



Current Affairs - December 2017 to February 2018

Month Type


























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Appointments

1. ▶ A Surya Prakash has been re-appointed as chairman of Prasar Bharati board for second consecutive term till February 2020.
2. ▶ A.K.Prasad has been appointed as new Financial Commissioner (Railways).
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ Abhilasha Kumari is appointed as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
5. ▶ Actor Ranveer Singh is appointed as Ambassador for EPL (English Premier League) in India.
6. ▶ Ajendra Bahadur Singh is appointed as Chief of Western Naval Command of Indian Navy.
7. ▶ Amardeep Singh Bhatia is appointed as new director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
8. ▶ Anandiben Patel has been appointed as Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
9. ▶ Andrej Babis has been appointed as new prime minister of Czech Republic (Europe).
10. ▶ Anil Chauhan took charge as Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of Indian Army, succeeding A K Bhatt.
11. ▶ Anil Khanna is appointed as Chairman of Finance Commission of Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
12. ▶ Anshu Prakash has been appointed as chief secretary of Delhi.
13. ▶ Antony Dominic is appointed as Chief Justice of Kerala.
14. ▶ Apple appointed Michel Coulomb as head of its sales operations in India.
15. ▶ Arvind P. Jamkhedkar is appointed as New Chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
16. ▶ B A Chopade has been appointed as the vice-chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
17. ▶ B S Sahrawat is appointed as Director General of National Cadet Corps.
18. ▶ Barney Harford has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Cab Aggregator Major Uber.
19. ▶ Biocon Chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and IDFC Bank founder Rajiv Lall have been appointed to board of US India Business Council. USIBC is chaired by Nisha Desai Biswal.
20. ▶ Britain's Prince Harry is appointed as president of African Parks, a conservation group which manages wildlife areas in Africa.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ Constantino Chiwenga has been appointed as new vice president of Zimbabwe.
 ▶ Emmerson Mnangagwa was recently appointed new president of Zimbabwe after Robert Mugabe was forced to leave the post.
24. ▶ Cyril Ramaphosa of African National Congress (ANC) has been appointed as new President of South Africa. He was elected after previous Prez Jacob Zuma was forced to resign recently.
25. ▶ D R Soni appointed as chief of Indian Army's Southern Command.
26. ▶ Dharendra Pal Singh is appointed as chairperson of University Grants Commission (UGC).
27. ▶ Dilip Asbe is appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
28. ▶ Dinesh Srivastava has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC).
29. ▶ Errol D'Souza has been appointed by HRD Ministry as director of IIM Ahmedabad.
30. ▶ Facebook appointed outgoing American Express CEO Kenneth Chenault to its board, making him first African-American to be on board.

31. ▶ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) appointed Dilip Chenoy as its Director General.
32. ▶ Former cricketer Saba Karim is appointed as new General Manager (GM) of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
33. ▶ Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) appointed Pramod Agarwal as its new chairman.
34. ▶ George Weah (Former footballer) has been elected as new president of Liberia (West Africa).
35. ▶ Google's Parent Company Alphabet appointed John L. Hennessy as new board chairman of company, replacing Eric Schmidt.
36. ▶ Gopal Guru IS appointed as Editor of the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW).
37. ▶ Government appointed AB Mathur as its representative to hold talks with United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ Government appointed U D Salvi as officiating chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT), after Swatenter Kumar Retired Recently.
40. ▶ Government appointed Vijay Keshav Gokhale as new Foreign Secretary of India. He is considered Diplomatic Expert on Chinese matters.
41. ▶ Hardayal Prasad is appointed as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India's second-largest credit card issuer *SBI Card*.
42. ▶ Harman International named actress Priyanka Chopra as global brand ambassador for its JBL and Harman Kardon audio brands.
43. ▶ Hemant Kumar Sharma is appointed as Divisional Commissioner of Jammu (J & K).
44. ▶ Henrietta Fore (USA) is appointed as new Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
45. ▶ IPS Officer Abhay has been appointed as Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
46. ▶ IT Firm Infosys appointed Salil S. Parekh as its new CEO and Managing Director.
47. ▶ 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.
48. ▶ Indian National Congress appointed Rahul Gandhi as Party's new President, replacing Sonia Gandhi.
49. ▶ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Vikram Singh Sisodia as *Chef de Mission* for 21st Commonwealth Games to be held at Gold Coast in Australia.
50. ▶ Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen is elected as Vice Chairman of US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF).
51. ▶ Indo-British Person Deepak Parekh is named as First *International Ambassador* for London city and will work towards championing London City across the globe.
52. ▶ 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).
53. ▶ JK Tyres & Industries appointed Rajiv Prasad as president of India Operations.
54. ▶ Jai Ram Thakur has been named as new (14th) Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, after BJP won recent state assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.
55. ▶ Japan's government reappointed Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda for another term.
56. ▶ Jerome H Powell has been appointed as Chairman of Federal Reserve System, Central banking system of USA.
57. ▶ Jnanpith recipient and Kannada litetrature Chandrashekhar Kambar is elected as President of Sahitya Akademi. Hindi poet Madhav Kaushik was elected as vice president of the Sahitya Akademi.
58. ▶ Juan Orlando Hernandez has been re-appointed as President of Honduras (Central America) for 2nd term.
59. ▶ KP Sharma Oli has become Prime Minister of Nepal for his second term, after Sher Bahadur Deuba resigned as PM.
60. ▶ KS Dwivedi has been appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar.
61. ▶ Kerala Government appointed V J Mathew as Chairman of Maritime Board.
62. ▶ Kookhyun Shim is appointed as MD and CEO of Kia Motors India (subsidiary of Hyundai India). While, Tata Motors appointed Hanne Birgitte Sorensen as an additional and independent director.
63. ▶ 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.
64. ▶ Michael McCormack has been elected as new Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.
65. ▶ Milos Zeman won 2nd 5 year term as President of Czech Republic (Central Europe).
66. ▶ Misc. Recent Govt. Appointments -
-  Vinod Kumar Jain - Tezpur University (Assam).
 -  Debashish Mukherjee - Executive director in Canara Bank
 -  Murali Ramaswami - Executive director in Vijaya Bank
 -  Rahul Mahajan - editor-in-chief of television channel Rajya Sabha TV.
67. ▶ Mountaineer Samina Baig is appointed National Goodwill Ambassador for Pakistan by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
68. ▶ Mukul Asthana is been appointed as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air). Also, Philipose George Pynumootil is appointed as Flag Officer Naval Aviation (FONA) and RB pandit appointed as Commandant of Indian Naval Academy Ezhimala (Kerala).
69. ▶ Murugappa Group appointed M.M. Murugappan as its executive chairman.
70. ▶ N C Goel is appointed as new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan.
71. ▶ NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has been given extension till 30th June 2019. He was appointed on 17th February 2016 for a two-year term.
72. ▶ Naba Kumar Nayak has been appointed as the State Election Commissioner in Odisha.
73. ▶ Nakul Chopra is elected as new Chairman of BARC India (Broadcast Audience Research Council).
74. ▶ Narinder Batra (*chief of International Hockey Federation*) is elected as President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) at its Annual General Meeting in New Delhi.
75. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) appointed Biswamohan Mahapatra as non-executive chairman for 2 years.
76. ▶ Neelam Kapoor has been appointed as Director General (DG) of Sports Authority of India (SAI).
77. ▶ New Brand Ambassadors (Feb 2018) -
-  Bata's new sport wears brand *Power* - Indian female cricketer Smriti Mandhana.
 -  All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB) - Grand Master Vidit Gujrathi.
 -  Muthoot Group - Actor Amitabh Bachchan.
 -  First T20 Mumbai League - Sachin Tendulkar.
 -  Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) - Shoaib Akhtar.
78. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors (Feb 2018) -
-  Ashok Das - Brazil
 -  Pradeep Kumar Rawat - Timor-Leste.
 -  Thanglura Darlong - Romania.
 -  M. Subbarayudu - Bolivia.
79. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors Appointed -
-  Srikumar Menon - Angola (Southern Africa)
 -  Tsewang Namgyal - Poland (Eastern Europe)
 -  Rajesh Agarwal - Niger (Western Africa).
80. ▶ New Indian Ambassadors Appointed -
-  Azar A.H.Khan - Turkmenistan.
 -  K. Jeeva Sagar - Kuwait.
81. ▶ New Indian Envoys Appointed -
-  Ravindra Jaiswal - Sudan
 -  Pradeep Kumar Gupta - Mali
 -  Subbarayudu - Peru
82. ▶ Nicos Anastasiades won re-election for a second term as President of Mediterranean Nation Cyprus.
83. ▶ Noted Musician AR Rahman is appointed as brand ambassador of Sikkim State, during Red Panda Winter Festival in Gangtok (Sikkim).
84. ▶ Noted scientist S Somanath has been appointed as as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
85. ▶ ONGC CMD Dinesh K Sarraf is appointed as new Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
86. ▶ Ola Cabs appointed Viraj Chouhan as its chief communications officer (CCO).

87. ▶ 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.
88. ▶ 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.
89. ▶ Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) appointed Hasan Sardar as head coach of national team.
90. ▶ 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).
91. ▶ Paul Antony is appointed as next Chief Secretary of Kerala.
92. ▶ PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi is appointed as International Cricket Council's (ICC) first-ever independent female director.
93. ▶ Prabhat Kumar Sinha is appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Northern Coalfields Limited.
94. ▶ R Hemalatha is appointed as Director of National Institute of Nutrition (Hyderabad).
95. ▶ Rahul Singh (founder and CEO of *The Beer Café*) has been appointed as president of National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI).
96. ▶ Rajesh Ranjan is appointed as next High Ambassador of India to Botswana.
97. ▶ 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.
98. ▶ Rakesh Singh has been appointed as private banking head of HDFC Bank.
99. ▶ S Selvakumar is appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL).
100. ▶ Samiran Panda is appointed as director of National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.
101. ▶ Sauli Niinisto has been re-elected as President of Finland (Northern Europe) for 2nd term.
102. ▶ Sebastian Pinera has been elected as next president of south american Nation Chile.
103. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved appointment of Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
104. ▶ Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese is appointed as Chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable development(WBCSD).
105. ▶ Sita Ram Mardi is appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Himachal Pradesh.
106. ▶ Smita Nagaraj has been appointed as Member in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
107. ▶ Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga is appointed as new Prime Minister of African Nation Mali (West Africa).
108. ▶ 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).
109. ▶ Sudeep Lakhtakia is appointed as new Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).
110. ▶ Sudhir Tripathi has been made appointed as new chief secretary of Jharkhand.
111. ▶ 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).
112. ▶ Sunil Kumar Chourasia is appointed as Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
113. ▶ 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.
114. ▶ Syed Mahmud Hossain has been appointed as new Chief Justice of Neighboring Nation Bangladesh.
115. ▶ Tamil Nadu government appointed B. Rajendran as chairperson of Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (REAT) for Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Additionally, T S Tirumurti is appointed as the Secretary (Economic Relations) in External Affairs Ministry.
116. ▶ Telangana government formed State Finance Commission and appointed G Rajesham Goud as its chairman.
117. ▶ Telangana government formed state Minorities Commission with Mohammed Qamaruddin as Chairman and Rajarapu Pratap as vice chairman.
118. ▶ Uma Shankar has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), replacing Meena Hemchandra who retired recently.
119. ▶ Upendra Prasad Singh appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and CEO OF National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
120. ▶ Usha Ananthasubramanian became first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). She is MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank.

121. ▶ 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).
122. ▶ Vijay Keshav Gokhale took charge as new foreign secretary of India, succeeding S Jaishankar.
123. ▶ 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.
124. ▶ Vinay Sahasrabuddhe is appointed as President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
125. ▶ Vineet Chowdhary is appointed as chief secretary to new Himachal government under CM Jairam Thakur.
126. ▶ Viorica Dancila is appointed as First Female Prime Minister of European Nation Romania.
127. ▶ Vodafone India appointed Manish Dawar as its Chief Financial Officer.
128. ▶ Yamaha Motors India appointed Motofumi Shitara as group chairman.

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. ▶ 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)
3. ▶ 27 journalists honored in 12th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards. Award includes a trophy and a reward of Rs 1 lakh.
4. ▶ 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
5. ▶ 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

6. ▶ *Yeraringan* Award has been conferred upon Noted Agricultural Scientist M.S. Swaminathan.
7. ▶ Aamir Khan Film *Dangal* chosen as Best Asian Film at 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards, in Sydney.
8. ▶ Actor Sonu Sood received Punjab Ratan award from State Govt. for his contribution to welfare of people of Punjab.
9. ▶ Actor Sudhir Dalvi is honored with Janakavi P Sawlaram award, instituted by Thane Municipal Corporation and Janakavi P Savlaram Kala Samiti.
10. ▶ Afghanistan residents awarded Donald Trump a bravery medal for rebuking Pakistan over its failure in curbing terrorist havens.
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has been honored with France's highest civilian award, Legion d'Honneur.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ Biopic on Noted Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, titled *A Billion Dreams* won 2 awards at 11th Tehran International FICTS Festival 2018 in Iran -
 - 🎬 Helmer James Erskine won the Best Director of a Long Documentary trophy.
 - 🎬 Producer Ravi Bhagchandka won Special Award for Best Film in Long Documentary section.
15. ▶ Cannes International Festival of Creativity (France) will honour Indians Piyush & Prasoon Pandey with Cannes Lions' Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming 1st Asians to win this award.
16. ▶ 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).

17. ▶ 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

18. ▶ 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.

19. ▶ First ever Smita Patil memorial award given to Rekha for her contribution in film industry.

20. ▶ Former Director-General of Police of Punjab and Mumbai Police Commissioner Julio Ribeiro will be honoured with 'Police Jeevan Gaurav Award' by the Arvind Inamdar Foundation.

21. ▶ 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.

22. ▶ 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.

23. ▶ 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.

24. ▶ 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.

25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ 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.

27. ▶ 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.

28. ▶ Industrial Awards -

✎ Tata Steel's Joda East Iron Mine (JEIM) honoured with Golden Peacock Innovation Management Award 2017 for innovation in mines, during Institute of Directors (IOD) India's 2nd Global Convention held at Singapore.

✎ 2017 NASSCOM-DSCI excellence award has been awarded to the cyber section of Kolkata Police.

✎ Two initiatives of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) have been awarded SKOCH Awards for 2017. Initiatives are - Vajra Services (intercity travel facility between Hyderabad and four other cities) and TSRTC's initiative for providing employment to children of medically unfit employees.

✎ Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company received *Golden Peacock Award for Risk Management* for 2017, given by Institute of Directors (IOD).

29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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).
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ Malayalam actor Mohanlal and athlete P. T. Usha were awarded honorary Doctorate of Literature (D.Litt) by Calicut University (Kerala).
34. ▶ Mayanka Patel from Mumbai and Poonam Gaur from Gurugram were crowned Mrs India-Pride of Nation in two different categories.
- ▶ Mayanka won in Group A category (21 - 34) years while Poonam won in Group B (34-45 years).
35. ▶ 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)*.
36. ▶ Miss South Korea Jenny Kim won title of Miss Supranational 2017 at an event in Poland.
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ Noted Marathi filmmaker Sumitra Bhave will be honoured with Kalamaharshi Baburao Painter Sanman, instituted by Kolhapur International Film Festival.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ Noted playback singer Asha Bhosle has been chosen for 5th Yash Chopra Memorial Award for her contribution to Hindi film industry.
45. ▶ Odia poet Rabi Singh is named as winner of Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman 2017 instituted by Odisha Sahitya Akademi.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ 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.

48. ▶ 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)

49. ▶ 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).

50. ▶ 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 (<i>Foreigner</i>)		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 (<i>Posthumous</i>)		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 Raghuvver 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 Navaneethkrishnan	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 Sathyanarayana	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 Marwaai (<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

51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind felicitated 112 exceptional women achievers who are the first to set a milestone in their respective fields, selected by Women & Child Development Ministry. Noted Names Include -
- ▶ Bachendri Pal - First Indian woman to reach Mount Everest summit.
 - ▶ Deepa Malik - first Indian woman to win a medal at Paralympics.
 - ▶ Priya Jhingan - First Lady Cadet to join Indian Army.
 - ▶ P V Sindhu - first Indian woman to become Olympic silver medallist (Badminton)
 - ▶ Nicole Faria - First woman from India to win Miss earth title.
 - ▶ Karnam Malleswari - first Indian female Olympic medal winning weightlifter.
 - ▶ Diana Edulji: First ODI captain of first ever Indian Women's Cricket Team.
54. ▶ 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.
55. ▶ Rachel Morrison (USA) became first female cinematographer to receive an Oscar nomination in 89-year-old history of Academy Awards, for her work in *Mudbound*.
56. ▶ 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*.
57. ▶ 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 - Niranjana 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'.
- 58. ▶ Shree Saini has been crowned 'Miss India USA 2017' at pageant held in New Jersey (USA).
- 59. ▶ Singer K S Chitra is selected for 2017 'Harivarasanam' award, awarded by Kerala government for spreading spirit of secularism, equanimity and universal brotherhood.
- 60. ▶ 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.
- 61. ▶ 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)
- 62. ▶ 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.
- 63. ▶ Times Group celebrated invaluable contribution of women by introducing *Times Power Woman 2017 (Pune) awards*, honoring 34 select women with power, supremacy, command and control. Shabnam Asthana was awarded *Times Power Women of the Year 2017*.
- 64. ▶ 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*.
- 65. ▶ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred Badminton Association of India Lifetime Achievement Award to 1983 World Championship medallist Prakash Padukone.
- 66. ▶ Zee Cine Awards 2018 -
 - ▶ Actor : Male - Varun Dhawan (Badrinath Ki Dulhania), Female - Sridevi (Mom).
 - ▶ Director- Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari (Bareilly Ki Barfi).
 - ▶ Film - Golmaal Again.
 - ▶ Extraordinary franchisee - Baahubali.
 - ▶ Global icon - Priyanka Chopra.
 - ▶ Music director- Amit Trivedi for Secret Superstar.
 - ▶ Playback Singer- Akhil Sachdeva for Humsafar.

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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 Shilpa Shetty released her second book titled *The Diary of Domestic Diva*.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ Book *Hari Singh Nalwa: Champion of the Khalsaji (1791-1837)*, written by Vanit Nalwa has been released.
6. ▶ Book *Hisaab Kitaab*, written by Actress Anjana Sukhani on household budgeting has been released.
7. ▶ Book *Home at Last: A Journey to Higher Consciousness*, written by Sarada Chiruvolu has been released.
8. ▶ Book *Majuli: Resources and Challenges*, that appreciates beauty and challenges of Majuli (Assam) has been released. It is by Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti.
9. ▶ Book *Mere Sapnon ka Bharat*, written by Tarun Vijay has been released. It is It compilation of interviews of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

10. ▶ Book *Staniya Svasasan Mei Addhi Aabadhi*, by Sadhana Pandey has been released.
11. ▶ Book *The Heartfulness Way*, authored by Kamlesh D. Patel has been released.
12. ▶ Book *The Tall Man Biju Patnaik*, written by Sundar Ganesan has been released. Biju Patnaik was father of Odisha's CM Naveen Patnaik.
13. ▶ Book *The Way I See It*, containing selected writings by late journalist *Gauri Lankesh* is launched, 3 months after she was gunned down. It has been edited by writer and sociologist *Chandan Gowda*.
14. ▶ Former Indian Cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar's autobiography *Imperfect* has been launched.
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ Noted lyricist Gulzar's debut novel in English named 'TWO' has been released. It examines status of refugees after Partition of India.
18. ▶ Poetry Collection Book *Poetry* written by Vikas Khanna has been launched.
19. ▶ Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launched his biography *Trivendra Ek Zindaginama – Khairasain ka Sooraj*.

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Committees

1. ▶ Central Government constituted an Inter- ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Women and Child Development to tackle menace of trafficking.
2. ▶ Central Government formed committee headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to decide on old, pre-existing projects in ports, which have become unviable.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ Government formed committee headed by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar to study Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and neighbouring states.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ National Green Tribunal set up a committee to inspect over 1700 hotels, lodges and home stay accommodations in Kullu and Manali towns of Himachal Pradesh.
11. ▶ Rajya Sabha Committee headed by Vinay P Sahasrabudde 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.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ Retired Justice Shiv Narayan Dhingra is appointed as head of a new committee to re-investigate 186 closed cases related to 1984 anti-Sikh riots.
14. ▶ University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted a four-member Empowered Expert Committee headed by Former Chief Election Commissioner N Gopaldaswami, 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 19 is observed as Liberation Day of Goa. It was liberated on 19th December in 1961 from Portuguese control after almost 450 years of colonial rule.
12. ▶ Dec 2 - International Day for Abolition of Slavery. December 2 is also observed as computer literacy day.
13. ▶ Dec 20 - International Human Solidarity Day.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ 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).
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ Dec 3 - Birth Annivwersary of first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ Dec 5 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.
 20. ▶ Dec 5 - World Soil Day. 2017 theme is *Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground*.
 21. ▶ Dec 6 is Known as Mahiparinirvan Diwas in India, marking Passing away of Dr B R Ambedkar On Dec 6, 1956.
 22. ▶ Dec 7 - Indian Armed Forces Flag Day.
 23. ▶ Dec 7 - International Civil Aviation Day. 2017 theme is *Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind*.
 24. ▶ Dec 9 - International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD). 2017 Theme is *United against corruption for development, peace and security*.
 25. ▶ 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.
 26. ▶ 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.
 27. ▶ Feb 06 - International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.
 28. ▶ Feb 1 - Foundation day of Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
 29. ▶ Feb 11 - International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
 30. ▶ 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.
 31. ▶ Feb 20 - World Day of Social Justice. 2018 theme is *Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice*.
 32. ▶ Feb 21 - International Mother Language Day (IMLD). 2018 Theme is *Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development*.
 33. ▶ Feb 24 - Central Excise Day.
 34. ▶ 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.
 35. ▶ Feb 28 - World Rare Disease Day. It is observed annually on Last day of February.
 36. ▶ Google launched '#SecurityCheckKiya' campaign in India to create awareness around Internet safety. It was launched on occasion of Safer Internet Day (6 February).
 - 🔗 On this occasion, Google and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed a pact to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology (ICT) curriculum.
 37. ▶ 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.
 38. ▶ Jan 04 - World Braille Day. It commemorates contribution of Louis Braille who invented reading and writing system that helped blind people across world.
 39. ▶ 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.

40. ▶ 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.


41. ▶ 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.

42. ▶ 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.

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

 On this occasion, Manipur Government launched *Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT)*, 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.

44. ▶ Jan 24 - National Girl Child Day.

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

45. ▶ Jan 24 - Uttar Pradesh Diwas. On this occasion, UP Government approved *one district, one product* scheme to promote products indigenous to every district. Under this, one product indigenous to every district of Uttar Pradesh would be showcased at 3 day UP Diwas event.

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

47. ▶ Jan 25 - Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh.


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

49. ▶ 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
Nguyn 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.

50. ▶ Jan 27 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Holocaust means *destruction or slaughter on a mass scale, especially caused by fire or nuclear war*.

51. ▶ Jan 28, 2018 - World Leprosy Day 2018. It is observed internationally every year on last Sunday of January.

52. ▶ 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.

53. ▶ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated its 13th Raising Day on Jan 19, 2018.

54. ▶ National Institute of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission named Dec 14 as Atal Tinkering Lab's Community Day.




 It marks Community Drive Initiative in which 25 young Mentors engaged with over 200 students who are not enrolled in formal education.

55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ UN Chosen India to host World Environment Day to be held on June 5 with theme *Beat Plastic Pollution*.

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Defence

1. ▶ 14-day long Combined India-UK Military exercise *Ajeya Warrior- 2017* began in Rajasthan.
2. ▶ 2nd indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) *Vijaya* has been commissioned into Indian Coast Guard.
3. ▶ 8th Biannual Indo-Seychelles joint counter insurgency/counter terrorism exercise named *Lamitye* held in Seychelles.
4. ▶ 8th India - Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 held in Belagavi (Karnataka).
5. ▶ *Alpha Design Technologies* received INR 45-crore deal with Ministry of Defence to supply indigenous simulators for gunnery and missile firing from BMP II vehicles to Indian Army. Under this, 57 simulators will be manufactured at company's Bengaluru facility in 2 years.
6. ▶ *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.
7. ▶ A Defence Innovation Centre would be set up by CODISSIA in Coimbatore, to assist small industries in manufacturing components for the defence sector. CODISSIA will identify small and micro units as well as start-ups, that can manufacture components required for defence production.
8. ▶ 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*.
9. ▶ Border Security Force (BSF) engaged doctors to conduct a psychological analysis (*Wellness Quotient Assessment Test*) of its approx 2.5 lakh employees amid concerns over rising cases of suicide by BSF personnel.
10. ▶ Border Security Force (BSF) launched *Operation Alert* along 200 km long International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir to prevent infiltration attempts by terrorists from Pakistan.
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved procuring 72,400 assault rifles and 93,895 carbines on fast track basis for INR 3,547 crores, to meet needs of Army that is countering continuous threats from Pakistan and China.
15. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council approved capital acquisition of 7.4 lakh assault rifles, 17,000 light machine guns, 5,719 sniper rifles and Mareech advanced torpedo decoy systems for Indian Navy, worth INR 15935 crores. DAC is headed by Defence Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman Currently).
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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 Solution The P-8I Training Solution will be brought from Boeing (USA) for Rs.1949.32 crore.
18. ▶ Defence Ministry has sanctioned INR 1487 crores to Indian Army to boost perimeter security and fortify its bases in Jammu and Kashmir, North East and several other sensitive places.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ Godrej Aerospace received order from BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) for supply of additional 100 units airframe fuel management systems for BrahMos Air-Launched Cruise Missiles.
 21. ▶ 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.
 22. ▶ 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.
 23. ▶ Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for first time successfully flown home-made 5.8-tonne Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) with its own automatic flight control system, powered by 2 Shakti engines.
 24. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched 'Bharat Ke Veer' graphic novel series on Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) martyrs.
 25. ▶ Home Ministry sanctioned approx INR 370 crore to Border Security Force (BSF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to strengthen border infrastructure along Indo-Pak and Indo-China border.
 26. ▶ 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.
 27. ▶ INS Karanj, the 3rd Scorpene class submarine constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited has been commissioned into Indian Navy.
 28. ▶ India and Oman Navies completed 11th Joint exercise *Naseem Al Bahr OR Sea Breeze*.
 29. ▶ India successfully conducted night trial of indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile with strike range of 350 km. Indigenously developed light transport aircraft SARAS PT1N also successfully completed its second test-flight.
 30. ▶ India successfully test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Dhanush ballistic missile with a strike range of 350 km. DRDO flown it's Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle RUSTOM 2 in Karnataka. It has capability to fly for 24 hours at a stretch at over 200 km/hr speed.
 31. ▶ India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise (VINBAX-2018) conducted at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, as first military exercise between India and Vietnam.
 32. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) decommissioned MiG-27 ML (Bahadur) fleet after over 20 years of service.
 33. ▶ 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.
 34. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned *Charlie-435* patrolling vessel at Karaikal in Puducherry.
 35. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship *Sujay* (6th (last) in series of 105m Offshore Patrol Vessels) has been commissioned.
 36. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship C-161 (ICGS C -161) commissioned at Porbandar in Gujarat.
 37. ▶ 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.
 38. ▶ Indian Navy decommissioned INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat warships.
 39. ▶ Indian Navy signed MoU with Cochin Port Trust (Kerala) for leasing of 228 metres of berths at Mattancherry Wharf for 5 years, to meet requirements of Navy with sizeable increase in its fleet scheduled in the near future.
 40. ▶ Indian Navy unveiled Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS) at INS Garuda naval air station in Kochi (Kerala). It is 4th air station installed with this integrated system. IAAMS aims to modernise Meteorological infrastructure of 9 Naval Air Stations (NAS), to bring accuracy in weather monitoring mechanism in Indian Navy.
 41. ▶ 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*.
 42. ▶ Indian Navy's largest ship and only aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya IS formally affiliated to Indian Army's Bihar Regiment and No. 6 Squadron of the Indian Air Force.
 43. ▶ Indian and Indonesian Armies begun 6th Garuda Shakti Joint exercise in West Java province of Indonesia.
 44. ▶ Indian and Sri Lankan Navies completed 2nd phase of joint oceanographic survey, off the South Western Coast of Sri Lanka.
 45. ▶ Indigenously developed Prithvi Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile has been successfully test-fired.
 46. ▶ Indigenously developed short-range nuclear capable ballistic Agni-1 successfully test-fired, with strike range of 700-900 KM.

- ▶ Nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile was also successfully test fired, with range under 350 km.
- 47. ▶ 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.
- 48. ▶ Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile Agni-5 has been successfully fired for 5th time, for its full range of above 5000 KM.
- 49. ▶ MI-8 Helicopters retired from Indian Air Force Service (also known as *PRATAP*), after serving for 45 years.
- 50. ▶ Maratha Light Infantry celebrated 250 years of its existence on 4 February 2018. first battalion of regiment was raised as 'Second Battalion Bombay Sepoys' on Feb 2 in 1768.
- 51. ▶ 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.
- 52. ▶ 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.
- 53. ▶ Siemens India commissioned a first-of-its-kind Medium-Voltage (MV) training lab at INS Valsura (Gujarat) for Indian Navy. It will facilitate Indian Navy officials to train, manage and operate modern equipment of Indian Navy without going to field.
- 54. ▶ Southern Command of Indian Army conducted major army exercise called 'Hamesha Vijayee' in Rajasthan.
- 55. ▶ Sterlite Technologies received INR 3500 crores order to build and manage an advanced digital communications network of Indian Navy. A high-capacity IP-MPLS (Internet Protocol – Multi Protocol Label Switching) network will be developed as part of the project.
- 56. ▶ 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.
- 57. ▶ Tri-service maritime exercise *Paschim Lehar* held off India's western coast, to build interoperability between Three forces and Coast Guard.

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Economy

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ According to data by Income Tax department, 2 crore Indians (1.7 % of population) paid Rs 1.88 Lakh Crore income tax in 2015-16, with number of income-tax return filers being 4.07 crore.
 - ✎ In previous year (2014-15), 3.65 ITRs were filed, out of which 1.91 crore tax payers paid Rs 1.91 lakh crore income tax.
 7. ▶ 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).
 8. ▶ 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.
 9. ▶ 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.
 10. ▶ Airtel Payments Bank reduced its interest rate by 175 basis points to 5.5 % per annum from 7.25 % per annum earlier.
 11. ▶ Allahabad Bank became 11th bank to face *prompt corrective action* (PCA) by RBI, amid rise in its bad loans.
 12. ▶ 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.
 13. ▶ 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.
 14. ▶ 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.
 15. ▶ 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

16. ▶ As per RBI Data, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Indian public sector banks stood at Rs 7.34 lakh crore by end of September 2017. Also, Indian Banks lost Approx 16900 Crores in Frauds last year (FY 2016-17).
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ As per international rights group *Oxfam's* Survey -
 - Richest 1% in India earned 73% of wealth generated in country last year. Also, 67 crore Indians comprising population's poorest half saw their wealth rise by just 1%.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ Axis Bank opened an off-shore banking unit at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar. Through this, Bank will offer more products to its clients including trading in foreign currency in overseas markets etc.
23. ▶ Axis Bank subsidiary *Axis Securities* became first broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange by registering itself with NCDEX.
24. ▶ Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company started adoption of digital branch services through its offering *Mosambee*, to add depth to its service offerings.
25. ▶ Bank of Baroda acquired Italian bank UniCredit SpA's 51 % stake in Baroda Pioneer Asset Management Company. Now, BoB Owns 100% of Baroda Pioneer Asset Management Company.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ Bank of Baroda tied up with Digital invoice discounting marketplace *Invoicemart*, as TReDS (*Trade Receivables Electronic Discounting System*) partner. TReDS is an online platform through which, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can access funds for working capital without hassle of applying for loans. Invoicemart is a joint venture between Axis Bank and mjunction services.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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.

32. ▶ Cab aggregator Ola signed agreement with Bajaj Allianz to offer a insurance programme for its driver partners, named *Chalo Befikar*. Under this, Ola's driver partners can avail an insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh.
33. ▶ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) for *Milling Copra* for 2018 season. MSP for *Milling Copra* is now INR 7500 per quintal and INR 7750 per quintal for Ball Copra.
- ✎ Copra is the dried meat or kernel of coconut, which is the fruit of coconut palm.
34. ▶ Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Co Ltd has launched a video service that seeks to improve customer engagement, enabling customers to directly engage with the company for various service requests.
35. ▶ 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.
36. ▶ Catholic Syrian Bank and Celebrus Capital Ltd partnered to offer CSB's customers online trading and demat services, enabling CSB customers to open a free Celebrus trading account and avail preferred rates on brokerage charges/ AMC fees.
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ Central Government approved Rs. 4066 crore for providing internet connectivity to people in all gram panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet project, launched by Central Government in October 2011 with an aim to deploy high-speed optical fibre cables across rural areas of India.
- ✎ BharatNet's ultimate goal is to provide broadband connectivity to all 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats in India.
 - ✎ Chhattisgarh Government signed MoU with Central Government for 2nd phase of Bharat Net project, under which 32466 km of optical fiber cable will be laid in 5987 Gram Panchayats of Chhattisgarh.
39. ▶ Central Government divested 2.52 % of paid-up capital in National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) for approx INR 1200 crores.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ Chinese Bike Sharing Firm *OFO* launched its services across seven Indian cities (*Indore, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Pune, Coimbatore, and Chennai*), in partnership with digital payments firm *Paytm*.
44. ▶ Chkfake Brand Protection Solutions aunched global app named *Chkfake* to check authenticity of currency notes of all major currencies worldwide.
45. ▶ Citi Bank India banned purchasing cryptocurrencies by credit and debit cards, as these decentralized currencies are not backed by any Government.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ 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).
 48. ▶ 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.
 49. ▶ 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.
 50. ▶ 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.
 51. ▶ Cryptocurrency dealer 'Pluto Exchange' launched India's first mobile application for transacting in virtual currencies.
 52. ▶ Department of Commerce signed MoU with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), for integrated development of Logistics sector. Government aims to reduce Logistics cost from 14% of GDP to under 10% by 2022.
 53. ▶ 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.
 54. ▶ Dev Information Technology will set up *DevX*, largest Accelerator Center for startups in Gujarat.
 55. ▶ Digital payments firm Paytm registered two insurance units with named *Paytm Life Insurance Ltd* and *Paytm General Insurance Corporation Ltd*, to enter growing Insurance sector.
 56. ▶ 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*.
 57. ▶ 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 is 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.

58. ▶ Edelweiss Group acquired Religare Enterprises' securities business, including commodities broking and depository participant services.

59. ▶ 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.

60. ▶ 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.

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

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

63. ▶ 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.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ 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.
66. ▶ Finance Ministry extended deadline for linking Aadhaar number with PAN card till 31-03-2018.
67. ▶ Finance Ministry imposed anti-dumping duty of \$1.04 per kg on imports of ceramic tableware and kitchenware from China, to protect domestic producers.
68. ▶ Finance Ministry is planning to ban cryptocurrencies from payments system and at the same time appoint regulator to oversee unregulated exchanges that trade in crypto assets. Dinesh Sharma committee constituted by Government will look into issues relating to cryptocurrencies will finalise its recommendations by submitting its report by March 2018.
69. ▶ 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%

70. ▶ Finance Ministry will issue first tranche of recapitalization bonds to public sector banks (PSB) in January 2018.
- ✎ Recapitalization bonds will not be sold in open market, rather it will be issued to all banks.
 - ✎ These bonds are part of government's plan to infuse Rs 2.11 lakh crore capital into the public sector banks over 2 years.
71. ▶ Finance Ministry's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) categorised around 9,491 non-banking financial companies (NBFC) as high risk prone financial institutions (Out of approx 12000 NBFCs in India) as they have not complied with stipulated provision of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
72. ▶ Financial services Portal *Paisabazaar.com* tied up with Microsoft to drive an 'industry first' technology innovation on its platform, to move infrastructure of *paisabazaar.com* to Microsoft Azure, a cloud computing service.
73. ▶ 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.
74. ▶ Fitch Group's BMI Research stated that India's fiscal deficit in financial year 2018-19 is expected to be 3.5 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), higher than Government's fiscal deficit target of 3.3 % as per Union Budget 2018.
75. ▶ Flipkart Owned Payments platform PhonePe partnered with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to deploy its Point of Sale (POS) device at IOCL retail outlets. Phone Pe launched its Point of Sale (POS) device in October 2017.
76. ▶ Flipkart-owned payments firm PhonePe tied-up with *FreeCharge* Wallet to enable over 45 million users to link their existing FreeCharge Wallet to PhonePe app. PhonePe customers will be able to utilise their FreeCharge wallet balance for all online and offline transactions.
77. ▶ 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.
78. ▶ 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.

79. ▶ GST Council in its 24th Meeting decided to implement e-way bill mechanism throughout country by June 1st , 2018 after reviewing readiness of IT network. It aims at mitigating problems caused by waybill compliance.
80. ▶ Governemnt 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 Parternership (AHP), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).

81. ▶ Government has so far infused capital of Rs. 51858 crore in public sector banks (PSBs) under Indradhanush Plan, amid liquidity issues being faced by Banks due to rise in Bad Loans. Government has also sanctioned 42 Mega Food Parks (MFPs) to be set up across India under Mega Food Park Scheme.

82. ▶ 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

83. ▶ 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).

84. ▶ 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 restrticing fiscal deficit within target.

85. ▶ 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.

86. ▶ Government mandated Permanent Account Number (PAN) for financial transactions of over 2.5 lakh INR.

87. ▶ Government notified Companies (Amendment) Act 2017 that amends Some provisions of Companies Act 2013 and eases implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.

- ✎ Amendment Act allows companies to issue shares at a discount to its creditors in instances wherein its debt is converted into shares, which was prohibited under Section 53 of Companies Act 2013.
- ✎ For defaulting companies, payment of managerial remuneration in excess of 11 % of net profits will now require approval of all stakeholders involved (banks, public financial institutions and other creditors).

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

- ✎ 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 buyerm 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.

89. ▶ 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.
90. ▶ 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).
 91. ▶ 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.
 92. ▶ 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.
 93. ▶ 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).
 94. ▶ Govt Owned Corporation Bank launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards, offering Personal accident insurance of INR 10 lakh and 2 lakh on RuPay Select Credit Card and RuPay Platinum Credit Card respectively.
 95. ▶ 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.
 96. ▶ 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.
 97. ▶ 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.
 98. ▶ ICICI Bank became first bank to enable customers to open a Public Provident Fund (PPF) account online, eliminating the need for furnishing paper documents.
 99. ▶ 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.
 100. ▶ 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.
 101. ▶ 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).
 102. ▶ 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.
 103. ▶ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will start pan-India roll out of its network from April 2018, as India's largest financial inclusion network. This will enable IPPB to provide digital payment services at doorstep with help of Postmen and Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS). IPPB will enable acceptance of digital payments across 1.55 lakh post offices across India.
 104. ▶ 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.

105. ▶ India Signed World Bank loan agreement of USD 250 million for *Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project*.
106. ▶ India signed \$100 million Loan Agreement with World Bank to help Boost Rural Economy of Tamil Nadu.
107. ▶ India signed \$120 million Loan Agreement with World Bank to improve access to Water Supply Services in Uttarakhand.
108. ▶ 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).
109. ▶ 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.
110. ▶ 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.
111. ▶ India signed USD 40 Million Loan agreement with world bank for Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project.
112. ▶ India signed an agreement with Switzerland that would allow automatic sharing of tax-related information from January 1, 2018. It is aimed at combating black money stashed abroad.
113. ▶ 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 %).
114. ▶ 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.
115. ▶ 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 Growth 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).
116. ▶ 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%.
117. ▶ Indian IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been awarded a USD 2.25-billion outsourcing contract from UK-based Nielsen Holdings PLC.
118. ▶ Indian IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed over GBP 500 million (USD 690 million) deal with M&G Prudential (UK and European savings and investments business of Prudential plc).
119. ▶ 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.
120. ▶ 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.

121. ▶ 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.
122. ▶ 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.
123. ▶ 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.
124. ▶ 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.
125. ▶ 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.
126. ▶ 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).
127. ▶ 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.
128. ▶ 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.
129. ▶ 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.
130. ▶ Insurance regulator IRDAI issued regulations for insurance firms to carry out offshore business from Gujarat-based GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), allowing foreign insurers to open IFSC Insurance Office (IIO) at GIFT IFSC for the first time.
131. ▶ 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.
132. ▶ 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.
133. ▶ Karnataka topped among all states with investment intentions of Rs. 1.49 lakh crore till October 2017, accounting for 43 % of India's total investment intentions.
134. ▶ Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) and Zone Startups India launched *Accelerator Program for three months*, to promote startups in early revenue stage. It will help startups achieve product-market fit through a curated customer validation process. It will introduce startups to investors, relevant customers and industry connects.
135. ▶ 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.
136. ▶ 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.
137. ▶ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) launched National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal for bringing accountability and transparency for corporate India It aim to provide easy accessibility to general public and also ensure high level of compliance and will help in institutionalising and consolidating CSR activities.

138. ▶ 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.
139. ▶ 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.
140. ▶ 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.
141. ▶ 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.
142. ▶ 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.
143. ▶ 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.
144. ▶ 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.
145. ▶ NPA report by 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%).
146. ▶ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) prepared area development plans worth INR s1918 crore for farmers of Punjab, Including promotion of activities like dairy, vegetable cultivation, mushroom growing and bee keeping to provide income to farmers on sustainable basis.
147. ▶ 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).
148. ▶ 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.
149. ▶ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) allowed Facebook-owned WhatsApp to beta test its BHIM UPI beta payments service with limited user base of 1 million and low transaction limit.
150. ▶ 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.
151. ▶ 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.
152. ▶ 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.
153. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank partnered with IndusInd Bank to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit (FD) when customer's balance exceeds Rs. 1 lakh at end of day, and earn up to 6.85 % annual interest.
154. ▶ 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.
155. ▶ Paytm Payments Bank unveiled 3000 'Paytm Ka ATM' outlets that allows customers to open Saving Accounts and deposit/withdraw money from their bank accounts.
156. ▶ Paytm became India's first payments app to cross 10 crore downloads on Google Play Store.

157. ▶ 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.
158. ▶ 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.
159. ▶ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) permitted partial withdrawal (up to 25%) under National Pension System (NPS) for specified expenses such as construction of residential premises, higher education / marriage of children and treatment of critical illness. This is applicable only to those who have contributed for 3 years.
160. ▶ 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.
161. ▶ 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.
162. ▶ 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
163. ▶ 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.
164. ▶ 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).
165. ▶ RBI Will soon have an additional instrument for liquidity management Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) as an additional instrument for liquidity management, without the need for providing collateral in exchange. As proposed in Budget 2018 as *Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Scheme*.
- ▶ It was first suggested by Urjit Patel Committee in January 2014. This proposal is now a part of the Finance Bill 2018 which is scheduled to be approved by Parliament by March 31, 2018.

166. ▶ RBI enabled Promptive Corrective Action (PCA) on Corporation Bank, Bank of India and United Bank of India; amid huge rise in Bad Loans. It would put certain restrictions on their functioning.
167. ▶ 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 Ujjit 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, .
168. ▶ 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.
169. ▶ 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.
170. ▶ 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.
171. ▶ 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.
172. ▶ 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.
173. ▶ Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd will launch its own cryptocurrency based on Blockchain Technology, named JioCoin, led by Mukesh Ambani's son Akash Ambani.
174. ▶ 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).
175. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed INR 3 crore penalty on IndusInd Bank for violation of Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms.

176. ▶ 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.
177. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched new design chocolate brown ten rupee note, with height 63mm (unchanged) and width 123mm (slightly lesser than 137mm width of existing note). Another difference is that reverse of note will carry a motif of Konark Sun Temple, as compared to images of fauna of India - rhinoceros, elephant and tiger of existing note.
178. ▶ 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.
179. ▶ 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.
180. ▶ 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.
181. ▶ 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.
182. ▶ 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.
183. ▶ 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.
184. ▶ 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.
185. ▶ 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.
186. ▶ 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.
187. ▶ SBI Cards and Bharat Petroleum Corporation launched co-branded credit card, offering up to 5 % savings on fuel purchases.
188. ▶ 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.
189. ▶ 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 %.
190. ▶ 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.
191. ▶ 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.
192. ▶ Samsung launched its 'Bill Payments' on its flagship payments service, Samsung Pay in partnership with Axis Bank.
193. ▶ 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.
194. ▶ 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.
195. ▶ State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed agreement with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing its Information Utility Services envisaged under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
- ▶ NeSL is first Information Utility entity registered by Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India under IBBI (IU) Regulations 2017.
 - ▶ IU (Information utility) is an information network which procures and stores financial data like borrowings, default and security interests of various entities. Having access to high-quality authenticated financial information helps stakeholders to counter frivolous litigations made by defaulters to delay the process.
196. ▶ 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.
197. ▶ 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.
- 198. ▶ 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.
- 199. ▶ 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.
- 200. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government launched 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' Scheme, a free household power connection scheme for the poor in the state.
- 201. ▶ Vodafone partnered with e-commerce firm Flipkart to provide a range of entry-level smartphones at an effective price of INR 999, under *#MyFirst4GSmartphone* campaign.
- 202. ▶ 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.
- 203. ▶ 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*.
- 204. ▶ World Bank approved a loan worth USD 40 million for a tourism project in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- 205. ▶ 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.
- 206. ▶ 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.
- 207. ▶ Yes Bank collaborated with advisory services firm *Pantomath Advisory* to develop a Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) ecosystem focused on Maharashtra and Gujarat.
 - ▶ Yes Bank also partnered with Online investment platform *FundsIndia.com* to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based mutual fund payments.
- 208. ▶ 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.

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International

1. ▶ Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi automakers alliance overtook Volkswagen as biggest seller of light vehicles in 2017 -
 - ▶ Renault-Nissan Group posted total of 10.61 million light vehicles sales in 2017, taking over Volkswagen's 10.53 million. Volkswagen group also includes Audi, Skoda, Seat and Porsche brands.
 - ▶ Toyota was 3rd with 10.2 million light vehicles sold in 2017.
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 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.

4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 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.
9. ▶ *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.
10. ▶ *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
11. ▶ *The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017* (149 countries) -
 - ✎ India ranks 100th in this list of prosperity.
 - ✎ Top 5 - Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ A film on life of Indian Nobel Peace laureate *Kailash Satyarthi* won USA Documentary Grand Jury Award at Sundance Film Festival in Utah (USA). The documentary titled *Kailash* has been directed by Derek Doneen.
15. ▶ 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).
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ According to New York Post, Amazon became 3rd most valuable company in world with market cap of \$702.5 billion, getting past Microsoft. Apple and Alphabet stand ahead of Amazon as most valuable companies in world. Amazon also became first foreign e-commerce firm to start its own food retail venture in India called Amazon Retail, piloting its services in Pune.
18. ▶ According to Sanctum Wealth Management report, India will become the fastest growing large economy in the world in 2018, surpassing China and the country's equity market will jump to become the fifth largest in world.
19. ▶ 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.

20. ▶ 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).
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ According to wealth index based on data from 4th National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4) 2015-16,
- ✍ Wealth index was prepared on basis of information of scores on ownership of consumer goods and household characteristics such as availability of clean drinking water, classified into wealth quintiles.
 - ✍ State wise wealth Distribution -
 - ✍ Delhi and Punjab are richest with over 60% of their households in top wealth quintile. They are followed by Goa (54.5% in top bracket). Bihar is poorest with half of its households in bottom quintile. Rajasthan has most equitable wealth distribution with similar number of households in all quintiles.
 - ✍ Wealth distribution in religious groups -
 - ✍ Jains - 70% population in top quintile.
 - ✍ Sikhs - 59.6% in top quintile.
 - ✍ Hindus and Muslims have similar and also most equitable wealth distribution across all quintiles.
 - ✍ Community wise wealth distribution -
 - ✍ Scheduled tribes are poorest with 45.9% of their people in lowest quintile.
 - ✍ Rural and Urban wealth -
 - ✍ 29% of rural India belongs to bottom quintile, while it is just 3.3% for urban India.
23. ▶ American and Japanese armies launched 13th edition of their joint exercise named Iron Fist, in California (USA).
24. ▶ American electric Carmaker TESLA has builds world's biggest lithium-ion battery to be plugged into an Australian state grid, capable of powering 30,000 homes for up to an hour in the event of a severe blackout.
25. ▶ 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.
26. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Government and Zurich (Switzerland) signed a letter of intent to promote mutual prosperity and development.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ As per data by Sri Lanka Govt., India remains top source of tourists to Sri Lanka in 2017, with over 3.8 Lakh Indians visiting Sri Lanka. India was followed by followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).
34. ▶ 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*.
35. ▶ 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).
36. ▶ Australia became 25th country to recognize same-sex marriage as it passed a bill that changed a 2004 law that stipulated a legal marriage as the one between a man and a woman.
 37. ▶ 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).
 38. ▶ 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.
 39. ▶ 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.
 40. ▶ Belgium became first country to send a female ambassador (Dominique Mineur) to Saudi Arabia.
 41. ▶ 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.
 42. ▶ Bermuda became first country to legalize and then repeal same-sex marriage, after it reversed right of gay couples to marry.
 43. ▶ Bharti Airtel joined *Seamless Alliance*, a new global collaboration to bring high-speed and uninterrupted in-flight data connectivity to mobile customers. It works towards leveraging satellite technology to offer high-speed data connectivity to mobile users even when they are up in air.
 44. ▶ Bharti Airtel signed agreement with Millicom International, under which *Airtel Rwanda Ltd* will acquire 100% equity in Tigo Rwanda Ltd.
 45. ▶ 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.
 46. ▶ Bollywood Film *Padmaavat* has been banned in Malaysia by country's censor board, stating that it touches on the *sensitivities of Islam*.
 47. ▶ Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Natural History Museum of UK signed a MOU for cooperation in genetic/taxonomic studies, research and training, conservation etc.
 48. ▶ 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.
 49. ▶ Brazil's securities regulator prohibited local investment funds from buying cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum.
 50. ▶ 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.
 51. ▶ Britain's fertility regulator Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) allowed doctors to create country's first 'three-parent' babies through mitochondrial donation therapy (or MRT), to prevent passage of incurable genetic diseases from mothers to offsprings.
 52. ▶ British government introduced a new technology to remove extremist material from social media, developed by ASI Data Science. It uses advanced machine learning to study sound and visual of videos for "subtle signals" to check if they are extremist content.
 53. ▶ Bulgaria taken over European Union's six-month revolving presidency, from Estonia.
 54. ▶ 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.

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/pmegportal/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.

- ✎ 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).

55. ▶ California became 6th USA state (after Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Nevada), to permit sale of cannabis for recreational use.
56. ▶ 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.
57. ▶ China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) launched Algeria's first telecommunications satellite, Alcomsat-1, aboard a Long March 3B rocket.
58. ▶ China Navy commissioned indigenously developed missile frigate named *Rizhao* and a new 4000-ton Type 054A Jiangkai II-class guided-missile frigate.
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ 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.
61. ▶ China has set up world's first 3D-printed bus stops in Fengjing (Shanghai). The bus stops have a closed loop design, accommodating two-round stools inside the structure.
62. ▶ China has shut down its legal government-sanctioned ivory (*elephant teeth*) trade.
63. ▶ 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.
64. ▶ 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).

65. ▶ China launched 2 high-resolution optical remote sensing satellites - *Jilin-1 Video 07 and 08*, onboard Long March-11 rocket along with 4 other small commercial satellites.
66. ▶ 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.
67. ▶ China resumed Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Nathu La route, which was stopped by China amid Doklam military face-off with India last year.
68. ▶ 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.
69. ▶ 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.
70. ▶ 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.
71. ▶ China will develop national carbon market as world's biggest trading system for climate-warming emissions, initially involving only power sector. China is biggest emitter with 3 billion metric tons of emissions annually.
72. ▶ 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.
73. ▶ 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.
74. ▶ 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.
75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ 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.
77. ▶ 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.
78. ▶ 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.
79. ▶ Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) signed MoU to jointly Develop State-of-Art vessels for Inland and Coastal Waterways in India.
80. ▶ 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)
81. ▶ 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.
82. ▶ E-commerce Major Amazon acquired a startup named Blink that builds wireless home security systems.
83. ▶ 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.
84. ▶ Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) signed MoUs with Andhra Pradesh State Government to invest INR 3730 crore in state in various developmental activities.
85. ▶ 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)
- 86. ▶ 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.
- 87. ▶ 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.
- 88. ▶ 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.
- 89. ▶ 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.
- 90. ▶ 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.
- 91. ▶ Financial Services Commission of Mauritius opened its representative office in Mumbai, to strengthen its partnership with its Indian counterparts in capacity building, financial literacy and exchange of expertise.
- 92. ▶ 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.
- 93. ▶ 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.
- 94. ▶ 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.
- 95. ▶ Forbes Magazine has named former Tesco supermarket worker Dan Middleton (UK) as world's richest YouTuber after he made a fortune of \$16.5 million this year. He shares videos of himself playing video games and describes gameplay and strategies on his YouTube channel, DanTDM.
- 96. ▶ Forbes annual list of the highest-paid musicians -
 - ▶ Top 3 -
 - ▶ Diddy (\$130m) (USA)
 - ▶ Beyonce (\$105m) (USA)
 - ▶ Drake (\$94m) (Canada)
- 97. ▶ 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.
- 98. ▶ 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).
- 99. ▶ Forbes' Top Grossing actors 2017 -

- ▶ American Actor Vin Diesel is at top with \$1.6 billion in global ticketing receipts from his film 'The Fate of the Furious'.
- ▶ Second spot was occupied by Dwayne Johnson with \$1.5 billion receipts.
- ▶ Wonder Woman actress Gal Gadot's films earned \$1.4 billion worldwide, ranking her third.
- 100. ▶ 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.
- 101. ▶ 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.
- 102. ▶ 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.
- 103. ▶ 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)
- 104. ▶ French Govt. approved banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within country and its overseas territories.
- 105. ▶ 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.
- 106. ▶ Gevora Hotel in Dubai became *world's tallest hotel* with 356.53 Metres height, 1 metre taller than previous title holder *JW Marriott Marquis*.
- 107. ▶ 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).
- 108. ▶ Global IT Firm Capgemini acquired IT American IT Consulting firm LiquidHub for 400 million euros, to enhance its digital-consulting capabilities in North America.
- 109. ▶ Google combined its two payment services, Google Wallet and Android Pay, into a new app called Google Pay.
- 110. ▶ 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.
- 111. ▶ 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.
- 112. ▶ 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.
- 113. ▶ Google will open a research lab focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Beijing (China), its first such centre in Asia.
- 114. ▶ 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.
- 115. ▶ 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.
- 116. ▶ 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).
- 117. ▶ 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.

118. ▶ 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.
119. ▶ 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.
120. ▶ 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.
121. ▶ 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.
122. ▶ 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.
123. ▶ 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.
124. ▶ 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.
125. ▶ India approved granting long-term visa (LTV) to minorities from Afghanistan seeking refuge in India.
126. ▶ 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.
127. ▶ 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.
128. ▶ 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.
129. ▶ 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.
130. ▶ 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%).
131. ▶ 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.
132. ▶ 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).

133. ▶ 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.
134. ▶ India is ranked 7th in list of targeted countries for Web Application Attacks (WAA), as per report *Akamai State of the Internet Security Q4 2017*. It states that nearly 40 % of over 53000 cyber attacks in India occurred in financial sector during 2017.
135. ▶ 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.
136. ▶ 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.
137. ▶ 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.
138. ▶ 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).
139. ▶ India provided medical assistance worth approx \$1 million to Yemen, in response to a request from Yemeni government amid current turbulence there.
140. ▶ 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.
141. ▶ 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 %.
142. ▶ India will link its major highway corridors to international trade points to facilitate trade with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. About 2000 kms of highways will be constructed under this project, as part of Government's Bharatmala Project. Cost for construction of these highways is approx INR 25000 crores.
143. ▶ 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.
144. ▶ 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.
145. ▶ 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.
146. ▶ Indian peacekeepers in UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have re-built a 300-metre-long river bridge in Akoka village in record time. This bridge will enable people to cross the river and reach a town to access basic services.
147. ▶ 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.
148. ▶ 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.
149. ▶ 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.

150. ▶ 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).
151. ▶ International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts Coal Power Production to rise in India @ 4% annually by 2022, due to growing fleet of coal power plants and strong power demand. IEA earlier also Predicted India's Renewable energy capacity to get doubled by 2022.
152. ▶ 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.
153. ▶ 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.
154. ▶ International Monetary Fund approved USD 88 billion credit line for Mexico, replacing existing line of credit.
155. ▶ 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.
156. ▶ Iran banned English from being taught in primary schools, amid suspected Western cultural invasion.
157. ▶ 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.
158. ▶ Iran opened its first museum dedicated to Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, a solo female artist who has garnered widespread international attention during decades of exile. The museum displays 51 works of her, including her signature mirror mosaics.
159. ▶ Iranian government lifted restrictions on use of Internet, including messaging app Telegram, that were put after protests against unemployment and rising consumer prices in December 2017.
160. ▶ 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.
161. ▶ 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.
162. ▶ Israel eased up visa application procedures for Indian tourists, to encourage more visitors from India.
163. ▶ 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.
164. ▶ Israel successfully tested Its New advanced missile defense system capable of defending against ballistic missiles, named *Arrow - 3*.
165. ▶ 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.
166. ▶ 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.
167. ▶ JLL Report on Expensive Office Locations -
 - ▶ Delhi is Ranked as 7th most expensive in world, with Mumbai at 16th position.
 - ▶ Top 5 - Hong Kong, London (West), New York, Beijing, Tokyo.

168. ▶ Japan approved Aid of Approx 73 Crores INR for Implementation of Advanced Traffic Information and Management System in Bengaluru (Karnataka).
169. ▶ 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.
170. ▶ 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.
171. ▶ 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.
172. ▶ 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.
173. ▶ Maitre-2, second passenger bus to Kolkata via Dhaka flagged off from Agartala (Tripura), to boost trans-border relationship between India and Bangladesh.
174. ▶ Maldives Govt. declared a state of emergency deepening political crisis, after armed troops stormed country's top court.
175. ▶ Messaging App WhatsApp launched *Business app*, to help small enterprises to connect efficiently with their customers, initially in Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, the UK and USA. In it, a small enterprise owner can create a Business Profile containing details like business description, contact details etc. It will be highlighted to regular users on WhatsApp.
176. ▶ 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.
177. ▶ NASA's flying observatory Sofia will be observing celestial magnetic fields, star-forming regions, comets and Saturn's giant moon Titan, as part of observing campaign 2018. Sofia is a modified Boeing 747SP jetliner which carries a 100-inch diameter telescope.
178. ▶ Nancy Pelosi has set up record for longest speech in American Senate by delivering her speech for over 8 hours, breaking a record that dated back to 1909, set by Champ Clark (spoke for 5 hours and 15 minutes).
179. ▶ 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.
180. ▶ National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed MoU with SME Corporation Malaysia for cooperation in small and medium businesses (SMBs).
181. ▶ Nepal banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, to reduce accidents.
182. ▶ Nepal rejected India's offer to jointly re-measure the height of Mount Everest (world's highest peak), following massive earthquake in 2015 and will carry out the measurement exercise on its own.
183. ▶ 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.
184. ▶ 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.
185. ▶ 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.

186. ▶ 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.
187. ▶ 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.
188. ▶ Pakistan Navy successfully test fired indigenously built surface-to-surface anti-ship missile *Harba*, from newly commissioned Fast Attack Craft PNS Himmat.
189. ▶ Pakistan allowed Chinese currency Yuan for exports and financing transactions. Chinese Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan.
190. ▶ 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.
191. ▶ Pakistan declared Mandarin as an official languages of Pakistan, along with Urdu and English.
192. ▶ 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.
193. ▶ 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 protsetd 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.
194. ▶ Philippines suspended use of a landmark vaccine for potentially deadly dengue virus after its French manufacturer Sanofi warned it could worsen the disease for people who had not previously been infected.
195. ▶ Property consultant Cushman & Wakefield's 'Office Space Across World 2017' report -
- ▶ Delhi-NCR is 84th most expensive office location in world. Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), which ranked 163rd in list is second most expensive location in India.
 - ▶ List is topped by Hong Kong, followed by London and Tokyo.
196. ▶ 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.
197. ▶ 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.
198. ▶ Russia launched Angosat-1, first national telecoms satellite for Angola, onboard Zenit-2SB rocket.
199. ▶ Russia signed agreement with Northern African Nation Sudan to build its first nuclear power plant, to help Sudan solve its energy security problems.
200. ▶ 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.
201. ▶ 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.
202. ▶ 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.
203. ▶ 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.
204. ▶ 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.
205. ▶ Saudi Arabia conducted Groovz Jazz Festival as its first ever jazz festival, in Riyadh.
206. ▶ Saudi Arabia hosted world chess tournament for the first time, named named as the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships, nearly two years after It's top cleric issued a religious edict against Chess.

 India's Viswanathan Anand won bronze in this Championship in Riyadh. Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won the tournament and Russia's Sergey Karjakin secured second spot.

207. ▶ Saudi Arabia lifted 35 year old ban on providing licenses to commercial movie theatres, aimed at economic growth and diversification.
208. ▶ Singapore launched its first large-scale electric car-sharing programme to provide commuters with more transport options and steer them away from need to buy their own cars, to be run for a decade by BlueSG.
209. ▶ 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.
210. ▶ 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.
211. ▶ 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.
212. ▶ 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.
213. ▶ South Korea banned its financial institutions from dealing in virtual currencies including Bitcoin, in wake of recent surge in Bitcoin price.
214. ▶ Sri Lanka banned import of vehicles without airbags for driver and front seat passenger, Anti-Locking Braking System standards (ABS) and other safety features.
215. ▶ 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.
216. ▶ 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.
217. ▶ 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.
218. ▶ 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.
219. ▶ 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.
220. ▶ 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.
221. ▶ Tech Firm Apple acquired music recognition app Shazam, for approx \$400 million.
222. ▶ 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).
223. ▶ Tropical Cyclone Kelvin hit north coast of Western Australia, with winds up to a speed of 150 km per hour.
224. ▶ 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.
225. ▶ Typhoon Tembin struck Philippines, causing huge human and financial losses.
226. ▶ UAE, UK, US and French armies participated in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi (UAE), named as *Flag 4*.
227. ▶ 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 duration). Scheme was introduced last year on a pilot basis in four British universities - Oxford, Bath, Cambridge and Imperial College London.
228. ▶ 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*.
229. ▶ 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.

230. ▶ UNESCO recognized artisans of Panama Hats for their distinctive woven hats. Panam hats are a traditional brimmed straw hat of Ecuadorian origin.
231. ▶ 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.
232. ▶ 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).
233. ▶ 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.
234. ▶ US India Business Council (USIBC) formed an 11 member India Advisory Council to enhance bilateral strategic and economic partnership between India and USA.
235. ▶ 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.
236. ▶ USA President Donald Trump signed into law a sweeping 1.5 trillion dollars overhaul of US tax code, set to impact USA economy through dramatic tax cuts for corporations and temporary reductions for individuals.
237. ▶ USA President Trump has signed an order to ban bump-stock devices, that enable a rifle to shoot hundreds of rounds a minute.
238. ▶ USA President announced that USA will no longer give any fund to Pakistan to fight terrorism, as Pakistan has not properly utilized approx 33 Billion USD given to it over past decade.
239. ▶ 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.
240. ▶ 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.
241. ▶ 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*.
242. ▶ 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.
243. ▶ USA resumed normal visa services for Turkish citizens, saying Turkish authorities fulfilled assurances no local staff would be detained or arrested for performing their duties.
244. ▶ 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
245. ▶ USA withdrawn itself from a United Nations pact to improve handling of migrant and refugee situations deeming it 'inconsistent' with policies.
246. ▶ 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.

247. ▶ 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.
248. ▶ United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched its first space programme aimed at sending four Emirati astronauts to International Space Station within 5 years.
249. ▶ United Arab Emirates opened world's longest zip line in Ras al-Khaimah, measuring 2.83 km in length, entering Guinness book of World Records for the same.
250. ▶ United Kingdom (UK) government formed a dedicated national security unit to counter fake news and disinformation. It will flag fake information on social media.
251. ▶ 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.
252. ▶ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Health Organisation (WHO) will collaborate to accelerate curbing environmental health risks.
253. ▶ 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.
254. ▶ United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) released report *State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World*. UNICEF pointed out that despite massive online presence of children, very little is done to protect them from digital threats.
255. ▶ Valletta (capital of Malta), is officially named European Capital of Culture 2018, along with Netherlands' city Leeuwarden.
 - ✎ *European Capitals of Culture* initiative aims to highlight diversity of European culture and to increase citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area.
256. ▶ Venezuela Government announced 40 % increase to minimum wage, amid hyperinflation in oil-rich but crisis-stricken southern American nation.
257. ▶ 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).
258. ▶ 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.
259. ▶ 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.
260. ▶ 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*.
261. ▶ 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.
262. ▶ World Bank will end its financial support for oil and gas exploration after 2019, in response to growing threat posed to climate change.
263. ▶ 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
264. ▶ 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.
- 265. ▶ World Health Organisation Central African Nation Gabon as *Polio-free*.
- 266. ▶ 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.
- 267. ▶ 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.
- 268. ▶ World's first camel hospital opened in Dubai (UAE).
- 269. ▶ 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.
- 270. ▶ 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.
- 271. ▶ 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).

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Meetings

1. ▶ 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.
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 2018 World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) held at Vigyan Bhawan (New Delhi), with theme *Partnerships for a Resilient Planet*.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 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.
7. ▶ 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.
8. ▶ 4th ASEAN-INDIA Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry held in New Delhi .ASEAN stands for *Association of SouthEast Asian Nations*.

9. ▶ 4th Nepal Buildcon and Wood International Expo 2018 held in Kathmandu.
10. ▶ 7th Asia Steel International Conference will be organized in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) in February 2018, by Tata Steel and Indian Institute of Metals.
11. ▶ 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*.
12. ▶ 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).
13. ▶ Bilateral Meetings -
 - ▶ India and Australia held their first ‘2+2 dialogue’ in New Delhi and highlighted need to maintain Asia-Pacific region as a “free” and “open” zone.
 - ▶ First India-U.S. Counter-Terrorism Designations Dialogue held in New Delhi.
14. ▶ Bilateral Meetings in Feb 2018 -
 - ▶ Indian and Chinese armies held a Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) in Chushul sector of Ladakh region, on the occasion of Chinese spring festival.
 - ▶ 17th meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations concluded in Kathmandu (Nepal).
15. ▶ Bilateral Meetings in Jan 2018 -
 - ▶ 5th Bilateral Technical Meeting of India and Malaysia on cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine held in New Delhi.
16. ▶ China will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit at Qingdao (Shandong Province) in June 2018.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ First International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness ‘Arogya 2017’ Organized in New Delhi, with theme *Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH*.
19. ▶ Global Digital Health Partnership Summit held at Canberra (Australia), attended by J P Nadda (Minister for Health and Family Welfare) on India's behalf.
20. ▶ Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 held at Kathmandu (Nepal), to highlight hydropower potential of Nepal.
21. ▶ India attended meeting of international military cooperation departments of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for first time, in Beijing (China).
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ India will host meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) member countries in February 2018 to muster support for food security and other issues.
25. ▶ 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*.
26. ▶ International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organized ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium 2017 Held in New Delhi with Theme *Heritage and Democracy*.
27. ▶ International Dam Safety Conference held at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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.
 30. ▶ Syrian National Dialogue Congress began in Sochi (Russia). This first Syrian peace talks meet has been sponsored by Russia, Iran and Turkey.

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National

1. ▶ 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).
2. ▶ 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.
3. ▶ 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*.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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.
6. ▶ 11 days Dhanu Yatra festival held in Bargarh district of Odisha.
7. ▶ 12th International Film Festival on Art and Artist began in Bhubaneswar, organised by Bhubaneswar-based Jatin Das Centre of Art (JDCA).
8. ▶ 171st Araadhanai Music Festival started in Thiruvaiyaru (Tamil Nadu). Thyagaraja is one of Trinities of Carnatic music.
9. ▶ 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).
10. ▶ 2nd Iranshah Udvada Utsav, a Parsi cultural festival organized in Gujarat.
11. ▶ 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*.
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 3rd Science Film Festival of India will held in Goa, titled *SCI-FFI Goa*.
15. ▶ 4th India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow, on dates to be decided later.
16. ▶ 5 day annual Konark dance festival started in Odisha, near famous Sun Temple of Konark.
17. ▶ 6th Global Kokan Festival will be held at Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) in January 2018.

18. ▶ *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.
19. ▶ *Modi Kaka Ka Gaon*, Hindi film inspired by PM Narendra Modi has been released, directed by Tushar A. Goel.
20. ▶ *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.
21. ▶ *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.
22. ▶ A Kashmiri publishing house *Gulshan Books* entered Limca Book of Records for a huge collection of 80,000 books. It is the only bookshop-library on a lake.
23. ▶ 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.
24. ▶ A new record was added to Golden Book of World Records, after over 2,100 saints and locals blew 'shankh' (conch shells) together, during Rajim Kumbh Mela in Chhattisgarh.
25. ▶ Aadivasi Mahotsav 2017 held in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) to display diverse tribal traditions of state.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ Actor Kamal Haasan launched his political party Makkal Needhi Maiam (*People Justice Centre*) in Madurai (Tamil Nadu).
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ 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
30. ▶ An MoU signed between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Rotary India, to accelerate Polio Eradication Programme, Routine Immunization including Mission Indradhanush, Intensified Mission Indradhanush.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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.
33. ▶ 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.

34. ▶ 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).
35. ▶ Andhra Pradesh Govt. banned festivities and special darshans at temples at occasion of New Year 2018.
36. ▶ 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.
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ As part of the Ekattm Yatra, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Chauhan flagged off *Adi Shakara Sandesh Vahini* mobile museum in Kochi (Kerala), showcasing various aspects of the life of Adi Shankaracharya, an early 8th century Indian philosopher and theologian who consolidated doctrine of Advaita Vedanta.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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
46. ▶ As per Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu is richest CM in India with declared assets worth over 177 crores, followed by Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu (129 crores). Tripura CM Manik Sarkar has lowest Declared assets

(INR 26 lakh).

47. ▶ 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.
48. ▶ 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).
49. ▶ As per Govt. Data, India is leading global milk producer globally in past 3 years, with annual growth rate of 5.53% compared with 2.09% globally. India's Milk production was approx 163 million tonnes in 2016-17.
50. ▶ 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 %.
51. ▶ As per National Family Health Survey, percentage of women married before legal age has reduced from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 26.8% in 2014-15. Further, as per analysis of Census 2011 data by NCPCR, 'nil' marriages were reported in the age group of 0-9 years for both boys and girls.
52. ▶ As per a Report, Assam is worst in terms of Maternal Mortality Rate (*female deaths per 100000 live births*), with MMR of 300 against national average of 167. However, MMR in Assam has been declining as it was 383 four ago and was 447 in 2002. In Assam, infant mortality rate (number of deaths per 1000 live births of children under 1 year of age) is also higher than national average (44 against national figure of 37). Fund spending under National Health Mission (NHM) in Assam is also just 13.58 % for 2017-18.
53. ▶ As per a survey by *Ixigo*, Kozhikode railway station (Kerala) is ranked best in terms of cleanliness, while Hazrat Nizamuddin (Delhi) is ranked lowest. Among trains, Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani is rated cleanest train while Karnataka Express is given lowest ratings.
54. ▶ 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*.
55. ▶ Assam Government released a postage stamp in memory of eminent football player Talimeren Ao.
56. ▶ Assam Government will set up 3 Terminal Mart for agricultural products in state in order to give a boost to agricultural market.
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ Assam State Government and Isha Foundation signed MOU for rejuvenation and conservation of rivers. Isha Foundation is led by spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.
60. ▶ 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.
61. ▶ Assam government will observe September 22 as Rhino Day (*On World Rhino Day*) to generate public awareness on protection of one-horned rhinoceros (pachyderm).
62. ▶ Assamese and Manipuri language versions of PM's Official website (www.pmindia.gov.in) have been launched. Now PM INDIA website is available in 11 regional languages - *Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu*.
63. ▶ BJP's new headquarters opened on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg in New Delhi, as largest political party office in world with area of 1.70 lakh square feet.
64. ▶ BSES Rajdhani Power launched *Solar City Initiative (in partnership with USA agency for International Development (USAID) PACE-D and Indo-German Collaboration (GIZ))* aimed to maximise rooftop solar power use in south and west Delhi. Under this, rooftop solar installations will be provided at a single point for entire apartment complex unlike conventional method of having individual installations.
65. ▶ 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*.
66. ▶ 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.
67. ▶ Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Amit Shah launched *Yuva Udghosh programme* in Varanasi (UP), focusing on enrolling youths above 17 of age.

68. ▶ Bhogali Bihu harvest festival, also called as *Magh Bihu* festival began in Assam.
69. ▶ Bihar CM Nitish Kumar laid foundation stones for over 100 projects worth INR 700 crores in Nalanda district as part of his state-wide *Vikas Samiksha Yatra*.
70. ▶ Bihar Government approved *Safe City Surveillance* scheme for curbing eve-teasing, harassment and other crimes against women at public places.
71. ▶ Bihar Government banned electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), that are handheld battery-run devices which are used like a conventional cigarette. However the ingredient (in liquid form) may differ.
72. ▶ Bihar Government banned sale of loose cigarettes, to be deterrent to kids and youngsters who start smoking by buying loose cigarettes.
73. ▶ Bikaner camel festival celebrated in Rajasthan to honour camels.
74. ▶ Brand Trust Report India Study 2017 ranked Patanjali as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand and most attractive brand.
75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ 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.
77. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -
- ▶ MoU with Cuba and Italy for cooperation in field of Health and Medicine.
 - ▶ Establishing India's First National Rail and Transportation University at Vadodara , to skill its human resources and build capability.
 - ▶ New skill development scheme named *Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)*, covering entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector. It has outlay of INR 1300 crores from 2017-18 to 2019-20. It aims to provide demand driven, placement oriented skilling programme to incentivize the efforts of industry in creating jobs in organized textile and related sectors.
 - ▶ MoU with Myanmar for developing Myanmar's Rakhine state. India will take up building prefabricated housing in Rakhine State, to meet immediate needs of returning people. India has pledged \$25 Million for this purpose.
 - ▶ Railways Ministry planned to make all stations 100% LED lit by March 2018.
 - ▶ Extension of term of Commission to examine issue of sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by 12 weeks (upto 2 April, 2018). Commission is headed by G. Rohini.
 - ▶ Auction of 683 private FM radio frequencies in 236 cities across country under Phase III of FM radio privatization. It aims at expanding FM reach in remote cities and generate over 10,000 jobs.
78. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -
- ▶ 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.*

79. ▶ 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.

80. ▶ 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
 - ✎ FIIs/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.

81. ▶ 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 un-monetized 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.

82. ▶ Cabinet Approvals -

- ✎ National -
 - ✎ Creation of one circle office of Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS) for carrying out functions of Commission of Metro Railway Safety.
- ✎ Economy -
 - ✎ Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) applicable on all debit card/BHIM UPI/ Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions upto and including a value of 2000 will be borne by Government for 2 years starting 1st January 2018, by reimbursing it to banks.
 - ✎ Continuation of *Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources* (NLCPR) scheme with funding pattern of 90:10 till March 2020 with outlay of 5300 crores. It would enable completion of ongoing projects.
 - ✎ New Central Scheme *North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme* (NESIDS) also approved from 2017-18 with 100% funding from Central Government to fill up gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors till March 2020. NESIDS will strengthen health care, education facilities, tourism and employment opportunities in region.
 - ✎ Approved special package for employment generation in leather and footwear sector, involving implementation of Central Scheme *Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme* with expenditure of INR 2600 Crores from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
 - ✎ Continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Ayush Mission (NAM) from 01-04-2017 to 31-03-2020 with outlay of 2400 crores over 3 year period.
 - ✎ Second Financial Restructuring of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) - Conversion of Non-Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares (RPS) amounting INR 4079 crores held by President of India, into Compulsorily Convertible Non-Cumulative Preference Shares (CCPS). It will raise net worth of KRCL.
 - ✎ Capital Investment Subsidy of Rs.264.67 crore to four industrial units located in North Eastern Region (NER) including Sikkim, under Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CCISS) 2007 of North East Industrial Investment and Promotion Policy (NEIIPP).
- ✎ Foreign -
 - ✎ MOU with Colombia in field of agriculture and fisheries.
 - ✎ Agreement with UNESCO on establishment of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography in Hyderabad.

83. ▶ Cabinet has Introducing Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill 2018 in Parliament, to address issue of human trafficking.

- ✎ Deals with confidentiality of victims and witnesses and complainants.
- ✎ Time bound trial and repatriation of the victims, within 1 year from taking into cognizance.
- ✎ Creates Rehabilitation Fund for the first time, to be used for well-being of victim including education, skill development, health care and psychological support, legal aid, accommodation etc.
- ✎ Creates dedicated institutional mechanisms at District, State and Central level.
- ✎ Punishment prescribed under it ranges from rigorous minimum 10 years to life and fine not less than Rs. 1 lakh.

84. ▶ Central Government approved establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Raichur (Karnataka), as 2nd IIIT in Karnataka after one in Dharwad.

85. ▶ Central Government approved state Logo designed by West Bengal Government, highlighting the “Biswa Bangla” theme with Ashoka Pillars.

86. ▶ 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.
87. ▶ Central Government sanctioned INR 75 crore for setting up Meghalaya's First Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) bottling plant, with annual capacity of 13000 metric tonnes.
88. ▶ Central Government sanctioned a special package to strengthen security in 3 eastern districts of Arunachal Pradesh - Tirap, Changlang and Longding.
89. ▶ Central Government will set up 12 special courts to deal exclusively with criminal cases against 1581 Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
90. ▶ 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.
91. ▶ Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) developed a multivendor e-commerce website and mobile app named *marinefishsales* to help fishermen sell their products and marine catch directly to customers, to increase income of coastal community.
92. ▶ Central PSU NHPC will set up 100-200 Mw capacity solar project in Odisha, expressing interest in Odisha Government's upcoming 1000 Mw solar park programme.
93. ▶ 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.
94. ▶ 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.
95. ▶ 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.
96. ▶ Chilika lake (Odisha) named as largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in world (155 sightings), under first Annual Monitoring conducted by Chilika Development Authority.
97. ▶ 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.
98. ▶ 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.
99. ▶ 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.
100. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a start-up incubation center called Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning (CEOL) in Mangaluru (Karnataka).
101. ▶ 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.
102. ▶ Delhi Govt. launched a common card for rides on public buses and metro, becoming first Indian city to have such common mobility card.
103. ▶ 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.
104. ▶ 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.
105. ▶ Delhi government launched mobile app to connect over 16, 000 members of School Management Committees (SMCs), to make process more transparent.
106. ▶ 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.



















107. ▶ 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.
108. ▶ 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.
109. ▶ 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.
110. ▶ 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.
111. ▶ 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.
112. ▶ Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a MoU for facilitating supply of sand for highways construction work, to fill sand supply gap by facilitating the availability of sand for concessionaires working on highways projects.
113. ▶ Election Commission has set up a panel to suggest amendments to Section 126 of Representation of People Act and Model Code of Conduct (MCC) barring campaigning, 48 hours ahead of polling. It is done after several violations of this code of conduct ahead Gujarat elections.
114. ▶ 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.
115. ▶ 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.
116. ▶ Environment Ministry allowed NGT Chairperson to *constitute a single-member bench* in "exceptional circumstances, amended National Green Tribunal (Practices and Procedure) Rules 2011.
117. ▶ Environment Ministry approved regional project on *Climate Resilience Building among Farmers through Crop Residue Management* under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), to mitigate climate change impacts and counter adverse environmental impacts arising from stubble burning.
118. ▶ Environment ministry launched pilot project 'Blue Flag, to enhance standards of cleanliness on beaches.
119. ▶ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Puducherry's First Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) at Karaikal. It will enable locals to avail passport related services without having to travel to Puducherry.
120. ▶ 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).
121. ▶ FY 2017 - 18 Winter Session passed Bills -
- ▶ Lok Sabha Passed Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill 2017, that seeks to amend Central Road Fund Act 2000.
 - ▶ Under CRF Act 2000, cess levied and collected on high speed petrol and diesel is distributed for development of rural roads, national highways, railways, state roads and border area roads.
 - ▶ CRF (Amendment) Bill 2017 seeks to allocate 2.5 % of funds collected to accelerate development and maintenance of national waterways by reducing equal percentage from share of national highways. It aims at generating INR 2300 crore revenue for national waterways.
 - ▶ Parliament passed Companies (Amendment) Bill 2017 to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies and help improve ease of doing business. Bill provides for over 40 amendments to Companies Act 2013.

- ✎ Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill 2017, to declare IIMs as institutions of national importance and extend greater autonomy to them, by restricting government's role in their functioning.
- ✎ Lok Sabha passed Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill 2017, to make it easier for government to acquire immovable property for "national security and defence purpose". It amends Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act 1952 and changes rules for payment of compensation.
- ✎ Rajya Sabha passed *Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (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.

122. ▶ 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

123. ▶ Facebook and Andhra Pradesh government signed MOU to take up innovative pilot projects in state.
124. ▶ Feb 12 - National Productivity Day. 2018 theme is *Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India*.
125. ▶ 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.
126. ▶ First all-women staff (41 females) railway station in India, Matunga on Central Railway (CR) in Mumbai, entered Limca Book of Records.
127. ▶ 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.
128. ▶ 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.
129. ▶ 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.
130. ▶ 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.
131. ▶ GAIL India placed orders for 2,100 km of Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project.
 -  *Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga* project (also known as JHBDPL project) originates at Jagdishpur (Uttar Pradesh). The main trunk of pipeline ends to Haldia (West Bengal) and Dhamra (Odisha).
 -  Pipeline passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. Cost of project is Rs. 12,940 crore and is to be completed by 2019.
132. ▶ 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.
133. ▶ 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.
134. ▶ 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).
135. ▶ Gandhi Nagar railway station in Jaipur (Rajasthan) became railway station to be fully-managed by women, with 40 women staff at station.
136. ▶ 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

137. ▶ 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).

138. ▶ General Conferences (Dec 21 - 31, 2017)

- ✎ NDMA conducted state level mock exercise on earthquake in Haryana.
- ✎ NE Regional Conference on 'Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices' held in Guwahati (Assam).
- ✎ Centenary (100th) conference of Indian Economic Association held in Guntur (Andhra Pradesh).
- ✎ 78th session of Indian History Congress held at the Jadavpur University in Kolkata.
- ✎ 18th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) held in New Delhi, under Chairmanship of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- ✎ 32nd Indian Engineering Congress organised by Institution of Engineers (India) in Chennai.
- ✎ Ganga Gram Swachata Sammelan held in New Delhi, during it *Ganga Gram* project has been Launched under clean Ganga mission, aimed at holistic sanitation development in villages on banks of River Ganga.
- ✎ 7th India International Coffee Festival (IICF) will be hosted by Bengaluru in January 2018.
- ✎ Centenary celebrations of Yoga Institute in held in Mumbai. Institute was founded by Shree Yogendraji Mani Haribhai Desai in 1918.

139. ▶ 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*.

140. ▶ 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*.

141. ▶ 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).

142. ▶ 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.

143. ▶ 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 (IWDRI) 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 geo-economics.
 - ✎ 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.

144. ▶ 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 an 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).












145. ▶ 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%.

146. ▶ Goa Government approved Solar Power Policy, under which State Government will look to generate 150 MW of solar power by 2021.

147. ▶ 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*.
148. ▶ 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.
149. ▶ 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.
150. ▶ Government announced that installation of bio-toilets in all passenger trains will be completed by March 2019.
151. ▶ Government approved 2018 as *National Year of Millets* to boost production of the nutrient-rich millets and the sunrise agri industry involved in it.
152. ▶ Government approved National Medical Commission Bill 2017, to replace Medical Council Act 1956 and bringing reforms in medical education sector. It will replace existing apex medical education regulator Medical Council of India (MCI) with 25-member National Medical Council (NMC).
153. ▶ 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.
154. ▶ 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.
155. ▶ Government drawn up action plans for backward district programme to improve socio-economic profiles of 115 identified "most-backward" districts including 35 affected by left-wing extremism.
156. ▶ 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.
157. ▶ 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.
158. ▶ 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.
159. ▶ Government launched a 15 days door-to-door campaign for for early diagnosis, detection and treatment of tuberculosis. Through this, health department workers, ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) and TB supervisors will make door-to-door visits to find TB patients and give them free medical treatment till they are cured.
160. ▶ 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.

161. ▶ Government made it mandatory for Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to seek approval from Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) before accepting any proposal to supply electric buses for availing incentives under FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India) scheme.
162. ▶ Government sanctioned INR 1500 crore to promote organic farming in Uttarakhand, to be disbursed over 3 years.
163. ▶ 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.
164. ▶ Government sanctioned projects over 10,000 crore rupees in North East for better network connectivity, Including uncovered areas in North Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
165. ▶ 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.
166. ▶ 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.
167. ▶ Govt. Owned Heavy Water Board signed agreement with Mumbai based Clearsynth for annual sale of 20 tonnes of Heavy Water for development of deuterium labeled compounds, NMR Solvents, d-labeled Active Pharma Ingredients (APIs), marking important event in Indian Nuclear industry leading to societal benefits for masses. It will initiate import substitution for the deuterated compounds and Heavy Water.
168. ▶ Govt. approved assistance of INR 6000 crores for 9 states which suffered from natural calamities during 2017-18, with Bihar getting 1710 crores, followed by Gujarat (1055 Crores). and other states - UP, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
169. ▶ 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.
170. ▶ 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.
171. ▶ Haryana Government Inauguraed India-Japan Smart Grid Pilot Project in Panipat. It was also announced to install 10 lakh smart meters across state, to solve various complications faced by power distribution sector.
172. ▶ Haryana Govt. approved death penalty (or min 14 years imprisonment) to those found guilty of raping girls aged 12 years or less.
173. ▶ Haryana Govt. launched *Parivartan* scheme, to address 10 issues in 46 developmental blocks of state.
174. ▶ 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).
175. ▶ 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.
176. ▶ 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.
177. ▶ Haryana government mandated installation of Solar Photovoltaic Power plant in new buildings as per specified norms, aimed at conserving electricity and use it efficiently.
178. ▶ 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.
179. ▶ Haryana government will establish an organ and tissue transplant organisation (SOTTO) at Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak.
180. ▶ 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.


-  ISBIMI will focus on saving electricity and water, and will also be economical for farmers as they will not be required to install tubewells at their own level instead they just have to pay a nominal amount for water according to the crops.
181. ▶ Haryana government would distribute sanitary napkins free of cost to all women belonging to BPL (Below Poverty Line) category in State.
182. ▶ 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.
183. ▶ 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.
184. ▶ 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.
185. ▶ 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.
186. ▶ 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'.
187. ▶ Himachal Pradesh Government launched a state-level nutrition scheme for HIV-positive children, which will provide nutritional supplement to boost immunity for concerned children.
188. ▶ 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%.
189. ▶ 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).
190. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the Centre for learning Sanskrit language in Gujarat University (Ahmedabad), offering six-month course for people on how to speak Sanskrit.
191. ▶ 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.
192. ▶ Home Ministry released Rs 167 crores to 9 states – Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and Sikkim, under Border Area Development Programme (BADP).
193. ▶ 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.
194. ▶ Hyderabad became 2nd large city (above 1 crore population) to be declared open defecation free (ODF), after Mumbai.
-  Maharashtra government also imposed spot fine of Rs 500 for open defecation, littering, spitting and urinating in public places.
195. ▶ IndiGo became first Indian Airline to operate over 1000 flights in a day across India.
196. ▶ India Health Fund (IHF) (launched by Tata Trusts) will financially support innovations and technologies designed to combat tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. IHF is not a fellowship programme to do research from scratch. It is long-term exercise aligned with country's goal of eliminating TB by 2025 and malaria by 2030.
197. ▶ 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.
198. ▶ India signed \$ 84 Million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Improvement and Expansion of Water Supply in Bihar.
199. ▶ 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.
200. ▶ 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.
201. ▶ 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.
202. ▶ 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.
203. ▶ India's *Taj Mahal* is ranked 2nd best UNESCO world heritage site in world, by travel portal TripAdvisor, after Cambodia's Angkor Wat.
204. ▶ 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.
205. ▶ India's First chat-based job search mobile app *Empzilla* launched, to do away with existing limitations of employers and job seekers making selection process quick and cost-effective.
206. ▶ India's IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) recognized as one of world's best employers by Top Employer Institute for the third consecutive year.
207. ▶ 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.
208. ▶ 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.
209. ▶ Indian Army established a Skill Training Centre in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, to empower and Train Kashmiri youth.
210. ▶ 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.
211. ▶ 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.
212. ▶ 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).
213. ▶ Indian Railways introduced new General Conditions of Contracts (GCC) for Services, that defines terms & conditions for contractors engaged in service contracts for non-operational areas Including *Facilities Management, Housekeeping, Consultancy etc.*
- 🔑 Under new policy of GCC for Services, concepts of Digital Labour Management System and stepped Performance Guarantee in place of Security Deposit, have been introduced for first time.
- 🔑 As per digital management labour system, contractor has to compulsorily maintain a data base of all workers including their attendance data and salary details.
214. ▶ 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.

215. ▶ Indian Railways will deploy Drone cameras (UAV/NETRA) for various railway activities especially maintenance of tracks, project monitoring and other railway infrastructure, in-line with Railways' desire to use technology to enhance safety and efficiency in train operations.
- ✏ Railways also finalised plan to equip over 8500 stations with Wi-Fi facilities at an estimated cost of INR 700 crores, by March 2019.
 - ✏ At 1200 stations, Wi-Fi facility will be provided to rail passengers while at about 7300 stations, facility will be available to all (passenger and locals).
216. ▶ 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.
217. ▶ 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%.
218. ▶ 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.
219. ▶ 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.
220. ▶ 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.
221. ▶ 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.
222. ▶ 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.
223. ▶ India's first-ever broad gauge air-conditioned AC EMU suburban train flagged off by western railway (from Mumbai's Borivali station).
224. ▶ 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.
225. ▶ Infosys Foundation (philanthropic arm of Infosys) signed MoU with Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation for a grant to create a child-friendly village for improving children's health, providing education and creating a non-violent environment.
226. ▶ International Kite Festival held at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
227. ▶ International Sweet Festival will be hosted by Hyderabad (Telangana) in January 2018, coinciding with International Kite festival at Hyderabad.
228. ▶ International poetry festival *Mystic Kalinga* organized in Bhubaneswar Odisha.
229. ▶ J & K government signed MoU with Central Govt. to create normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir by means of education reforms, named *School Education Transformation Roadmap*.
230. ▶ Jammu & Kashmir State Government constituted State Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (SCPUL), for promotion of Urdu.
231. ▶ 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.
232. ▶ 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.
233. ▶ 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.
234. ▶ 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.
235. ▶ Jammu and Kashmir will host its first international martial arts games event in Srinagar in October 2018, named *Asian Martial Arts Games*.
236. ▶ Jharkhand Government launched *Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat* in Dumka district. Jharkhand is first state where beneficiaries are provided stoves along with gas connections., with an investment of 300 crores.

237. ▶ 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).
238. ▶ Jharkhand Govt. will set up *Dada-Dadi Park* for senior citizens in each city across state, to relieve people from summer heat.
239. ▶ Jokapatha village, a tribal village in Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh got electricity connection for first time since Indian independence.
240. ▶ Journalists and social activists celebrated 238th anniversary of India's first newspaper, *The Hicky's Bengal Gazette*. James Augustus Hicky is also considered as founder of journalism in India.
241. ▶ KPIT technologies signed MOU with NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog to promote innovative skills of students, as part of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
242. ▶ 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.
243. ▶ 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.
244. ▶ Karnataka government and USA Aviation Firm Boeing signed agreement to set up Aircrafts' Parts manufacturing and assembly facility near Bengaluru, at cost of 1152 crores.
245. ▶ 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.
246. ▶ Kerala Government will geotag houses and farms of over 10 lakh livestock and poultry farmers, to compile digital repository of information of animal husbandry and dairying in Kerala and integrate data using Geographical Information System (GIS).
247. ▶ Kerala government allowed prisoners in Kerala jails to donate organs to their close relatives.
248. ▶ Kerala government made vaccination compulsory for school admissions from next academic year onwards.
249. ▶ Kerala government raised minimum age for liquor consumption from 21 to 23 years.
250. ▶ 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.
251. ▶ Kolkata Police imposed ban on public display of weapons in Kolkata, till 1 January 2019.
252. ▶ 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.
253. ▶ Konkan Railway and IIT Bombay signed MoU to transform George Fernandes Institute of Tunnel Technology in Goa to a world-class centre of knowledge in tunnel and underground structure technologies.
254. ▶ 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.
255. ▶ 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.
256. ▶ 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.
257. ▶ 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.
258. ▶ 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.
259. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government initiated *Mission One Click scheme* to distribute 30 types of scholarship in schools, through Samagra Education Portal.
260. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government introduced *Pollution Metre* mobile application to spread awareness against pollution in western part of state. Using it, users can check status of air, water and noise pollution in their areas.
261. ▶ Madhya Pradesh government launched a mobile application *pollution metre* to spread awareness against pollution in western part of state.
262. ▶ 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.

263. ▶ 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.
264. ▶ 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.
265. ▶ 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.
266. ▶ 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.
267. ▶ 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.
268. ▶ 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*).
269. ▶ Maharashtra Government will adopt Clinical establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, to ensure minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them.
270. ▶ Maharashtra Government will form an education board for non-English medium schools, that will prepare syllabus for non-English medium schools in Maharashtra.
271. ▶ 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.
272. ▶ 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.
273. ▶ Maharashtra became first state to unveil Public Cloud Policy that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their data storage onto cloud.
274. ▶ Maharashtra government approved to provide sanitary napkins at a subsidised rate of Rs 5 to women living in rural areas.
275. ▶ 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.
276. ▶ 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.
277. ▶ 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.
278. ▶ 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.
279. ▶ 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.

280. ▶ Maruti Suzuki partnered with Delhi government to set up 12 automated driving test centres across city, investing approximately 15 crores.
281. ▶ 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.
282. ▶ 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.
283. ▶ 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.
284. ▶ 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.
285. ▶ 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.
286. ▶ 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%).
287. ▶ 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).
288. ▶ 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).
289. ▶ 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.
290. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation developed a Sanitation Park in Delhi, named *Swatch Bharat Sanitation Park*.
291. ▶ Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launched *Gangotri Swachh Iconic Place project* AND *Swajal*, a community owned drinking water programme in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. Bagori Ganga Gram' project was also announced for Bagori village, which was declared open defecation free (ODF).
292. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) launched *Stree Swabhimani* 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.
293. ▶ 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.
294. ▶ 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.

295. ▶ 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).

296. ▶ Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched *Green Good Deeds* campaign to sensitise people and students about climate change and global warming.

297. ▶ 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.

298. ▶ 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.

299. ▶ 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.

300. ▶ 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.

301. ▶ 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.

302. ▶ 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.

303. ▶ 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.

304. ▶ 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).








305. ▶ 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.





306. ▶ 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.

307. ▶ 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.
308. ▶ Ministry of Railways introduced online bill tracking system, Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) for vendors and contractors, developed in house by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems), New Delhi.
309. ▶ 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.
310. ▶ 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.
311. ▶ Ministry of Science & Technology has set up Mechanism in Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) to interact with Small-Scale Industry (SSI) for transfer of Technology from CSIR Labs. SSI sector is largest employment provider in country, next to agriculture.
312. ▶ 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.
313. ▶ 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.
314. ▶ 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.
315. ▶ 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).
316. ▶ 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.'
317. ▶ 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.
318. ▶ Mumbai Metro launched a new security app 'Secucare', for raising an alarm to ensure passengers' safety. Through it, commuters can raise an alarm in case of any problem.
319. ▶ 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.
320. ▶ 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.
321. ▶ 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.
322. ▶ Nagaland Assembly passed a resolution revoking provisions of 33 % reservation for women in urban local bodies.
323. ▶ Nation-wide cleanliness survey *Swachh Survekshan* launched to evaluate achievements in cleanliness level in Urban areas, Deemed as world's biggest survey. It will be conducted in over 4,000 cities and will run till 10 March 2018.
324. ▶ 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.
325. ▶ 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.
326. ▶ 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.
327. ▶ 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.
328. ▶ 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.
329. ▶ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved 5 Namami Gange projects worth Rs 295 crores in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
330. ▶ National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) notified maximum prices of 65 essential formulations, including those used for treatment of diabetes, pain, infections and high blood pressure.
331. ▶ 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.
332. ▶ Nine member committee constituted by Karnataka government recommended separate state flag, discounting any constitutional / legal hurdles for it.
333. ▶ Niti Aayog announced to set up a special women cell, to extend support to women start-ups and entrepreneurs.
334. ▶ 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.
335. ▶ 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.
336. ▶ 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.
337. ▶ Odisha Government inaugurated Purvasha Folk and Tribal Art Museum at Barkul near Chilika, to promote the cultural heritage of Odisha.
338. ▶ 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.
339. ▶ 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.
340. ▶ 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.
341. ▶ 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)*.
342. ▶ 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.
343. ▶ 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.
344. ▶ Official Logo and tagline for Allahabad Kumbh Mela 2019 with tagline *Chalo Chalo Chalo, Kumbh Chalo*. Additionally, Ttagline *Agar UP Nahi Dekha Toh India Nahi Dekha* for UP Tourism was also unveiled.
345. ▶ 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.
346. ▶ Orange Festival of Music and Adventure held in Dambuk village of Arunachal Pradesh.
347. ▶ Oxford Dictionaries declared 'Aadhaar' as Hindi Word of the Year for 2017, during Jaipur Literature Festival 2018.
348. ▶ PM Narendra Modi Launched 60MW Tuirial Hydroelectric Power Project in Mizoram. It has been constructed by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (Neepeco).
349. ▶ 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.
350. ▶ PM Narendra Modi flagged off Palace Queen Humsafar Express between Mysuru (Karnataka) and Udaipur (Rajasthan), aimed to promote tourism between North and South.
351. ▶ 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.
352. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Botanical Garden-Kalkaji section (of Magenta Line) of Delhi Metro. This 12.64-km route of Magenta Line will be Delhi Metro's first line to get driverless trains, using Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) signalling technology.
353. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr.BR Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) in New Delhi, constructed at cost of INR 195 crores.
354. ▶ 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.
355. ▶ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated newly constructed Dorjee Khandu State Convention Centre in Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).
356. ▶ 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.
357. ▶ PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of Navi Mumbai International Airport, to cost approx INR 16700 crores.
358. ▶ 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.
359. ▶ 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).
360. ▶ 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.
361. ▶ Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched month long Saksham 2018 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav, that aims at creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and sensitize masses about efficient use of petroleum products.

362. ▶ 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.
363. ▶ 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.
364. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), featuring maritime patrol aircraft Tupolev-142M.
365. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind laid foundation stone of *Nyaya Gram*, a residential and training complex of Allahabad High Court (UP).
366. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind launched Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) Programme ear 2018, on eve of National Immunisation Day (NID) observed on 28 January in 2018.
367. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind on recommendation of Election Commission of India (ECI) disqualified 20 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs from Delhi, citing that they held offices of profit.
- ✎ In 2016, ECI issued show cause notices to 27 AAP MLAs from Delhi who held offices as parliamentary secretaries.
 - ✎ Office of Profit is a Term used in Article 102 (1)(A) of Constitution that bars member of Indian Parliament / Legislative Assemblies from holding an office that would give its occupant the opportunity to gain a financial advantage or benefit. It refers to a post under central/state government which yields salaries, perks and other benefits.
368. ▶ Puducherry government launched a special police force to safeguard tourists, provided with special blue colour head gears.
369. ▶ 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.
370. ▶ Punjab Government discontinued sale of 20 pesticides (insecticides) including Endosulfan harmful to health of humans and environment.
371. ▶ 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.
372. ▶ 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.
373. ▶ Punjab Govt launched PUDA-UCIC app to check unauthorised construction and a new web portal of the housing department for online issue of change of land use. It will facilitate swift action to stop illegal construction.
374. ▶ Punjab government banned manufacturing, sale, production, supply and use of kite string made of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material.
375. ▶ 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.
376. ▶ 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*.
377. ▶ 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

378. ▶ 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.
379. ▶ 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.
380. ▶ 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.
381. ▶ Rajasthan government announced 1 % reservation for Gujjars (retaining their Other Backward Classes status) and 4 other communities (Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Rebari and Gadaria).
382. ▶ 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.
383. ▶ 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.
384. ▶ 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.
385. ▶ Rajasthan govt. increased age limit for applying for government jobs from 35 to 40 years.
386. ▶ 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.
387. ▶ 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.
388. ▶ Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Railways has launched *New Online Vender Registration System*, to make related procedures digital and transparent. New system provides major improvements such as Public access to information, expeditious process completion with defined timelines, round-the-year services, availability of all related information on RDSO Website etc.
389. ▶ Residents of Bhanakpur village in Faridabad (Haryana) will begin day by singing national anthem daily at 8 am. Panchayat has installed 20 loudspeakers and 22 CCTV cameras for the purpose. This village is first in Haryana and second in India (after Jammikunta Telangana), to introduce this system.
390. ▶ Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated several projects in Uttar Pradesh entailing investment of INR 6517 crores.
391. ▶ Road transport ministry Mandated All taxis, buses and public transport vehicles (except three-wheelers and e-rickshaws) to have location tracking device (GPS) and an alert button from April 1, 2018 onwards.
392. ▶ 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.
393. ▶ Samsung India partnered with UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development) to launch 360-degree video and Virtual Reality (VR) content of Sun Temple in Konark (Odisha) and Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh).
394. ▶ 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.
395. ▶ Shripad Yesso Naik (Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH) laid foundation stone for Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur (Rajasthan), as 3rd CRI under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH).
396. ▶ 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.
397. ▶ Social Media Firm Facebook started testing the use of Aadhaar by asking new Indian users to enter their names as per Aadhaar Card while signing up. India is second largest market for Facebook after USA, with over 2.4 crore users at present.
398. ▶ South Central Railway (SCR) became first railway zone to complete 100% LED lighting at all 733 stations under its jurisdiction.

399. ▶ Sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) looking into issues of girl's education has recommended free and compulsory education for girls up to post-graduate level across country.
400. ▶ 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).
401. ▶ Supreme Court will look into Section 497 of Indian Penal Code (IPC), which is related to provision of adultery and treats only man as an offender and married woman as a victim.
402. ▶ 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.
403. ▶ 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.
404. ▶ 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.
405. ▶ Teesta Rangit Tourism Festival 2017 held in Darjeeling and Kalimpong (West Bengal).
406. ▶ Telangana Government announced a health-cum-life insurance scheme worth INR 5 lakh for farmers in state, with allocation of INR 500 crores.
407. ▶ 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.
408. ▶ 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.
409. ▶ 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.
410. ▶ Telangana government developed a mobile application named 'Urban Genie' that will help urban citizens in finding certified technicians and workers to provide household services.
411. ▶ Telangana government signed MoU with *Clean Authority of Tokyo (Japan)*, for municipal solid waste incineration facilities.
412. ▶ 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.
413. ▶ 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.

414. ▶ 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.
415. ▶ 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.
416. ▶ 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.
417. ▶ Tribal Sports Meet 2017 held in Odisha as a first-of-its kind event in country to promote sports among tribals in Odisha, with *Ollly* as official mascot.
418. ▶ Tripura Government has introduced Child Care Leave (CCL) for women employees with minor children for 730 days in their entire service life.
419. ▶ 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.
420. ▶ 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.
421. ▶ 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.
422. ▶ 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.
423. ▶ Use and sale of imported petroleum coke has been banned in National Capital Region (NCR) by environment ministry, to control air pollution. It also ruled that cement plants in NCR should not store pet coke for over 3 months.
424. ▶ 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).
425. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government banned use of unauthorised loudspeakers at public places, including religious places.
426. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Government inaugurated Mahesra Bridge at Sonauli-Gorakhpur National highway, that links Gorakhpur and other eastern Uttar Pradesh districts with Nepal.
427. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. will Set up a Research Institute on *Shrimad Bhagvat Gita* in Mathura.
428. ▶ 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.
429. ▶ 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.
430. ▶ Uttar Pradesh assembly passed UP Excise (Amendment) Bill 2017, to award death penalty and life imprisonment for spurious liquor dealers.
431. ▶ 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.

432. ▶ 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.
433. ▶ Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
434. ▶ 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.
435. ▶ 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.
436. ▶ Uttarakhand government made it compulsory for all government offices to install LED bulbs, to reduce consumption of electricity.
437. ▶ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched New Delhi Edition of Marathi daily 'Lokmat'.
438. ▶ 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.
439. ▶ 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*.
440. ▶ 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.
441. ▶ West Bengal Govt. launched water ATM project to ensure bacteria-free drinking water in schools, initially in Kolkata.
442. ▶ 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.
443. ▶ 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.
444. ▶ 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.
445. ▶ 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.

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Persons

- ▶ 4th International Young Chef Olympiad (YCO) concluded in New Delhi with Lai Jia Yi from Malaysia winning top spot and Indian student chef Surya Sekhar Roy Choudhury claiming 2nd position. It is Touted as *World's biggest culinary battle of student chefs*.
- ▶ A health worker from Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh, Verma has featured in World Health Organization (WHO) calendar for 2018, for her efforts to ensure hundred per cent coverage of her area of operation under measles and rubella programme.
- ▶ Actress Kajol became an advocacy ambassador for a *Swachh Aadat Swachh Bharat* initiative.
- ▶ 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.

5. ▶ Airtel Payments Bank CEO Shashi Arora resigned, after recent controversy over company's alleged violation of rules on using Aadhaar for its electronic know-your-customer (e-KYC) verification process.
 - ✎ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) recently barred Bharti Airtel and Airtel Payments Bank from conducting Aadhaar-based SIM verification of mobile customers using eKYC process, after allegations of Bharti Airtel using Aadhaar-eKYC based SIM verification process to open payments bank accounts of its subscribers without their informed consent.
6. ▶ American Actor Angelina Jolie will be honoured by American Society of Cinematographers with ASC Board of Governors Award.
7. ▶ Avani Chaturvedi became first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo, after She flew a MiG-21 bison. She belongs to first batch of female pilots, besides Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh, who were inducted into IAF in 2016.
8. ▶ Cricketer Yuvraj Singh launched *Power of Sports to Shape the Future of Adolescents* campaign in South Asia. It is a UNICEF sports initiative for youngsters.
9. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman became first woman defence minister to fly in an IAF Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
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. ▶ Former President Pranab Mukherjee will be conferred an honorary D.Litt by Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST).
12. ▶ 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.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ Indian-origin boy Mehul Garg (10 years age) in UK became youngest applicant in decade to achieve highest score in Mensa IQ test, beating geniuses like Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking by scoring maximum score of 162.
15. ▶ Indo-UK 8 year old girl Sohini Roy Chowdhury entered UK's Mathletics Hall of Fame, online mathematics-based competitive tool aimed at primary school pupils.
16. ▶ Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
17. ▶ Kavitha Bharanidaran (Chennai) broke Guinness World Record for longest yoga marathon, by continuing yoga marathon for 5 days. She broke record set by Pradnya Patil (Nashik) of 103 hours.
18. ▶ Kolkata (West Bengal) became first Indian city to get a floating market, located on lake at Patuli in South Kolkata which is 400 metres long and 60 metres wide. Lake has been transformed into the floating market similar to one in Thailand.
19. ▶ Malayalam actor and mimicry artist Abi passes away. His full name was *Habeeb Ahmed*.
20. ▶ Mihai Tudose resigned as Prime Minister of Romania (Southeastern Europe).
21. ▶ Minister of State (IC) of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh has been conferred with degree of Honorary Doctorate by Amity University in recognition of his lifetime achievements in field of academics, research and public life.
22. ▶ Miss World 2017, Manushi Chhillar is named as Indian of the year by Minister of Finance and corporate affairs.
23. ▶ NASA named seven hills on planet Mars after 7 crew members, including India-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla, of Space Shuttle Columbia who lost their lives while returning from their mission on February 1, 2003.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ 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
- 📖 Lalloo 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).

27. ▶ 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.

28. ▶ Pakistan Peoples Party's Krishna Kumari will become country's first woman Hindu Parliamentarian (MP).

29. ▶ Paul Romer resigned as World Bank's chief economist.

30. ▶ 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.

31. ▶ 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.

32. ▶ Shah Rukh Khan is named top Indian actor of 2017 by Internet Movie Data Base (IMDb), followed by Aamir Khan and Salman Khan.

33. ▶ 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.

34. ▶ 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).

35. ▶ Sports Persons in Forbes India 30 Under 30 list 2018 - Jasprit Bumrah and Harmanpreet Kaur (Cricket), Savita Punia (women's hockey team goalkeeper), Heena Sidhu (Shooting).

36. ▶ 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.

37. ▶ 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. It 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\$ US\$ 0.25 million for construction of additional floor to Jawahar Lal Nehru for Boys at Abu Dees.

38. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 1 - 10, 2017) -

- ✎ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Sochi (Russia) to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit. India and Pakistan became full-fledged members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in June 2017.
- ✎ NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Visited China to attend 3rd Dialogue between India's NITI Aayog and Development Research Council of China (DRC).
- ✎ Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu Visited Buenos Aires (Argentina) to attend 11th Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

39. ▶ Visits from India (Dec 11 - 20, 2017)

- ✎ Minister of State for Culture (IC) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Mahesh Sharma visited Muscat (Oman) for 2nd UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture.

40. ▶ Visits from India (Feb 1 - 10, 2018) -

- ✎ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Visited Nepal.

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Saudi Arabia, to attend opening ceremony of 32nd Al Jana-driyah festival in Riyadh.
- 41. ▶ Visits from India (Feb 21 - 28, 2018)
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited Saudi Arabia, to attend opening ceremony of 32nd Al Jana-driyah festival in Riyadh.
 - Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State in HRD Ministry visited Fiji to attend 20th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers on India's Behalf. Theme of Conference was *Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?*.
- 42. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 1-10, 2018) -
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj visited three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.
 - Indonesia - Co-chaired 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.
 - Singapore - Inaugurated Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries.
 - Union Minister (*Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation*) Nitin Gadkari visited Singapore to inaugurate ASEAN India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- 43. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 11 - 20, 2018)
 - Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju Visited UK. On this occasion, India and UK signed 2 MoUs dealing with return of Indians residing in Britain as illegal migrants and sharing of criminal records and intelligence.
 - Minister for Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad visited Sri Lanka. During His Visit, India and Sri Lanka signed agreements for
 - Collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector
 - Connecting National Knowledge network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics
 - Setting up of e-office system.
- 44. ▶ Visits from India (Jan 21 - 31, 2018) -
 - India's Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar Visited Victoria (Seychelles). During this visit, India and Seychelles signed a revised agreement that will allow India to build military infrastructure on Seychelles' Assumption Island. Note that Vijay Gokhale is now new Foreign Secretary of India.
- 45. ▶ 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.
- 46. ▶ 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)
- 47. ▶ 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.
- 48. ▶ 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.

49. ▶ 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.

50. ▶ 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.

51. ▶ 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.

52. ▶ 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.

53. ▶ 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
Nguyen 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.

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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 desstroying 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 eleimnating cancer.
7. ▶ 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*).
8. ▶ According to new NASA study, our solar system's Planet Pluto may have liquid water oceans beneath their surface, as heat generated by gravitational pull of moons formed from massive collisions could extend the lifetimes of liquid water oceans beneath its surface.

9. ▶ 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.
10. ▶ Acer launched *Acer Swift 7*, that claims to be the world's thinnest laptop, priced at \$1,699. It has thickness of 8.98mm and is powered by Intel Core i7 processor.
11. ▶ 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.
12. ▶ Australian Researchers discovered a new water-adapted species of spiders named 'Desis bobmarleyi' in Queensland, named after noted singer and songwriter Bob Marley.
13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ Botanical Survey of India (BSI) scientists discovered two new species of Ginger - *Hedychium chingmeianum* (Nagaland) and *Caulokaempferia dinabandhuensis* (Manipur).
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ China will build a Martian village (simulating environmental conditions on Mars) in Qinghai Province, in red rock area of the Qaidam basin in western Qinghai.
20. ▶ China's Three Gorges Corp. started building world's biggest floating solar power plant in Anhui Province, expected to be launched by May 2018.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ H-BOTS, Hyderabad-based artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning start-up unveiled a prototype of a smart policing robot, which weighs 43 kg and is made of nylon plastic. H-BOTS is planning to produce 700 such units a year by 2020.
24. ▶ Health-tech startup mCURA launched *Smart OPD* as India's first integrated mobility platform that reduces waiting time in counters and provides e-prescriptions. It helps patients to escape long queues at admission and billing counters, labs, pharmacies and hospitals.
25. ▶ 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.

26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will build igloos (referred to as lunar habitats) on Moon, by sending robots and 3D printers to Moon. It aims to help astronauts spend more time on moon.
29. ▶ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch Chandrayan-2 Mission in April 2018 as India's second lunar mission. It will cost approx INR 800 Crores.
- ▶ ISRO is also planning to launch India's second space observatory, AstroSat-2, to help observe distant planets, galaxies and other astronomical objects more clearly than from Earth. Currently, only USA, Japan, Russia, Europe and India have their own space observatories. AstroSat-1 was launched in September 2015 with life span of 5 years.
30. ▶ 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 (<i>Cray</i>)	17.59 PFLOPS	USA

31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ 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).
33. ▶ NASA tested a new technology that allows aircraft to fold their wings between zero and 70 degrees while in flight. Built from a shape memory alloy, it operates without a hydraulic system, reducing wing weight by up to 80%.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ 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.
36. ▶ NASA's Hubble and Spitzer space telescope discovered *SPT0615-JD* as farthest known galaxy in universe so far (2,500 light-years away). It is a cluster of 500 million year-old stars. SPT0615-JD was found in Hubble's Reionization Lensing Cluster Survey (RELICS) and companion S-RELICS Spitzer programme.
37. ▶ 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 be 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.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ 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.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ Researchers discovered 161 million-year-old fossils of a tiny bird-like dinosaur named Caihong juji from China that sported flashy rainbow feathers and a bony crest on its snout to attract mates.
42. ▶ Researchers from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) discovered a new species of moth, scientifically named *Elcysma Ziroensis* in Talley Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ 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.
47. ▶ 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.
48. ▶ Scientists confirmed discovery of nearly 100 new exoplanets outside our solar system based on data from second mission of NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope (K2 mission) released in 2014. With this, number of exoplanets found using NASA’s K2 mission has reached almost 300.
49. ▶ 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*.
50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ Scientists discovered new species of frog named Mewa Singh’s night frog (*Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi*) in Kozhikode’s Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala in Western Ghats.
53. ▶ Scientists found a small population of Red Handfishes (*Thymichthys politus*), walking along seabed off Australia’s south coast in Tasmania. This species is only found in isolated island state of south-eastern Tasmania. In this small habitat within radius of 20 metres, fishes walk on seabed, instead of swimming.

54. ▶ 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.
55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ 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.
57. ▶ 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.
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ 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.]
61. ▶ 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.
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ 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 *Odorana arunachalensis*.
64. ▶ 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.
65. ▶ USA based SpaceX for first time ever has successfully launched used Dragon spacecraft with a used Falcon 9 rocket, as part of resupply mission to International Space Station (ISS). It was SpaceX's 13th of 20 Missions under a \$1.6 billion contract with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
66. ▶ USA space flight company SpaceX launched he 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.
- 67. ▶ 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.
- 68. ▶ World Health Organisation (WHO) has given its pre-qualification to Typhbar Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TVC) 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.
- 69. ▶ 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.
- 70. ▶ 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. ▶ 13th Commonwealth Wrestling Championships 2017 Orgznied in Johannesburg (South Africa). India won 60 Medals Including 29 Gold Medals at this event.
4. ▶ 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.
5. ▶ 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
6. ▶ 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.
- 7. ▶ 2018 Chennai Open Challenger Tennis Title -
 - ▶ Singles - Jordan Thompson (Australia), Defeating India's Yuki Bhambri
 - ▶ Doubles - India's Sriram Balaji AND Vishnu Vardhan

8. ▶ 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.

9. ▶ 2018 Maharashtra Men's Tennis Title (Also called Tata Open) -

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

10. ▶ 2018 Maharashtra Tata Open Men's Tennis Championship -

- Singles - Gilles Simon (France), Defeated Kevin Anderson (South Africa)
- Doubles - Netherlands' Robin Haase AND Matwé Middelkoop

11. ▶ 2018 Shenzhen Women's Tennis Open (China) -

- Singles - Simona Halep (Romania)
- Doubles - Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu AND Simona Halep

12. ▶ 22nd Commonwealth Games 2022 will be hosted in Birmingham (England).

- Shooting has been excluded from Commonwealth Games 2022 edition.

13. ▶ 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
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.













14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ 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.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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.
18. ▶ 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.
19. ▶ *India A* team won gold at 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships (*trick-taking card game*) in Gold Coast (Australia). Team was headed by Kiran Nadar and comprised of Keyzad Anklesari, B. Satyanarayana, Rajeshwar Tewari, Jaggy Shivdasani and Sunit Chokshi.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ Afghanistan won ICC Intercontinental Cup defeating United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi, with Ireland ranked 2nd.
23. ▶ Argentine Footballer Lionel Messi received Pichichi trophy for 2016-2017 football season, given to Spanish Football league La Liga's top scorer and best player.
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ Assam Hockey won 8th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018 (B Division) in Assam, defeating Rajasthan.
26. ▶ Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Football Delhi (governing body for football in Delhi) signed MOU for development of sport in Capital.
27. ▶ Association of Indian Football Coaches (AIFC) launched at Andheri Sports Complex in Mumbai, to create a platform for the development of football coaches and their welfare.
28. ▶ Australian Noted female Cricketer Alex Blackwell announced her retirement from all forms of cricket.
29. ▶ 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)
30. ▶ 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.
 31. ▶ BCCI banned Yusuf Pathan for five months after failed a dope test. However the backdated ban will get over on Jan 14, 2018.
 32. ▶ Badminton player Pullela Gopichand initiated India's largest 'train the trainers' programme by inducting 1500 Physical Education (PE) teachers from across Gujarat for advanced training, envisioned by ELMS Sports Foundation.
 33. ▶ 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.
 34. ▶ Bangladesh won First ever SAFF U-15 Women's football Championship 2017, defeating India. It was hosted by Bangladesh.
 35. ▶ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) lifted ban on Rajasthan Cricket Association, provided former IPL chief Lalit Modi stays away from its functioning. BCCI also announced that India will host Afghanistan's first-ever Test match in 2018-19.
 36. ▶ 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.
 37. ▶ 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
 38. ▶ 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.
 39. ▶ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) won 8th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2018 (B Division), defeating Kerala.
 40. ▶ Chandika Hathurusingha is appointed as new Head coach of Sri Lanka Cricket Team.
 41. ▶ 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.
 42. ▶ Delhi won Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Cricket Trophy, Defeating Rajasthan in Kolkata (WB).
 43. ▶ Egyptian Footballer Mohamed Salah is named Arab Football Player of 2017, in a poll conducted by over 100 sports journalists from various Arab countries.
 44. ▶ Emblems of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named *Winter Dream* and *Flight*, to be held in Beijing (China).
 45. ▶ FIFA has lifted 2 year suspension against Kuwait's football association that prevented It country from participating in international tournaments.
 46. ▶ FIFA suspended head of Brazilian football federation Marco Polo Nero for 90 days, for being accused of accepting 6.5mn euro commission.
 47. ▶ 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.
 48. ▶ First ever International Wheelchair Cricket Tournament organised in Nepal's Kathmandu, with participation of teams from Nepal, India and Bangladesh.
 49. ▶ Football Delhi announced to observe Indian football Captain Sunil Chhetri's birthday (*3rd August*) as Delhi's Football Day.
 50. ▶ Former Australian Cricketer Ricky Ponting has been appointed head coach of IPL Team Delhi Daredevils.

51. ▶ G Sathyan became India's highest ranked player in International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings, with 49th Rank globally. He is followed by Sharath Kamal who is at 51st world rank. In women's ranking, Manika Batra topped among Indians with world rank 62.
52. ▶ Globe Soccer's awards 2017 -
 - ▶ Best Player - Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal).
 - ▶ Best Club - Real Madrid.
 - ▶ Best Coach - Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid)
53. ▶ 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.
54. ▶ 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.
55. ▶ Hyderabad Hunters won 3rd Premier Badminton League championship in Hyderabad, after beating Bengaluru Blasters in final.
56. ▶ 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)
57. ▶ IDBI Federal Life Insurance New Delhi Marathon -
 - ▶ 65 Elite Indian athletes participated in event.
 - ▶ Reigning Asian Champion Gopi Thonakal won in men's category with timing of 2:15:16, followed by Nitendra Rawat. However, Gopi could not qualify for 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games as its criteria was 2:12:50.
 - ▶ Monika Athare retained her women's title with timing of 2:43:46.
58. ▶ 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.
59. ▶ 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
60. ▶ 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).
61. ▶ India at Miscellaneous Sports Events (Feb 2018) -
 - ▶ Indian boxers won 10 medals, including 5 gold, at the Asian Games Test event in Jakarta, Indonesia.
62. ▶ India at recent misc sports events -
 - ▶ Aditya Mehta won Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship, defeating England's Alfie Burden.
63. ▶ India beat Nepal to win first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament (team championship) held at Guwahati, Assam.
64. ▶ India defeated Australia to win its 4th Under 19 Cricket World cup Title, held in New Zealand.
65. ▶ India will host 2023 Cricket World Cup (13th) and 2021 Champions Trophy.
 - ▶ ICC World Cup 2019 will be held in England and Wales.

66. ▶ India won Blind Cricket World Cup 2018 by beating Pakistan at Sharjah (UAE).
67. ▶ India's Leander Paes and James Cerretani (USA) won men's doubles tennis title of Newport Beach Challenger event at California (USA).
68. ▶ India's Shubhankar Sharma won Joburg Open golf tournament to qualify for 2018 British Open.
69. ▶ Indian Badminton Player Parupalli Kashyap won his first international title as Austrian Open International Challenge badminton tournament, by defeating Malaysia's June Wei Cheam.
70. ▶ Indian Badminton Player Siddharth Pratap Singh won *Swedish Open Junior International Series* as his first international title. He defeated Denmark's Mads Christophersen.
71. ▶ 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.
72. ▶ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) signed *Edelweiss Financial Services* as sponsor of Indian team for 2018 Commonwealth Games, 2018 Asian Games and 2020 Olympic Games and National Games 2018 and 2019.
73. ▶ Indian Umpires, Raghu Prasad and Javed Shaikh will officiate in 2018's Hockey World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar (Odisha).
74. ▶ Indian archer Deepika Kumari won bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Bangkok (Thailand).
75. ▶ 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.
76. ▶ Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won World Rapid Chess tournament title in Saudi Arabia, beating Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev.
77. ▶ Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won Royal Cup at Pattaya (Thailand), his 3rd Asian Tour title of 2017.
78. ▶ Indian women cricketer Jhulan Goswami became first woman in world to take 200 wickets in ODI cricket.
79. ▶ India's Saurav Ghosal jumped to No 14 to become highest ranked Indian in Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings.
80. ▶ India's Shubhankar Sharma won Maybank Golf Championship (USA) as his 2nd victory on both Asian Tour and European Tour, after his recent win in Joburg Open. With This, Shubhankar is also named as best Indian golfer in world, grabbing 72nd position in Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR).
81. ▶ 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
82. ▶ 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.
83. ▶ International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced life ban for Russia's Alexey Voevoda from Olympics for anti-doping violations in 2014 Sochi Winter Games.
84. ▶ 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.
85. ▶ Italy's Raffaele Bergamasco has been appointed as Performance Director for India's senior women Boxers.
86. ▶ Kajal Kumari and Moha. Ghufuran won women s singles and men's singles respectively in 24th Federation Cup All India Carrom Championship in Mumbai.
87. ▶ Karnataka won Vijay Hazare Trophy ODI tournament for 3rd time, defeating Saurashtra.
88. ▶ Karnataka's Kishan Gangolli won 13th National 'A' Chess Championship for blind in Mumbai, becoming champion for 5th consecutive time.
89. ▶ Kerala Kings won first T10 Cricket League champion at Sharjah Cricket Stadium (UAE), defeating Punjabi Legends.
90. ▶ 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.

91. ▶ Meghalaya signed Host City Contract with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to host 39th National Games in 2022.
92. ▶ Mumbai batsman Prithvi Shaw will be captain of Indian Side in upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup 2018 in New Zealand.
93. ▶ NECC-ITF women's tennis championship in Pune -
 -  Singles - Spain's Georgina Garcia-Perez.
94. ▶ 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.
95. ▶ 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).
96. ▶ New Zealand's Colin Munro became first cricketer to score 3 hundreds in T20 internationals, when he scored 3rd T20 100 against west Indies.
97. ▶ Noted Brazilian Footballer Formally announced his retirement. He was although not playing for national side since last 2 years.
98. ▶ Noted Brazilian Footballer Kaka Retired from Professional Football.
99. ▶ Noted Indian Professional Boxer Vijender Singh defended his WBO Oriental and Asia Pacific super middleweight titles, after beating Ghana's Ernest Amuzu in Jaipur.
100. ▶ 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).
101. ▶ 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 great sporting nation.
 -  Talented players identified in priority sports will be provided annual assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.
102. ▶ Portuguese Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo became first player in UEFA Champions League history to score 100 goals for a single club (Real Madrid).
103. ▶ Pune International Marathon 2017 -
 -  It was held Despite being denied permission by Athletics Federation of India.
 -  Winners - Tisua Basazin
 -  Men - Ethiopia's Getachew Basha.
 -  Women's Half Marathon - Ethiopia's Tisua Basazin.
104. ▶ Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) won 8th Senior National Women's Hockey Championship, defeating Madhya Pradesh in Ranchi.
105. ▶ 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.
106. ▶ Sharath Kamal won men singles title (8th time) in 79th edition of 11Even Sports National Table Tennis Championships in Ranchi (Jharkhand). Suthirta Mukherjee from West Bengal emerged new women champion.
107. ▶ Sharmila Nicollet become first Indian golfer to qualify for China Ladies PGA Tour.
108. ▶ Shikhar Dhawan became first Indian cricketer to score a century in his 100th One-day International.
109. ▶ South Africa won the first ever four-day test cricket match, against Zimbabwe.
110. ▶ South Africa's Kagiso Rabada became youngest bowler ever (22 years age) to top ICC Test Bowlers' rankings.
111. ▶ 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.
112. ▶ 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.

113. ▶ 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).

114. ▶ Sushil Kumar became Pro Wrestling League (PWL)'s most expensive buy ever as Delhi Sultans acquired him for INR 55 lakhs. PWL 3 will be held in January 2018.

115. ▶ Swiss Tennis Ace and Twenty Grand slams winner, Roger Federer became oldest world number one, after he defeated his Dutch opponent Robin Haase in Rotterdam at the ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament.

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

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

118. ▶ Tata Mumbai Marathon 2018 -

 Ethiopia's Solomon Deksisia 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.

119. ▶ To set a Guinness World record for ice hockey on highest altitude, an international level tournament was organized at a new ice hockey rink at height of 4371 meters, at Chiba Kargyam in Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir).

120. ▶ 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.

121. ▶ 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.

122. ▶ 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.

123. ▶ Virat Kohli became first batsman to score 500 runs in a bilateral ODI series, after he scored the same during ODI series against South Africa. Kohli also became 2nd batsman (After AB De Villers) to cross 900-point mark concurrently in Tests & ODIs. Also, Bhuvneshwar Kumar became first Indian bowler to take 5 wicket hauls in all three formats in international cricket.

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

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

 Singles - Julia Görges (Germany)

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

126. ▶ WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) will induct retired player Goldberg into WWE Hall of Fame class, first in 2018.

127. ▶ World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) suspended Romania's drug-testing laboratory for six months, due to several non-conformities with regulations.

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

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