number 1 in textile which produces more of cotton. Women workers will get Rs 4,000 subsidy, while their male counterparts will get Rs 3,500.
- 262. ▶ Gujarat Government launched *Gyakunj e-class project* aimed at producing world-class students through interactive e-classes. Outlay of project is 36 Crores and 550 schools are covered In first phase.
- 263. ▶ Gujarat Government inaugurated Birsa Munda Tribal University in Rajpipla, a tribal-dominated town in Narmada district of Gujarat.
- 264. ▶ Gujarat Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections 2017 -
 - ▶ Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won Majority by winning 99 of Gujarat's 182 seats. Rival party Congress got 77 seats. BJP got 49.1 % Votes while Congress got 41.4%.
 - ▶ BJP will form Government in Gujarat for 6th Straight Term.
- 265. ▶ Gujarat government announced 4 % reduction in VAT (Value Added Tax) on petrol and diesel, becoming first state to cut VAT on fuel.
 - ▶ Now, petrol and Diesel will get cheaper by Approx INR 3 / Litre across Gujarat.
 - ▶ Note that recently central government has cut central excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 2 and also asked state governments to cut VAT on the fuel products by 5 % to bring down fuel prices.
- 266. ▶ Gujarat topped Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index released at 3rd meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion.

- ▶ LEADS Index is about mobility of goods and efficiency of logistics chain, developed by Commerce and Industry Ministry along with Deloitte.
 - ▶ Gujarat is followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Among UTs, Daman & Diu topped, followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.
267. ▶ Haryana Government renamed Amin village in Kurukshetra district to Abhimanyupur. Abhimanyu, son of Arjuna, was warrior prince in Mahabharata.
- ▶ Amin village is believed as site on which Kauravas had resorted to 'Chakravayuh' formation as a part of war strategy. Abhimanyu was trapped in 'Chakravayuh', but fought bravely till his last breath.
268. ▶ Haryana Government will provide ration cards for nomadic tribes living in different parts of Haryana, to provide identification to them as permanent residents.
269. ▶ Haryana Government will set up *PGs (Paying Guests) for cattle* under which people in urban areas will be able to rear their own cattle and produce quality milk for their personal consumption. Under this, State Government will mark upto 100 acres of land that will have 2 types of dairies – *Traditional Dairies* and *PGs for cattle*.
270. ▶ Haryana Govt. launched *Parivartan* scheme, to address 10 issues in 46 developmental blocks of state.
271. ▶ Haryana Govt. launched Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana from Karnal district. Under this, farmers will be compensated by state government, whenever market prices of the stipulated produce go below mentioned prices (applicable for tomato, onion, potato and cauliflower).
272. ▶ Haryana State Government will establish *Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran* as farmers' welfare department which will look to make agriculture remunerative by enhancing productivity and mitigate distress of farming households.
273. ▶ 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.
274. ▶ Haryana government announced lifetime monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for 'Hindi Satyagrahis' and those from state who were jailed during Emergency (21-month period from 1975 to 1977).
275. ▶ Haryana government mandated installation of Solar Photovoltaic Power plant in new buildings as per specified norms, aimed at conserving electricity and use it efficiently.
276. ▶ Haryana government opened subsidised canteens in 4 districts (Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar and Yamunanagar) under *Antyodaya Aahaar Yojana* to provide hygienic food at affordable prices to poor and needy persons. These canteens will serve food to concerned people at INR 10, having 4 chapattis, rice, dal, cooked seasonal vegetables, curd or raita, green chutney and gur.
277. ▶ Haryana government signed MoU Worth INR 20000 Crores with an integrated trade facilitation services organisation - Verbind - to set up a logistics and trading hub in state. State will assist the organisation in obtaining necessary approvals and clearances with reference to projects from relevant departments, in line with existing rules and regulations.
278. ▶ Haryana government will establish an organ and tissue transplant organisation (SOTTO) at Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak.
279. ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 the crops.
280. ▶ Haryana topped preliminary rankings of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) for this year with score of 69 %, followed by Telangana (68.46 %). Commerce and Industry Ministry will release final rankings in January-February 2018.
281. ▶ Health Ministry approved proposal of Medical Council of India (MCI) to amend Screening Test Regulations 2002, making it mandatory to qualify National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to pursue foreign medical course.
- ▶ A common National Entrance Exam, National Eligibility cum Entrance Test has been made mandatory for admission to all medical courses in the country.
 - ▶ Indian students can also pursue medical education abroad, however, they need to qualify *Foreign Medical Graduates Exam (FMGE)* for practicing in India after obtaining MBBS overseas.
 - ▶ Overseas Citizen of India shall have to mandatorily qualify NEET for admission to MBBS course abroad, from May 2018. Result of NEET will be treated as the Eligibility Certificate for such persons.
282. ▶ 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.
283. ▶ Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) approved projects worth INR 2,066 Crores for IITs Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kharagpur, Kanpur and NIT Suratkal. These funds would be used to improve research infrastructure in these institutions to further improve their global standings.

284. ▶ Himachal CM Virbhadr Singh inaugurated first phase of 65 MW Kashang Hydel Project in tribal Kinnaur district. It is a 195 MW project (three units of 65 MW each).
285. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government launched women's safety app named *Shakti*. It comes with a panic button and would not require internet connectivity.
- ▶ Once triggered, app would send a message to nearest police control room and start recording audio and video after 20 seconds.
 - ▶ *GUDDIYA* helpline number 1515 and *Hoshiyar Singh* helpline number 1090 were also launched, to fight crimes against women in state.
286. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government will provide monthly honorarium of INR 2500 to 'Jal Rakshaks'. Additionally, Qualified Jal Rakshaks with ITI diplomas will be given quota for pump operators and fitters and Those with matric and 12 years of experience will be inducted against post of Chowkidar and pump attendants.
287. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government approved *Heritage Tourism Policy 2017 & Mukhya Mantri Rural Road Repair Scheme* along with other welfare initiatives.
288. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government launched Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project to promote organic farming, aimed at doubling income of farmers by the 2022. In ZBNF natural farming methods, cost of growing and harvesting plants is zero as no fertilizers and pesticides are added. It requires almost no monetary investment and envisages use of 'Jeevamrutha' and 'Beejamrutha'.
289. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections 2017 -
- ▶ Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won Majority by winning 44 of Himachal Pradesh's 68 seats. Rival party Congress got 21 seats. BJP got 48.8 % Votes while Congress got 41.7%.
290. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government implemented Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS) to provide top-up coverage of Rs 30,000 per senior citizen to all existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) smart card holders, in addition to basic coverage of INR 30,000 in Trust and Society mode.
291. ▶ Himachal Pradesh government launched first-of-its-kind in Nation electric bus service in ecologically fragile 51 km – long stretch between Manali and Rohtang Pass.
292. ▶ 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).
293. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath flagged off commercial operations of Lucknow Metro, on 8.5-km corridor from Transport Nagar to Charbagh.
294. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at National Conference on Child Labour organised in New Delhi, aiming to achieve target of child labour free society
295. ▶ Home Ministry declared Nagaland as *disturbed area* for 6 more months (till June 2018) under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act – AFSPA.
- ▶ Under AFSPA, armed forces attain several overriding powers including authority to open fire and use force against any person acting against the law.
296. ▶ Home Ministry has formed two new divisions to exclusively deal with emerging security challenges such as radicalization and cyber crime - *Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Radicalization (CTCR)* and *Cyber and Information Security (CIS)*.
- ▶ CTCR is modified version of the Home Ministry's internal security-II division. It will focus on tracking and assessing the online reach of global terrorist outfits and devising strategies to counter their propaganda.
 - ▶ CIS division will monitor online crimes and threats, including cyber fraud and hacking, and suggest ways to minimize and fight them.
297. ▶ Home Ministry opened two Zorinpui and Kawrpuichhuah immigration check posts along borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh respectively.
298. ▶ Home Ministry will set up Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) as an apex centre to deal with cyber crimes such as financial frauds, circulation of pornographic and communal contents. I4C will be located in Delhi. It will coordinate with state governments in matters of cyber crimes and will monitor cyber space and social media.
- ▶ Information and Broadcasting Ministry will also set up a social media communication (SMC) hub for keeping a tab on trending news in districts and gather feedback on Government's flagship schemes, with investment of INR 17 crores for setting up 707 SMC hubs.
299. ▶ Home Ministry will soon grant citizenship to nearly 1 lakh Chakma and Hajong refugees, who came from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1960s and are living in northeast. Chakmas and Hajongs were residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in erstwhile East Pakistan and had fled after their land was submerged by Kaptai dam project in 1960s. Chakmas are Buddhists by faith and Hajongs are Hindus.
300. ▶ Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that Paika rebellion (Paika Bidroha) of 1817 will be named as First War of Independence against British Rule in history books from next academic session. Earlier, 1857 Sepoy Mutiny was regarded as First War of Indian Independence.

Paikas were traditional landed militia under Gajapati rulers of Odisha. Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar, military chief of King of Khurda led army of Paikas forcing East India Company (British) forces to retreat in 1817.

301. ▶ Hurun India Rich List 2017 -

Mukesh Ambani retains the richest Indian title for sixth year (worth of 257,900 crores).

Patanjali Ayurved CEO Acharya Balkrishna named among India's top 10 richest people for first time, with wealth of over 70000 crores.

302. ▶ Hyderabad High Court directed Telengana government not to grant licence, to establish liquor retail outlets in scheduled areas without resolution of gramsabha.

303. ▶ Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) is ranked No. 1 in Airports Council International's (ACI) service quality survey in category of 5 to 15 million passengers per annum.

GMR Hyderabad International Airport also recently signed MOU with Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB) and Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board (MTPB) to promote tourism.

304. ▶ IIT-Kharagpur signed MoU with *Samsung* for setting up of a digital academy that will train students on Internet of Things (IoT) through Tizen-based operating systems, commonly used by the company for its mobile phones and home appliances.

305. ▶ India Road Assessment Programme (IndiaRAP) launched by FedEx Express to rate highways' safety levels and to eliminate most unsafe roads. It aims to make Indian roads safer and curb fatalities. It will be hosted by Asian Institute of Transport Development.

306. ▶ India missed December 2017 deadline announced for elimination of Kala Azar (black fever) in 2017-18 Budget by Government.

Elimination is defined as reducing annual incidence of disease to less than 1 case per 10,000 people at sub-district level.

Kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis), also known as black fever and Dumdum fever is most severe form of leishmaniasis. It is slow progressing indigenous disease caused by single-celled parasite of Leishmania family.

307. ▶ India signed \$ 84 Million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Improvement and Expansion of Water Supply in Bihar.

308. ▶ India signed Contract for lending of € 300 million for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6, with European Investment Bank (EIB).

Bangalore Metro Phase II is to be jointly financed by European Investment Bank (€500 million) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (€300 million). Project includes total length of 72.095 km and 61 stations (12 underground).

309. ▶ India started nationwide tiger census 2018, as largest survey of wildlife anywhere in world. India will now use more technology, including mobile app *MSTrIPES*, with higher focus on northeast to determine number of tigers in India.

Tiger census 2018 by National Tiger Conservation Authority will be INR 10 crores exercise, which will involve 40,000 forest guards traversing 4,00,000 sq. km. of forests.

310. ▶ India started producing Civet Coffee as most expensive coffee in world in Karnataka.

It is made from feces of a species of cat called 'Civet Cat'.

One kilogram of this coffee sells for Rs.8000 in India and at Rs.20,000 to Rs.25,000 in abroad.

311. ▶ India will get its first runway on a 'sea bridge', as Airports Authority of India (AAI) will extend Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport by building an RCC platform on the beach and shallow area which will allow bigger ATRs to operate on island.

312. ▶ India will have its own automated ocean pollution observation system called *automated moorings* from April 2018, to help monitor ocean pollution levels besides offering insights on changes in marine system. It will do away with present practice of collecting water samples from the sea and studying their pollution levels thereafter.

313. ▶ India will host Its 1st (overall 8th edition) of Theatre Olympics 2018 in February - April 2018. This 51 day event will be organized by National School of Drama under Ministry of Culture, with budget of INR 51.81 crores, with theme *Flag of Friendship*.

It will witness performances in 30 different Indian languages, 15 foreign languages as well as in non-verbal languages. Artists from 30 nations will participate.

314. ▶ India's *Taj Mahal* is ranked 2nd best UNESCO world heritage site in world, by travel portal TripAdvisor, after Cambodia's Angkor Wat.

315. ▶ 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.

316. ▶ India's first food testing lab in IITs opened in IIT Kharagpur campus, after National Accreditation Board for Calibration and Testing Laboratories (NABL) approved it for certifying food items based on nutritional value and perform adulteration checks.

317. ▶ India's largest floating solar power plant inaugurated at Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad (Kerala), with capacity of 500 kilowatts (KW).

It consists of 1,938 solar panels with a capacity of 260 watts, a 500 kilo volt ampere (KVA) transformer and 17 inverters.

Unique feature of this plant is anchoring mechanism to maintain plant with alteration of water level.

318. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with Rajasthan State Government to improve infrastructure for their posts near the India-Pakistan border.

319. ▶ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and American pharmaceutical firm Pfizer signed MoU to establish a 'Centre to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance' in New Delhi, to help combat growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in India.
320. ▶ Indian Naval Academy (Ezhimala) conducted 4th annual *Dilli* seminar with theme *India and Southeast Asia – Maritime Trade, Expedition and Civilisation Linkages*.
321. ▶ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched India's first Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station at a petrol pump in Nagpur, in collaboration with cab aggregator Ola.
322. ▶ Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) Launched Idea Competition called *SRIJAN' (Station Rejuvenation through Joint Action)* at MyGov portal, under redevelopment of 635 major Railway stations across country. Last date for submission of entries in competition is 26-03-2018, with winner for logo competition to get cash prize of INR 75000.
323. ▶ Indian Railways and General Electric (GE) Jointly inducted 2 wholly designed in India Digitally Enabled Locomotives based on Insulated-gate bipolar transistor (IGBT) technology.
- ▶ IGBT Technology has 3 terminal power semiconductor device primarily used as electronic switch. It offers greater power gain than standard bipolar type transistor combined with higher voltage operation and lower input losses.
 - ▶ GE is providing locomotive technology to Indian Railway and by 2025, through JV (Indian Railways has 26% stake), it will manufacture 1000 fuel-efficient locomotives (100 per year) for freight traffic hauling. 40 fuel efficient diesel locomotives will be manufactured in GE facility at Erie in US and rest 960 diesel locomotives will be manufactured in Marhaura (Bihar).
324. ▶ Indian Railways installed Asia's largest Solid State Interlocking (SSI) system in Kharagpur (West Bengal), which will enable station masters to set 800 different routes for trains in a few minutes.
- ▶ Interlocking railway signal prevents conflicting movements of trains.
 - ▶ New technology has been set up at cost of 39 Crores and replaces pre-1989 route relay system that only allowed operators to set maximum 423 routes.
325. ▶ Indian Railways launched *Voluntary Safety Reporting* website for its employees to anonymously report internal safety issues and hazards. It allows employees to report issues anonymously OR to mention their contact details for confidential feedback.
326. ▶ Indian Railways launched Project Saksham as its largest time-bound *upskilling* exercise for its 13 lakh employees. It will start in January 2018 and go on till September 2018. Railways Ministry also advanced target for completion of installing human waste discharge free Bio-toilets in coaches to December 2018, compared to deadline of September 2019.
327. ▶ Indian Railways launched main arch of world's highest bridge on the River Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district which will provide direct connectivity to Kashmir Valley. This bridge with height 359 metres above bed of the River Chenab and will be 30 metres higher than Eiffel Tower in Paris.
328. ▶ Indian Railway's first set of solar plants with capacity of 5 megawatt peak (MWp) launched on roof tops of Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Anand Vihar and Delhi railway stations by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, as part of National Solar Mission in which Railways plans to commission 1000 MWp solar plants across its network.
329. ▶ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) and Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL) signed agreement worth 210 Crores INR for financing shared infrastructure of 2 large Solar Parks in Madhya Pradesh.
- ▶ It is under recent US\$ 100 Million agreement between Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), World Bank & IREDA for creating common infrastructure for ultra-mega solar parks in India to achieve 100 GW solar capacity addition target by 2022.
330. ▶ Indian railways will be running steam hauled tourist train "Fairy Queen" between Delhi Cantonment and Rewari on second and fourth Saturday of every month till April 2018. Fairy Queen was built in 1855 and is the World's oldest steam locomotive as certified by Guinness Book of Records in 1998.
331. ▶ 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%.
332. ▶ India's Zero Hunger Programme through interventions in farm sector will be launched on occasion of World Food Day (October 16, 2017). It consists of organisations of farming system for nutrition, setting up genetic gardens for biofortified plants and initiation of 'Zero Hunger' training.
- ▶ A genetic garden for biofortified plants contains germplasm of naturally biofortified crops through plant breeding. It has plants and crops that help supplement micro-nutrient deficiencies, including iron, zinc, vitamin A and iodine among others.
 - ▶ Programme will be launched in 3 districts – Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Koraput (Odisha) and Thane (Maharashtra).
333. ▶ India's first Aviation Multi Skill Development Centre (MSDC) is launched at Chandigarh Airport's old terminal, as a CSR initiative of Airports Authority of India (AAI). It will train about 2,400 youth and women in 8 aviation job roles over next 3 years.
334. ▶ India's first Centre for Animal Law has been established at NALSAR University of Law (Hyderabad), inaugurated by Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi. It will create curriculum on animal welfare laws, including developing topics for research.

335. ▶ India's first Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) will be built in Andhra Pradesh, aimed at for providing facilities and amenities for manufacturing mobiles and allied products.
336. ▶ India's first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) under Hybrid Annuity Mode will come up in Haridwar (Uttarakhand) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
- ✍ It is a step towards realizing dream of Nirmal Ganga as first ever Hybrid Annuity-based model being applied in sewerage sector under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.
 - ✍ Under this, concessionaire responsible for maintenance of project will be paid based on performance in phased manner. It will ensure continued performance of sewage infrastructure assets created due to better ownership, accountability and optimal performance.
 - ✍ Hybrid Annuity Model was approved in January 2016 with 100% central sector funding. Under this - development, operation and maintenance of STPs will be undertaken by Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created by winning bidder at local level.
 - ✍ Yes Bank committed Rs 156 crore to fund first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to be constructed at Varanasi under Hybrid Annuity-PPP Model. YES Bank signed deal with Essel Infraprojects in this regard.
337. ▶ India's first and only design university - *World University of Design* opened at Sonapat (Haryana). WUD is India's first university dedicated to education in creative domain.
338. ▶ India's first artificial intelligence (AI) research institute inaugurated in Mumbai as *Wadhvani AI*. It will focus on researching ways to harness power of AI to solve deep rooted problems in India. Indian-American tech entrepreneurs Romesh Wadhvani and Sunil Wadhvani are committing \$30 million to institute over first 10 years.
339. ▶ India's first automatic Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) will be launched in March 2018 in Odisha, under *National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project*.
- ✍ It will provide Odisha's entire population residing on 480 km length coastline a pre-warning siren in event of occurrence of natural disasters like tsunami or cyclone.
340. ▶ India's first-ever broad gauge air-conditioned AC EMU suburban train flagged off by western railway (from Mumbai's Borivali station).
341. ▶ 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.
342. ▶ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as first Information Utility (IU) under IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations 2017. S. Ramann is appointed as Managing Director of NESL.
343. ▶ International Kite Festival held at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
344. ▶ International NGO *Safe Water Network* partnered with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to launch water ATMs, providing safe water access in Hyderabad. The initiative is supported by USAID under Urban WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Alliance Partnership and funded by Honeywell India.
345. ▶ International poetry festival *Mystic Kalinga* organized in Bhubaneswar Odisha.
346. ▶ Jammu & Kashmir State Government constituted State Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (SCPUL), for promotion of Urdu.
347. ▶ Jammu & Kashmir Student Exchange programme 'Maitreyi Yatra' held in New Delhi. It is organized by Ministry of Human Resource development with an objective to acquaint youth of Jammu & Kashmir with culture, language and development of different parts of India.
348. ▶ 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.
349. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir Govt Observed *Heritage Week* from November 19 to 25, 2017 to generate awareness on preservation of state's ancient culture and environment.
350. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir government formed a committee to study scope and definition of horticulture, headed by chief secretary of Jammu Kashmir Bharat Bhushan Vyas. Study will help in improving and assessing growth of horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir.
351. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir government launched central govt's SAUBHAGYA (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) with an aim to provide free electricity connections to poor people in state. SAUBHAGYA initiative was launched by Central Govt in Sep 2017 to provide electricity to 4 crore families across India by December 2018.
352. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir will host its first international martial arts games event in Srinagar in October 2018, named *Asian Martial Arts Games*.
353. ▶ Jharkhand Government launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana, aimed at developing villages of freedom fighters in state.
354. ▶ 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).

355. ▶ 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.
356. ▶ Karnataka Assembly passed *Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill 2017*, aimed at eradicating inhuman evil practices propagated and performed in name of black magic by conman to exploit the common people.
- ▶ Karnataka Assembly also approved Reservation for SC / ST in Promotions in State Civil Service Jobs as it passed *Karnataka Extension of Consequential Seniority to Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation Bill 2017*.
357. ▶ Karnataka Department of Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology (BT) signed MoU with Finland, called Karnataka–Finland Innovation Corridor.
358. ▶ Karnataka Government approved a policy that seeks to provide legal protection to transgender community and thereby safeguard them from social and sexual exploitation. Aim is to remove stigma attached to transgender community and integrate them into mainstream of society.
359. ▶ Karnataka Government launched *Mathru Purna* scheme aimed at providing nutritious meals to about 12 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers in state. Counselling and other maternity benefits will also be provided at Anganwadi centres under scheme.
360. ▶ Karnataka Government launched *Nava Karnataka 2025 or Vision 2025* for charting out a development roadmap for next seven years, covering 13 sectors identified for rapid development.
361. ▶ Karnataka Government signed MoU with Microsoft to empower smallholder farmers with technology-oriented solutions that will help them increase income.
362. ▶ Karnataka Govt approved *Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (KESDM) Policy 2017-22* to promote electronic design and manufacturing in state.
- ▶ State govt also passed a diluted version of law that aims to regulate pricing and certain policies at private hospitals and medical establishments in state.
363. ▶ Karnataka High Court struck down rules laid out by central govt in 2014 that mandated pictorial health warnings to cover 85% of tobacco product packaging space, holding that they violated Constitutional norms.
- ▶ However, 40% pictorial health warning rule, which existed prior to amendment rules, will remain in force.
364. ▶ Karnataka became first state to roll out an Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy that looks not only at boosting sales of Electrical Vehicles, but also setting up charging infrastructure and special manufacturing zones.
365. ▶ Karnataka government appointed K Ratna Prabha as new chief secretary of Karnataka.
366. ▶ Karnataka government banned pillion riding on two-wheelers with less than 100 cc engine, in view of safety of pillion riders that are often victims of road accidents.
367. ▶ Karnataka government merged existing 7 health schemes to launch a unified health scheme *Arogya Bhagya*, aiming at *Treatment First and Payment Next*.
368. ▶ Karnataka government partnered with Intel company *Mobileye* to launch a project for automotive safety called *Automotive Safety Innovation*, which will create a repository of road and traffic information.
369. ▶ Karnataka government will provide free education for all girls from Class 1 to graduation level in all public and aided private schools and colleges from next academic year.
370. ▶ Karnataka's capital Bengaluru has become first Indian city to have its own logo. The with red and black logo is part English and part Kannada.
371. ▶ Kerala Government formulated a trauma-care scheme, under which all emergency care and treatment will be provided to accident victims free-of-cost for first 48 hours.
372. ▶ Kerala Tourism Department launched a 3 year long Continuous Tourist Survey (CTS) 2017-2020 to improve tourism in state, in collaboration with *Datamation Consultants*.
373. ▶ Kerala Tourism department launched campaign called *Yalla Kerala* (Yalla means lets go). to target tourists from Arab Nations (Saudi Arabia, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar).
374. ▶ Kerala government approved proposal of state Startup Mission (KSUM) to accord sabbatical leave to faculty members of all colleges who intend to establish startups. An expert panel headed by Saji Gopinath will select 10 faculty members for implementation of project.
375. ▶ Kerala government made vaccination compulsory for school admissions from next academic year onwards.
376. ▶ Kerala government raised minimum age for liquor consumption from 21 to 23 years.
377. ▶ Kerala government will soon be utilising services of robots called *Bandicoot*, to clean sewer holes in state, developed by startup *Genrobotics*. Services of robots will be initially utilised in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram, which has over 5000 manholes.
378. ▶ Kerala will soon open India's first transgender-exclusive clinics at government medical colleges across state.
379. ▶ Kochi (Kerala) will host 5th *Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017*.

380. ▶ Kolkata (West Bengal) for first time hosted international Puppet festival named *PUN (Puppets Unite Neighbours) International Puppet Festival*.
381. ▶ Kolkata Police imposed ban on public display of weapons in Kolkata, till 1 January 2019.
382. ▶ 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.
383. ▶ Labour commission of Karnataka certified formation of *Karnataka State IT/ITES Employees Union (KITU)* under Trade Union Act 1926, and Karnataka Trade Unions Regulations 1958.
384. ▶ Leaders of 10 ASEAN Nations will be chief guests for Republic Day 2018 of India.
▶ AESAN Nations (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) - Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos, Brunei.
385. ▶ 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.
386. ▶ Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched *Single Click Pension Delivery* scheme where money will go directly into account of approx 35 lakh beneficiaries. He also honoured elderly who completed age of 100 years with *Shataayu* award.
387. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government announced measures for welfare of women in State, including financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakh for remarriage of widows.
388. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government inaugurated a community toilet for third gender, in Mangalwara area of Bhopal. This is the first community toilet for exclusive third gender usage in India.
389. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Government launched *Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna* for farmers, to lend money to farmers at 0 % interest.
390. ▶ Madhya Pradesh State Government approved INR 7546-crore project for linking Narmada River with Parvati River, aimed at create irrigation facilities on 2 lakh hectares of agriculture land in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.
391. ▶ Madhya Pradesh became first state to completely implement door-to-door garbage collection in all urban areas, using measures like solid waste management at landfill sites and processing through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
392. ▶ 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.
393. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government initiated *Mission One Click scheme* to distribute 30 types of scholarship in schools, through Samagra Education Portal.
394. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government launched a mobile application *pollution metre* to spread awareness against pollution in western part of state.
395. ▶ Madhya Pradesh partnered with Nagaland and Manipur, to strengthen cultural relations between them Under *Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat* scheme. It aims to bolster sentimental bonds between people of different states.
396. ▶ Madras high court (Tamilnadu) banned use of pictures of living persons on banners and hoardings in Tamil Nadu, aimed at maintaining clean environment and also ensure that there were no unnecessary drawings on buildings and residential places.
397. ▶ Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) approved State government's application to increase height of planned Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Statue from 192 Metres to 210 Metres, making it Highest statue in world.
▶ Currently, Spring Temple Buddha statue (208 metres) in China is highest in world.
398. ▶ Maharashtra Government and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetables (subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board) signed lease agreement to set up a state-of-the-art milk and milk products processing plant.
399. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved 1% reservation for orphans in government jobs and education.
▶ It is termed as *parallel reservation* as It will be provided under general category. It means that government does not need to increase its caste reservation quota that has already reached 52%. Out of total jobs available under general category, 1% will be only for orphans.
400. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as new wildlife sanctuary in state. Located in North East of Tadoba, it will include 159 sq km of Brahmapuri forest.
401. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved Industrial Policy for Women Entrepreneurs, considering a woman or a group of women who have financed 100% for project and hired minimum 50% women employees as women entrepreneurs.
▶ Under this, a woman entrepreneur would get financial assistance from state government in the range of Rs 15 lakh up to Rs 1 crore for capital investment in project at subsidized rate of interest up to 5%.
▶ For projects headed by women entrepreneurs, electricity will be supplied at a subsidized rate of Rs 1-2 per unit instead of Rs 7-8 per unit charges for industries.
▶ Maharashtra is first state to have such policy exclusively for women entrepreneurs.

402. ▶ Maharashtra Government approved climate change adaptation policy that will focus on developing environment-friendly villages and cities.
403. ▶ Maharashtra Government became first state to set up a Transgender Welfare Board, to look after education, employment, housing, and health schemes for transgenders and protect their Constitutional and human rights.
404. ▶ Maharashtra Government framed helipad policy that lays down strict guidelines for helipads, their location and other procedures to be followed. Need for such policy was felt owing to a series of near-mishaps during last year.
405. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched 4 schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors among economically backward segments (Beneficiaries in 18 – 41 years age group) -
- ▶ 1st scheme is about extending loan along with interest subsidy
 - ▶ 2nd is for promoting group farming.
 - ▶ 3rd scheme is for group projects related to agro-industries and small and medium scale entrepreneurs
 - ▶ 4th scheme relates to skill development training in agriculture under which, training will be imparted to 2.5 lakh rural youths.
- ▶ *Annasaheb Patil Arthik Backward Development Corporation (APABDC)* will be nodal entity for implementation of these schemes.
406. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched *Maharashtra Mission 1 Million* initiative under which over 10 lakh students across state will be encouraged to play football.
407. ▶ Maharashtra Government launched 'MahaLabharthi' web portal that will help people get information about all government schemes at URL <https://www.mahalabharthi.in>. It works on basis of personal, educational and professional information provided by a person while registering.
408. ▶ Maharashtra Government proposed a 100 point Performance-linked marking system for 7.5 lakh state government employees. Out of 100 marks, 60 marks will be assigned for performance on objective parameters (*speed of completion of task, punctuality, attentiveness*), while 40 marks will be given for subjective parameters (*quality of file notings, contribution in policy making, articulation of thought*).
409. ▶ Maharashtra Government will adopt Clinical establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, to ensure minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them.
410. ▶ Maharashtra Government will form an education board for non-English medium schools, that will prepare syllabus for non-English medium schools in Maharashtra.
411. ▶ Maharashtra Health department and Johnson and Johnson signed MoU to train rural midwives and social health activists regarding tuberculosis and maternal and infant mortality. Nearly 10,000 auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs) and 60,000 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in Maharashtra will be trained by Johnson and Johnson at district level.
412. ▶ Maharashtra State Government and Tata Trusts entered into a tie-up for social development initiatives in Chandrapur district, to focus on livelihood, digital literacy, data driven governance and child protection.
413. ▶ Maharashtra became first State to adopt a fintech (Financial Technology) policy for fostering an environment for fintech startups. Under this, State Government will provide infrastructure and financial support to facilitate 300 startups over 3 years, with INR 200 crores allotted for it.
414. ▶ Maharashtra became first state to unveil Public Cloud Policy that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their data storage onto cloud.
415. ▶ Maharashtra government would raise INR 25,000 crore project on 800 acres at Heti (Kundi) village in Vidarbha, in association with Ayurveda Products Brand Patanjali. Patanjali will purchase 10,000 cows to develop a breeding centre and to carry out dairy and allied activities.
416. ▶ Maharashtra government approved to provide sanitary napkins at a subsidised rate of Rs 5 to women living in rural areas.
417. ▶ Maharashtra government banned packaged water bottles in government offices, to become plastic-free state from March 2018.
418. ▶ Maharashtra government banned sale of tobacco in shops selling Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) items in state, to ensure that youngsters do not get addicted to tobacco products.
419. ▶ Maharashtra government launched *Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed Sanmaan scheme*, under which family members of martyrs would be provided jobs with Maharashtra State road Transport Corporation (MSRTC). Apart from jobs, wives of martyrs would also be provided with lifetime free bus passes.
420. ▶ 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.
421. ▶ Maharashtra government will roll out *Asmita Yojana* on International Women's Day (March 8, 2018) to provide affordable (subsidised) sanitary pads to school girls and women. Under this, schoolgirls studying in Zilla Parishad schools will get sanitary napkin packet at Rs 5 while rural women can avail it at subsidised rate of INR 24 and INR 29. State government appointed *Umed*, Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission, as a nodal agency for effective implementation.

422. ▶ Maharashtra govt has set up of a Gender Budget Cell for better implementation of various schemes of Women and Child Development (WCD) by other government departments. It will enable coordination between various departments for effective implementation of schemes.
423. ▶ Mahindra and Mahindra celebrated *Mahila Kisan Diwas* and launched *Prerna* programme to empower women working in agriculture sector. It is first launched in Odisha, aiming to impact lives of over 1,500 families across 30-plus villages.
424. ▶ 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.
- ▶ Mankidia is one of 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and depends on making rope with siali fibre that's richly available in Similipal.
425. ▶ Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple (Madurai (TN)) adjudged best 'Swachh Iconic Place' in India, owing to high level sanitation and tourist friendly arrangements in the temple.
426. ▶ Meghalaya Election Department entered Limca Book of Records for formation of the biggest human logo comprising young voters in state. It was part of Mission Unite (U and I towards Enrolment) as part of Special drive to enroll left out voters in age group 18 - 21 years.
427. ▶ Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurated *Friendship Gate* for Indian and Bangladesh border guards, aimed to have a Wagah-like beating retreat ceremony for India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh.
428. ▶ Meghalaya became first state to operationalize a *Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act 2017*, a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.
429. ▶ Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha launched DARPAN *Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India* Project to improve quality of service, add value to services and achieve "financial inclusion" of un-banked rural population. It aims of financial inclusion for rural population and it is targeted to complete the project by March 2018.
430. ▶ Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda launched *Viral Load testing* for all People Living with HIV/AIDS, to provide free of cost viral load testing to 12 lakh PLHIV for treatment in India at least once a year. It will empower medical officers to detect failure on first line treatment and therefore save PLHIV from developing resistance to drugs.
431. ▶ Minister of Railways announced various decisions for Transformation of Indian Railways -
- ▶ Highest priority to passenger safety - Eliminating 5000 unmanned crossings by 2018, Shift to LHB coaches from ICF coaches, Use of MTRC (Mobile Train Radio Communication) and TPWS (Train Protection & Warning System). RPF staff will not be allowed to check tickets, which is the function of TTEs.
 - ▶ Transforming through technology - Use of mobile apps for monitoring passenger services, wi-fi connectivity and increase speed of around 700 trains, GPS based tracking of rail movement.
 - ▶ Energy efficiency - Complete electrification by 2022 to save INR 10,000 crores.
 - ▶ Faster Redevelopment of stations
 - ▶ Railway Stations with less trains to be developed as Multi-utility centres
 - ▶ Focus on welfare of field staff - Improving working conditions of Group D employees that work hard is to ensure track safety.
 - ▶ Railways will work with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to devise safety mechanisms to make travel by trains safer.
432. ▶ Minister of State (IC) for Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh announced *North East Rural Livelihood Project* as an exclusive rural Livelihood scheme for North-eastern states. It aims at helping tribals and lower socioeconomic groups, Initially in Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. Assistance will be provided to over 10000 Self Help Groups (SHGs).
433. ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
434. ▶ Ministries of Power and Textiles partnered under SAATHI (*Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help small Industries*) Initiative Under which Power Ministry's PSU Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) would provide energy efficient Powerlooms, motors and Rapier kits to small and medium Powerloom units at no cost. This will result in energy and cost savings to unit owner and he may repay to EESL over a 4 - 5 years.
435. ▶ 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%).
436. ▶ Ministry for Development of North-East Region (DoNER) will set up *NITI Forum for North-East* to recommend suitable interventions for sustainable growth in North East Region (NER). It will be co-chaired by Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog (Rajiv Kumar Currently) and








Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER).

437. ▶ Ministry of *Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation* signed A MOU with Bihar and Jharkhand state governments for completion of balance works of North Koel reservoir project at an estimated cost of INR 1622 crores.
- ▶ North Koel project was started in 1972 but was later halted in 1993. It is situated on North Koel river (a tributary of Sone river), that will provide irrigation to 1,11,521 hectares of land annually in most drought prone areas of Palamu and Garhwa districts in Jharkhand and Aurangabad and Gaya districts in Bihar.
 - ▶ Out of cost of balance works of INR 1622 crores, component of INR 1013 crores shall be borne by central Govt. as a grant from LTIF under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).
438. ▶ Ministry of Civil Aviation awarded 325 air routes under 2nd phase of government's flagship UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam naagrik) regional connectivity scheme.
- ▶ Government announced that 73 underserved airports and helipads will be connected under phase 2 of UDAN Scheme. Interglobe Aviation (parent firm of IndiGo) was awarded a maximum of 20 proposals, followed by SpiceJet that won 17 proposals.
 - ▶ Around 40% or 129 of 325 air routes were awarded to newly created category of 'priority areas' that include Jammu and Kashmir, Northeastern and hill states, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.
 - ▶ UDAN 2 will provide over 26 lakh seats per annum that will be covered with airfare cap of INR 2500 per hour of flying.
 - ▶ Funding for UDAN 2 will be INR 617 crores, significantly more than 213 crores in First Phase.
439. ▶ Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) sanctioned INR 200 crores for flood affected reconstruction works in the 4 North Eastern States - Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
440. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has set up an internal expert committee to advise government on a policy on artificial intelligence (AI).
441. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) launched *Stree Swabhiman* Initiative aimed at creating sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging Common Service Centres (CSCs). CSCs will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins (menstrual pads) to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
442. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched *Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative* to strengthen cybersecurity ecosystem in India, in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD). It will leverage expertise of the IT industry in cybersecurity and will be operated on principles of awareness, education and enablement.
443. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched *Wood is Good* Campaign under Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus). It was launched during conference on *Sustainable landscapes and forest ecosystems: Theory to Practice* held in New Delhi.
444. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) refused captive breeding of Chiru (Tibetan antelope), whose underfur is used for making famous shahtoosh shawls.
- ▶ Chiru have been for long time for their underfur, which is renowned for its quality which is traditionally woven into an extremely fine fabric to make Shahtoosh shawls.
445. ▶ Ministry of Environment and Forests gave stage-I forest clearance for construction of Kaleswaram Lift Irrigation project stage-one in Telangana. Ministry approved about 3,200 hectares of forest land for project,
- ▶ Thus project aims to irrigate 7,38,851 hectares of land in upland areas of former undivided districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal, Medak, Nalgonda and Rangareddy Its estimated cost is over Rs 80,500 Cr.
446. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released 15th India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017 (by Forest Survey of India (FSI)) -
- ▶ Total forest and tree cover in India increased over 8,021 sq km (80.20 million hectare), which is 1 % increase from 2015. Forest cover increased by 6778 sq km and tree cover increased 1243 sq km. Total forest and tree cover is 24.39% of geographical area of country.
 - ▶ Globally, India is ranked 10th in terms of forest and tree cover.
 - ▶ State-wise break-up -
 - ▶ 7 States/UTs have more than 75% forest cover - Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur.
 - ▶ 8 States/UTs have forest cover between 33% to 75% - Tripura, Goa, Sikkim, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and Assam.
 - ▶ Top 5 States with maximum Forest cover - Madhya Pradesh (77,414 sq km) Arunachal Pradesh (66,964 sq km) and Chhattisgarh (55,547 sq km).

- ▶ States with highest Forest cover in terms of percentage geographical area - Lakshadweep (90.33%), Mizoram (86.27%) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.73%).
 - ▶ Mangrove cover is 4,921 sq km and has increased by 181 sq kms.
 - ▶ Water bodies inside forests have increased by 2,647 sq kms during last decade. Maharashtra leads with 432 sq kms, followed by Gujarat (428 sq kms).
447. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2016, that will replace Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2010 to address issues related to conservation and development of wetlands in a comprehensive manner. Highlights of new rules -
- ▶ Wetlands shall be conserved in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' for maintaining their ecological integrity.
 - ▶ Rules prohibit any diversion to natural water inflows and outflows of wetland.
 - ▶ Wetland Authority will be set up by State Governments or UTs (headed by State Chief Minister) to deal with wetland conservation, regulation and management.
448. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched *Green Good Deeds* campaign to sensitise people and students about climate change and global warming.
449. ▶ Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched SAMEEP (Students and MEA Engagement Program), as an outreach mission that aims to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across country and also to look at diplomacy as a career option. SAMEEP aims to familiarise school and college students in India about functioning of MEA.
450. ▶ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched daily regimen for TB patients under *The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP)*, updating frequency of regimen for treatment of tuberculosis (TB) from 3 weekly to daily.
- ▶ Daily FDC anti-TB drugs will be made available free of cost to private pharmacy / practitioners to dispense to TB patients.
451. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHMI), that aims to reduce disability and death related to cardiovascular disease (CVD). It also aims to strengthen CVD component of Health Ministry's National Program for Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS).
452. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced to increase number of AMRIT pharmacy stores by 4 times by end of 2018 from existing 111.
- ▶ So far, over 50 lakh patients bought discounted drugs (60 to 90% less than market price) from AMRIT (Affordable medicine and reliable implants for treatment) stores and saved over INR 267 crores.
453. ▶ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched 2 new free contraceptives *Antara* and *Chayya* in 10 states under Mission ParivarVikas. Antara is injectable contraceptive (effective for 3 months) where Chayya is contraceptive pill (effective for 1 week).
454. ▶ 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.
455. ▶ 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.
456. ▶ 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.
457. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) extended Anti-Narcotics Scheme for 3 more years to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, with an estimated budget of INR 21 crores. It was launched in October 2004 for 5 years and has been extended twice since then.
458. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will move a proposal before Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for taking over Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which is currently under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).
- ▶ BCAS is responsible for forming policies related to security of all commercial flights. Security agencies at airports, including Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), local police and Intelligence Bureau (IB) are bound by regulations passed by BCAS.
 - ▶ After BCAS is taken over by MHA, CISF will assume larger role in airport security. It will help in better coordination and monitoring, since CISF, IB and state intelligence all report to MHA.
459. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will set up Cyber Warrior Police Force (CWPF) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to tackle internet-related crimes such as cyber threats, child pornography and online stalking, under MHA's new Cyber & Information Security (CIS) Division.
460. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched *Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities* in Goa, under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban. It has 7-star rating system for cities, based on multiple cleanliness indicators for solid waste management. City will be given rating of 3 star or above only after it is declared ODF (Open Defecation Free).

461. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs approved construction of 1.87 more affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), that aims at building 2 Crore Houses for urban poor by 2022. This round has taken number of houses approved under PMAY to 39.25 lakh. Haryana has been sanctioned maximum number of houses in this round.
462. ▶ Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs (MoHUA) launched Liveability index to rate 116 Indian cities, funded by World Bank.
- ✎ It aims to measure quality of life in 99 smart cities, capital cities and those with a population of over one million.
 - ✎ Index will rank cities based on set of 79 parameters related to various aspects.
463. ▶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under *Development of Solar Cities* scheme approved 60 Cities including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities up to 12th Five-year Plan period.
464. ▶ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched country-wide Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat scheme to distribute LPG connections among rural areas where conventional fuel is used for domestic purposes.
465. ▶ Ministry of Power launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) in Manipur, aiming to include 1.75 lakh households of state under this scheme. Government will provide financial assistance for strengthening power infrastructure, under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) that was launched in September 2017.
466. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has released India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual named Indo-HCM, to guide road engineers and policy makers about road expansion. It lays down guidelines for when and how to expand or manage different types of roads and their intersections and level of services to be put in place.
467. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) will implement *Value Engineering Program* to promote use of new technologies, materials and equipment in highways projects executed either under Public Private Partnership (PPP) or public funding mode.
- ✎ VEP aims to ensure that roads or bridges and other assets get constructed much faster, are structurally stronger and more durable.
 - ✎ MoRTH also reconstituted nine-member National Panel of Experts (NPE) for approving proposals for use of new technologies, material and equipment in highway sector. It will be chaired by SR Tambe.
468. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways made FASTag mandatory for all new four-wheelers from December 1, 2017, amending Central Motor Vehicle (CMV) Rules 1989 as per Motor Vehicles Act 1989.
- ✎ FASTag is device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from savings account linked to it. It is affixed on windscreen of vehicle and enables commuter to drive through toll plazas, without stopping for cash transactions.
469. ▶ Ministry of Science & Technology announced 4 new schemes to promote young scientists and researchers in country - Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE), Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship (OVDF), Distinguished Investigator Award (DIA) and AWSAR (Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research). These schemes aim at early recognition and reward to young talent in field of science.
470. ▶ Ministry of Science & Technology launched Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana to implement appropriate S&T interventions for sustainable development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand.
- ✎ Under This, Department of Science and Technology (DST) will adopt few clusters of villages in Uttarakhand and transform them to become self-sustainable in time bound manner.
471. ▶ Ministry of Shipping and IIT Chennai signed MoU to set up of a National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) at IIT Chennai, under Shipping Ministry *Sagarmala Programme*. It will act as a technology arm of Ministry of Shipping for providing technological inputs and support for Ports, Inland Waterways Authority of India and other institutions.
472. ▶ Ministry of Shipping renamed Kandla Port Trust (Gujarat) as Deendayal Port Trust, using powers conferred on it under Indian Ports Act 1908.
473. ▶ Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Maruti Suzuki India signed MoU to support Skill India Mission in automobile industry, to provide high employment potential trades related to automobile and manufacturing industry to youth under Skill India Mission.
474. ▶ Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs will introduce first ever ranking system for National Sports Federations (NSFs), to build healthy competition between sports bodies. Sports federations will be ranked on the basis of administrative capability, transparency, talent-spotting ability, and medal count of athletes etc.
475. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched Management Information System (MIS) portal for Anganwadi Services Training Programme. It enables submission of applications and estimates by NGOs for carrying out Anganwadi Services (ICDS) Training through Anganwadi Workers Training Centres (AWTC) and Middle-Level Training Centres (MLTC).
476. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched beneficiary module of Rapid Reporting System (RRS), a monitoring system for Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG). It will facilitate monitoring of SAG and take corrective measures by ensuring faster flow of information, accurate targeting of beneficiaries and reduction of leakages. URL for the portal is 'sag-rrs.nic.in.'

477. ▶ Ministry of Women and Child Development will establish National Women Entrepreneurship Council (NWEC) as an umbrella organization for socio-economic gender parity, financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women in India and to promote entrepreneurship among women.
478. ▶ Ministry of tourism organized tourism festival named *Paryatan Parv*, to draw focus on benefits of tourism and showcase the cultural diversity of country.
- ▶ Tourism Ministry gave Letters of Intent (LoI) to seven shortlisted companies for adopting 14 monuments under Adopt a Heritage Scheme at closing ceremony of 'Paryatan Parv' held in New Delhi.
479. ▶ Mizoram's Dampa Tiger Reserve now holds highest number of clouded leopards in Southeast Asia with population density of clouded leopards being 5.14 per 100 sq km.
480. ▶ MoU signed between Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Council (THSC), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) AND Airbnb (community-driven hospitality company), to promote entrepreneurship under Government's Skill India Programme.
481. ▶ Music video prepared by Telangana Jagruthi to celebrate 9 day Bathukamma festival has been released.
482. ▶ NITI Aayog launched first course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) at IIT Kanpur's outreach centre in Noida (UP). This is first course under Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN) Program of HRD Ministry, that aims to boost quality of higher education through international collaboration.
- ▶ Course aims to impart high level remote sensing and GIS skills to allow them managing rapidly changing urban environment, with focus on water related activities.
483. ▶ NITI Aayog released a comprehensive 'Healthy States, Progressive India' report in New Delhi.
- ▶ Health Index is a weighted composite Index, which for larger States, is based on indicators in three domains - Health Outcomes (70%), Governance and Information (12%), Key Inputs and Processes (18%).
 - ▶ Large States -
 - ▶ Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu are top 3 states in overall performance.
 - ▶ Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh are top 3 ranking larger States in terms of annual incremental performance.
 - ▶ Smaller States -
 - ▶ Mizoram ranked first, followed by Manipur in Overall performance.
 - ▶ Manipur and Goa are top 2 in terms of annual incremental performance.
484. ▶ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (*government's flagship program to promote innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide in schools, universities and industry*), has selected additional 1500 Schools for establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), taking number of schools under mission to 2441 across India.
- ▶ ATLs aims to be innovative play workspaces for students between Grade VI to Grade XII, which stimulate innovations combining science & technology.
485. ▶ Nagaland Assembly passed a resolution revoking provisions of 33 % reservation for women in urban local bodies.
486. ▶ Nagaland became first North Eastern state to launch Point of Sale (PoS) for electricity bill payment, launched at Kohima Electrical Sub-division-1.
487. ▶ Naresh Kumar Gupta has been appointed as Lokayukta (Ombudsman) of Madhya Pradesh.
488. ▶ National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) in Tamil Nadu as world's largest combustion research centre to understand combustion.
- ▶ NCCRD is supported by Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and has been established at cost of INR 90 crores.
 - ▶ It will provide impetus to research in 'Alternative Energy and Environmental Protection' by focusing on effective utilisation of combustion as means of thermo-chemical energy conversion.
489. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) declared Amarnath Shrine as *silence zone* and prohibited religious offerings like chanting of hymns, and ringing bells beyond the entry point. It is aimed at protecting eco-sensitive Amarnath cave shrine.
- ▶ NGT also imposed complete ban on plastic items like carry bags, plates and cutlery in towns located on banks of the River Ganga in Haridwar and Rishikesh.
490. ▶ National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed that only 50,000 pilgrims will be allowed to visit Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu to avoid any unwanted incidents.
- ▶ NGT directed state government of Delhi to seize 10-year-old diesel taxis without any delay as they cause air pollution.
 - ▶ NGT Directed Amarnath Shrine Board to submit a status report by December 2017, about reasons for not providing proper infrastructure facilities to pilgrims travelling to Amarnath Shrine.
491. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched countrywide Free Eye Check-up Campaign and distribution of spectacles for truck drivers as their Poor vision increases risk of collisions.

-  NHAI also launched its new website AND Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) Mobile App for better monitoring of NHAI projects.
492. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched ranking system for over 300 toll plazas, on the basis of cleanliness, staff behaviour, availability of ambulance and cranes in case of any emergency on highways. Every quarter, 3 best toll plazas will be identified.
493. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will launch pilot project *Pay as you use tolling* on Delhi Mumbai national highway.
-  It involves implementing a satellite based electronic toll collection system running on GPS/GSM technology for selected commercial vehicles on a national highway for 1 year.
-  This tolling system will work on combination of mobile telecommunications technology (GSM) and satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS). It will deduct money from vehicle account, credit money to concessionaire within a day and open toll gate.
494. ▶ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will soon get powers to approve highway projects with construction cost of more than Rs 1,000 crore to ensure faster implementation of Bharatmala programme.
-  Such projects are currently approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and are often delayed.
-  Bharatmala programme envisions 44 economic corridors across country at cost of at least Rs 5 lakh crore. It involves constructing 24,000km of fresh highways.
495. ▶ National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) retained its 'A' status of accreditation of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) for fourth consecutive term.
-  NHRC was awarded 'A' status for first time in 1999 which it retained in 2006 and 2011 reviews.
-  The 'A' accreditation is given to those human rights institutions, which are found fully compliant with UN-mandated Paris Principles.
496. ▶ National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) New Delhi will conduct *INDIASize* as a National Sizing Survey to develop a comprehensive size chart for ready-to-wear industry based on body measurements of 25000 Indians in age group 15 - 65 years. India will be 15th Nation to complete a national sizing survey.
-  Findings of study will impact various other sectors like automotive, aerospace, fitness and sport, art and computer gaming where insights from this data can produce ergonomically designed products suited for Indian population.
497. ▶ National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) (Ministry of Women and Child Development) launched intensive training program for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Master Trainers in New Delhi. It aims to train 20000 EWRs covering 50 EWRs from each district by March 2018.
498. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's SATH (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital) Program was launched in Assam. SATH program aims to provide structured support to Assam in identifying key health priorities and implement solutions towards transforming the health and improving the well-being of people of state.
499. ▶ National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) capped prices of 51 essential medicines, as it notified ceiling prices of 36 medicines and revised ceiling prices of 15 medicines within range 6 to 53%.
500. ▶ National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB) has signed a memorandum of cooperation with Andhra Pradesh State Government to develop technologies relating to banana production.
501. ▶ National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) signed MoU with Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) to encourage start-up in manufacturing & technology driven sectors.
502. ▶ Nationwide health campaign to sensitise women about early screening and the preventive care for cancer has been launched with Theme *Nurturing the Nurturer*. It is launched by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with Apollo Hospitals.
503. ▶ Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) launched India's internationally benchmarked Forest Management Certification Standard (FMCS). FMCS enlists measures to be taken for responsible utilisation of natural resources and trade of forest products.
504. ▶ Newton will be India's official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at Oscars 2018, starring Raj Kumar Rao and directed by Amit Masurkar.
-  It was chosen by Film Federation of India's selection committee headed by Telugu producer C V Reddy.
505. ▶ Nine member committee constituted by Karnataka government recommended separate state flag, discounting any constitutional / legal hurdles for it.
506. ▶ Niti Aayog announced to set up a special women cell, to extend support to women start-ups and entrepreneurs.
507. ▶ Niti Aayog will set up a Methanol Economy Fund worth Rs 4,000-5,000 crore to promote production and use of clean fuel, by converting high ash content coal into methanol and such a plant is expected to be set up by Coal India. Methanol can be used as an energy producing fuel, transportation fuel and cooking fuel.
508. ▶ North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) will commission important hydro-electric projects in Arunachal Pradesh in 2018 - 600 MW Kameng Hydro Electric Project and 110 MW Pare Hydro Electric Project.

509. ▶ North Korea and South Korea will march together under a single unified Korean flag at Winter Olympics 2018 in Pyeongchang (South Korea). They agreed to field a joint women's ice hockey team after rare peace talks. These are first high-level talks between 2 Koreas in over 2 years.
510. ▶ Northeast India's first regional Centre for Agriculture with collaboration of Israel will be inaugurated in Mizoram in March 2018. It will be first such centre in North East region of India being established with Israeli collaboration.
511. ▶ Odisha Government inaugurated Purvasha Folk and Tribal Art Museum at Barkul near Chilika, to promote the cultural heritage of Odisha.
512. ▶ Odisha Government is creating 1.2 lakh acre land bank across state for allocation to industrial sector in order to avoid repeat of Posco Chaos. Companies need pay only base premium upfront for land and annual rent for rest of 90 years lease period.
- ✍️ Posco (South Korea based world's fourth-largest steelmaker) signed agreement with Odisha government to set up a 12-million-tonne-capacity steel project in Jagatsinghpur district. It was biggest FDI in India at that point with worth \$12 billion. However, POSCO surrendered the land due to its inability to start work on the project, amid land acquisition issues.
513. ▶ Odisha Government is preparing 2nd phase of State Climate Change Action Plan (SCCAP) for next five years with an outlay of Rs. 31667 crores. First phase of SCCAP was implemented from 2010-11 to 2015-16 and based on it, 102 action points in 12 major sectors have been identified.
514. ▶ Odisha Government launched *Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS)* online platform that hosts all clinical parameters of patients and reporting of performance criteria of hospitals. It also enables viewing and downloading individual electronic health records.
515. ▶ Odisha Government launched *Sampurna (Sishu Abond Matru Mrityuhara Purna Nirakaran Abhijan) Yojna* for pregnant women. Under this, government will provide INR 1000 as transport cost for pregnant women to travel to hospital.
516. ▶ Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) and Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES) signed a MoU for skill development in State.
517. ▶ Odisha State Government announced 'Mukshyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana' (MMKSJ), under which artists from across the state will get a monthly assistance of Rs 1200, to benefit approx 50000 artists from across state.
- ✍️ Odisha government also changed eligibility criteria as compared to previous artist assistance scheme, under which only 4000 artists were being given Rs 1000 per month. As per new criteria, any male artist can avail assistance under scheme after attaining the age of 50 years (earlier 60 years), while females have relaxation of 10 years.
518. ▶ Odisha approved establishment of Handlooms and Handicrafts Development and Promotion Council in capital Bhubaneswar, to improve growth of handlooms and handicrafts sectors.
519. ▶ Odisha approved long-term bauxite linkage policy that would help Vedanta's Lanjigarh alumina refinery to source bauxite from government-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). Now, 70 % of total production by OMC will now be available for long-term linkage.
520. ▶ Odisha government approved launching first Odia language university for post-graduation in literature and linguistics among other subjects. It will be established in Bhubaneswar and will also carve out ways to make Odia script more adaptable to technology.
521. ▶ Odisha government imposed 7 month ban on sea fishing, to protect Olive Ridley sea turtles, as breeding season of endangered marine animals is approaching.
522. ▶ Odisha government launched *Arpana Portal* for online processing of applications for pension revision in respect of pre-2016 pensioners.
523. ▶ Odisha government launched a scheme to boost fish production named *Fish Pond Yojana*, with provision of 96 crores. It aims to create additional 2,200 hectare of fresh water aquaculture farming with 50 per cent financial assistance to farmers.
- ✍️ Odisha government also released approx 365 crore rupees for rain-hit farmers in 19 districts of State.
524. ▶ Odisha government signed agreement with Software Technology Park of India (STPI), to set up an incubator at IIT Bhubaneswar for promoting research, named *Centre of Excellence for Virtual & Augmented Reality (VARCoE)*.
525. ▶ Odisha government will launch *Nabakrushna Choudhury Seccha Unnayan Yojana* to provide irrigation facility to about 55,000 hectare of agricultural land across Odisha, named after former CM Nabakrushna Choudhury. It will have an outlay of INR 635 crores over 3 years.
526. ▶ Odisha police will go digital from January 1 2018, as routine work in police stations will be computerised under Criminal Tracking and Networking System (CCTNS), under national e-governance initiative.
527. ▶ Odisha state Govt. splitted tourism and culture departments, renaming cultural wing as *Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department*. It was also decided to set up a 'Heritage Cabinet' to protect the monuments and ancient temples.
528. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) discovered oil in WO-24-3 well located west of Mumbai High fields in Arabian Sea, estimated to hold reserve of 20 million tonnes. Mumbai Oil Field currently produces 205,000 barrels of oil per day (just over 10 million tonnes per annum).
529. ▶ Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated eastern India's first compressed natural gas (CNG) stations in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

- Mr Pradhan Also Stated that for Period of April - Oct of FY 2017-18, Iraq has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's top crude oil supplier. Iraq Suplied 25.8 million tonnes (MT) of oil to India in concerned Period, compared to Saudi Arabia's 21.9 MT.
530. ▶ Orange Festival of Music and Adventure held in Dambuk village of Arunachal Pradesh.
531. ▶ Oxford Dictionaries declared 'Aadhaar' as Hindi Word of the Year for 2017, during Jaipur Literature Festival 2018.
532. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Launched 60MW Tuirial Hydroelectric Power Project in Mizoram. It has been constructed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (Neepeco).
533. ▶ PM Narendra Modi announced investing 90000 crore for building a network of highways and roads in North Eastern region over 2 - 3 years. Out of this, 60000 crore would be spent under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme and 30000 crore will be spent under Bharatmala project.
534. ▶ PM Narendra Modi approved INR 2000 crores for setting up Aadhaar enrolment and updation facilities in around 15,000 post offices by March 31, 2018.
535. ▶ PM Narendra Modi has laid foundation stone for four sewerage projects under Namami Gange programme and four National Highway projects at Mokama in Bihar with total outlay of approx INR 3700 crores.
536. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 1st phase of Hyderabad Metro Rail project, with 30-km stretch between Miyapur and Nagole. PM Modi also launched mobile app named 'T Savari' for Metro passengers.
537. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 4th Container Terminal (FCT) of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai, as India's Largest Container Terminal. It has been developed at estimated cost of INR 7915 crores.
- ▶ New FCT will add capacity of 24 lakh containers per year in Phase-I and after completion of Phase-II in 2022, capacity of JNPT will be 100 lakh containers per year.
538. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr.BR Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) in New Delhi, constructed at cost of INR 195 crores.
539. ▶ 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.
540. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated newly constructed Dorjee Khandu State Convention Centre in Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).
541. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated project commencement of Rajasthan oil refinery at Pachpadra in Barmer district, as first one to be set up in Rajasthan. It is as a joint venture of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Rajasthan government, with budget of INR 43000 crores and expected to be operational in 4 years.
542. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of AIIMS Bilaspur and Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una.
543. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of four-lane cable-stayed bridge between Okha and Beyt Dwarka with lenth 2.32 km and to be constructed at cost of INR 962.43 crores.
- ▶ PM also announced setting up of India's first marine police training institute at Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.
- ▶ He inaugurated first phase of Ghogha-Dahej Roll-on Roll-off ferry service at Ghogha in Bhavnagar district. It will cut down distance between Saurashtra and South Gujarat by 10 times.
544. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched *Amma two-wheeler Scheme* meant to provide scooters at subsidised rates to working women on occasion of former Tamilnadu CM Jayalalithaa's 70th birth anniversary.
- ▶ Under this Scheme, beneficiary will be given 50% of cost of a two-wheeler or grant of INR 25000, covering 1 lakh working women annually.
545. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- ▶ PMGDISHA is expected to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019 as it aims at imparting digital literacy to citizens in rural areas free of cost.
- ▶ He also laid foundation stone for Bhadbhut Barrage to be built over Narmada River in Bharuch (Gujarat).
546. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched Sardar Sarovar Dam, (world's second biggest and India's Biggest Dam) on the river Narmada in Gujarat.
- ▶ It is 1.2-km-long and 163 metres deep. It will irrigate over 18 lakh hectares in state.
- ▶ Before this, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani had flagged off a statewide *Narmada Mahotsav Yatra* from Surendranagar district.
- ▶ Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra and Rajasthan will receive water and electricity supplied from dam.
- ▶ Grand Coulee Dam in USA is world's biggest Dam.
547. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched Umang mobile application as an integrated platform for government to citizen services.
- ▶ Umang is an acronym for *unified mobile app for new age*. It currently hosts around 162 services from 33 government departments.
548. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched development schemes worth Rs 1,000 crore for UT of Daman and Diu, Including a flight connecting Ahmedabad to coastal town of Diu. PM Modi also flagged off *Run for New India* marathon in Surat (Gujarat).
549. ▶ PM Narendra Modi released a postage stamp on different aspects of Lord Ram's life at historic Tulsi Manas Mandir Varanasi.

550. ▶ Pelican Bird Festival-2018 is held for first in Atapaka Bird Sanctuary on at Kolleru lake in Andhra Pradesh. Recently, Atapaka Bird Sanctuary was recognised as one of the largest pelicanry in the world.
551. ▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) enhanced upper age limit for joining National Pension Scheme (NPS) to 65 years (from 60 currently).
552. ▶ Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated first phase of Piped Natural Gas supply system in Bhubaneswar (Odisha). As part of the City Gas Distribution project, 25000 households in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack would get PNG connection by end of 2018 with expenses around 1700 crores.
553. ▶ Petroleum Ministry preponed introduction of BS (Bharat Stage)-VI grade auto fuels in National Capital Territory, Delhi with effect from 1 April 2018 instead of 1 April 2020, Considering serious pollution levels in Delhi and adjoining areas. It is aimed at reducing vehicular emissions and improving the fuel efficiency to reduce the carbon footprints and keep a healthy environment.
554. ▶ Power Ministry extended waiver of inter-state power transmission charges and losses for solar and wind power projects commissioned till 31 March 2022, to promote clean energy sources. Waiver will be available to solar and wind projects for 25 years from date of commissioning.
- ▶ It holds significance in view of India's ambitious target of having 175GW of renewable energy capacities (100GW of solar, 60GW of wind energy, 10GW energy from Biomass and 5 GW from Hydel).
 - ▶ Earlier, waiver was available to solar and wind power projects commissioned till 31 December 2019, and 31 March 2019 respectively.
555. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind dedicated 4 Launched projects in Andhra Pradesh - Andhra Pradesh Fibregrid, Andhra Pradesh Surveillance Project, Drone Project and Free Space Optical Communication or FSOC system.
- ▶ Fibregrid - It aims at providing affordable high-speed internet service to every household in state at nominal rates, also termed as Triple Play2.
556. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), featuring maritime patrol aircraft Tupolev-142M.
557. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind launched 100 crore rupees Mata Amritanandamayi Math Project *Jeevamritham* to provide filtration system for cleaning drinking water to 5000 villages across India, in kollam district in kerala.
558. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated an ordinance under Article 123 of Constitution to amend Indian Forest Act 1927 to encourage bamboo plantation by farmers in private lands.
- ▶ This ordinance omits bamboo (taxonomically a grass) grown in non-forest areas from definition of trees, exempting it from requiring permits for felling or transportation of bamboo grown in non-forest areas.
559. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Shirdi airport in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra and flagged off inaugural flight of Alliance Air from Shirdi to Mumbai.
560. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind laid foundation stone for link-4 of Saurashtra Narmada Avataran Irrigation Scheme (SAUNI) Yojana .
- ▶ SAUNI is multipurpose project that aims to solve water problems of parched Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi during his tenure as Gujarat CM.
 - ▶ It aims to fill up 115 major dams in Saurashtra by diverting overflow of water from Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River.
 - ▶ Its unique feature is making pipe canals instead of conventional open canals which led to no acquisition of land and less loss of water.
 - ▶ It has network of canals comprising 1,125-km network of pipelines that will help to channel water into farms.
561. ▶ Puducherry Government banned use of plastic packaging materials of less than 51 microns as these were found to be injurious to health.
562. ▶ Puducherry government launched a special police force to safeguard tourists, provided with special blue colour head gears.
563. ▶ 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.
564. ▶ Punjab Government approved increase in gross annual income limit for creamy layer of Other Backward Classes and Backward Classes from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh.
565. ▶ Punjab Government discontinued sale of 20 pesticides (insecticides) including Endosulfan harmful to health of humans and environment.
566. ▶ Punjab Government launched Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojna (MGSVY) for welfare of downtrodden citizen across state, on lines of Antyodaya principles (means *rise of the last person*) and will be implemented in rural areas.
567. ▶ Punjab Government signed MoU with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in state, to find sustainable solutions to paddy straw burning. Total 400 such plants will become operational in 3-4 years with investment of INR 5000 crores.
568. ▶ Punjab State Government notified *Punjab Goods Carriages (Regulation and Prevention of Cartelization Rules), 2017*, banning goods carriage operators from forming cartels in state, aimed at creating a favourable environment for industries and business houses in state.

569. ▶ Punjab government formed 6 member Revenue Commission with an aim to bring greater efficiency and accountability in functioning of Revenue Department. It will be headed by Justice SS Saron.
570. ▶ Punjab government will merge 800 primary schools (*with less than 20 students*) with schools nearby. It aims to improve utilisation of teaching staff in state.
571. ▶ Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) observed during November 19 - 25, 2017 -
- ▶ November 19 - National Integration Day.
 - ▶ November 20 - Welfare of Minorities Day.
 - ▶ November 21 - Linguistic Harmony Day.
 - ▶ November 22 - Weaker Sections Day.
 - ▶ November 23 - Cultural Unity Day.
 - ▶ November 24 - Women's Day.
 - ▶ November 25 - Conservation Day.
572. ▶ R.K. Singh (Minister of New and Renewable Energy (IC) launched *Saubhagya* Web-Portal at URL – <http://saubhagya.gov.in>, as a platform for monitoring household electrification progress, which would disseminate information on Household Electrification Status.
573. ▶ 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*.
574. ▶ Railways launched SFOORTI (*Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information*) App for Freight Managers which provides features for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard. Features Include -
- ▶ *Freight Operation Information System Map View* provides Layered views of freight trains on Railways, that can help plan traffic flows and optimize freight operations.
 - ▶ *Forecasted Rakes Awaiting Interchange* enables Monitoring of all loads, which have been forecasted for the divisional interchange, but the same interchange has not yet reported.
 - ▶ *Stock Specific / Commodity specific Rake Position* can be viewed. Loaded and Empty Rakes of specific Rake Types are plotted on Railways network map in Different colours.
 - ▶ Monitoring of New Origination-Destination Added in Railways.
 - ▶ Loading Trends for Major Commodities during a period.
 - ▶ Performance of Freight Trains can be monitored
575. ▶ Railways will set up of a rail coach factory in Latur district (Maharashtra), to help generate employment opportunities and bring economic development in this backward Marathwada region. Plant will manufacture Electric Multiple Units for suburban trains and coaches for metros.
576. ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
577. ▶ Rajasthan Government expanded Annapurna Rasoi Yojna in all 191 urban areas of state and flagged off 50 Annapurna vans in Ajmer. 500 smart kitchen vans have been arranged for scheme.
- ▶ Under this scheme, people can get breakfast for Rs 5 and lunch and dinner for Rs 8 each. The total estimated cost of implementation of the scheme would be around Rs 400 Cr.
578. ▶ Rajasthan Government introduced *The Code of Criminal Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2017* to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in state from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction, replacing Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance 2017.
579. ▶ Rajasthan assembly became first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to state government. It will save time, labour and use of paper in functioning of assembly.
580. ▶ Rajasthan became first state to incorporate skill development programme in higher education as Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in collaboration with state's Department of College Education has prepared 16 courses for entrepreneurship and skill development for colleges in state.
581. ▶ Rajasthan become first state to launch free email addresses in Hindi (in Devanagari script) for its residents, to ensure maximum participation of people towards e-governance and that maximum facilities are available in vernacular language.

582. ▶ Rajasthan government announced 1 % reservation for Gujjars (retaining their Other Backward Classes status) and 4 other communities (Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Rebari and Gadaria).
583. ▶ Rajasthan government announced Rs 20000 crore farm-loan waiver and waive as it agreed to waive of loans for farmers up to INR 50000.
584. ▶ Rajasthan government launched *Dishari* mobile app that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations.
585. ▶ Rajasthan government passed *Backward Classes (reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions in State and of Appointments and Posts in Services under State) Bill* to increase reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 21 to 26 %.
586. ▶ Rajasthan government will digitise administrative and historical records of Rajputana's princely states (10000 Pages/day), to protect old and fragile documents.
- ▶ 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.
587. ▶ 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.
588. ▶ Rajasthan government will recognise political prisoners held in jails during emergency period (1975 - 1977) as 'Loktantra Sainani', by changing name of Rajasthan MISA and DIR Bandi Pension Rules 2008 to Rajasthan Loktantra Sainani samman Nidhi 2008.
589. ▶ Rajasthan govt. increased age limit for applying for government jobs from 35 to 40 years.
590. ▶ Rajasthan's Chief Electoral Officer Ashwini Bhagat launched Election Commission's web-based project ERO-Net, using which voters can register their names on electoral rolls.
- ▶ It replaces Electoral Roll Management System (ERMS) software that could not identify multiple entries of a voter.
591. ▶ Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & *Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System*
- ▶ e-NWRs would have no chances of any tempering, mutilation, fudging, loss or damage and with no possibility of any multiple financing.
 - ▶ e-NWRs will save expenditure in logistics as stocks could be traded through multiple buyers without physical movement and can be even split for partial transfer or withdrawal.
592. ▶ Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice AND Electronics & Information Technology inaugurated *NIC-CERT* of National Informatics Centre, aimed at checking enhancing threats and vulnerabilities that are inherent part of increasing cyberspace. It was needed as in recent years, exponential growth in cyber attacks leading to concerns of data theft has been observed by Government.
593. ▶ Reliance Energy launched digital assistance robot ELEKTRA, that provides automated responses to customers for their queries and requests.
594. ▶ 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.
595. ▶ Restored Royal Opera House in Mumbai received Award of Merit from 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
596. ▶ Rural Development Ministry and State Governments have completed ranking of 50000 Gram Panchayats (selected under 'Mission Antyodaya') on three broad parameters of physical infrastructure, human development and economic activities.
- ▶ Mission Antyodaya aims to create 50000 poverty-free gram panchayats.
 - ▶ Gram Panchayats have been selected by State Governments on the basis of social capital and have been grouped under 5000 clusters.
597. ▶ Samsung partnered with Uttar Pradesh State Government for *Smart Healthcare Programme*, which will include setting up 20 healthcare centres to offer affordable and quality healthcare to patients from the economically and socially weaker sections of society.
598. ▶ Sep 25, 2017 - Birth Anniversary of Social Reformer Deendayal Upadhyaya. Known for his role in shaping up present day Bharatiya Janata Party. Uttar Pradesh government released 100 inmates from various jails of state on this occasion. PM Narendra Modi launched SAUBHAGYA scheme On this occasion. With details -
- ▶ Saubhagya (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana) aims at bringing electricity for every household in country by March 31, 2019. No price will be charged for the poor to get an electricity connection and the government will bear expected INR 16,320 crores cost of giving electricity connections to the 4 crore households in country. Electricity connections will be given to APL (Above Poverty Line) families for Rs 500, which will be payable in 10 equal monthly instalments.
 - ▶ PM Narendra Modi also inaugurated *Deendayal Hastkala Sankul* trade facilitation centre and Crafts Museum for handicrafts at Varanasi. It will facilitate weavers/artisans/exporters in promotion of handlooms and handicrafts in domestic and international markets.

- He also flagged off Varanasi-Vadodara as country's third Mahamana Express.
599. ▶ Seven North-East Indian states will launch Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) to focus on select urban areas and other pockets where immunization coverage has been low. Under it, Government aims to reach every child under 2 years and pregnant women with all available vaccines under Universal Immunization Programme by 2018.
600. ▶ Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari flagged off cargo movement on Pandu-Dhubri route (on National Waterway 2) along Brahmaputra River in Assam, reducing logistics cost and save 300 km road travel. Central Government has sanctioned Rs 1250 crore for overall development of inland water transport of Assam.
601. ▶ Shri Harmandir Sahib (Punjab, also known as *Golden Temple*) has been awarded as most visited place in world by Book of World Records (London).
602. ▶ Sikkim Government allowed people to forge fraternal ties with trees, under *Sikkim Forest Tree (Amity & Reverence) Rules 2017*. Purpose is to preserve trees by encouraging people to forge relationship of brotherhood with trees through tradition locally known as Mitini / Mith.
603. ▶ Sikkim will get its first airport by end of November 2017, located over 30 kilometres from capital Gangtok.
- ✍ Airport has been built at approx INR 300 crores and was supposed to completed in 2012, but faced repeated delays. It is at an altitude of 4,700 feet, and will be among 5 highest Indian airports.
604. ▶ Social network Facebook unveiled 2 programmes designed for individuals and start-ups - Facebook Digital Training and Facebook Startup Training Hubs, aiming to train about five lakh people in India on digital skills by 2020.
605. ▶ South Central Railway (SCR) became first railway zone to complete 100% LED lighting at all 733 stations under its jurisdiction.
606. ▶ Standard & Poor's (S&P) kept its sovereign rating for India unchanged at 'BBB-', with outlook for the nation as 'stable'. BBB- rating is the lowest investment grade and just one notch above junk status.
- ✍ Note that recently another rating agency, Moody's upgraded India's sovereign ratings to Baa2 with outlook for the nation as 'positive'.
607. ▶ Supreme Court (SC) directed governments of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Haryana and Rajasthan to ban use of petroleum (pet) coke and furnace oil in the industries with an aim to fight air pollution.
- ✍ Supreme Court also fined 2 lakh on Environment Ministry for not fixing pollution emission standards of Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide for 34 categories of industries as per as Previous SC Order.
608. ▶ 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%.
- ✍ 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.
- ✍ 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.
- ✍ 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).
609. ▶ Supreme Court's Verdict on Cauvery Water Dispute -
- ✍ SC stated that Karnataka government will release 177.25 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu from its inter-state Biligundlu dam, down from state's earlier allocation of 192 TMC water. Karnataka will now have an enhanced share of 14.75 tmcft water per year.
- ✍ Earlier, Cauvery Water Tribunal's order in 2007 stated Karnataka to have share of 270 tmcft of Cauvery water. Now it will go up to 284.75 tmcft.
- ✍ Verdict stayed 30 tmcft water to Kerala and 7 tmcft water to Puducherry as per Tribunal's 2007 Order. SC also allowed Tamil Nadu to draw an additional 10 tmcft 'groundwater' from a total of 20 tmcft beneath Cauvery basin.
- ✍ SC order on Cauvery water allocation will continue to hold for next 15 years.
- ✍ Cauvery Water Dispute -
- ✍ Water sharing of Cauvery River has been a major source of conflict between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Its origin is traced back to two agreements in 1892 and 1924, which had taken place between the then Madras Presidency and Kingdom of Mysore.
- ✍ 802 km long Cauvery River has 44,000 km² basin area in Tamil Nadu and 32,000 km² basin area in Karnataka.
- ✍ Cauvery Water Tribunal, in its ruling in 2007, allocated 192 TMC water to Tamil Nadu, 270 TMC water to Karnataka, 30 tmcft to Kerala and 7 tmcft to Puducherry per year.
610. ▶ Swedish home furnishing major IKEA launched its first experiential centre *Hej HOME* in Hyderabad (Telangana), ahead of opening its first store in India in 2018 in Telangana.
611. ▶ Tamil Nadu Government laid foundation stone for an aerospace park at Kanchipuram district to be set up in 245 acres and at cost of Rs 198 crores.

612. ▶ 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.
613. ▶ Tamil Nadu government signed an agreement with IT Major Microsoft to improve integration of technology in teaching and learning in state, to reform education sector, build tech capacity and enhance digital literacy across all levels.
614. ▶ Tata Power Solar Systems has commissioned India's first rooftop solar carport at 70000 sq. mtr. Unity One Mall, in Delhi. Electricity generated through this solar carport is estimated to set off 438 tons of carbon emission annually and will make the mall self sufficient in terms of energy requirement.
615. ▶ Tata Steel established India's largest Coke Dry Quenching (CDQ) facility, capable of handling 200 metric tonnes per hour, at its steel plant in Jajpur district of Odisha.
- ▶ CDQ is a heat recovery system to cool hot coke from coke ovens. It is most energy-efficient and environment-friendly facility in steel production where hot coke removed from coke ovens at a temperature of 1,000 degree Celsius is cooled and kept dry with inert gas.
616. ▶ Telangana Forest Department re-introduced endangered species *mouse deer* in forests of Nallamalla in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) at Nehru Zoological Park (Hyderabad).
617. ▶ Telangana Government announced a health-cum-life insurance scheme worth INR 5 lakh for farmers in state, with allocation of INR 500 crores.
618. ▶ Telangana Government constituted a task force on urban mobility to study feasibility of the monorail model and other modes of transport for IT corridor in Hyderabad. Arvind Kumar is Member Convenor of task force.
619. ▶ 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.
620. ▶ 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.
621. ▶ Telangana State Assembly passed Several Bills -
- ▶ Prevention of Dangerous Activities (Amendment) Bill, 2017
 - ▶ Road Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2017
 - ▶ Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Act 2017 to give instant licenses to shops and commercial establishments.
 - ▶ State Govt also declared Urdu as state's second official language.
622. ▶ Telangana government developed a mobile application named 'Urban Genie' that will help urban citizens in finding certified technicians and workers to provide household services.
623. ▶ Telangana government signed MoU with *Clean Authority of Tokyo (Japan)*, for municipal solid waste incineration facilities.
624. ▶ Telecom Firm Bharti Airtel and Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei successfully conducted India's first 5G (fifth generation) network trial, achieving over 3 gigabit per second (Gbps) data speed.
- ▶ 5G is wireless communication technology based on third-generation partnership project (3GPP). It is next generation mobile networks technology after 4G LTE networks. It is expected to offer enhanced mobile broadband (eMBB) through R15 repeaters that can cater to coverage requirements. India aims to roll out 5G Services by 2020.
625. ▶ Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha launched India's first locally developed 4G/LTE (*Long-Term Evolution*) telecom system, developed by telecom equipment manufacturer VNL Ltd. It ensures seamless connectivity at affordable prices and reduces import dependence for such equipments.
626. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended delicensing of chunk of spectrum in few bands to facilitate smooth roll-out of machine-to-machine (M2M) communications.
- ▶ Unlike person-to-person (P2P) communication, M2M technologies involve communication between two devices. It acts as basis for automated information exchange between machines and enables wired and wireless devices to talk to each other using sensors.
 - ▶ M2M communications can be deployed in new-age infrastructure projects and various industry verticals such as smart cities, smart grids, smart homes, smart transportation and smart health sectors.
627. ▶ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) upheld basic principles of an open and free internet in its recommendations on *Net Neutrality*.
- ▶ Net neutrality means that telecom service providers must treat all internet traffic equally, without any regard to the type, origin or destination of the content or the means of its transmission.
 - ▶ Proponents of net neutrality hold that all traffic on internet should be treated equally i.e. service providers should allow access to all content without favouring any particular product or website.
628. ▶ Telecom equipment provider Vihaan Networks Limited (VNL) signed MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to launch Relief 123 service to provide disaster management in India. Relief 123 service is an integrated disaster response solution for first responders and

public safety agencies.

629. ▶ Telegnana Government will Implement Telugu as a compulsory subject from 1 - 12th, from next academic year.
630. ▶ 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.
631. ▶ 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.
 - ▶ 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).
 - ▶ It will give limited details (like name, address and photograph), which are sufficient for verification by any authorised agency .
 - ▶ 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.
632. ▶ To save environment from air pollution caused by stubble burning, Punjab government made attachment of super straw management system with harvester machines mandatory for harvesting paddy (rice) crop.
633. ▶ Traditional *Mera Houchongba* festival celebrated in Manipur, symbolizing brotherhood and unity among indigenous communities in State. A Regional conference of north east labour ministers and officials also held in Imphal (Manipur).
634. ▶ Traditional Bonderam festival held in Divar Island of Goa.
635. ▶ Traditional Indian Sweet Rasgulla got Geographical Indications (GI) Tag, credited to West Bengal. This ended a 3 year long rift among Odisha and West Bengal and originator of Rasgulla.
636. ▶ Traditional International *Lavi fair* held in Rampur (Himachal Pradesh).
 - ▶ Lavi Fair has been an important point of trade between India and Tibet for centuries.
637. ▶ Traditional festival Mera Houchongba celebrated in Manipur, promotes brotherhood and unity among indigenous communities. It was celebrated at Manipur Royal palace (Sana Konung) in Imphal.
638. ▶ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) signed MoU with e-commerce firm Amazon for selling tribal products online, to promote various tribal products. TRIFED already has tied-up with Snapdeal.
639. ▶ Tribal Sports Meet 2017 held in Odisha as a first-of-its kind event in country to promote sports among tribals in Odisha, with *Olly* as official mascot.
640. ▶ Tropical Cycone OCKHI Hits South Indian States Kerala and Tamilnadu, causing heavy rains and tides.
641. ▶ Tripura Government has introduced Child Care Leave (CCL) for women employees with minor children for 730 days in their entire service life.
642. ▶ Tripura became first state to set up family welfare district committees, to deal with fake and biased complaints by women against their husbands and in-laws.
643. ▶ 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.
644. ▶ UP Investors Summit 2018 Lucknow -
 - ▶ Government will establish India's 2nd defence industrial production corridor in Uttar Pradesh, at approx INR 20000 crores and will generate about 250000 jobs. It will link Agra, Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi and Chitrakoot. 1st of 2 defense industrial production corridors proposed in Budget 2018 will link Chennai & Bengaluru.
 - ▶ UP's Khadi and Village Industries Board signed pact with Amazon India to facilitate online selling of Khadi products.
 - ▶ Uttar Pradesh (UP) became first state to clear business and investment projects digitally, without any human interface. This became possible with launch of 'Nivesh Mitra' digital platform. It will serve as a single-window clearance system.
 - ▶ UP government signed 1045 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) worth INR 4.28 lakh crores at UP Investors Summit 2018.
645. ▶ US-based fintech company Mastercard launched its global research and development arm Mastercard Labs in Pune (India), as second Mastercard Labs in Asia-Pacific After Singapore (9th in world).
646. ▶ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched online campaign #IamThatWoman in an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women.
647. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced face authentication as an additional means of Aadhaar authentication along with fingerprint and iris scan, to enable easy authentication for those who face difficulties in other biometric authentication such as fingerprint and iris scan. It will be available by 1 July, 2018.
648. ▶ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) rolled Under 5 years age version of Aadhaar Card, named *Bal Aadhaar*. It will have blue colour and will be linked with one of parent's Aadhaar card. No biometric details (Iris scan / fingerprint scans) will be captured as Biometrics are not developed for children before 5 years of age.

649. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) launched 90 days application process for higher education institutes (public / private) seeking *institutions of eminence* status, aiming to bring more Indian higher education institutions to get into top 100 global rankings in coming years. Shortlisting will be completed by March-April 2018.
- ▶ Eligible Institutions will be Top 50 of National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, those securing ranks among Times Higher Education World University Rankings, Shanghai Ranking Academic Ranking of World Universities or QS University Rankings.
 - ▶ 20 Institutions of eminence will be selected (10 public and 10 private, will get provision of INR 10,000 crore over 10 years and will be free from usual regulatory mechanism to choose their autonomous path to become institutions of global repute.
650. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government approved creating India's first Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in trans-Yamuna belt near Allahabad, on over 126 hectares in Meja forest division. Approx 350 blackbucks are estimated to be inhabiting the region.
651. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government approved draft of Uttar Pradesh Control of Organised Crime Act (UPCOCA) to fight land mafia, mining mafia and organised crime in state, on lines of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).
652. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. will Set up a Research Institute on *Shrimad Bhagvat Gita* in Mathura.
653. ▶ Uttar Pradesh State Government inaugurated state's first ever butterfly park in Kanpur, as pollution-free spaces which do not have chemicals/pesticides and play an important role in conserving endangered butterfly species.
- ▶ Further, Madhya Pradesh's first butterfly park opened in Raisen district.
654. ▶ Uttar Pradesh State Government launched a mass marriage scheme called 'Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana'. Under this, social welfare department will conduct mass marriages and will authorize Urban local bodies to organize programmes in this regard. State government also launched Sankalp Seva bus service of 50 buses to connect 6,000 villages.
655. ▶ Uttar Pradesh State Government scrapped *Shravan Yatra* scheme under which elderly citizens could undertake pilgrimage free of cost, started in 2015 by Samajwadi Party government.
- ▶ State government also announced setting up of Cow Protection Committees (Gau Sanrakshan Samitis) in all districts of Uttar Pradesh, to make sure that cow sheds (gaushalas) are operated efficiently.
656. ▶ Uttar Pradesh assembly passed UP Excise (Amendment) Bill 2017, to award death penalty and life imprisonment for spurious liquor dealers.
657. ▶ 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.
658. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government launched a mass marriage policy for poor girls, under which financial assistance worth INR 35000 will be provided. It aims to discourage practice of dowry.
659. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government notified Vrindavan and Barsana towns in Mathura district as *Sacred pilgrimage sites*, making them first 2 places to be notified as teerth sthal in government records.
- ▶ Now, No meat and liquor shops will be allowed in these towns anymore. Aim is to honour sentiments of devotees that who are hurt by operations of liquor and meat shops.
660. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
661. ▶ Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district has been included in National Capital Region (NCR), taking total number of districts in the NCR to 23.
- ▶ NCR Cities get funds at attractive interest rates from National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for infrastructure development.
662. ▶ Uttarakhand Government signed MoU with HP (Hewlett Packard) to provide tele-medicine facilities in remote areas of state.
- ▶ Usage of telecommunication and information technology to provide clinical health care from a distance is referred to as tele-medicine.
663. ▶ Uttarakhand State Government and Swan Cultural Center and Foundation launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham, to provide electricity to far-flung areas.
664. ▶ Uttarakhand government made it compulsory for all government offices to install LED bulbs, to reduce consumption of electricity.
665. ▶ Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu became first woman minister in Mizoram in 30 years (since 1987 state assembly elections).
666. ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation stone for Ranchi Smart City, tagged as country's first 'green-field' smart city. It is coming up on 656 acres of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) land which would be equipped with several advance tech features..
667. ▶ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation stone to develop Muktyal to Vijayawada waterway stretch on River Krishna as part of National Waterway 4 at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh. The 82-km inland waterway stretch is Phase-1 of National Waterway-4 developed under Sagar Mala project.
668. ▶ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched New Delhi Edition of Marathi daily 'Lokmat'.

669. ▶ Virgin Group (USA) signed agreement with Maharashtra Government to build world's first hyperloop transportation system between Mumbai and Pune, during Magnetic Maharashtra investor summit in Mumbai. It aims to reduce travel time between two mega cities to 20 minutes from three hours at present, with capability of travelling up to 1000 km per hour.
- ▶ Hyperloop Technology is dubbed as fifth mode of transportation. It is system of magnetically levitating capsules (pods) that are sent at high speeds through low-pressure tubes. It uses linear Induction motors in it to control speed of pods.
 - ▶ Hyperloop is two-to-three times faster than fastest high-speed rail and has speeds even greater than commercial air travel.
 - ▶ Hyperloop departures could happen with a low frequency of a pod every 20 seconds which is not possible in railways.
670. ▶ WWF-India and Capgemini launched *One Planet Academy* as first environment education portal for students and teachers in India. It is a digital network for schools, teachers and students.
671. ▶ 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*.
672. ▶ 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.
673. ▶ West Bengal Government will set up a Scheduled Caste advisory council to look into development of the Scheduled Caste population in state. It will be first such scheduled caste advisory council in an Indian state.
674. ▶ West Bengal State Government announced life insurance cover amounting to Rs 5 lakh for each of pilgrims coming to upcoming Gangasagar fair, which is held annually on the occasion of Makar Sankranti at confluence of Ganges at Sagra Islands in South 24 Parganas district.
675. ▶ West Bengal became first state to opt out of Central Govt's proposed NHPS (National Health Protection Scheme, informally called *Modicare*), Claiming that Bengal government had already enrolled 50 lakh people under its own Swasthya Sathi programme.
676. ▶ West Bengal government cleared a proposal to rename state as *Bangla* and sent a proposal to Centre for approval. Note that WB government had earlier too sent a proposal for change of name, but it was rejected by central government.
677. ▶ West Bengal will receive Subsidy from world bank to buy 130 electric buses, at a rate of INR 7 Lakh/ Unit.
678. ▶ West Bengal, Kerala and Odisha opted out of Central Government's *Transformation of Aspirational Districts* scheme.
- ▶ Aspirational districts refer to selected 115 backward districts that are lagging on specific development parameters. Central Government undertook a major policy initiative for rapid transformation of these districts. With exit of 3 states, total districts under this scheme is now reduced to 102.
 - ▶ These states objected that criteria for identifying backward districts was fixed without taking respective State Governments into confidence.
 - ▶ Transformation of Aspirational Districts' conference was held in New Delhi in recently, in which NITI Aayog said it will come out with a ranking of 115 aspirational districts by April 2018.
679. ▶ Western Railways introduced modern Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Kiosk Machines for fast and easy printing of tickets booked through UTS App, in Mumbai. Additionally, Bhopal became first railway station to have Sanitary napkin Vending Machine.
680. ▶ Women and Child Welfare Minister Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched SHe-Box online complaint Management System for women working in both public and private organizations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
- ▶ It aims at effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (SH Act), 2013.
 - ▶ Once a complaint is submitted to the portal, it will be directly sent to the Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) or Local Complaint Committee (LCC) of concerned employer. WCD will monitor the progress of inquiry conducted by the ICC/LCC.
 - ▶ URL to Portal is - shebox.nic.in
681. ▶ World Quality Congress (WQC) ranked Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) security at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) in Mumbai has been recognised as best service in this domain.
682. ▶ Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) published first ever exhaustive compendium of animal species in Indian Sundarban and threats it faces, titled *Fauna of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve*. As per publication, ZSI estimates that there are 2626 of animal species in Sunderbans.
- ▶ Sunderbans is a vast forest in coastal region of Bay of Bengal. It was recognised in 1997 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is located in delta region of Padma, Meghna and Brahmaputra river basins.



























Top

Persons

1. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 1 - 10) -

- King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck Visited India.
 - Prime Minister of Latvia, Maris Kucinskis Visited India.
 - President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan Visited India.
 - Prince of Wales (UK), Charles Philip Arthur George Visited India.
 - Leo Heller, United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on human rights Visited India. His statement on M K Gandhi - *Now is a critical time to replace the lens of those glasses (Gandhi's glasses) with the human rights lens*, has triggered objections from India's side.
2. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 11 - 20) -
 - Canadian International Trade Minister *François-Philippe Champagne* visited India to attend 4th Joint Annual Ministerial Dialogue (AMD).
 - Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France visited India.
 3. ▶ Visits to India (Nov 21 - 30) -
 - Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe Visited India.
 - Finland's Foreign Minister Timo Soini visited India.
 - Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin Visited India and signed MoU with India for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
 - Defence Minister of Singapore, Ng Eng Hen visited India for 2nd Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Singapore. During This, India and Singapore signed Agreement for Navy Cooperation that will allow Indian Navy ships logistical support at Singapore's Changi Naval Base located near disputed South China Sea (SCS).
 - First India-New Zealand Cyber Dialogue held in New Delhi, attended by Paul Ash, Director of National Cyber Policy Office of New Zealand.
 - Minister of Culture and Information of Afghanistan, Moh. Rasool Bawari Visited India for India-Afghan Cultural Festival in New Delhi.
 4. ▶ *Freedom of Oxford* honour bestowed on Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 1997 by Oxford city has been withdrawn as a reaction to her perceived response to plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Aung San Suu Kyi's name from Junior Common Room in North Oxford (England) has also been removed.
 5. ▶ According to Forbes magazine, Jeff Bezos (Amazon CEO) Surpassed Bill Gates as richest person in world with worth \$90.6 billion, compared to Gates' \$90.1 billion Worth.
 6. ▶ Agriculture Ministry has roped in Actor Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card, crop insurance, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.
 7. ▶ Arjan Singh, The Sole Marshal of Indian Air Force (IAF) passed away. He was granted honorary rank of Marshal (highest IAF rank attainable).
 8. ▶ Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko visited India, marking 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and India. India and Belarus signed 10 Cooperation agreements during this visit. MOUs Signed for cooperation in Oil and Gas, Agricultural Research and Education, culture, Sports, Vocational Education and Training, Potash Exploration and Scientific Research.
 9. ▶ Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani overtook China's Hui Ka Yan (*Evergrande Group Chairman*) to become Asia's richest person with total wealth of \$42.1 billion, according to Forbes' real time billionaire's list. Globally, Ambani is at 14th spot.
 10. ▶ 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.
 11. ▶ Frenchman Francois Gabart created new world record for fastest non-stop solo navigation of globe, after completing it in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds. He crossed a virtual finish line drawn between the island of Ushant off France's northwest tip and Lizard Point in southwest England at 0145 GMT.
 12. ▶ Indian Actress Anushka Sharma is named PETA's Person of the Year by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), for helping to protect dogs from fireworks to advocating for horses who are forced to pull carriages in Mumbai.
 13. ▶ Indian PM Narendra Modi Visited Myanmar, After attending 9th BRICS Summit in Xiamen (China). Several MOUs were signed -
 - Maritime Security Cooperation.
 - Cultural Exchange Programme for 2017-2020.
 - Enhancing Cooperation of Upgradation of Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
 - Sharing White Shipping Information between Navies.
 - Technical Agreement for providing Coastal Surveillance System.
 - MoU on Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation.
 - Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on establishment of MIIT India-Myanmar Center for Enhancement of IT-Skill.

 Cooperation in Election Commissions and Press Councils of Both nations.

14. ▶ Indian origin Person Gina Miller named UK's most influential black person of the year as she won a legal challenge seeking Parliamentary approval for triggering Brexit.
15. ▶ India's first Olympic swimmer Shamsher Khan passed away. He represented India in 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne (Australia).
16. ▶ India's gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been conferred an Honorary D.Litt. degree by National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.
17. ▶ Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
18. ▶ Mahendra Singh Dhoni inaugurated his first global cricket academy in Dubai (UAE), as MS Dhoni Cricket Academy (MSDCA).
19. ▶ Mark Beaumont (UK) broke world record for cycling around the world as He arrived in Paris 1 day ahead of schedule. He cycled 18,000-miles in 79 days.
20. ▶ Mihai Tudose resigned as Prime Minister of Romania (Southeastern Europe).
21. ▶ Norwegian Nobel Institute announced that Nobel Peace prize awarded to Myanmar's Aung Sang Suu Kyi cannot be revoked, as demanded by An online petition signed by over 386,000 people on Change.org.
 Petition calls for revocation of Nobel Peace Prize conferred on Suu Kyi in 1991, over persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims.
22. ▶ Noted Czech Republic tennis player Jana Novotna passed Away. She won Women's Singles Wimbledon in 1998 and was 16-time Grand Slam winner in doubles and mixed doubles.
23. ▶ Noted Hindi poet and Jnanpith awardee Kunwar Narayan passed away.
24. ▶ Noted classical singer of the Seniya and Banaras gharanas, Girija Devi passed away. She was known as Queen of Thumri. She was recipient of Padma Vibhushan - India's second highest civilian honour.
25. ▶ Noted historian Satish Chandra passed away, known for his deep work on Mughal Empire. He was also author of NCERT's leading history book *History of Medieval India*.
26. ▶ Noted international sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created world's biggest sand Santa-face with message "world peace" at Puri beach (Odisha). The Santa face is 25 feet tall and 50 feet wide. It is to be placed in Limca Book of World Records.
27. ▶ Noted journalist Bismoy Kumar Mohanty passed way. Known as Owner and Editor of Odia daily *Ajikali*.
28. ▶ Obituaries (Feb 2018) -
 -  Francisco Nunez Olivera (France) - World's oldest man.
 -  Kalamandalam Geethanandan - Noted Ottanthullal (A dance form of kerala) artist.
 -  Louis Zorich - Noted American Actor.
 -  Lakshmi Devi - Noted Telugu actor.
 -  Madavoor Vasudevan Nair - Noted Kathakali maestro.
 -  John Mahoney - Noted American Actor.
 -  Johann Johannsson - Noted Golden Globe awardee Icelandic musician.
 -  Asma Jahangir - Noted Pakistani human rights activist.
 -  Chandrasekhar Rath - Noted Odia author.
 -  Parbati Ghose - First female filmmaker of Odisha.
 -  Sudha Karmarkar - Pioneer of Children's Theatre.
 -  John Gavin -Noted American Actor.
 -  Bevan Congdon - Former New Zealand cricketer.
 -  Muzaffar Hussain - Noted Scribe , writer and journalist.
 -  Ruud Lubbers -Longest serving prime minister of Netherlands.
 -  Rev. Billy Graham - Noted Christian evangelist.
 -  Ram Swarup Sharma - Padma Shri Awardee from UP for Folk Art *Rasa Lila*.
 -  Gundu Hanumantha Rao - Noted Telugu actor.
 -  Kunhiraman Panoor - Noted Malayalam writer.
 -  M S Anantharaman - Noted violinist.
 -  Sri Devi - Noted Bollywood Actress.
 -  Neelabh Mishra - Noted senior journalist.
 -  Nanette Fabray - Noted America Actress. She had won 3 Emmy awards and received SAG Life Achievement Award in 1987.
 -  T.S.R. Subramanian - Former Cabinet Secretary.
 -  Jayendra Saraswati Swamigal - Kanchi Shankaracharya (69th pontiff of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam).
 -  Kanakalata Mohanty - Noted Odia writer.
 -  Penny Vincenzi - Noted British novelist.

29. ▶ Obituaries -

- 👉 Neeraj Vora - Noted actor and Director.
- 👉 AS Anand - Former Chief Justice of India.
- 👉 Johnny Hallyday - France's Noted rock star, known as *French Elvis*.
- 👉 Abi (*Habeeb Ahmed*) - Malayalam actor and mimicry artist
- 👉 Ja Ra Sundaresan - Noted Tamil journalist.
- 👉 Shashi Kapoor - Noted Bollywood actor
- 👉 Purabi Mukhopadhyay - Noted Rabindra sangeet singer
- 👉 Laloo Chiba - Noted South African Freedom Fighter of Indian Origin
- 👉 Adithyan - Noted South Indian music director .
- 👉 Sukharanjan Sengupta - Noted journalist
- 👉 Batuk Gathani - Noted Journalist
- 👉 Lalji Singh - Noted Scientist (pioneer of DNA fingerprinting technology in India.
- 👉 Keely Smith - Noted American Jazz and Pop Singer.
- 👉 Bruce McCandless - Noted NASA astronaut (first person to fly in space without tethers)
- 👉 Banwari Lal Joshi - former UP and Uttarakhand Governor.
- 👉 Robbie Malinga - Noted South African musician.
- 👉 Bob Givens - Noted American Animator (creator of Bugs Bunny)
- 👉 Ashok Kumar Mattoo - Noted sports administrator, served as President of IABF (Indian Amateur Boxing Federation) and was first President of Hockey India.
- 👉 Partha Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali actor.
- 👉 Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay - Noted Bengali singer.
- 👉 Hoshang Dadiba Amroliwala - First Class cricketer (Mumbai).
- 👉 Sue Grafton -Noted mystery author (USA).


30. ▶ Obituaries in Jan 2018 -

- 👉 Radha Vishwanathan - Carnatic vocalist (daughter of legendary classical singer M S Subbulakshmi).
- 👉 Anwar Jalalpuri - Noted Urdu poet.
- 👉 Ambalavaner Sivanandan - Noted Sri Lanka novelist.
- 👉 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.
- 👉 Shrivallabh Vyas - Bollywood Actor.
- 👉 Jerry Van Dyke - Noted American comedian and actor.
- 👉 Peter Sutherland - Former Irish World Trade Organization (WTO) director general.
- 👉 Shashikant Bhagwat - Noted sports journalist.
- 👉 Saksham Yadav - Former Powerlifting world champion.
- 👉 Baldev Raj - Noted Nuclear Physicist and Director of National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).
- 👉 Sukhchain Singh Cheema - wrestler and Asian Games bronze medalist.
- 👉 Doodhnath Singh - Noted Hindi writer.
- 👉 Charu Rohatgi - Noted TV Actress.
- 👉 Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta - Sarod maestro.
- 👉 Raghunath Jha - Ex-Union minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- 👉 Gnani Sankaran - Noted Tamil writer and journalist.
- 👉 NK Trikha - Noted Journalist.
- 👉 W.B. Rao - Noted Hindi film cinematographer.
- 👉 Jo Jo White - Noted USA Basketballer (Basketball Hall of Famer).
- 👉 Kashinath - Noted Kannada film actor.
- 👉 Leslie Harding Pde - Noted Khasi author (Meghalaya).
- 👉 Chandi Lahiri - Noted Cartoonist.
- 👉 Hugh Masekela - Noted Composer and singer. Known as *father of South African jazz*.
- 👉 Ursula K. Le Guin - Noted American Writer.
- 👉 Sulaiman 'Dik' Abed - Former South African Cricketer.

 Honsen Lyngdoh - Meghalaya's Noted philanthropist.

 Jimmy Armfield - Noted England footballer.


 Supriya Devi - Noted Bengali actress.














 Chandrashekhar - Noted Kannada actor

 Gurcharan Singh Kalkat - Noted agricultural scientist and pioneer of India's Green Revolution.

 Ingvar Kamprad - Noted Swedish Industrialist and World's 5th Richest Person with net worth of \$58.7 billion. He was founder of Furniture Giant IKEA.

 Dinesh Nandan Sahay - Chhattisgarh's first Governor.

 Daya Nath Singh - Noted journalist.

31. ▶ Pakistani Cricketer Saeed Ajmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
32. ▶ Pune-based swimmer Rohan More became first Asian (9th globally) to swim across Ocean Seven. He swam across the Cook Strait between North and South Islands of New Zealand in 8 hours and 37 minutes.
33. ▶ Robert Mugabe Resigned as President of African Nation Zimbabwe, after recent large scale Military Upset.
 -  Mugabe has been ruling Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980. Now, Emmerson Mnangagwa will be appointed as President.
34. ▶ SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi is named 7th among top 10 regulators in world, as per Worlds Most Influential People in Market Structure report (also known as The Exchange Invest 1000 (EI1000)) by Patrick Young & Exchange Invest.
 -  List is topped by European Unions Commissioner (Competition) Margrethe Vestager.
35. ▶ Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been voted the Time magazine readers' Person of the Year.
 -  Time magazine named *the silence breakers* as its Person of the Year for 2017. It refers to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with #MeToo movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment and assault by powerful public figures in United States.
36. ▶ Search engine Google celebrated 151st birthday of Cornelia Sorabji with a doodle dedicated to her. She helped open up higher education as well as legal profession to women as She was first woman to graduate in law from India as early as 1892 and first Indian national to attend British University.
37. ▶ Sikh American Gurbir Grewal became first Sikh public prosecutor to be nominated for post of Attorney General of New Jersey, nominated by Governor-elect Phil Murphy.
38. ▶ Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar (country's second-most senior legal officer) has resigned.
39. ▶ South Africa's President Jacob Zuma resigned, after ruling party African National Congress (ANC) threatened to eject him from office. Further, Hailemariam Desalegn resigned as Prime Minister of Ethiopia (Horn of Africa).
40. ▶ Tourism Australia appointed Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra as first Indian woman Ambassador to encourage Indians to visit Australia. This panel includes people like Chef Sanjeev Kapoor and commentator Harsha Bhogle.
41. ▶ Tracey Crouch is appointed as UK's first-ever minister for loneliness, charged to tackle loneliness and combat social isolation. This role has been created in memory of Labour MP Jo Cox, who was murdered in 2016.
42. ▶ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released Commemorative coins of INR 100 and 10 denominations on occasion of 101st Birth Centenary of noted Carnatic musician MS Subbulakshmi.
 -  She was first musician to be awarded Bharat Ratna (in 1998). She was also first Indian musician to receive Ramon Magsaysay award (1974) and first Indian musician to perform at UN General Assembly. UN issued stamp In 2016, to honour MS Subbulakshmi.
43. ▶ Visits From India (Feb 11 - 20, 2018)
 -  Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley visited Saudi Arabia, to co-chair 12th India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM).
 -  PM Narendra Modi completed his tri-nation visit to Palestine, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.
 -  This is the first ever visit by an Indian PM to Palestine, and PM Modi's second visit to UAE and first to Oman.
 -  **Oman Visit -**
 -  India and Oman signed 8 MoUs in different areas. In Includes -
 -  Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial matters.
 -  Agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, Special, service and official passports
 -  MOUs for co-operation in health, peaceful uses of outer space, Foreign Services, Academic and Scholarly areas, Tourism and Military Matters.
 -  India secured access to strategic Port of Duqm in Oman in Arabian sea for military use and logistical support. Following this, services of Duqm port and dry dock will be available for maintenance of Indian military vessels.

- ✍ Port of Duqm is strategically situated on southeastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. It is straddled along critical sea lanes in Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden, located close to Chabahar port in Iran (developed by India open a trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan) and Gwadar Port in Pakistan developed by China as part of China–Pakistan Economic Corridor.

✍ UAE Visit -

- ✍ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of first traditional Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi (UAE), as first traditional Hindu stone temple in the Middle East. It will come up on 55,000 square metres of land.
- ✍ India and UAE inked 5 MOUs -
 - ✍ MOU between a consortium led by ONGC and Abu Dhabi national oil company for acquisition of 10% stake in offshore concession.
 - ✍ Under this, ONGC consortium of Indian state oil firms have acquired 10% stake in Abu Dhabi's offshore Lower Zakum Concession for \$600 million. With this deal, Indian oil and gas companies for first time have acquired stake in development of Abu Dhabi's hydrocarbon resources. It gives Indian oil companies, access to about 2 million tonnes of annual share from field, with term of 40 years.
 - ✍ MoU aiming to institutionalize employment of Indian workers in UAE to safeguard their interests.
 - ✍ MoU aiming at technical cooperation in rail sector, financial services, Securities exchanges.
 - ✍ MoU between Jammu and Kashmir and DP World signed to establish multi-modal logistics park and hub in Jammu.
- ✍ 6th World Government Summit (WGS) 2018 held at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai (UAE), with India as guest country.
 - ✍ India's Aadhaar and Umang App won awards at 6th World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai.
 - ✍ Umang App won in Best m-Government Service for Accessible Government Category. Umang stands for Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance. It provides users unified platform that combines government departments and services, facilitating transactions for citizens.
 - ✍ Aadhaar won *Best Government Emerging Technology Award*.
 - ✍ Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) launched tests of world's first autonomous pods at World Government Summit, in cooperation with Next Future Transportation (US-Based).

✍ Palestine Visit -

- ✍ India and Palestine have signed 6 MoU s worth USD 40 million.
 - ✍ Setting up of India-Palestine Super-specialty hospital at Beit Sahour in Bethelhem Governorate at a cost of US\$ 30 million.
 - ✍ Construction of India Palestine Centre for Empowering women, "Turathi" at a cost of US\$ 5 million.
 - ✍ Setting up new National Printing Press at Ramallah at a cost of US\$ 5 million.
 - ✍ Construction of school in Muthalth Al Shuhada Village at a cost of US\$ 1 million
 - ✍ Construction of school in Tamoon village in Tubas Governorate in Palestine at a cost of US\$ 1.1 million.
 - ✍ Assistance of US\$ 0.25 million for construction of additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru for Boys at Abu Dees.

44. ▶ Visits From India (Nov 11 - 20) -

✍ PM Narendra Modi Visited Philippines-

- ✍ He Attended 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila with Theme *Partnering for Change, Engaging the World*.
- ✍ PM Modi also attended 12th East Asia Summit, 15th India-Asean Summit, ASEAN Business & Investment Summit and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Leaders' Meetings that were held alongwith.
- ✍ ASEAN Grouping also observed 50 years of existence this year.
- ✍ PM Modi also visited International Rice Research Institute in Laguna and inaugurated Resilient Rice Field Laboratory.
- ✍ PM Modi also met USA Prez Donald Trump, who was on an Official Visit to China, Vietnam and Philippines. India, USA, Japan and Australia held their first official-level talks to focus on keeping India-Pacific region *free and open*.
- ✍ India and Philippines signed 4 agreements in defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks.

✍ ASEAN -

- ✍ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organisation 10 Southeast Asian Nations - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Observers - Papua New Guinea, East Timor.

- ✍ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley visited Singapore.

53. ▶ Visits from India (Nov 1 - 10) -

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

54. ▶ Visits from India -

- ✍ Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Australia and USA.
- ✍ Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu visited South Korea to participate in the 7th Asia-Europe (ASEM) Economic Ministers meeting.
- ✍ Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan visited Kazakhstan to co-chair the 13th meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC).
- ✍ Maharashtra government signed MoU with South Korea for increasing co-operation in several infrastructure projects, during CM Devendra Fadnavis's visit to South Korea.

55. ▶ Visits from India -

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

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

- ✍ Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, Public Health Minister of Cuba Visited India. During this Visit, India and Cuba signed MoU for enhanced cooperation in health sector.
- ✍ Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister for Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies Visited India. During this visit, India and Italy signed MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues.

- ✎ Afghanistan's second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish visited India and attended an international conference on 'Harmony and Memorial of Mother Teresa', in Mumbai.
- 57. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)
 - ✎ Russia, India, and China Foreign Ministers' 15th meet held in New Delhi. Visiting Foreign Ministers - Sergei Lavrov (Russia), Wang Yi (China).
 - ✎ Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore Visited India.
 - ✎ Argentine Football legend Diego Maradona visited India and unveiled his huge statue in Kolkata.
 - ✎ Morocco Minister of Health Abdelkader Amara visited India. MOUs -
 - ✎ Health Care.
 - ✎ Water Resources.
 - ✎ Cooperation in Indian Maritime University (IMU) and Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco AND National Ports Agency (NPA) of Morocco.
 - ✎ Cooperation between Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance of Morocco (IFEER) and Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE).
 - ✎ Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland Visited India.
 - ✎ 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held in April 2018 in Gold Coast (Australia).
 - ✎ 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue held in New Delhi. Visiting Delegates - Frances Adamson (Australia's Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Shinsuke J. Sugiyama (Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs)
- 58. ▶ Visits to India (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)
 - ✎ Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Dmitry Rogozin visited India. He attended Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) held in New Delhi.
 - ✎ Jordan's External Affairs Minister Ayman Al Safadi visited India.
- 59. ▶ Visits to India (Feb 1 - 10, 2018) -
 - ✎ Chief of US Air Force, General David L Goldfein Visited India. He flew a sortie in indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and became first foreign military chief to fly Tejas aircraft.
 - ✎ Nepal's last monarch Gyanendra Shah visited India to attend International Gau Sambardhana Mahotsav in Odisha.
 - ✎ Sergey Beletskiy, Deputy Agriculture Minister of Russia Visited India for India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit in New Delhi.
- 60. ▶ Visits to India (Feb 11 - 20, 2018)
 - ✎ Iran President Hassan Rouhani Visited India.
 - ✎ MOUs Signed during Visit -
 - ✎ Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income.
 - ✎ Exemption from Visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passports.
 - ✎ Instrument of Ratification of Extradition Treaty signed in 2008.
 - ✎ Cooperation in - Traditional Systems of Medicine, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Health and Medicine and Postal Departments.
- 61. ▶ Visits to India (Feb 21 -28, 2018)
 - ✎ Spiritual leader Prince Karim Aga Khan visited India.
 - ✎ Mr. Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia visited India.
 - ✎ Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Visited India -
 - ✎ MOU signed with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), to usher programme based research support in addressing developmental challenges.
 - ✎ India and Canada signed several agreements in different fields -
 - ✎ Co-operation in Sport, Higher Education, Intellectual Property Rights and Science, Technology and Innovation, Information Communications Technology and Electronics.
 - ✎ Terms of Reference for India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue.
 - ✎ Canada's first franchise-based Twenty20 Cricket league *Global T20 Canada* has been announced. It will be functioning from July 2018 at three venues in Toronto. It is designed by Mercuri Group with Cricket Canada. Cricket Canada became first Associate member of ICC to start a Twenty20 franchise league in North America market.
 - ✎ India's Mahindra Aerospace and Canada's Viking Air signed MoU to form a strategic alliance for making smaller aircraft to support regional air connectivity in India. Both companies will work together to boost market penetration in identified territories and provide multiple options to prospective customers based on specific operational requirements.

✍ Baek Woon kyu, South Korea's Minister of Trade, industry and Energy Visited India for participating in Second India-Korea Business Summit organized in New Delhi.

✍ King of Jordan *Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein* visited India.

62. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 01 - 10, 2018)

✍ King Letsie III and Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso of Lesotho (Southern African Nation) visited India.

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

63. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 11 - 20, 2018)

✍ Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu Visited India. Several MOUs were signed during his visit -

✍ Cyber Security.

✍ Oil and Gas

✍ Air Transport

✍ Film-co-production

✍ Homeopathic Medicine

✍ Space

✍ During this Visit, central Delhi's Teen Murti Chowk is formally renamed as *Teen Murti-Haifa* after Israeli City Haifa.

✍ Both PMs dedicated to nation, the iCREATE facility located near Ahmedabad (Gujarat). *iCreate* is an independent Centre created with the objective of facilitating entrepreneurship through a blend of creativity, engineering and leveraging emerging technologies to deal with major issues such as food security, water, cybersecurity, IT and electronics, energy, bio-medical equipment etc.

✍ Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu also visited India-Israel Business Summit in Mumbai.

64. ▶ Visits to India (Jan 21 - 31, 2018)

✍ Heads of Government of 10 ASEAN Nations visited India to participate in India's 69th Republic day celebrations as Chief Guests.

Visiting Delegates are -

Name	Nation
Hassanal Bolkiah	Brunei
Hun Sen	Cambodia
Joko Widodo	Indonesia
Thongloun Sisoulith	Laos
Najib Razak	Malaysia
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	Myanmar
Rodrigo Roa Duterte	Philippines
Lee Hsien Loong	Singapore
Prayuth Chan-ocha	Thailand
Nguyn Xuan Phuc	Vietnam

✍ During this visit by Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an agreement with Laos Government for providing SkyRev360, a e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system developed in collaboration with International Air Transport Association (IATA).

✍ During this Visit by Cambodian President Hun Sen, India and Cambodia signed MOUs in several Trades -

✍ Cultural Exchange Programme with Cambodia for Period 2018-2022.

✍ Criminal Matters and prevention of Human Trafficking.

✍ Credit Agreement between EXIM Bank of India and Cambodia for Line of Credit to finance *Stung Sva Hab Water Resource Development Project* for US\$ 36.92 million.

65. ▶ Visits to India -

✍ Tin Aung San, Navy Chief of Myanmar.

✍ Minister of Trade of Indonesia, Enggartiasto Lukita.

✍ US Secretary of Defense James Mattis.

✍ Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. He inaugurated first ever India, US and Afghanistan joint trade and investment show in Delhi.

66. ▶ Visits to India -











✍ US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited India. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan also visited India and trilateral discussion of India-USA-Afghnaistan held in New Delhi.

- ✍ French Defence Minister Florence Parly visited India.
- ✍ India - France joint Naval exercise VARUNA will be held in early 2018.
- ✍ Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentiloni visited India. It marks 70 years of Diplomatic ties between India and Italy. MOUs Signed are -
 - ✍ Cooperation for Safety in Railway sector, Energy, Cultural Cooperation.
 - ✍ Promoting mutual investments between Italian Trade Agency and Invest India.
- ✍ Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui Visited India for 12th Session of India-Tunisia Joint Commission Meet in Delhi.

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Science









1. ▶ 2 new ant species *Tetramorium krishnani* and *Tetramorium jarawa* discovered in islands of Andaman, named after late scientist K.S. Krishnan of NCBS, and Jarawas – indigenous people of Andaman.
2. ▶ Government launched Noxeno, a nasal foreign body removal device developed by start-up InnAccel Technologies, under Biodesign program. Noxeno is first dedicated tool for anterior nasal foreign body (NFB) removal that allows doctors in any setting to quickly and safely remove objects that people (mostly children aged 2 to 10 years) put into their noses.
3. ▶ A long-lost NASA satellite - *Imager for Magnetopause-to-Aurora Global Exploration (IMAGE)* has been spotted back.
 - ✍ Engineers from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center used NASA's Deep Space Network which consists of a series of ground-based radio telescopes to study signals, only to discover that these signals were from IMAGE satellite.
 - ✍ IMAGE satellite was launched in March 2000, and exceeded its initial 2 year mission by operating through 2005. NASA lost contact with it in December 2005.
4. ▶ A new LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) gravitational wave detector will be built in India by 2025 (world's 3rd after 2 in USA).
 - ✍ In 2016, LIGO detectors discovered gravitational waves produced by two giant merging blackholes. LIGO detector in India will help to pinpoint origin of gravitational waves that are detected in future.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ A new research at Bhopal's Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IIS) has proved D - 29 virus as capable of destroying cancer cells. The research is led by Scientist Soumya Kamilla. Now challenge is to transmit this virus to cancerous cells in body. Upon success in this, the method can be much more successful than Chemotherapy in eliminating cancer.
7. ▶ A new species of non-venomous aquatic snake named Aquatic Rhabdops has been described as new species from northern Western Ghats in Maharashtra, Goa and North Karnataka. Earlier this species was considered as variant of Olive Forest Snake, first described in 1863.
8. ▶ According to a new study by Swedish scientists, small molecules that specifically restrain a selenium-containing enzyme in the human body may become an important tool to fight cancer. Researchers at Karolinska Institute (Sweden) treated cancer in mice with these molecules and observed rapid tumor-killing effects.
 - ✍ Selenium is a chemical element that is an essential micronutrient. A selenium-containing enzyme, called TrxR1, can be used to support growth of various cells and protect them from oxidative stress (*imbalance between production of free radicals, which are highly reactive with other molecules, and body's ability to counteract or repair resulting damage*).
9. ▶ According to researchers from University of Southampton (UK), extreme global warming event named Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) that occurred 56 million years ago was driven by massive CO₂ emissions from volcanoes during formation of North Atlantic Ocean.
 - ✍ This caused doubling of CO₂ in less than 25 thousand years because of CO₂ emissions from volcanoes. PETM was most rapid and extreme natural global warming event of last 66 million years and lasted for around 150 thousand years. It increased global temperatures by at least 5 degrees Celsius.
10. ▶ According to study based on data from India's Chandrayaan-1 mission and NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), Moon's water may be widely distributed across its surface and not confined to particular region. It contradicts earlier studies that suggested that more water was detected at Moon's polar latitudes.
 - ✍ Researchers after analyzing data from Moon Mineralogy Mapper spectrometer onboard Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, suggested that water may be present primarily as OH, a more reactive form of normal water (H₂O). OH also called hydroxyl does not stay in its form for long, and attaches itself chemically.
11. ▶ As per Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)'s study titled *Thresholds of catastrophe in the Earth System*, Earth's sixth mass extinction may become a reality by 2100 due to increasing carbon pressure on oceans.

-  In past 540 million years, Earth has seen 5 mass extinction events. By 2100, about 310 gigatons of carbon will have been added to oceans, a potential 'tipping point' for ecological disaster.
12. ▶ As per new study at University of Colorado (USA) based on 25 years of satellite data, It is found that global sea level rise rate is accelerating a little every year.
-  Sea level rate is increasing by about 0.08 millimeters per year (mm/year). It means annual rate of sea level will rise to 10 mm/year by 2100, mainly driven by rapid melting in Antarctica and Greenland.
-  If oceans keep on to growing at this pace, sea level will rise 65cm by 2100, causing trouble for several coastal cities.
13. ▶ Australian Researchers discovered a new water-adapted species of spiders named 'Desis bobmarleyi' in Queensland, named after noted singer and songwriter Bob Marley.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ Bengaluru-based biotech startup *Bugworks Research* became India's and Asia's first to receive international CARB-X (Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator) grant for its antibiotic research and development.
-  CARB-X is an international partnership set up in 2016 to focus on innovations to improve diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant infections. It grew out of Barack Obama's 2015 Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) initiative.
16. ▶ Botanical Survey of India (BSI) scientists discovered two new species of Ginger - *Hedychium chingmeianum* (Nagaland) and *Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* (Manipur).
17. ▶ Botanists discovered new species of wild banana named *Musa paramjitiana* in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, named in honour of Paramjit Singh, director of Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
18. ▶ Breakthrough Listen project detected 15 Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) coming from a dwarf galaxy about 3 million light years away from earth, with help of Green Bank Telescope (GBT) in West Virginia.
-  FRB is brief, bright pulse of radio emission from distant galaxies. It was first detected in 2007 with help of Parkes Telescope in Australia.
19. ▶ CSIR - National Institute of Oceanography Goa announced discovery of methane gas flares and active cold seeps from seabed in Krishna Godavari basin in Bay of Bengal, distributed over water depth of 900 - 1900 metres. Gas hydrates are a potential source of alternate energy.
20. ▶ CSIR scientists developed an ultra-thin wireless device that mimics plant leaves to produce hydrogen fuel using water and sunlight, paving way for clean energy for powering eco-friendly cars in future.
-  At present, hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels by steam reforming. In this process large amount of CO₂ is emitted. This new green method of generating Hydrogen from Water may be a great reform in coming times.
-  When visible light strikes semiconductors, electrons move in one direction and produce electric current. The current almost instantaneously splits water into hydrogen making it one of cleanest forms of fuel as its main byproduct is water.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ China began test runs of world's first track-less train in Zhuzhou city, that runs on virtual track and is being considered *World's First smart train*. This train could travel at the speed of 70 kmph and is called Autonomous Rail Transit (ART).
23. ▶ China launched world's largest human genome research project to document genetic makeup of 1 lakh people, to detect genetic links between health and sickness and use that information to generate precision medicines for future.
24. ▶ China tested its first photovoltaic (solar) highway in Shandong province, becoming 2nd country (after France) to construct a photovoltaic highway.
-  China's photovoltaic highway is constructed using solar panels with thin sheet of transparent concrete on top of them.
-  The photovoltaic panels of the highway are built to transfer energy to electric vehicles passing on top of them.
-  Tested 1 KM segment of solar highway can generate 817.2 KW of electricity and can generate 1 million KW hours of electricity yearly.
25. ▶ China's Three Gorges Corp. started building world's biggest floating solar power plant in Anhui Province, expected to be launched by May 2018.
26. ▶ China's AG600n (also known as Kunlong), world's largest amphibious aircraft took off its first flight from Zhuhai City. It has huge wingspan of 38.8 metres and can land and take off from water.
27. ▶ Chinese scientists for first time have successfully cloned two identical long-tailed macaques (monkeys), named Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua using same technique that produced Dolly sheep two decades ago. This makes them world's first primates (*order of mammals that includes monkeys, apes and humans*) to be cloned from non-embryonic cell.











- ▶ These identical long-tailed macaques were cloned using process called somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), that involves transferring the nucleus of cell, which includes its DNA, into egg whose nucleus is removed.
 - ▶ Similar work in primates earlier, had always failed, leading some scientists to wonder if primates were resistant.
28. ▶ Columbia University (USA) researchers converted a bacterial immune system into world's smallest data recorder, by modifying an ordinary laboratory strain of human gut microbe *Escherichia coli*, using CRISPR gene-editing method. It enabled bacteria to record their interactions with environment and also time-stamp the events. It has several possible applications such as disease diagnosis, environmental monitoring and basic studies in ecology and microbiology.
29. ▶ Department of Science and Technology (DST) will fund a project to develop quantum computers in order to tap into next big advance in computing technology.
- ▶ Quantum computer uses principles of quantum physics to increase computational power beyond attainable limits of traditional computer. It employs complex principles of quantum mechanics to store information in 'qubits' (quantum bit) instead of the typical binary 'bits' of 1 and 0.
30. ▶ Geologists for first time discovered 152 million-year-old fossil of Ichthyosaur, an extinct marine reptile in in Kutch desert region of Gujarat. The specimen belongs to Ophthalmosauridae family of ichthyosaurs that lived in oceans between 165 and 90 million years ago.
31. ▶ Hyderabad based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) developed Improved Samba Masuri (ISM) variety rice with low Glycemic Index (50.99 against normal value of 53 - 70).
- ▶ Rice with low GI is considered suitable for people with diabetics and it results in slow release of glucose into blood.
32. ▶ ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) completed 3 years in Martian orbit, already having outlived its original lifespan. Mangalyaan was launched on board of PSLV C25 rocket on November 5, 2013 and entered Mars orbit on September 24, 2014.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ India's First wave-powered navigational buoy developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), has been deployed at Ennore Kamarajar Port (Chennai) to guide ships in and out of ports. Buoy's ship guiding beacon is powered by wave energy while conventional ones use solar power.
- ▶ National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) will also build India's first offshore desalination plant about 40km from Chennai coast, with capacity of 10 million litres water / day.
35. ▶ Indian Scientist Satish Tailor has developed a new thermal spray coating technology for use in gas turbine engine in spacecraft, called controlled segmented Yttria-Stabilised Zirconia (YSZ)-Plasma sprayed coating technology. It can reduce thermal spray coating cost by 50%.
- ▶ Current costly techniques such as SPS or EB-PVD develop cracks through very expensive processes and are not controllable, while YSZ develops vertical cracks (segmentation) in coating, beneficial for gas turbine engine application used in spacecraft. It can be industrially adopted to make a strain-tolerant coating more economical.
36. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched 31 satellites along with Cartosat-2 surveillance satellite (weighing total 1383 KG), onboard 42nd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C40) rocket.
- ▶ Among 31 satellites, 3 belong to India and rest 28 are of six other countries.
 - ▶ Cartosat-2 series Satellite weighs 710 KG, making it heaviest satellite that PSLV has carried till now. It will beam high-quality images for cartographic, urban and rural applications, coastal land use and utility management.
37. ▶ Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up a research centre in Guwahati (Assam) for exploring possibility of using geospatial technology and geographical information systems (GIS).
38. ▶ India's First mission to Sun will be launched in 2019, aiming to improve our understanding of dynamical processes of the sun and help resolve some outstanding questions in solar physics. It will be launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on PSLV- XL launch vehicle.
- ▶ The mission will put 1500-kg heavy class Aditya-L1 satellite into halo orbit around Lagrangian point L1, a point between Sun and Earth.
39. ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
 - ▶ Pratyush is fourth fastest supercomputer in world for weather and climate research, after supercomputers in Japan, US and UK.
 - ▶ It will enable mapping regions in India at resolution of 3 km and globe at 12 km.
 - ▶ Fastest Supercomputers in world -

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 (Cray)	17.59 PFLOPS	USA

40. ▶ India's multi-wavelength space telescope *AstroSat* accomplished difficult task of measuring X-ray polarisation. It did 18 month long study of Crab pulsar in Taurus Constellation and measured variations of polarisation as this highly magnetised object spins 30 times per second. This measurement puts up a strong challenge to prevailing theories of high energy X-ray emission from pulsars.
41. ▶ Indonesian scientists from Lambung Mangkurat University found world's smallest squirrel in Borneo rain forest, named *Bornean pigmy*. It is 73 mm long and weighs about 17 grams.
42. ▶ International Astronomical Union (IAU) named 2 mountain ranges on icy dwarf planet *Pluto* as Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes, after Tenzing (Nepal) Norgay and Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) who were first mountaineers to reach summit of Mount Everest in 1953. These are among 14 other names officially approved for naming 14 geographical features on Pluto.
43. ▶ International Conference of heads of Metrology Institutes held in Sevres (France) decided that measure of kilogram will no longer be pegged to cylinder. From 2019 onwards, it will be set by value of Planck constant in combination with definitions of meter and second.
- ✎ Till now, kilogram is only unit of measures pegged to a real object. But cylinder's weight in kilogram fluctuates due to surface contamination with time, making it tricky to define its exact mass.
44. ▶ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has downgraded conservation status of snow leopard from "endangered" to "vulnerable", that was continuing since 1972.
- ✎ Species are *endangered* if they are fewer than 2,500 with high rate of decline. Vulnerable Species are those with population under 10,000 and declining at rate of 10% over 3 generations.
45. ▶ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched world's smallest rocket with ability to put a tiny satellite into orbit. It carried a microsatellite TRICOM-1R, a three-unit CubeSat weighing about 3 kilograms.
46. ▶ Mainstream space agencies in world proposed creation of a climate observatory to combine acquired data and share it with scientists around globe, during *One Planet Summit* in Paris (France).
47. ▶ NASA revealed that a mysterious world called *Planet Nine* does exist in solar system-
- ✎ It might be lingering on icy outer edges of solar system hiding in dark, but stretching out orbits of distant bodies.
- ✎ It is very distant and is 10 times mass of Earth and 20 times farther from sun than Neptune.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ NASA will launch SuperTIGER Balloon in Antarctica, to study heavy cosmic particles, collect information on cosmic rays that enter Earth's atmosphere every day.
- ✎ SuperTIGER stands for Super Trans-Iron Galactic Element Recorder (SuperTIGER) and is balloon-borne instrument to study rare heavy nuclei, which hold clues about where and how cosmic rays attain speeds up to nearly the speed of light.
50. ▶ NASA's \$3.9 bn Cassini spacecraft ended its 20-year-long journey after Plunging into Saturn's atmosphere. Cassini's mission to Saturn began in 1997, reaching it in 2004.
51. ▶ NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) captured images of 2 significant Solar Flares emitted by Sun, powerful bursts of radiation classified as X2.2 flare and 2nd is X9.3 flare.
- ✎ X9.3 flare was the largest flare in the current solar cycle which began in December 2008 and heading towards 'Solar Minimum'.
- ✎ Solar Minimum is such phase of the solar cycle when these eruptions on the sun are increasingly rare, but they can be intense.
52. ▶ NASA's asteroid-chasing spacecraft Osiris-Rex (*Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer*) successfully swung by Earth to put it on desired trajectory towards near earth asteroid Bennu using Earth's gravity.
- ✎ OSIRIS-REx mission was launched in September 2016 for studying 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid as NASA's first asteroid sampling mission.
53. ▶ NVIDIA unveiled world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) computer designed to drive fully autonomous robotaxis, named Pegasus. It be available to NVIDIA automotive partners in the second half of 2018. It will help to create a new class of vehicles that can operate completely without a driver.
54. ▶ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Joint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1) as first of 4 multi-day weather forecasts satellites.

-  JPSS-1 is joint venture between NASA and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). It will be renamed NOAA-20 when it reaches its final orbit. It is designed to monitor weather around world and help improve forecasts.
55. ▶ 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).
-  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).
-  It will help in full-disk view of ionosphere and upper atmosphere beneath it every half hour.
56. ▶ New species of blind fish "Schistura larketensis" has been discovered in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya. The fish had lost its pigments and eye sight after living in darkness of the cave.
57. ▶ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will introduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection technology in its Gandhar oil field in Gujarat, as first large scale CO₂-injected project in Asia. It aims to recover extra 20 million barrels of crude oil under enhanced oil recovery (EOR) programme.
-  CO₂ injection technology is a proven concept in West, especially USA and Canada. Under it, CO₂ gas is injected with residual oil in ageing field in which total oil production has been declining. It reduces its viscosity and makes it easier to displace oil from rock pores.
58. ▶ Palaeontologists from University of Portsmouth (UK) discovered remains of humankind's oldest mammal ancestor — a tiny rat-like creature that lived 145 million years ago.
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ Researchers at *Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology* have developed a flexible material that generates electricity when stretched or compressed, paving way for smart clothing or self-powered pacemakers -
-  It is a composite material made of polar nanoparticles and an elastomer - silicone and can convert mechanical movements into electrical charges. Trick is internal polarisation that changes while rubber film is being mechanically stressed.
61. ▶ Researchers discovered new species of Gecko at Chhattisgarh's Kanger Ghati National Park in Eastern Ghats. Its common name is *Kanger valley rock gecko* and scientific name is *Hemidactylus kangerensis*.
62. ▶ Researchers discovered species of ant in Periyar Tiger Reserve (Kerala), as one of world's 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity. It has been named *Tyrannomyrmex alii* (or *T. alii*), after eminent myrmecologist Musthak Ali, who is regarded as the India's 'ant man'.
63. ▶ Researchers from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) discovered a new species of moth, scientifically named *Elcysma Ziroensis* in Talley Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh.
64. ▶ Researchers from Brunel University (UK) developed first 3D printed wearable 'battery' that stacks silicone, glue and gel electrolyte, layer by layer to make a supercapacitor. It stores energy on its surface without chemical reactions and could be used to power smartphones, electric cars, medical implants like pacemakers etc.
65. ▶ Researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) developed low-cost rapid test that can quickly and accurately detect Zika and dengue viruses from blood. Test is conducted through a strip which contains gold nano particles and antibodies that react to the presence of Zika or dengue virus.
66. ▶ Researchers from University of British Columbia (Canada) developed earthquake-proof fibre-reinforced concrete that can enhance earthquake resistance of seismically vulnerable structures.
-  Cement Material is made of eco-friendly ductile cementitious composite (EDCC) which combines cement with polymer-based fibres, flyash and other industrial additives, making it highly sustainable.
67. ▶ Researchers from University of California and University of Illinois confirmed existence of new form of matter called excitonium, made up of excitons and exhibits macroscopic quantum phenomena just like a superconductor.
-  Technique called momentum-resolved electron energy-loss spectroscopy (M-EELS) was used by researchers to prove existence of excitonium.
68. ▶ Researchers from University of Tasmania (Australia) discovered rare, living specimens of stromatolites, oldest evidence of life on Earth, deep within a remote and protected World Heritage Area in Australia.
69. ▶ Researchers identified a new shark species in Atlantic Ocean, named *Atlantic sixgill shark*. They are very different from ones in Indian and Pacific Oceans on a molecular level. New species of sharks have six-gill slits, while most sharks have five-gill slits.
70. ▶ Rotavac became first Indigenously developed vaccine from India to be pre-qualified by World Health Organisation (WHO), enabling selling it internationally. Rotavac is first vaccine entirely developed in India to get this WHO status in safety and efficacy.
-  Rotavac is developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Limited and protects against childhood diarrhoea caused by rotavirus. It was developed under collaboration between India and USA.

71. ▶ Samsung developed world's smallest 8-gigabit DRAM chip, with improved energy efficiency and data processing performance. In these chips, only 1 transistor and a capacitor are required per bit, compared to 4 to 6 in SRAM.
72. ▶ Scientists ETH Zurich in Switzerland successfully created the world's shortest X-ray laser pulse with a duration of just 43 attoseconds.
 - ✎ Its significance lies in fact that to fully understand dynamics during a chemical reaction, scientists must be able to study all movements of atoms and molecules on their basic time scale.
 - ✎ Molecules rotate in range of picoseconds, their atoms vibrate in the range of femtoseconds, and electrons move in the range of attoseconds.
 - ✎ This laser pulse is shortest controlled event that has ever been created by humans. Researchers can now observe in high detail how electrons move within a molecule or how chemical bonds are formed.
73. ▶ 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.
74. ▶ 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*.
75. ▶ Scientists discovered massive reserves of mercury hidden in permafrost (*thick subsurface layer of soil that remains below freezing point throughout the year, occurring primarily in polar regions*).
 - ✎ Study says that that all frozen and unfrozen soil in northern permafrost regions contain a combined 1656 gigagrams of mercury, making it largest known reservoir of mercury on planet.
 - ✎ This discovery may have significant implications on human health and ecosystems worldwide as exposure to mercury can cause serious health problems. There would be severe environmental problems if these reservoirs do not remain frozen, as evident by Warming temperatures. Melting permafrost could release a large amount of mercury that could potentially affect ecosystems around the world.
76. ▶ Scientists discovered most ancient spiral galaxy known as A1689B11, recorded so far in universe. It was detected using powerful technique that combines gravitational lensing with Near-infrared Integral Field Spectrograph (NIFS) on Gemini North telescope in Hawaii.
 - ✎ A1689B11 galaxy was born 11 billion years ago and existed just 2.6 billion years after Big Bang, when universe was only one-fifth of its present age.
77. ▶ Scientists discovered new scorpion species named Schaller's wood scorpion (*Liocheles schalleri*) from at Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura. It has been named in honour of celebrated wildlife biologist George Schaller who has studied wildlife across world.
78. ▶ Scientists discovered new species of frog named Mewa Singh's night frog (*Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi*) in Kozhikode's Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala in Western Ghats.
79. ▶ Scientists for first time observed Optical polarisation phenomenon (polarised light emitted by rapidly rotating stars), using High Precision Polarimetric Instrument (HIPPI).
 - ✎ It was predicted by Indian astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar in 1946.
 - ✎ Optical polarisation phenomenon is a measure of the orientation of the oscillations of a light beam to its direction of travel.
 - ✎ HIPPI was used to detect polarised light from Regulus, one of brightest stars in night sky about 79 light years away. It was observed that Regulus is rotating so quickly with a spin rate of 96.5% of angular velocity (approximately 320 kilometres per second).
 - ✎ Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize for Physics with William A. Fowler for his theoretical studies of physical processes of importance to structure and evolution of stars.
80. ▶ Scientists found that parasite called *Leptomonas seymouri* hosting virus *Lepsey NLV1* may be also responsible for spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis). Earlier it was believed that parasite *Leishmania donovani* (sandfly) alone is responsible for spread of kala-azar.
81. ▶ Scientists from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered a new species of parasitic flowering plant named *Gleadovia konyakianorum* near Tobu town of Mon district in eastern Nagaland, named in honour of Konyak tribe of Nagas.
82. ▶ Scientists from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) identified new plant species named *Drypetes kalamii* from Buxa and Jaldapara National Parks in West Bengal, named after former President Dr. APJ Kalam. It is close relative of medicinal plant known in Sanskrit as *Putrajivah*.
83. ▶ Scientists from Britain and USA for first time grew human eggs in laboratory from earliest stages in ovarian tissue all way to full maturity. This is first time human eggs have been developed outside human body. It can widen scope of available fertility treatments and can help in developing regenerative medicine therapies and new infertility treatments.
84. ▶ Scientists from Broad Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in USA developed RNA Editing for Programmable A to I Replacement (REPAIR), a new gene editing tool therapies that can reverse disease-causing mutations in humans.
 - ✎ REPAIR can tweak individual RNA 'letters' in human cells without making changes to entire genome and can have profound potential as a tool for both research and disease treatment.

-  REPAIR is based on gene editing tool CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) that can be used to modify DNA in cells.
85. ▶ Scientists from Brown University (USA) created first map of water trapped in uppermost layer of Moon's soil, using NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper onboard of India's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft. Map builds on initial discovery of water and related molecule – hydroxyl (consists 1 atom each of hydrogen and oxygen) in lunar soil in 2009.
86. ▶ Scientists from Cardiff University (UK) discovered a new way to produce methanol from methane using oxygen from the air. Methanol is an important chemical often used as fuel in vehicles. New technique uses freely available air, inexpensive chemicals and an energy efficient methanol production process.
87. ▶ Scientists from Duke University in North Carolina (USA) for first time have developed working human skeletal muscle from stem cells in lab.
-  Stem cells are undifferentiated biological cells that can differentiate into specialized cells and can divide to produce more stem cells, found in multicellular organisms.
-  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.
88. ▶ Scientists from Florida State University (USA) developed new tool for objectively defining onset and demise of Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM). The new method uses rainfall rates to mark span of ISM at any given location throughout affected region.
89. ▶ Scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru indigenously developed country's first super critical carbon dioxide (S-CO₂) Brayton Test Loop facility. It is first test loop technology coupled with solar heat source in world that will generate clean energy from power plants, including solar thermal, as part of Indo-US consortium- Solar Energy Research Institute for India and United States (SERIUS).
-  It uses supercritical CO₂ (SCO₂) instead of steam to generate more power. Supercritical refers to state of CO₂ above its critical temperature of 31 C and critical pressure of 73 atmospheres, which makes it twice as dense as steam.
-  This Next generation and waterless super critical CO₂ Brayton cycle test loop for power generation will be useful for meeting energy needs. It has potential to replace steam based nuclear and thermal power plants, reducing carbon foot print significantly.
90. ▶ Scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) found a novel way to induce plants to give off dim light by embedding specialised nanoparticles into their leaves.
-  It has great significance as it will make plants function as a desk lamp, powered by energy metabolism of the plant itself and not by electricity connection.
-  To create glowing plants, scientists has used to luciferase, an enzyme that gives fireflies their glow. Luciferase acts on molecule called luciferin, causing it to emit light.
91. ▶ Scientists from Rockefeller University (USA) discovered of a new class of antibiotics called malacidins, produced by microorganisms living in soil and dirt and is capable of killing off several antibiotic-resistant pathogens.
-  Malacidins are distinctive class of antibiotics that are commonly encoded in soil microbiomes. They have never been reported in culture-based NP (Natural Products) discovery efforts. This discovery could be a useful weapon in field of medicines.
92. ▶ Scientists from Thiruvananthapuram based CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) have developed organic filter that allows only near-infrared (NIR) light to pass through it. It was found to absorb light from 300-850 nm (both ultraviolet, visible and part of NIR light) and transmit NIR light from 850-1500 nm.
-  Its Significance lies in fact that Currently available inorganic filters are expensive and brittle whereas organic filters are easy to process and flexible too. The filter can be used for night vision glasses, night photography. It will also have applications in security and forensics such as identifying blood stains on dark fabric which are invisible to naked eyes.
93. ▶ Scientists from USA's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory discovered a new material for next-generation smart windows that will not only get a tinted look when Sun is too bright but will also convert solar energy into electricity. Researchers discovered a form of perovskite that works well as a stable and photoactive semiconductor material that can reversibly switch between transparent and non-transparent state, without degrading its electronic properties.]
94. ▶ Scientists from University of Manchester (UK) created world's first *molecular robot - millionth of a millimetre in size*. It is made up of just 150 carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen atoms which are basic building blocks required to form molecules. Such molecular robots can be used for medical purposes, advanced manufacturing processes and even building molecular factories and assembly lines.
95. ▶ Scientists from University of Michigan (USA) developed a new type of neural network chip using reservoir computing system to improve efficiency of teaching machines to think like humans.
-  Network developed using this system can predict words before they are said during conversation and help predict future outcomes based on present.

96. ▶ Scientists from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered 3 new species of eel along northern Bay of Bengal coast - *Gymnothorax pseudotile*, *Gymnothorax visakhaensis* and *Enchelycore propinqua*.
- 🔗 There are about 1,000 species of eels identified so far across the world. In India, there are around 125 species of eels identified.
97. ▶ Scientists from Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered new frog species in the fast flowing streams in Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is named *Odorrana arunachalensis*.
98. ▶ Scientists in Austria and China made first video call using quantum encryption, that is said to be unhackable. Encryption through quantum networks uses quantum particles to transfer information from one point to another and hacking Attempts would create detectable disturbances in system.
99. ▶ USA based National High Magnetic Field Laboratory tested world's strongest superconducting magnet 32 T, producing 32 teslas (a unit of magnetic field strength), 33% stronger than previous record.
- 🔗 32 T will allow physicists studying materials to explore how electrons interact with each other and their atomic environment.
100. ▶ USA space flight company SpaceX launched the world's most powerful operational rocket 'Falcon Heavy' into space, carrying a red Tesla Roadster car belonging to SpaceX and Tesla founder Elon Musk.
- 🔗 The car was outfitted with a mannequin dressed in a spacesuit, a high-data storage unit containing Isaac Asimov's science fiction book series, Foundation Trilogy, and a plaque bearing names of 6000 SpaceX employees.
101. ▶ USA's NASA discovered 8th planet in Our Solar System, circling Kepler-90, a Sun-like star which is 2545 light-years far from Earth.
- 🔗 Newly-discovered planet Kepler-90i was discovered in data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, using Machine Learning from Google.
102. ▶ USA's NASA tested supersonic landing parachute that will be deployed in its Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020, called Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE). Mission will rely on special parachute to slow spacecraft down as it enters Martian atmosphere at over 5.4 kilometres per second.
103. ▶ USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) approved 2nd extension of Dawn mission at Ceres dwarf planet which is largest object in asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- 🔗 During this extension, Dawn will descend to lower altitudes than ever before at dwarf planet. Priority of second extension mission is to collect data with Dawn's gamma ray and neutron spectrometer, which measures number and energy of gamma rays and neutrons.
104. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) has given its pre-qualification to Typhbar Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) developed by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech for global use.
- 🔗 Typhbar 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.
105. ▶ World's biggest flooded cave has been discovered in Mexico, after researchers connected 2 underwater caverns in eastern Mexico to reveal biggest flooded cave on planet. It is significant discovery as it could shed new light on ancient Maya civilization. The total length of cave is 347-kms, after connecting cave system named Sac Actun (262 km) with 83-km long Dos Ojos cave system.
106. ▶ World's first floating wind farm located in Scotland started generating electricity, using five 6MW turbines procured from Norway. It is expected to generate 135GWh of electricity each year.
107. ▶ World's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells started running in Tangshan (north China's Hebei Province). It marks a big step in application of green energy in public transport as water is only emission of this Tram and it emits no pollutants.
- 🔗 It can run for 40 kilometers at a maximum speed of 70 kilometers per hour after being refilled with 12 kilograms of hydrogen.
108. ▶ World's first negative emissions plant under CarbFix Project to turn atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) into stone begun operations in Hellisheidi (Iceland), intended to lock away carbon dioxide by reacting it with basaltic rocks.
- 🔗 In CarbFix Project, CO₂ is captured from ambient air, bound to water, and sent 700 meters underground. There, CO₂ reacts with basaltic bedrock using enhanced weathering process and forms solid minerals, creating a permanent storage solution.
109. ▶ World's heaviest bony fish ever caught weighing 2,300 kilograms has been identified in Japan, confirmed by researchers from Hiroshima University. Bony fish have skeletons made of bone rather than cartilage.

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Sports

1. ▶ 2nd Elite Women's National Boxing Championships held in Haryana.
2. ▶ 10th Asian Airgun Championships Held in Wako, Japan -
 - 🔗 India won 21 medals at the event Including 6 Gold, 8 Silver and 7 Bronze. Gold Medals are -
 - 🔗 Samiksha Dhingra - 10m Air Rifle Women Junior
 - 🔗 Mehuli Ghosh - 10m Air Rifle Women Youth

🔗 Saurabh Chaudhary - 10m Air Pistol Men Youth

🔗 Team Events - 10m Air Rifle Men Youth, 10m Air Pistol Men Youth AND 10m Air Pistol Men

🔗 India Secured 4 places for 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games (3rd) to be held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) - Mehuli Ghosh, Tushar Mane, Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker.

3. ▶ 10th Men's and 5th Women's Senior Asian Kabaddi Championships, hosted by Iran -

🔗 India won title in both contests, defeating Pakistan in men's and South Korea in Women's titles.

4. ▶ 128-player single-elimination chess tournament named Chess World Cup 2017 held in Tbilisi (Georgia). It was won by Armenian grandmaster Levon Aronian as his second win of this tournament. 7 Indians participated in it, including Former World Champion Vishwanathan Anand.

5. ▶ 13th Commonwealth Wrestling Championships 2017 Organized in Johannesburg (South Africa). India won 60 Medals Including 29 Gold Medals at this event.

6. ▶ 1st Indian Sports Honours Awards 2017, jointly launched by Cricketer Virat Kohli and businessperson Sanjeev Goenka. Winners are -

🔗 Sportsman of the year (Individual sport) – Srikanth Kidambi (Badminton)

🔗 Sportswoman of the year (Individual sport) – P.V. Sindhu (Badminton)

🔗 Sportsman of the year (Team sport) – Ravichandran Ashwin (Cricket)

🔗 Sportswoman of the year (Team sport) – Mithali Raj (Cricket)

🔗 Team of the year (Men/Women) – Indian Women's Cricket Team

🔗 Coach of the year – Bisveshwar Nandi (Coach of Olympian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar)

🔗 Emerging Sports person – Female - Aditi Ashok (Golf), Male - Neeraj Chopra (Javelin Throw)

🔗 Differently abled Sports person – Devendra Jhajaria (Male), Deepa Malik (Female)

🔗 Jury Honours -

🔗 Inspirational Honour – Sania Mirza (Tennis)

🔗 Transformational Contribution to Sport – Abhinav Bindra (Shooting)

🔗 Keep Walking Honour for Lifetime achievement – Balbir Singh (Hockey)

🔗 Popular choice Honours

🔗 Breakthrough performance – Hardik Pandya (Cricket)

🔗 Star Sports 'Believe' Honour (Comeback of the year) – Saina Nehwal (Badminton)

🔗 Spirit of Sport – Yogeshwar Dutt (Wrestling)

🔗 Player of the year – Sunil Chhetri (Football)

🔗 Club of the year – Mumbai Indians (Cricket)

7. ▶ 2016–17 Men's FIH Hockey World League Final in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -

🔗 Australia won their FIH Hockey World League title after defeating Argentina in Final. Third place was grabbed by India.

8. ▶ 2017 AIBA World Boxing Championships held in Hamburg (Germany) -

🔗 India's only medal was a bronze medal won by Gaurav Bidhuri (ranked 10th).

🔗 Medal table

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Cuba	5	2	0	7
2	Uzbekistan	1	3	2	6
3	Kazakhstan	1	2	3	6
4	Azerbaijan	1	0	1	2
5	France	1	0	0	1
	Ukraine	1	0	0	1

9. ▶ 2017 ASBC Asian Confederation Women's Elite Boxing Championships held in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) -

🔗 Noted Indian boxer MC Mary Kom won Gold Medal in 48 kg category by defeating North Korea's Hyang Mi Kim.

10. ▶ 2017 ATP Finals men's tennis (London (UK)) -

🔗 Singles - Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) (*Defeated David Goffin of Belgium*)

🔗 Doubles Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)

11. ▶ 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (5th Asian Indoor Games) held in Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) -

🔗 India won 40 medals and finished 11th at 5th Asian Indoor Games, Including 9 Gold Medals.

🔗 Medal Table -


Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
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Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Turkmenistan	89	70	86	245
2	China	42	32	23	97
3	Iran	36	23	59	118
4	Kazakhstan	28	28	40	96
5	Uzbekistan	24	33	74	131

12. ▶ 2017 BWF Badminton Super Series Finals held in Dubai (it was final competition of 2017 BWF Super Series) -
- 🔧 Men's Singles - Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
 - 🔧 Women's Singles - Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) (She defeated India's P V Sindhu)
 - 🔧 Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Markus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
 - 🔧 Women's Doubles - Japan's Shiho Tanaka AND Koharu Yonemoto
13. ▶ 2017 Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships held in Australia. India will host the 2019 edition of these games. India won 37 medals in current championships held in Australia.
14. ▶ 2017 European Open Men's Tennis 2017 -
- 🔧 Singles - Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France)
 - 🔧 Doubles - Scott Lipsky (USA) AND **Divij Sharan (India)**
15. ▶ 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup (India)
- 🔧 England won the Title with Spain as Runners-up. England won the finals by 5-2 Goals.
 - 🔧 Brazil Stayed Third. Final match was played in Kolkata. Tournament had total 24 Participant Teams.
 - 🔧 Other Honours -
 - 🔧 Phil Foden of England adjudged tournament's best player and has been awarded 'Golden Ball'.
 - 🔧 Rhian Brewster from England scored most goals (8 goals) and has been awarded, 'Golden Boot'.
 - 🔧 Gabriel Brazao (goalkeeper of Brazil) won 'Golden Glove' and Brazil won Fair Play Award.
 - 🔧 Other Facts -
 - 🔧 Nigeria is most successful team in U17 FIFA World Cups, with 5 titles so far.
 - 🔧 FIFA U17 World cup does not has provision of Giving prize money to winners.
 - 🔧 It was First FIFA Tournament hosted by India. Matches were played in six stadiums in six host cities - Kolkata, Kochi, New Delhi, Mumbai, Guwahati, Margao.
 - 🔧 Jackson Singh Thounaojam Became India's first goal Scorer in FIFA Tournaments as he scored a Header Goal in FIFA U-17 World Cup match against Colombia. India could not win a match though.
 - 🔧 Hyundai India were official transportation partner for Tournament.
 - 🔧 Adidas launched campaign #HereToCreate to inspire young football talent in India and to kick start a football revolution.
 - 🔧 Switzerland's Esther Staubli became first female referee to officiate at a FIFA U-17 World Cup Match, when Japan and New Caledonia met in Kolkata.
 - 🔧 Official Mascot was clouded leopard named 'Kheleo' ad official ball is called 'Krasava'.
 - 🔧 USA-Based Namit Deshpande became First NRI to Play for India's U17 World Cup Team.
16. ▶ 2017 Laver Cup men's tennis tournament won by Europe, defeating rest of the world. It was held in Prague (Czech Republic).
17. ▶ 2017 Shanghai Rolex Masters Men's Tennis Title -
- 🔧 Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland)
 - 🔧 Doubles - John Peers (Australia) AND Henri Kontinen (Finland)
18. ▶ 2017 Sultan of Johor Cup Hockey Tournament (Malaysia) -
- 🔧 Australia won their 2nd title by winning over Great Britain in Final.
 - 🔧 India defeated Malaysia to grab 3rd Place in Tournament.
19. ▶ 2017 Swiss Indoors (Basel) Men's Tennis 2017-
- 🔧 Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland)
 - 🔧 Doubles - Ivan Dodig (Croatia) AND Marcel Granollers (Spain)
20. ▶ 2017 Tianjin Open Women's Tennis 2017 -
- 🔧 Singles - Maria Sharapova (Russia). Its her first title since returning from a 15-month doping ban, defeating Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.
 - 🔧 Doubles - Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania) AND Sara Errani (Italy)
21. ▶ 2017 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships (47th) held in Montreal (Canada) -

 Medal table


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


 India could not win a medal in the event.

22. ▶ 2017 World Weightlifting Championships held in Anaheim (USA) -

 Medal table -

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

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

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

23. ▶ 2018 Chennai Open Challenger Tennis Title -

 Singles - Jordan Thompson (Australia), Defeating India's Yuki Bhambri

 Doubles - India's Sriram Balaji AND Vishnu Vardhan

24. ▶ 2018 Commonwealth Games (21st) will be held on Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.


25. ▶ 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL) Auctions -

 Among Indian players, Jaydev Unadkat became most expensive at INR 11.5 crores, bought by Rajasthan Royals.

 Overall, Ben Stokes (England) became costliest buy with 12.5 Cr spent on him by Rajasthan Royals.

 Sandeep Lamichhane became first Nepali cricketer to get IPL contract after he was bought by Delhi Daredevils for 20 Lakh.

26. ▶ 2018 Maharashtra Men's Tennis Title (Also called Tata Open) -

 Men's Singles - Gilles Simon (France), defeating South Africa's Kevin Anderson

27. ▶ 2018 Maharashtra Tata Open Men's Tennis Championship -

 Singles - Gilles Simon (France), Defeated Kevin Anderson (South Africa)

 Doubles - Netherlands' Robin Haase AND Matwé Middelkoop


28. ▶ 2018 Shenzhen Women's Tennis Open (China) -

 Singles - Simona Halep (Romania)

 Doubles - Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu AND Simona Halep

29. ▶ 2018 winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang (South Korea). Olympics Champions League winner Park Ji-sung will be first South Korean to carry flame for 2018 winter Olympics.

30. ▶ 20th Asia Masters Athletics Championship held in Rugao (China) -


 India finished second with 146 medals, including 37 golds, 43 silvers and 66 bronze. China was at top of list.


31. ▶ 22nd Commonwealth Games 2022 will be hosted in Birmingham (England).

 Shooting has been excluded from Commonwealth Games 2022 edition.

32. ▶ 23rd Winter Olympic Games 2018 hosted by Pyeongchang (South Korea) -

 2922 Athletes from 92 Nations participated in Events 102 of 15 sports.

 Sports List - Figure skating, Speed skating, Short track speed skating, Ice hockey, Curling, Cross-country skiing, Alpine skiing, Ski jumping, Nordic combined, Freestyle skiing, Snowboarding, Biathlon, Luge, Bobsleigh, Skeleton, Biathlon / Military Patrol.


 Next (24th) Winter Olympic Games will be hosted by Beijing (China) in 2022.

 Medal Table -








Rank	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Norway	14	14	11	39










Rank	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
2	Germany	14	10	7	31
3	Canada	11	8	10	29
4	United States	9	8	6	23
5	Netherlands	8	6	6	20
6	Sweden	7	6	1	14
7	South Korea	5	8	4	17
8	Switzerland	5	6	4	15
9	France	5	4	6	15
10	Austria	5	3	6	14

 India at Winter Olympic Games 2018 -

-  2 Indian athletes participated - Jagdish Singh (Cross country Skiing), Shiva Keshavan (Luge). Indian participants could not secure a medal.

 Other Facts -

-  Norwegian cross-country skier Marit Bjoergen won her 14th medal at Winter Games by taking bronze with her Norwegian teammates in team sprint. With this, she became most decorated Winter Olympian of all time, breaking the tie she held with Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen.
-  Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu became first figure skater in 66 years to win back-to-back Winter Olympic gold medals in the men's singles event. He also became 1000th gold medal winner in history of Winter Olympics.
-  2018 Winter Olympics saw Record-setting performance of 1218 drones (unmanned aerial vehicles), flying in sync to create huge formations of various Olympic sports and Olympic rings, set by Intel. Drones set world record for 'most unmanned aerial vehicles airborne simultaneously, which was previously held by 500 drones during a 2016 performance in Germany.
-  Opening ceremony was named *Peace in Motion*. North and South Korean teams marched together with a "unification flag". *Let Everyone Shine* was Official event song.
-  Czech Republic's Ester Ledecka became first woman to claim gold medals in 2 sports at a Winter Olympics (snowboarding AND skiing).
-  US won gold medal of Women's Ice Hockey, defeating Canada. In men's Ice Hockey, *Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR)* defeated *Germany* to win Gold.
 -  Olympic Athlete from Russia (OAR) is International Olympic Committee's designation of select Russian athletes permitted to participate in 2018 Winter Olympics. It is result of suspension of Russian Olympic Committee after recent Olympic doping controversy.










- 33. ▶ 33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships held in Mangaluru (Karnataka). Rakhi Halder lifted 128kgs in clean and jerk for a total of 230kgs to create a new national record.
- 34. ▶ 42nd Junior (U-17 and U-19) National Badminton Championship concludes in Guwahati (Assam) -
 -  U-19 - Aryaman Tandon and Akarshi Kashyap won in boys' & girls' singles respectively.
 -  U-17 - Maisnam Meiraba and Akarshi Kashyap won in boys' & girls' singles respectively.
- 35. ▶ 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.
- 36. ▶ 57th National Open Athletics Championships held at Nehru Stadium in Chennai (Tamilnadu).
- 37. ▶ 61st National Shooting Championships 2017 held in (New Delhi).
- 38. ▶ 61st National Shooting Championships held in Trivandrum (Kerala) -
 -  Anisa Sayyed created new national record in women 25m pistol.
 -  Jitu Rai created new national record in men's 50m pistol event.
- 39. ▶ 62nd National Wrestling championship held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh).
 -  Haryana Remained at top with total 36 Medals in all (men and women) categories.
 -  Wrestler Sandeep Tulsi Yadav has been handed a four-year ban by Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel of the NADA.
- 40. ▶ 6th Swimmathon (*India's Premier open water swimming championships*) will be held in Goa in December 2017, organized by Square Off Sports.
- 41. ▶ 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards (honoring best film and American television of 2017), Winners are -
 -  Motion Picture -
 -  Drama - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.
 -  Musical/Comedy - Lady Bird.

- Director -
 - Drama- Guillermo del Toro (*The Shape of Water*).
 - Actor -
 - Drama - Gary Oldman (*Darkest Hour*)
 - Musical / Comedy - James Franco (*The Disaster Artist*)
 - Actress-
 - Drama - Frances McDormand (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*).
 - Musical/Comedy - Saoirse Ronan (*Lady Bird*)
 - Actor in a Supporting role -
 - Motion Picture - Sam Rockwell (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*)
 - Actress in a Supporting role -
 - Motion Picture - Allison Janney (*I, Tonya*)
 - Original Song - *This Is Me* (Benj Pasek and Justin Paul) - *The Greatest Showman*.
 - Animated Feature Film - *Coco*.
 - Foreign Language Film - *In the Fade* (Germany/France)
 - Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award - Oprah Winfrey.
- 42. ▶ 7th international military games will be held in Wuhan (China), by International Military Sports Council (CISM).
- 43. ▶ 82nd Senior National Badminton Championship 2017 (Nagpur (Maharashtra)) -
 - Women's Singles - Saina Nehwal (defeating PV Sindhu). Nehwal became National Champion for 3rd Time.
 - Men's Singles - H.S. Prannoy (defeating Kidambi Srikanth)
- 44. ▶ AIBA (International Boxing Championships) Youth World Boxing Championships 2017 held in Guwahati (Assam) -
 - India led the medal tally with 5 gold medals - Nitu , Jyoti Gulia , Sakshi Choudhury, Shashi Chopra and Ankushita Boro.
 - Ankushita Boro won *The Best Boxer* title in World Youth Women's boxing Championship held in Guwahati.
- 45. ▶ ATP World Tour Awards 2017
 - Swiss Player Roger Federer won 3 ATP World Tour Awards -
 - Selected by fans as ATP WorldTour.com Fans' Favourite for 15th straight year.
 - voted by fellow players as winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award
 - Comeback Player of the Year.
 - Coach of the Year - Neville Godwin
- 46. ▶ 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.
- 47. ▶ 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.
- 48. ▶ Afghanistan won ICC Intercontinental Cup defeating United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, with Ireland ranked 2nd.
- 49. ▶ Afghanistan won maiden Under-19 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), defeating Pakistan.
- 50. ▶ Airtel Payments Bank became first payments bank in India to integrate UPI Technology (Unified Payments Interface) on its digital platform. It will allow customers the choice and convenience to facilitate secure digital payments.
- 51. ▶ Amritpal Singh became first India-born player to be included into Australia's National Basketball League, by basketball club Sydney Kings.
- 52. ▶ Asian Archery Championships 2017, Organized in Dhaka (Bangladesh), with India scoring 9 medals.
 - Gold - Akash (Reurve Cadet Men), Abhishek Verma (Compound Men) and Compound Women Team
- 53. ▶ Asian Luge Championships held at Altenberg (Germany) -
 - Germany is a european Nation, still it hosted Asian Luge Championships for security reasons.
 - Sole Indian participant Shiva Keshavan retained his title with a time of 55.60 seconds.
- 54. ▶ Assam Hockey won 8th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018 (B Division) in Assam, defeating Rajasthan.
- 55. ▶ Australian Open Tennis 2018 -
 - Men's Singles - Roger Federer (Switzerland), Defeating Marin Cilic of Croatia. It is 20th grand slam title for Federer.
 - Women's Singles - Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark), defeating Simona Halep (Romania)
 - Men's Doubles - Oliver Marach (Austria) AND Mate Pavić (Croatia)
 - Women's Doubles - Tímea Babos (Hungary) AND Kristina Mladenovic (France)

- 🏸 Mixed Doubles - Mate Pavić (Croatia) AND Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada). They defeated Pair of Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Rohan Bopanna (India)
 - 🏸 Boys' Singles - Sebastian Korda (USA)
 - 🏸 Girls' Singles - Liang En-shuo (Chinese Taipei)
- 56. ▶ Australian cricketer Steve Smith won his 2nd Allan Border Medal, making him best Australian male cricketer in past year. Further, Ellyse Perry won her 2nd Belinda Clark Award Medal, as best female cricketer of Australia in past 12 months.
- 57. ▶ Australian fast bowler John Hastings retired from Test and ODI Cricket.
- 58. ▶ BCCI mandated every cricketer to pass a yo-yo test, like applied by various sports including hockey and football.
 - 🏃 In a yo-yo test, players have to pace themselves to and fro between two rows of cones kept 20 metres apart. For every round the player has to sync his sprint with the beeps that are played.
- 59. ▶ BCCI nominated Mahendra Singh Dhoni for Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award for his contribution to game. He is only cricketer nominated by BCCI for this years Padma Awards. While, Olympic silver medallist shuttler P.V. Sindhu is recommended for Padma Bhushan title by Sports Ministry.
- 60. ▶ BWF Para-Badminton World Championships held Ulsan (South Korea) -
 - 🏸 India won 10 medals, including 2 golds. Parul Parmar won women's singles and also won women's doubles by pairing up with Japan's Akiko Sugino.
- 61. ▶ Bahrain will hold first ever Baby Olympics in April 2018, where medals will be contested by 2 - 4 year-olds, to promote Olympic principles at very young age.
- 62. ▶ Bangladesh won First ever SAFF U-15 Women's football Championship 2017, defeating India. It was hosted by Bangladesh.
- 63. ▶ Basel (Switzerland) will become first city to jointly host Badminton and Para-Badminton World Championships in 2019.
- 64. ▶ Boxing Federation of India (BFI) was recognised as a national body by Indian Olympic Association, removing Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) as its affiliate.
- 65. ▶ 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).
 - 🏃 Brazilian football player Neymar is most expensive ever with his 200 million pounds worth transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint Germain in 2017.
- 66. ▶ Brisbane International Tennis 2018 -
 - 🏸 Men's Singles - Nick Kyrgios (Australia)
 - 🏸 Women's Singles - Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
 - 🏸 Men's Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
 - 🏸 Women's Doubles - Netherlands's Kiki Bertens AND Demi Schuurs
- 67. ▶ British Athletics announced that London will host a new World Cup in July 2018, as a 2 day event with 8 participants - USA, Poland, China, Germany, France, Jamaica and South Africa. 1 male and 1 female athlete from each country will be selected for every field event and each track race up to 1500 metres.
- 68. ▶ Cadet World Wrestling Championships 2017 held in Athens (Greece) -
 - 🏃 India's Wrestler Anshu won Gold Medal defeating Japanese Wrestler Naomi Ruike in 60-kilogram weight category.
 - 🏃 Sonam Malik won gold by defeating Japanese Wrestler Sena Nagamoto in 56 KG Category.
 - 🏃 Besides, Neelam won Bronze in 43-kilogram category.
- 69. ▶ Chandika Hathurusingha is appointed as new Head coach of Sri Lanka Cricket Team.
- 70. ▶ China Open Tennis 2017 -
 - 🏸 Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain)
 - 🏸 Women's Singles - Caroline Garcia (France)
 - 🏸 Men's Doubles - Henri Kontinen (Finland) AND John Peers (Australia)
 - 🏸 Women's Doubles - Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- 71. ▶ Commonwealth Shooting Championships and oceanina shooting championships 2017 Held in Gold coast (Australia) -
 - 🏃 India won 20 medals with 6 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze. Gold Medals -
 - 🏃 Satyendra Singh won in men's 50m rifle 3 positions.
 - 🏃 Heena Sidhu won in women's 10m Air Pistol event.
 - 🏃 Shahzar Rizvi won in men's 10m air pistol event.
 - 🏃 Pooja Ghatkar won in 10m women's air rifle event.
 - 🏃 Prakash Nanjappa won in men's 50m pistol event.

 Ankur Mittal won in Men's double trap event.

 India will host next Commonwealth Shooting Championships in 2019.

72. ▶ Cricket Association of Puducherry (CAP) chosen as an associate member of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Now, Puducherry will be allowed to play Ranji Trophy in 2018.
73. ▶ Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) won 2017 Fifa Men's Player award and Lieke Martens (Netherlands) won Fifa Women's Player of the year award in London (UK).
74. ▶ Davis Cup (Tennis), which is in existence since 1900, will be converted into a 'World Cup of Tennis' from 2019. New format will feature 18 teams playing a week-long event at one venue, instead of the existing 16 teams playing across four different months.
75. ▶ Delhi Half Marathon 2017 winners -
 Men - Birhanu Legese (Ethiopia).
 Women - Almaz Ayana (Ethiopia).
76. ▶ Delhi State Olympic Association will organise Delhi Olympic Games in December 2017. Aim is to promote Olympics and spirit of sports in Delhi. 9 day sporting events will include hockey, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, swimming, karate, wushu and 28 other disciplines. Olympic wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt will be brand ambassador of Delhi Olympic Games 2017.
77. ▶ Delhi won Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Cricket Trophy, Defeating Rajasthan in Kolkata (WB).
78. ▶ Denmark Open Badminton 2017 -
 Men's Singles - **Srikanth Kidambi (India)**, He Defeated Lee Hyun-il (South Korea)
 Women's Singles - Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
 Men's Doubles Chinese Pair of Liu Cheng AND Zhang Nan
 Women's Doubles South Korean pair of Lee So-hee AND Shin Seung-chan
 Mixed Doubles - Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man AND Tse Ying Suet
79. ▶ East Bengal FC won eighth consecutive Calcutta Football League (CFL) title (39th overall), defeating Mohun Bagan FC in Siliguri (West Bengal)
80. ▶ Emblems of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named *Winter Dream* and *Flight*, to be held in Beijing (China).
81. ▶ FIFA has lifted 2 year suspension against Kuwait's football association that prevented It country from participating in international tournaments.
82. ▶ FIFA suspended Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) due to being included in corruption and malpractices.
83. ▶ Ferrari Racer Sebastian Vettel (Germany) won Brazilian Grand Prix -
 Britain's Lewis Hamilton has already been crowned Formula One world champion 2017.
 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May
6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
7	Canadian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (UK)	11 June
8	Azerbaijan Grand Prix	Daniel Ricciardo (Australia)	25 June
9	Austrian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	9 July
10	British Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	16 July
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	8 October

17	United States Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November


84. ▶ First edition of Khelo India School Games (KISG) held from from 31st January to 8th February, 2018 at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- ▶ It was held across 16 disciplines in Under-17 age category, with 5000 school children participating. Total 199 gold, 199 silver and 275 bronze medals were awarded.
 - ▶ Haryana emerged overall champions with 102 medals (38 G, 26 S and 38 B). Maharashtra 2nd with 111 medals, Delhi 3rd with 94 medals.
85. ▶ First ever Indian squad to participate in the FIFA U-17 World Cup has been announced, with 21 players onboard. FIFA U17 WC will be held in India in October 2017.
86. ▶ Football Delhi announced to observe Indian football Captain Sunil Chhetri's birthday (3rd August) as Delhi's Football Day.
87. ▶ Football club Mohun Bagan won 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament, defeating Partha Chakra in Gangtok (Sikkim).
88. ▶ Forbes richest sportsmen 2017 List -
- ▶ Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo leads the list, followed by LeBron James (American basketball player) and Lionel Messi (Argentinian Footballer).
 - ▶ Virat Kohli is only cricketer to feature in Top 100 list.
89. ▶ France has been announced as host of 2023 Rugby World Cup. Note that Next Rugby World Cup is to be held in Japan in 2019.
90. ▶ France won its 10th Davis Cup Tennis title after France's Lucas Pouille beat Belgium's Steve Darcis in Final. It was 106th Edition of Davis Cup and was hosted by France.
91. ▶ Gopi Thonakal became first Indian man to win Asian Marathon Championship, after he won Gold medal at 16th Asian Marathon Championships in China.
92. ▶ Government approved Olympic Task Force's recommendation of Providing stipend of Rs 50,000 per month be paid to elite athletes preparing for Tokyo Olympic, Asian Games or Common Wealth Games to meet pocket expenses. Government selected 152 elites under TOP scheme.
93. ▶ Government exempted import duty on a wide range of goods and sports items for upcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in India in October 2017. However, importers will have to exorts all imported accessories will be re-exported within 3 months of conclusion of World Cup.
94. ▶ Gymnastics World Cup 2018 held in Melbourne (Australia). Aruna Budda Reddy became 1st Indian gymnast to win an individual medal at Gymnastics World Cup as she won bronze in women's vault event.
95. ▶ 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.
96. ▶ Hockey Karnataka won Hockey India's 2nd 5-a-side Senior Men's National Championship 2017, defeating Haryana.
97. ▶ Hong Kong Badminton Open 2017 -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Tai Tzu Ying (Chinese Taipei), defeated India's P V Sindhu
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - China's Chen Qingchen AND Jia Yifan
98. ▶ Hyderabad Hunters won 3rd Premier Badminton League championship in Hyderabad, after beating Bengaluru Blasters in final.
99. ▶ ICC Cricket Awards 2018 -
- ▶ Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Men's Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India). It is kohli's 2nd Title as ICC Cricketer of the year after 2012.
 - ▶ Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - Steve Smith (Australia)
 - ▶ Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
 - ▶ Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
 - ▶ Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
 - ▶ David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year - Marais Erasmus
 - ▶ ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)
100. ▶ ICC approved 9 team Test Championship and a 13-team One-Day International league.

🇮🇳 Test competition will begin after 2019 World Cup and will have 9 teams play six series over two years.

🇮🇳 50-over event will be held in 2020.

101. ▶ IPL Franchise Kochi Tuskers won arbitration case against Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over wrongful termination from Indian Premier League (IPL) and demanded 850 crore compensation from BCCI.
 - 🇮🇳 Kochi Tuskers' IPL contract was terminated by BCCI in 2011, citing breach of franchise agreement. Kochi Tuskers appealed against this decision.
102. ▶ ISSF World Cup Final 2017 Held in New Delhi -
 - 🇮🇳 Hosts India finished 7th overall with 1 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze.
 - 🇮🇳 Gold - Jitu Rai/Heena Sidhu (mixed team 10m air pistol)
 - 🇮🇳 Silver - Sangram Dahiya (men's double trap)
 - 🇮🇳 Bronze - Amanpreet Singh (50m pistol).
 - 🇮🇳 Medal Tally -
 - 🇮🇳 Italy Remained at top in ISSF World Cup Finals Delhi 2017, followed by China
 - 🇮🇳 China's Rio 2016 10m air pistol women's champion, Mengxue Zhang and Gengcheng Sui, were crowned Champion of Champions in pistol and rifle respectively.
 - 🇮🇳 In Overall ISSF World Cup 2017 (1st Leg in Delhi in Feb, 2nd Leg in Munich (Germany) in May, 3rd Leg in Gabala (Azerbaijan) in June and Finals in Delhi) -
 - 🇮🇳 India stayed at 6th with 9 Medals (3 G, 3 S, 3 B).
 - 🇮🇳 China at top with 37 Medals, Followed by Italy (15) and USA (10).
103. ▶ ISSF World Shotgun Championships held in Moscow (Russia). India's Ankur Mittal won Silver Double Trap Men (Adult) and Ahvar Rizvi won Silver in Double Trap Men (Junior). India Finished 5th in this championship.
104. ▶ Iceland becomes smallest country ever (3.3 Million Population) to qualify for FIFA World Cup, after topping its qualifying group. FIFA World cup 2018 is to be held in Russia.
105. ▶ India Open International Boxing Tournament 2018 held in Delhi -
 - 🇮🇳 India won 10 medals (Including 6 gold) at event, including one by noted Boxer Mary Kom.
106. ▶ India Open badminton 2018 (Held in New Delhi)-
 - 🇮🇳 Men's Singles - Shi Yuqi (China)
 - 🇮🇳 Women's Singles - Beiwen Zhang (USA), Defeating India's P V Sindhu
 - 🇮🇳 Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Marcus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)
 - 🇮🇳 Women's Doubles - Indonesia's Greysia Polii AND Apriyani Rahayu
 - 🇮🇳 Mixed Doubles - Denmark's Mathias Christiansen AND Christinna Pedersen
107. ▶ India at Miscellaneous Sports Events -
 - 🇮🇳 India's Aryan Goveas and Arjun Kadhe won doubles title in \$15,000 ITF (International Tennis Federation) Futures tennis tournament, in Cairo (Egypt).
 - 🇮🇳 Indian Diving Team won 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals in Indonesia Open Aquatic Championships 2017 in Jakarta.
 - 🇮🇳 India finished seventh overall in the WSF-world men's team squash championship in Marseille, France.
 - 🇮🇳 Indian Junior Girls won 4 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze at Valeria Demyanova Memorial International Boxing Tournament in Ukraine.
 - 🇮🇳 India won 10 medals in the first Wushu Sanda Asian Cup in Guangzhou, China.
 - 🇮🇳 Indian junior boxers won 11 Medals (Inc. 6 gold) and finished as overall champions at 5th International Sven Lange Memorial Tournament in Germany.
 - 🇮🇳 Indian boxers won 3 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze at Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament in Karaganda (Kazakhstan).
108. ▶ India beat Nepal to win first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament (team championship) held at Guwahati, Assam.
109. ▶ India captain Mithali Raj occupied number one spot in latest ICC ODI rankings for batswomen, followed by Ellyse Perry of Australia and Amy Satterthwaite of New Zealand. Mithali has 753 points. Indian captain Virat Kohli also returned to top of ICC ODI rankings for batsmen with 889 points, best ever by an India batsman.
 - 🇮🇳 Meanwhile, Indian bowler Jasprit Bumrah also ranked at 1st spot in ICC T20 rankings.
110. ▶ India defeated Australia to win its 4th Under 19 Cricket World cup Title, held in New Zealand.
111. ▶ India will host 2023 Cricket World Cup (13th) and 2021 Champions Trophy.
 - 🇮🇳 ICC World Cup 2019 will be held in England and Wales.
112. ▶ India will host South Asian boxing Championship for first time in Guwahati (Assam) in December 2017.

113. ▶ India won 2017 Asia Cup hockey title by defeating Malaysia in final. Tournament was held in Bangladesh. It was India's 3rd Asia Cup title, after 2003 and 2007.
114. ▶ India won 2017 Women's Hockey Asia Cup by Defeating China in Final. Japan was the Host Nation.
- ▶ With this, India Qualified for 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup (14th edition) to be held in London (England).
 - ▶ Note that 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup (14th) will be held in November - December 2018 in Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar (India).
115. ▶ India won 2nd South Asian Basketball (SABA) Under – 16 Championship by defeating Bhutan in Kathmandu (Nepal). India qualified for 2017 FIBA Under-16 Asian Championship to be played in Malaysia in later 2017.
116. ▶ India won Blind Cricket World Cup 2018 by beating Pakistan at Sharjah (UAE).
117. ▶ India's Shubhankar Sharma won Joburg Open golf tournament to qualify for 2018 British Open.
118. ▶ India's Tejasvi Duduka won women's singles of U.S. Open Grand Slam Carrom tournament.
119. ▶ Indian Badminton Player Parupalli Kashyap won his first international title as Austrian Open International Challenge badminton tournament, by defeating Malaysia's June Wei Cheam.
120. ▶ Indian Badminton Player Samiya Imad Farooqui won gold medal at Under-15 women's singles competition at Asian Junior Championship in Yangon (Myanmar).
121. ▶ Indian Billiards Player Pankaj Advani won his 18th IBSF World Snooker Championship Title, after defeating Iran's Amir Sarkhosh in Qatar.
122. ▶ Indian Boxer Sachin Siwach is named Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year 2017. India also fetched the Best Asian International Technical Official (ITO) award with Lenny D'Gama winning the online poll.
123. ▶ Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli Became Fastest Batsman to score 9000 ODI runs, achieving this in Just 194 Innings. He is also biggest scorer in 200 ODI Innings.
124. ▶ Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his eighth Asian Tour title as he won Macau Open 2017. It is his first Asian Tour trophy of the year.
125. ▶ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally awarded rights to host 36th National Games to Goa in November 2017.
126. ▶ Indian archer Deepika Kumari won bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Bangkok (Thailand).
127. ▶ Indian batsman Rohit Sharma became first to score 3 double centuries in ODI cricket, after he scored 208 Not out against Sri Lanka in Mohali.
- ▶ India also become first team to register 300+ totals 100 times in ODIs, after posting 392 against Sri Lanka in same game at Mohali.
128. ▶ Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won World Rapid Chess tournament title in Saudi Arabia, beating Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev.
129. ▶ Indian football team qualified for 2019 Asian Cup after winning over Macau in qualifying round. AFC Asian Cup will be held in Jan - Feb 2019 in UAE.
130. ▶ Indian golfer 28-year-old Ajeetesh Sandhu won Asian Tour title at Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) at Taipei.
131. ▶ Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won Royal Cup at Pattaya (Thailand), his 3rd Asian Tour title of 2017.
132. ▶ Indian squash player Harinder Pal Sandhu won Malaysian Squash Tour, as his 21st consecutive international match win in a row.
133. ▶ Indian table tennis player Diya Chitale won silver medal in girls' doubles category of 2017 ITTF World Cadet Challenge in Suva (Fiji).
134. ▶ Indian women cricketer Jhulan Goswami became first woman in world to take 200 wickets in ODI cricket.
135. ▶ India's Anupama Ramachandran won World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St. Petersburg in Russia.
136. ▶ Indonesia Masters Badminton 2018 -
- ▶ Men's Singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
 - ▶ Women's Singles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei), defeated India's Saina Nehwal
 - ▶ Men's Doubles - Indonesia's Markus Fernaldi Gideon AND Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo
 - ▶ Women's Doubles - Japan's Misaki Matsutomo AND Ayaka Takahashi
 - ▶ Mixed Doubles - China's Zheng Siwei AND Huang Yaqiong
137. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced New Zealand Cricketer Corey Anderson as event ambassador for ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 to be held in New Zealand.
138. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced several changes to rules -
- ▶ Thickness of edges of bat can't be more than 40mm and the overall depth can be 67 mm at most.
 - ▶ Change in DRS rule - A review will now not be lost in case of a decision that remains unchanged, solely as the result of an 'umpire's call'. DRS will now also be allowed to be used in T20Is.
 - ▶ Run outs - If a batsman is running towards crease with forward momentum and grounded its bat behind popping crease but subsequently has lost contact with the ground at the time of the wickets being put down, the batsman will not be run out.

 Boundary catches - airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within boundary, otherwise, a boundary will be scored. Batsman can now be out caught, stumped or run out even if ball bounces off the helmet worn by a fielder or wicket-keeper.

139. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that 2018 Women's World T20 will be hosted by West Indies in November 2018. Note that Next Men's T20 WC will be held in Australia in 2020.

140. ▶ International Cricket Council (ICC) launched anti-corruption investigation in Sri Lanka Cricket.

141. ▶ International Hockey Federation (FIH) declared that China have qualified for the Hockey World Cup for the first time.

 2018 Hockey world cup (14th Hockey WC) will be held in Bhubaneswar (India).

142. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally announced Paris (France) as host of 2024 summer Olympics and Los Angeles (LOS) as host of 2028 Olympics.

143. ▶ 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.

144. ▶ Iran allowed its women weightlifters to compete internationally for the first time, wearing special clothes for Muslim athletes.

145. ▶ Karnataka won Vijay Hazare Trophy ODI tournament for 3rd time, defeating Saurashtra.

146. ▶ Kerala Kings won first T10 Cricket League champion at Sharjah Cricket Stadium (UAE), defeating Punjabi Legends.

147. ▶ Kochi (Kerala) will host BWF World Senior Badminton Championships, being held in India for first time.

148. ▶ Korean Open Badminton 2017 -

 Men's singles - Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)

 Women's singles - India P. V. Sindhu. Sindhu Became first Indian to win Korea Open Superseries. She defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan.


 Men's doubles - Mathias Boe AND Carsten Mogensen (Denmark)

 Women's doubles - Huang Yaqiong AND Yu Xiaohan (China)

 Mixed doubles - Praveen Jordan AND Debby Susanto (Indonesia)

149. ▶ Kuldeep Yadav became first Indian spinner to take a hat-trick in ODI cricket, after he took one against an ODI game against Australia.

150. ▶ Laureus World Sports Awards 2018 -

 Sportsman of the Year AND Comeback of the year - Swiss Tennis star Roger Federer. With this, He became most decorated winner ever in Laureus World Sports Awards (total 6 awards).

 Sportswoman of the Year - Serena Williams (USA). She is now most decorated female Laureus Award winner with five Laureus statuettes.

 Breakthrough of the Year - Golfer Sergio Garcia (Spain).

 Team of the Year - British F1 Team Mercedes AMG Petronas.

 Action Sportsperson of the Year - French sailor Armel Le Cléac'h.

 World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability - Swiss wheelchair racer Marcel Hug.

 Lifetime Achievement Award - American former track and field athlete Edwin Moses.

151. ▶ Mahendra Singh Dhoni became first wicketkeeper in world cricket to do 100 stumpings in One Day Internationals (ODIs).

152. ▶ Meghalaya signed Host City Contract with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to host 39th National Games in 2022.

153. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Italian Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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


10			
11	Hungarian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	30 July
12	Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	27 August
13	Italian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	3 September
14	Singapore Grand Prix		17 September
15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

154. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Singapore Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
3	Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	16 April
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15	Malaysian Grand Prix		1 October
16	Japanese Grand Prix		8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November


155. ▶ Mercedes Racer Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won Japanese Grand Prix -

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
2	Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	9 April
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4	Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	30 April
5	Spanish Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	14 May

6	Monaco Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	28 May
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16	Japanese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	8 October
17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

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

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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17	United States Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November




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

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

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date

1	Australian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	26 March
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17	United States Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton (Britain)	22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	Serene Valtteri (Finland)	26 November

158. ▶ Mumbai batsman Prithvi Shaw will be captain of Indian Side in upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup 2018 in New Zealand.
159. ▶ NECC-ITF women's tennis championship in Pune -
 Singles - Spain's Georgina Garcia-Perez.
160. ▶ 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.
161. ▶ Netherlands's Noted Football Player Arjen Robben retired from international football.
162. ▶ 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).
163. ▶ Noted Brazilian Footballer Formally announced his retirement. He was although not playing for national side since last 2 years.
164. ▶ Noted Brazilian Footballer Kaka Retired from Professional Football.
165. ▶ Noted Indian Female Boxer M C Mary Kom became first Indian to be picked as International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative for 8th IOC Athletes' Forum to be held in Lausanne (Switzerland).
166. ▶ Noted Indian pacer Ashish Nehra retired from all forms of cricket. He played His last Match as a T20 against New Zealand.
167. ▶ Noted Swiss Female Tennis Player, Martina Hingis announced her retirement from Professional Tennis.
 She held world No. 1 ranking for 209 weeks during her career, winning 43 WTA singles titles and 64 doubles titles.
168. ▶ Odisha government will sponsor Indian National Hockey teams for next 5 years, along with upcoming Men's Hockey World Cup in November - December 2018 in Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar).
169. ▶ Official emblem and slogan for FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 has been launched. Slogan is *Dare To Shine*.
170. ▶ Official logo, mascot and anthem for 2017 AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship to be held in Guwahati (Assam) in Nov 2017 has been unveiled. Official mascot is named Guppy (female version of Assam's one-horned rhino) and anthem is 'Make Some Noise'.
171. ▶ Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) invited Australia to compete at Asiad (Asian Games) in 2022, for the first time. The invite is for selected sports like football and basketball to enable athletes to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
172. ▶ PM Narendra Modi launched first Khelo India School Games at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, to be held till Feb 08, 2018 -
 In this first edition of Khelo India School Games, Under-17 athletes are invited to participate across 16 disciplines - *Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Shooting, Swimming, Volleyball, Weightlifting, and Wrestling*. 199 gold medals, 199 silver medals and 275 bronze medals will be awarded in this edition.

 *Khelo India* has been introduced to revive sports culture at grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports and establishing India as a grea sporting nation.

 Talented players identified in priority sports will be provided annual assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.

173. ▶ Pooja Kadian won India's first ever gold medal at Wushu World Championships 2017 held in Russia.


174. ▶ Portugese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo became first player in UEFA Champions League history to score 100 goals for a single club (Real Madrid).

175. ▶ Pune International Marathon 2017 -

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

 Winners - Tisasua Basazin

 Men - Ethiopia's Getachew Basha.

 Women's Half Marathon - Ethiopia's Tisasua Basazin.


176. ▶ Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) won 8th Senior National Women's Hockey Championship, defeating Madhya Pradesh in Ranchi.

177. ▶ Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka) became first left-arm spinner to take 400 wickets in Test Cricket. He is 14th overall and second sri lankan after Muttiah Muralitharan to pick 400 test wickets.

178. ▶ Ravichandran Ashwin became Fastest to take 300 Test Cricket wickets (in 54 tests), getting past Australia's Dennis Lillee who achieved this in 56 Tests.

179. ▶ Real Madrid won FIFA Club World Cup 2017 in UAE, defeating Gremio in Final.

 Real Madrid is first side in the history of FIFA Club World Cup to retain the trophy.

 Real Madrid has now won five trophies in 2017 – Champions League, La Liga, Uefa Super Cup, Spanish Super Cup and Club World Cup.

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

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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17	United States Grand Prix		22 October
18	Mexican Grand Prix		29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

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

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

 2017 Formula 1 Season -

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Round	Grand Prix	Winner	Date
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18	Mexican Grand Prix	Max Verstappen (Belgian - Dutch)	29 October
19	Brazilian Grand Prix		12 November
20	Abu Dhabi Grand Prix		26 November

182. ▶ Shakhb Al Hasan became first Bangladesh Cricketer to be inducted in the MCC World Cricket Committee under chairmanship of Mike Gatting. Also added to the committee are Suzie Bates, Ian Bishop and Kumar Dharmasena.
183. ▶ Sharmila Nicollet become first Indian golfer to qualify for China Ladies PGA Tour.
184. ▶ Shikhar Dhawan became first Indian cricketer to score a century in his 100th One-day International.
185. ▶ Shooting Para Sport World Cup 2017 held in Bangkok (Thailand).
186. ▶ South Africa's Kagiso Rabada became youngest bowler ever (22 years age) to top ICC Test Bowlers' rankings.
187. ▶ 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.
188. ▶ Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore launched official anthem and mascot of Khelo India School Games, beginning January 31.
- ▶ Government will extend cash incentives to grassroots level coaches of medal-winning athletes in International Games. Now, when an athlete wins a medal at Commonwealth / Asian / Olympic Games, 20 % of money will go to coaches who worked on them at grass-root level and 30 % will be given to developmental coaches.
 - ▶ Under Khelo India, Sports Ministry will select 1000 athletes every year Through School Games, for a scholarship of Rs 5 lakhs each for eight successive years.
 - ▶ Mascots of Khelo India School Games are *Vijay the tiger* and *Jaya the black buck*. While, *Aur khelna chahte hain hum* is official anthem.
189. ▶ Spoterperson Brand List 2017 by Forbes -
- ▶ Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli ranks ahead of Argentinian Football Star Lionel Messi, with brand value of \$14.5 million and ranks 7th in list.
 - ▶ Tennis legend Roger Federer leads the list with a brand value of \$37.2m.
 - ▶ Brand value is an athlete's earnings (excluding salary and bonus from their sport and all investment income), minus average income of top 10 athletes in same sport.
190. ▶ Star India secured Indian Premier League's media rights with a bid of Rs 16347.50 crore for five-year period 2018-2022, getting past Sony's bid of INR 11050 crores. Note that In 2008, Sony Pictures Network won IPL media rights for 10 years for INR 8200 crores
191. ▶ Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament at Sofia in Bulgaria -

 India won 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 6 Bronze Medals.


 Gold - Amit Panghal (defeated Morocco's Said Mordaji in 49 KG Category), Vikas Krishan (won gold in 75 kg category, was also adjudged best boxer of event).


 Silver - Mary Kom (48kg), Seema Poonia (81kg).

192. ▶ Switzerland won 3rd Hopman Cup (Tennis) as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber at Perth Arena (Australia).

193. ▶ Tamil Nadu won Senior Women's National Football Championship for the first time, defeating Manipur in Cuttack (Odisha).

194. ▶ Tata Mumbai Marathon 2018 -

 Ethiopia's Solomon Deksisa won in Men's Category. Amane Gobena (Ethiopia) won in women's Category.

 T ZGopi won in Indian Elite Men's category while Sudha Singh won in Indian Elite Women category.

195. ▶ Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games committee announced that 2 futuristic figures, inspired by anime, have been chosen as mascots for the mega sporting event, aimed at boosting children's participation in Games. Mascots will be launched in late 2018.

196. ▶ Tyrrell Hatton (UK) became first Golfer to retain the Alfred Dunhill Links Golf Championship title (Scotland).


197. ▶ U23 Senior World Wrestling Championships in Bydgoszcz (Poland) -

 India's won 3 silver medals - Bajrang (65 kg Men's Freestyle), Vinod Omprakash Kumar (70 kg Men's Freestyle), Ritu Phogat (Women's 48 kg Freestyle)


198. ▶ US Open Tennis 2017 -

 Men's Singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain) by Defeating Kevin Anderson (South Africa). It is overall 16th Grand Slam Title for Rafael Nadal.

 Women's Singles - Sloane Stephens (USA) by Defeating Madison Keys (USA)

 Men's Doubles - Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) AND Horia Tecău (Romania)

 Women's Doubles - Chan Yung-jan (Chinese Taipei) AND Martina Hingis (Switzerland)

 Mixed Doubles - Martina Hingis (Switzerland) AND Jamie Murray (UK)

199. ▶ USA's Christian Coleman broke 20 year old world record of Maurice Greene in 60 metres sprint with 6.34 seconds timing, at US Indoor National Championships in Albuquerque.

200. ▶ 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.

201. ▶ WTA Auckland Women's Tennis Open (New Zealand) -

 Singles - Julia Görges (Germany)

 Doubles - Sara Errani (Italy) AND Bibiane Schoofs (Netherlands)

202. ▶ West Indies Cricketer Chris Gayle become first batsman to hit 100 sixes in Twenty20 Internationals.

203. ▶ Wrestler Satish Kumar has been awarded Rs 25 lakh as compensation by a Delhi court for being wrongly restrained from taking part in 14th Asian Games in Busan (South Korea) in 2002. He was barred due to mistaken impression of having taken performance-enhancing drugs.

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

205. ▶ Yonex French Open Badminton 2017 -

 Men's Singles - **Kidambi Srikanth (India)**, by defeating Japan's Kenta Nishimoto.

 Women's Doubles - Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)


 Men's Doubles - Lee Jhe-huei AND Taipei Lee Yang (Chinese Taipei)

 Women's Doubles - Greysia Polii AND Apriyani Rahayu (Indonesia)

206. ▶ Youth World Archery Championship in Rosario (Argentina) -

 Medal table -

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

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



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