

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JANUARY 2018

tutorialspoint

SIMPLY EASY LEARNING

www.tutorialspoint.com



<https://www.facebook.com/tutorialspointindia>



<https://twitter.com/tutorialspoint>

Current Affairs – January 2018

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **January 2018**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

Copyright and Disclaimer

© Copyright 2017 by Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd.

All the content and graphics published in this e-book are the property of Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. The user of this e-book is prohibited to reuse, retain, copy, distribute or republish any contents or a part of contents of this e-book in any manner without written consent of the publisher.

We strive to update the contents of our website and tutorials as timely and as precisely as possible, however, the contents may contain inaccuracies or errors. Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. provides no guarantee regarding the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of our website or its contents including this tutorial. If you discover any errors on our website or in this tutorial, please notify us at contact@tutorialspoint.com

Table of Contents

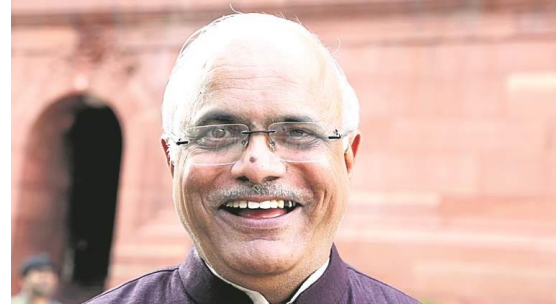
Current Affairs – January 2018	i
Audience	i
Copyright and Disclaimer	i
Table of Contents	ii
APPOINTMENTS.....	1
AWARDS & HONORS	8
BOOKS & AUTHORS.....	14
COMMITTEES.....	16
DEATHS	17
DEFENSE.....	20
ECONOMIC.....	23
ENVIRONMENT	30
FINANCE	31
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	40
INTERNATIONAL.....	43
MISCELLANEOUS.....	51
NATIONAL	54
PERSONS IN NEWS.....	76
PLACES IN NEWS	79

REGIONAL	83
REPORTS.....	92
RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS	96
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....	97
SPORTS.....	100

Appointments

1. BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabuddhe appointed as ICCR Chief

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabuddhe as the president of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations replacing Lokesh Chandra, who was a scholar and thinker.



He has experience of working as vice-president of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini South Asian academy. At present, he is also national in-charge of two departments of the party — Policy Research and Good Governance. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India, involved in India's external cultural relations.

2. Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale appointed as foreign secretary

1981 IAS officer Vijay Keshav Gokhale was appointed as foreign secretary for a two-year fixed term replacing S. Jaishankar. Prior to this, he was economic relations secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.



He has also played role of Ambassador to China and in Hong Kong and Taipei. Vijay Keshav Gokhale has been known for his traditional diplomacy. As foreign secretary, he will have to conduct many of the important negotiations for the government, planning future visits by Israel PM etc.

3. Pankaj Jain selected as IIFCL Managing Director

1990 IAS officer Pankaj Jain was appointed as Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. by the by the Central Government. Prior to this, he was Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services.



He has also been a consultant to the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Asian Productivity Organization. IIFCL is a wholly-owned Government of India company to provide long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects for Financing Viable Infrastructure Projects.

4. Former RAW Chief Rajinder Khanna appointed deputy National Security Adviser

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed former RAW Chief Rajinder Khanna as the deputy NSA on re-employment and on contractual basis. He has played as country's external intelligence agency RAW.



The post was lying vacant since Arvind Gupta, a former Indian Foreign Services retired due to his tenure end. Rajinder Khanna will have to be on special duty (neighbourhood studies) with the national security council.

Neighbourhood Studies prepares policy papers on countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.

5. Dr. Sivan K appointed as Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman Space Commission

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet based on the recommendation of the SCSC has approved the appointment of Dr. Sivan K as the next Secretary of the Department of Space, and Chairman of the Space Commission and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), with a term of three years.



K Sivan is currently Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center. he took over from A.S. Kiran Kumar. He joined ISRO in 1982 in the then young PSLV project and has been project director of the GSLV rocket.

6. Singapore-based Indian-origin Sunny Verghese appointed as Chairman of WBCSD

Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the Chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) for a two year term. Verghese is Co-Founder and the CEO of Singapore's agri-business group Olam International Limited.



Verghese replaced Paul Polman, the CEO of Unilever. Geneva-based WBCSD is a global network of more than 200 CEOs. The group commands a combined revenue of more than \$8.5 trillion and 19 million employees.

7. V J Mathew appointed as the new Chairman of Kerala Maritime Board

The Kerala state cabinet has appointed V.J. Mathew as the first Chairman of Kerala Maritime Board. Prakash Iyer, M.P. Shibu, M.K. Uthaman, and V. Manilal will be the government nominees on the board.



Mr Mathew is the legal consultant of Vizhinjam International container terminal company and Indian Maritime Association Co-President. The Board constituted by the government for the administration, control, and management of minor ports in the State.

8. NPCI appointed Mr. Dilip Asbe as MD & CEO

National Payments Corporation of India appointed Mr. Dilip Asbe as the Managing Director & CEO of the Company. Prior to this, he has experience of setting up payments infrastructure like National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC), RuPay international debit and credit card, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platforms using Aadhaar Payments Bridge (APB), National Financial Switch (NFS) and National Automated Clearing House.



National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was set up in 2009 as the central infrastructure for various retail payment systems in India and was envisaged by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the payment utility in the country.

9. Anil Khanna named as Chairman of IOA Finance Commission

Anil Khanna has been named as the new Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association. The Khanna-led Finance Commission has Sahdev Yadav, Secretary General, Indian Weightlifting Federation and DK Singh, Secretary, Uttarakhand Olympic Association, as members.



The IOA also formed a four-member advisory committee which comprises of Tarlochan Singh, GS Mander, S Regunathan and BS Landge. Mukesh Kumar has been nominated Chairman of the Games Technical Conduct Committee (GTCC) for National Games. Pawan Deep Singh Kohli was named Chairman of the Medical Commission.

10. Indu Malhotra first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as SC judge

Indu Malhotra became the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court after the apex court collegium has recommended her name. She will be the seventh woman judge since independence to make it to the Supreme Court.



Uttarakhand High Court Chief Justice K M Joseph was also elevated to the Supreme Court. In 1989, Justice M Fathima Beevi became the first woman to be appointed as a judge of the apex court.

11. Vijay Kumar took charge as MD & CEO of NCDEX

Vijay Kumar Venkataraman has taken charge as the new Managing Director and CEO of NCDEX for three years. He replaced outgoing MD and CEO Samir Shah.



Kumar is an agro-industry veteran and has worked with companies like National Bulk Handling Corporation, Cargill, Reliance Industries, Arthur Andersen, ITC Ltd, Britannia and Sharp Group. He has over 25 years of experience in leadership roles in the areas of commodity trading.

12. Vice Admiral AB Singh takes over as Chief of Staff Western Naval Command

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, AVSM, VSM took over as Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command from Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh, AVSM, NM. He was the Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Forces Command prior to his current appointment.



Vice Admiral AB Singh was an alumnus of National Defense Academy. He is a specialist in Navigation and Aircraft Direction and his important specialist appointments include Navigating Officer of INS Kamorta (during Op Pawan), and the destroyer INS Ranjit, besides being the Fleet Navigating Officer of Western Fleet during Op Prakaram.

13. OP Rawat appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner

Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat has taken over as the new Chief Election Commissioner, CEC. He succeeded Achal Kumar Joti. Mr Rawat is a 1977-batch IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre and was appointed to the Election Commission in August 2015. Rawat will stay in office till December 2018.



Former Finance Secretary Ashok Lawasa has been appointed as the new election commissioner against the vacancy caused by the elevation of Mr Rawat. Sunil Arora is the other commissioner in the poll body.

14. Facebook appointed American Express CEO Kenneth I. Chenault to board of directors

Facebook has appointed Kenneth I. Chenault, CEO of American Express, to its board of directors with effect from Feb. 5, 2018. He will be the company's first non-white board member.



Chenault joined American Express in 1981 and has been Chairman and CEO of AmEx since 2001. He is also part of the boards of IBM, Procter & Gamble, the Harvard Corporation and others.

15. S Selvakumar appointed as CMD of SPMCIL

The government has appointed S Selvakumar as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL). He took over from Anurag Agarwal with effect from 16th January, 2018.



S Selvakumar is currently Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance. SPMCIL produces bank notes, coins, postage stamps, non-judicial stamps and other official documents. It is a state-owned entity.

16. Former Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel sworn in as Madhya Pradesh governor

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel was sworn-in as the Madhya Pradesh Governor. Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court, Justice Hemant Gupta administered the oath of office to Ms Patel.

Gujarat Governor Om Prakash Kohli was holding the additional charge of the state, after Ramnath Yadav retired from the post in September 2016. Ms Patel, 76, was the chief minister of Gujarat from 2014 to August 2016.



17. Sudeep Lakhtakia appointed as the new NSG Chief

According to an order issued by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, Sudeep Lakhtakia has been appointed as the new chief of National Security Guard (NSG). He will take over from S P Singh, the current chief of the elite counter terror force, who retires on January 31.

Lakhtakia is a 1984-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and is currently serving as a Special Director General in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).



18. Dilip Chenoy appointed as Director General of FICCI

Industry Chamber FICCI has appointed Dilip Chenoy as its Director General. The position was lying vacant for two years after the retirement of Arvind Prasad. Chenoy would be looking after the day-to-day administrative affairs of the body.

Chenoy had been the Managing Director and CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Director General (DG) of SIAM and Deputy DG of CII. Chenoy had resigned from NSDC in late 2015.



19. Jerome H Powell to be the next Federal Reserve Chairman

The United States Senate has confirmed the appointment of Jerome H Powell as the next Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Powell will replace Janett Yellen.

Powell is currently a Fed governor. He was first appointed to the Fed board in 2012 by President Barack Obama. He has also worked as an investment banker and private equity investor as well as in the Treasury Department under President George H.W. Bush.



20. S Somnath took charge as the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Center

Noted scientist S Somanath has taken charge as the new Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Center. He took over from K Sivan.

Mr Somnath was currently the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Center which is the lead Center responsible for liquid engines and stages for all launch vehicles and satellite programs of ISRO. He joined ISRO in 1985. he was the Associate Director (Projects) of VSSC and also the Project Director of GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle.



21. Usha Ananthasubramanian became 1st Woman Chairman of IBA

Usha Ananthasubramanian has been elected the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for the year 2017-18 by its Managing Committee. She is the MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank. She will replace Jatinder Bir Singh.

State Bank of India Chairman Rajnish Kumar was elected Deputy Chairman of IBA for the year 2017-18. Indian Banks' Association is the industry body for banks.



Awards & Honors

1. JNPT won “Samudra Manthan - Caring Organisation of the Year” award

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has won the “Samudra Manthan - Caring Organisation of the Year” award. The award instituted by Bhandarkar Shipping aims to fuel healthy competition in the maritime sector. The port is fully committed to the welfare of its employees and their families.

Besides achieving operational excellence, JNPT provides excellent facilities to their staff like medical insurance, residential township with school, transport service, canteens, rest rooms, recreation, sports activities and regular training programs on various key topics.



2. CWC received CBIP Special Recognition Award 2018

The Central Water Commission (CWC) has been conferred with the CBIP Special Recognition Award 2018 by the Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP).

The award was given to CWC for promoting the health and safety of large dams in India through the World Bank aided Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). DRIP also assists in the capacity building of the Implementing Agencies through national and international training programmes in which about 3200 dam professionals have been trained on various aspects of dam safety aspects.



3. Sterling K Brown won Golden Globe

Actor Sterling K Brown created history by becoming the first African-American to win Golden Globe for best actor in a drama television series. Brown bagged the accolades for his role as Randall Pearson on NBC's breakout hit "This Is Us".

Elizabeth Moss won Golden Globe trophy in Best Drama Actress TV category for her performance in "The Handmaids Tale". Actor Nicole Kidman won the award for the Best



Actress in a Limited Series. The 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards were held at Beverly Hills in California.

4. Golden Globe Awards 2018: The Complete List of Winners

The 75th Golden Globe Award ceremony was held in Los Angeles, the USA. Complete List of Winners of Golden Globe Awards 2018:

1. Best motion picture, drama: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.
2. Best motion picture, musical or comedy: Lady Bird.
3. Best director, motion picture: Guillermo del Toro, "The Shape of Water".
4. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, drama: Frances McDormand.
5. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, drama: Gary Oldman.
6. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, musical or comedy: Saoirse Ronan.
7. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, musical or comedy: James Franco.
8. Best motion picture, animated: Coco
9. Best motion picture, foreign language: In the Fade
10. Best television series, drama: The Handmaid's Tale, Hulu
11. Best performance by an actress in a television series, drama: Elisabeth Moss.
12. Best performance by an actor in a television series, drama: Sterling K. Brown.

5. Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2016

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2016.

The four Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) was conferred on Shri Arvind Parikh, Smt. R. Vedavalli, Shri Ram Gopal Bajaj and Shri Sunil Kothari. The Fellows received Rs 3 lakh, an angavastram, and a tamrapatra. 43 artists were honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2016 and received Rs 1 lakh, an angavastram, and a tamrapatra.



6. Actor Sudhir Dalvi gets Janakavi P Sawlaram award

Actor Sudhir Dalvi was honoured with the Janakavi P Sawlaram award. The award is jointly given by the Thane Municipal Corporation and the Janakavi P Savlaram Kala Samiti. Popular dancer Jaishree T was bestowed with the Ganga Jamuna award.

Dalvi is well known for his role as Guru Vashishta in Ramanand Sagar's TV series "Ramayan". He also featured in the famous TV show "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi" and other Hindi serials.



7. Shah Rukh Khan received prestigious Crystal Award at WEF

Shah Rukh Khan has received the prestigious Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum in Davos for raising awareness about human rights issues and his work for acid attacks victims.

Shah Rukh is a founder of a non-profit foundation which provides support to female victims of acid attacks and major burn injuries through medical treatment, legal aid, vocational training, rehabilitation and livelihood support. The Crystal Award is given by the WEF to artists who make a positive change in society.



8. 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018

The 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018 was held at the NSCI Dome in Worli, Mumbai. The key winners of the award are:

SI No	Category	Winner
1.	Best Film	'Hindi Medium'
2.	Critics' Award for Best Film	'Newton'
3.	Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female)	Vidya Balan for 'Tumhari Sulu'
4.	Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male)	Irrfan Khan for 'Hindi Medium'
5.	Critics' Award for Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Trapped'
6.	Critics' Award for Best Actor (Female)	Zaira Wasim for 'Secret Superstar'
7.	Best Director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
8.	Best Debut Director	Konkona Sensharma for 'A Death in the Gunj'
9.	Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
10.	Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Meher Vij for 'Secret Superstar'

9. PM Modi presented National Bravery Awards to 18 children

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave away the National Bravery Awards to 18 children which included seven girls. Three of the awards were given posthumously. The awards are divided into five categories- Bharat Award, Geeta Chopra Award, Sanjay Chopra Award, Babu Gaidhani Award, and General National Bravery Awards.



- Bharat Award: Kumari Nazia of Uttar Pradesh.
- Geeta Chopra Award: Ms. Netrawati M. Chavan
- Sanjay Chopra Award: Karanbeer Singh of Punjab

10. Tamil Nadu CM Edappady K Palaniswami received UNESCO Award

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappady K. Palaniswami has been honoured with the UNESCO Award of Merit awarded to the iconic Ranganathaswamy temple in Srirangam (Tiruchy).



The Award of Merit, 2017, was given by UNESCO Asia Pacific region for the cultural heritage conservation activities taken up at the temple without altering its original splendour. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu who is seen in reclining form.

11. Padma Vibhushan Awards 2018

The government has announced recipients of the Padma Vibhushan Awards. The 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service. The list comprises 3 Padma Vibhushan winners in 2018.

Sl.	Name	Field
1	Shri Illaiyaraja	Art-Music
2	Shri Ghulam Mustafa Khan	Art-Music
3	Shri Parameswaran Parameswaran	Literature and Education

12. Padma Bhushan Awards 2018

The government has announced recipients of the Padma Bhushan Awards. The 'Padma Bhushan' is awarded for distinguished service of high order. The list comprises 9 Padma Bhushan winners in 2018.

Sl.	Name	Field
1	Shri Pankaj Advani	Sports- Billiards/Snooker
2	Shri Philipose Mar Chrysostom	Others- Spiritualism
3	Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Sports- Cricket
4	Shri Alexander Kadakin (Foreigner/Posthumous)	Public Affairs
5	Shri Ramachandran Nagaswamy	Others- Archaeology
6	Shri Ved Prakash Nanda (OCI)	Literature and Education
7	Shri Laxman Pai	Art- Painting
8	Shri Arvind Parikh	Art- Music
9	Ms. Sharda Sinha	Art- Music

13. Padma Shri Awards 2018

The government has announced recipients of the Padma Shri Awards. The 'Padma Shri' is awarded for distinguished service in any field. The list comprises 73 Padma Shri winners in 2018. The key recipients are:

SI.	Name	Field
1	Shri Kidambi Srikanth	Sports- Badminton
2	Shri Damodar Ganesh Bapat	Social Work
3	Shri Prafulla Govinda Baruah	Literature and Education- Journalism
4	Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Sports- Weightlifting
5	Shri Somdev Devvarman	Sports- Tennis
6	Shri Anwar Jalalpur	Literature and Education
7	Ms. Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan	Art- Folk Music
8	Shri Romulus Whitaker	Others- Wildlife

14. President conferred Ashok Chakra on Air Force corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala posthumously

President Ram Nath Kovind awarded India's highest peacetime military decoration Ashok Chakra posthumously to Indian Air Force Garud commando Corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala, who laid down his life after gunning down two terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

The award was received by Corporal Nirala's wife Sushmanand and his mother Malti Devi at the majestic Rajpath. Ashok Chakra is the highest peacetime military decoration for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.



15. Republic Day Parade 2018 best contingent & tableau awards

Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gave away the Republic Day Parade 2018 best contingent and tableau awards. Punjab Regiment Contingent was awarded the best marching contingent while Indo-Tibetan Border Police awarded the best marching contingent among the para-military and other auxiliary forces.



The tableau from Maharashtra depicting coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj won the first prize, while tableau from Assam depicting traditional masks and sastras bagged second and Tableau of Chhattisgarh, depicting Ramgarh's ancient amphitheatre was awarded third prize.

16. Documentary on Kailash Satyarthi won US Documentary Grand Jury Award

A film on the life of Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi has won the US Documentary Grand Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival held at Park City in Utah.



The documentary, titled 'Kailash' has been directed by debutante Derek Doneen. It traces the journey of Satyarthi and his efforts to eliminate child trafficking and child labour. The film has been produced by Davis Guggenheim and Sarah Anthony, and co-produced by Purnima Raghunath.

17. Asha Bhosle selected for 5th Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Asha Bhosle has been selected for the 5th 'Yash Chopra Memorial Award'. The other four recipients of the award are playback singer Lata Mangeshkar, and actors Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, and Shah Rukh Khan.



Books & Authors

1. Akashwani Sahitya Sampada book released at World Book Fair

Prasar Bharati Chairman Dr A Surya Prakash released a book - Akashwani Sahitya Sampada at New Delhi world book fair at Pragati Maidan. The book has been brought out by the National Book Trust in three volumes. These books contain the rare broadcast material of Akashwani.



The New Delhi World Book Fair is organized by National Book Trust (NBT) in association with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) annually at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It is India's second oldest book fair after the Kolkata Book Fair.

2. World Book Fair 2018 held in Delhi

New Delhi World Book Fair was held in Delhi. The Fair is organized by National Book Trust, India, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Many literary and publishing conferences and programmes were organized during the Fair and opened up a gateway to the publishing and intellectual world of South Asia.



The Fair attracted participation from major publishing houses of the globe. The annual book fair involved 800 publishers from across the country in different languages. Book fairs invited authors to launch their books or have conversations.

3. Union Minister Radha Mohan Singh released coffee table book on mass embryo transfer

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched a Coffee table book on mass embryo transfer by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries. The Minister also launched software to collect data for 20th livestock Census.



This software will have all the tools to prepare analytical reports and real-time monitoring of census operation. The government has launched a new scheme called Rashtriya Gokul

Mission in December 2014. National Mission on Bovine Productivity was started in November 2016 to increase production and productivity of bovine population in the country.

4. Sanjay Manjrekar launched his Autobiography, titled 'Imperfect'

Former India batsman-turned-commentator Sanjay Manjrekar launched his autobiography named 'Imperfect', in Mumbai. The book 'Imperfect' was released by Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar's first international captain.

Sanjay played 37 Tests and scored 2,043 runs with a career-best 218 against Pakistan. He retired with an average of just over 37 with four hundreds to his credit in 1996. he also played in 74 ODIs for the country.



Committees

1. Committee of Governors Constituted During 48th Conference of Governors Submits Its Report

The Committee of Governors, constituted during the 48th Conference of Governors in October 2017 submitted its report 'Rajyapal – VikasKeRajdoot: Catalytic Role of Governors as Agents for Change in Society'.

The Committee comprises Shri ESL Narasimhan, Shri BanwarilalPurohit, Shri Ram Naik, Shri Tathagata Roy, and Acharya Devvrat. This Committee was constituted to examine the role of Governors in taking forward the developmental process.



2. Three-member SIT formed to supervise probe into 186 riot cases of 1984

The Supreme Court has set up a three-member special investigation team (SIT) headed by former Delhi High Court judge Justice S N Dhingra to supervise further probe into 186 anti-Sikh riot cases.

Besides Justice Dhingra, serving IPS officer Abhishek Dular and retired IG rank officer Rajdeep Singh would be part of the SIT and will submit its status report within two months. Large-scale riots had broken out in the aftermath of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi which claimed 2,733 lives in Delhi alone.



3. 9th high powered review board Meeting of Brahmaputra board held

The 9th meeting of high powered review board of Brahmaputra board was held at Borgos, Kaziranga in Assam. The meeting discussed restructuring of Brahmaputra Board and advised that funds should be largely spent for works and limited funds should be spent for establishment costs including salary and wages. High Powered Review Board ratified the project for protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion for an amount of Rs. 237 crore. This project has been sponsored by Brahmaputra Board for an amount of Rs. 3.00 crore.



Deaths

1. Veteran poet Anwar Jalalpuri passed away

Famous poet Anwar Jalalpuri died at the age of 71 years due to brain stroke. He was known for his Urdu poetry and his translations of shloks of Bhagwad Geeta and Gitanjali into Urdu in Shayari format. He belonged to Jalalpur in Uttar Pradesh.

He has been recipient of Uttar Pradesh's highest civilian honour Yash Bharti. The veteran poet died due to heart attack after he returned from the funeral of one of his acquaintances.



2. Nuclear Physicist Baldev Raj passed away

Nuclear Physicist Baldev Raj passed away at the age of 70 years. Currently he was serving as the Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, since 2014.

Mr Raj was the former Director of the Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam. For his contributions to studies of nuclear power and his administration, he was conferred the Padma Shri in 2007. He has authored around 1,000 academic papers in peer reviewed journals and more than 70 books.



3. US Astronaut John Young passed away

Astronaut John Young, who walked on the Moon during Apollo 16 and commanded the first space shuttle mission passed away at the age of 87 years.

Young began his impressive career at NASA in 1962, when he was selected from among hundreds of young pilots to join NASA's second astronaut class, known as the "New Nine." He was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1988. Young's numerous awards and special honors included the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.



4. World Champion power-lifter Saksham Yadav passed away

National-level power-lifter Saksham Yadav passed away at the age of 24 years. He had sustained grievous head injuries following an accident near the Singhu Border in outer Delhi's Alipur area.

Saksham had won a gold medal for India at powerlifting world championship held in Moscow in December 2017. He had also won a gold medal in the junior category in 2016.



5. Peter Sutherland, first WTO Director-General, passed away

Peter Sutherland, the first Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), has passed away at the age of 71 years.

Mr Sutherland became Ireland's Attorney General in 1981 and served as the European Commissioner for Competition from 1985 to 1989. In 2006, then United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan named Mr Sutherland as UN Special Representative for Migration, a position which he retained for the rest of his life.



6. Veteran Actress Charu Rohatgi passed away

Actress Charu Rohatgi passed away at the age of 48 years. She was best known for her role as Parineeti Chopra's mother in Ishaqzaade.

Charu has also featured in TV shows like Pratigya, Uttaran and Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon. Rohatgi had started her acting career with the TV show Ladies Special.



7. Former Union Minister Raghunath Jha passed away

Former Union Minister Raghunath Jha passed away at the age of 78 years. The senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader was Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise in the UPA government. Mr Jha was elected Member of Parliament twice from Gopalganj and Bettiah Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar. He was also six-time legislator from Sheohar Assembly constituency of the State.



8. 'Father of South African Jazz', Hugh Masekela, passed away

Trumpeter and singer Hugh Masekela passed away at the age of 78 years. He was known as the “father of South African jazz”.

Masekela scored an unlikely No. 1 hit on the Billboard chart with his song "Grazing in the Grass". He opened the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Kick-Off Concert and performed at the event's opening ceremony in Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium. He gained international recognition with his distinctive Afro-Jazz sound.



9. Ursula K. Le Guin passed away

Award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer, Ursula K. Le Guin, passed way at the age of 88 years. Le Guin won an honorary National Book Award in 2014.

Le Guin was a Pulitzer Prize finalist with her 1996 collection “Unlocking the Air and Other Stories”. One of her most acclaimed novels, “The Left Hand of Darkness” (1969), received the Nebula and Hugo awards. Her best-known works, the Earthsea books, have sold in the millions worldwide and have been translated into 16 languages.



10. Veteran Bengali film actress Supriya Devi passed away

Veteran Bengali film actress Supriya Devi died at the age of 85 years. Supriya Devi made her debut in Uttam Kumar-starrer 'Basu Parivar' in 1952 and never looked back after 'Sonar Harin' opposite Uttam Kumar in 1959. 'Chowringhee', 'Bagh Bandi Khela' and 'Meghe Dhaka Tara' were among her classics.

Supriya Devi received the Padma Shri and West Bengal government's highest civilian award Banga Vibhushan, besides the Filmfare East Lifetime Achievement Award.



Defense

1. Defense Innovation Center to be set up in Coimbatore

Defense Innovation Center will be set up in Coimbatore to assist small industries in manufacturing components for the Defense sector. Defense Ministry will release 20 crore rupees as an initial funding to the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA) to set up the innovation center.

Small and micro units as well as startups, that can manufacture components required for the Defense production, would be identified by the association. Association can design or test their products at the center.



2. Army Technology Seminar: 2018

The second edition of Army Technology Seminar was organized at Manekshaw Center by the Indian Army. The theme of the seminar was 'Technology as a Key Enabler to Overcome Challenges of Military Operations in High Altitude'. It highlighted the current and long term needs of technology and equipment for the Indian Army.

The seminar was attended by Serving Officers of the Indian Army, DRDO Scientists, representatives of Industry and Academia.



3. Army Air Defense Corps Celebrated its 25th Raising Day

The Army Air Defense Corps celebrated its 25th Raising Day. The Corps of Army Air Defense was raised on January 10, 1994 and every year 10th January is celebrated as the Raising Day of the Army Air Defense Corps.

The Corps of Army Air Defense is responsible for the protection of Indian air space from enemy aircraft and missiles, especially below 5,000 feet. The sentence "आकाशे शत्रुन् जहि" (Akashe Shatrun Jahi) of Devanagari script, which means "Kill the Enemy in the Sky" was adopted as the regimental motto in 1996.



4. Indian Air Force conquered 'Seven Summits'

The Indian Air Force has become the first organisation in India to have successfully scaled highest peaks of all seven continents. An expert team of IAF mountaineers completed the Mission Seven Summits. The five member team was led by Gp Capt RC Tripathi VM(G).



The seven highest peaks scaled by the team are: Mount Everest (8848m) in Asia, Mount Aconcagua (6962m) in South America, Mount Denali (6190m) in North America, Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m) in Africa, Mount Elbrus (5642m) in Europe, Mount Vinson (4897m) in Antarctica, and Carstensz Pyramid (4884 metres) in Australasia.

5. Successful Fifth Flight Test of Agni-5 Ballistic Missile

The fifth test of Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile, Agni-5, was successfully flight tested for its full range from Dr Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The missile covered a distance of 4,900 km in 19 minutes.



It was the third consecutive test from a canister on a road mobile launcher. All the five missions have been successful. Agni-V is an intercontinental ballistic missile developed by the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India. It has a range of over 5,000 km.

6. Second Coast Guard patrol vessel Vijaya launched

The second offshore patrol vessel (OPV) 'Vijaya' was launched at the Indian Coast Guard at its Greenfield Defense shipyard in Kattupalli near Chennai.



The indigenously built vessel 'Vijaya' is built by the Larsen and Toubro Shipyard. The vessel is equipped with state-of-art radar, navigational and communication system. It will be utilised for day and night patrol and surveillance. It is fitted with 30 mm automatic gun with Fire Control System (FCS) and two units of 12.7 mm gun with FCS and a navigation and communication system.

7. Indigenous 14 seater SARAS prototype 1N aircraft successfully flight tested

The indigenous 14 seater SARAS prototype 1N aircraft was successfully flight tested in Bengaluru. The maiden flight took off from HAL airport and flew for about 40 minutes at the maximum height of 8500 feet clocking the speed of 145 knots.



The prototype is jointly designed and developed by CSIR, NAL and other public sector organizations. The data will be used to freeze the design of production version aircraft with 19 seats meant for civil and military certification.

8. Alpha Design Technologies wins firing simulator order from India Army

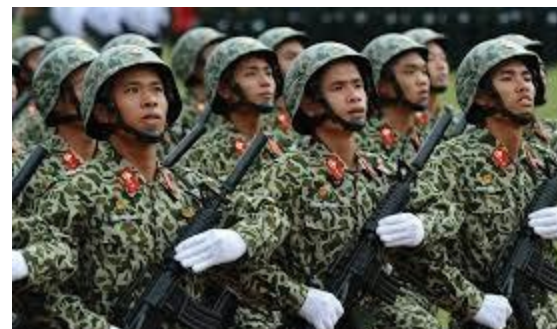
Alpha Design Technologies Ltd has signed a Rs 45-crore deal with the Ministry of Defense to set up three hi-tech simulators for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to train its pilots to fly the Russian-made MiG-29 and MI-17 helicopters, which are stationed at the respective air bases.



The company will operate and manage the simulators on the IAF's air bases at Adhampur near Jalandhar in Punjab, Sarsawa near Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Bagdogra near Darjeeling in West Bengal. It will operate the simulators for 20 years from mid-2017.

9. India and Vietnam hold first military exercise

Armies of India and Vietnam held a six day-long military exercise in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. The exercise, named 'VINBAX' is the first military exercise between the two countries. India and Vietnam have been exploring ways to strengthen Defense cooperation.



Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc was in New Delhi to participate in the India-ASEAN Commemorative summit and attend the Republic Day celebrations. Defense ties between India and Vietnam have been on an upswing with the primary focus being cooperation in the maritime domain.

Economic

1. FDI equity inflow of US\$6492.19 million in the food processing sector

According to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, there has been FDI equity inflow of US\$6492.19 million in the food processing sector during 2010-11 to 2016-17. As per the latest survey, the total invested capital by the registered food processing units was at Rs.368,43,371 lakhs and the number of registered food processing units has increased from 35,838 in 2010-11 to 38,603 in 2014-15.



State-wise Invested Capital in Registered Food Processing Units by 2014-15

Sr. No.	State	Invested Capital (Rs. Lakh)
1	Punjab	2298109
2	Andhra Pradesh	2303736
3	Tamil Nadu	2809159

2. IMF reported India as 2nd fastest growing major economy in 2017 in world

IMF reported India as the fastest growing major economy in 2016 and second fastest growing major economy in 2017 in the world. Government has taken various initiatives to boost the growth of the economy which include fillip to manufacturing, concrete measures for transport and power sectors as well as other urban and rural infrastructure and special package for textile industry.



3. 8 core sectors grew by 6.8% in Nov 2017

Eight core sectors growth hits at a fastest pace in more than a year at 6.8% in November 2017 on account of robust performance in segments like refinery, steel and cement.

According to the data released by the commerce and industry ministry, eight industries coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity had witnessed a growth of 3.2% in



November 2016. A healthy growth in key sectors will have positive implications on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) as these eight segments account for about 41% of the total factory output.

4. First advance estimates of National Income 2017-18

The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the first advance estimates of national income at constant (2011-12) and current prices, for the financial year 2017-18. Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in the year 2017-18 is likely to attain a level of Rs 129.85 lakh crore. The growth in GDP during 2017-18 is estimated at 6.5% as compared to the growth rate of 7.1% in 2016-17.



GDP is likely to attain a level of Rs 166.28 lakh crore and per capita net national income to be Rs 111,782.

5. Growth likely to be higher than CSO estimate of 2.1%

Agriculture Ministry reported that India's agriculture sector is expected to grow higher than projected 2.1% growth by the Central Statistical Office for the current fiscal, following better rabi crop prospects. CSO reported that agriculture, forestry and fishing is likely to slow a growth of 2.1% in the current fiscal from 4.9% in the preceding year.



6. GDP growth during current fiscal to be 6.5%

The Growth in GDP during 2017-18 has been estimated at 6.5% as compared to 7.1% in 2016-17. The growth in manufacturing sector is expected to decelerate to 4.6% this fiscal, down from 7.9% in 2016-17.

The per capita income in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2017-18 is likely to attain a level of Rs 86660 as compared to Rs 82269 for the year 2016-17. The growth rate in per capita income is estimated at 5.3% during 2017-18, as against 5.7% in the previous year.



7. India's factory production in November rises by 8%

Industrial production growth rose to 8.4% in November 2017 on the back of robust performance of manufacturing and capital goods sectors. The factory output, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 5.1% in November 2016.



Manufacturing sector recorded an impressive growth of 10.2% in November, the growth of mining sector production was 1.1% and Electricity generation growth was 3.9%.

Pharmaceuticals clocked the highest growth of 39.5%, followed by 29.1% in computer, electronic and optical products and 22.6% in the automobile segment.

8. 2018 Global Economics Prospect unveiled India's GDP at 7.3% for 2018

2018 Global Economics Prospect was released by World Bank. World Bank projected India's growth rate at 7.3% in 2018 and 7.5% in 2019 due to impact of demonetization and GST. It has also been stated in the report that India's growth potential will be 7% in the upcoming 10 years. Global growth reached 3% in 2017, its strongest rate since 2011 and is expected to reach up to 3.1% in 2018.



The global outlook is still subject to downside risks due to geopolitical tensions. Growth in low-income countries (LICs) is projected to rise to 5.4 percent in 2018.

9. Direct Tax Collections for F.Y. 2017-2018 show Growth of 18.7% up to 15th January, 2018

The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections up to 15th January, 2018 show that net collections are at Rs. 6.89 lakh crore which is 18.7% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.



The net Direct Tax collections represent 70.3% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for F.Y. 2017-18 (Rs. 9.8 lakh crore). Gross collections (before adjusting for refunds) have increased by 13.5% to Rs. 8.11 lakh crore during April, 2017 to 15th January, 2018.

10. Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through Tourism (in Rs. terms) for Dec 2017

1. FEEs during the month of December 2017 were Rs. 19,514 crore as compared to Rs. 16,558 crore in December 2016 and Rs. 14,152 crore in December 2015.
2. The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms in December 2017 over December 2016 has increased to 17.9%, compared to 17.0% in December 2016 over December 2015.
3. FEEs during 2017 were Rs. 1,80,379 crore with a growth of 17.0% over 2016. Whereas, the FEEs during 2016 were Rs.1,54,146 crore with a growth of 14.0% over 2015.

11. Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through Tourism (in US \$ terms) for Dec 2017

1. FEEs in US\$ terms during the month of December 2017 were US\$ 3.038 billion as compared to FEEs of US\$ 2.439 billion during the month of December 2016 and US\$ 2.126 billion in December 2015.
2. The growth rate in FEEs in US\$ terms in December 2017 over December 2016 has increased to 24.6% compared to the growth of 14.7% in December 2016 over December 2015.
3. FEEs during 2017 were US\$ 27.693 billion with a growth of 20.8% over 2016. The FEEs during 2016 were US\$ 22.923 billion with a growth of 8.8% over 2015.

12. Government lowered additional borrowings to Rs 20,000 crore in FY18

The government has lowered the additional borrowing requirement for the current fiscal to Rs 20,000 crore from Rs 50,000 crore estimated earlier.

The government had earlier in December 2017 had said that it would make additional borrowing of Rs 50,000 crore this fiscal through dated securities. However, there would have been no change in the net borrowing as envisaged in the budget. The government had pegged the fiscal deficit target of Rs 3.2 per cent of the GDP for the current fiscal.



13. Exports rise more than 12% in December 2017

The overall goods exports (year-on-year) has risen by 12.36% to \$27.03 billion in December 2017 on account of increase in exports of engineering goods and petroleum products. Total exports for the period April-December 2017-18 were \$223.51 billion.



Also, imports have risen by 21.1% to \$41.91 billion in December 2017. This widened the trade deficit to \$14.88 billion in December 2017 compared to \$10.54 billion in December 2016. Overall imports for the period April-December 2017-18 were valued at \$338.36 billion.

14. Indian Oil enters into technology tie-up with Israeli companies

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has signed Letters of Intent (LoI) with Phinergy, an Israeli start-up company, and YEDA, a technology company from Weizmann Research Institute in Israel.



The Letter of Intent with M/s. Phinergy enables Indian Oil to work on adoption of advanced energy systems for the Indian market for both mobility and stationary industrial applications. Letter of Intent signed with YEDA (Weizmann Institute) will pave the way for research collaboration between both the organisations for developing solar to green fuel technologies through concentrated solar thermal route.

15. India to become fastest growing large economy in 2018

According to a Sanctum Wealth Management report, India will become the fastest growing large economy in the world, eclipsing China, in 2018 and the country's equity market will jump to become the fifth largest in the world.



According to the report, at a time when developed economies are cheering 2-3% growth, India is focused on breaching 7.5%. Domestic mutual funds bought equities worth 15.3 billion US Dollar against 8 billion US Dollar by foreign investors in 2017.

16. India Ratings and Research project 7.1% growth in 2018-19

India Ratings and Research has projected the economic growth of India to improve to 7.1% in 2018-19 as compared to 6.5% during 2017-18 supported by robust consumption demand and low commodity prices.

The gradual growth will be buoyed by structural reforms like GST and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in place. ADB and IMF have predicted the growth rate for 2018-19 to be at 7.3% and 7.4% respectively.



17. India to grow at 7.4% in 2018: IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected a growth of 7.4% for India in 2018 as against China's 6.8%, making it the fastest growing country among the emerging economies.

Due to demonetisation and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), India's economy slowed down a little bit to 6.7% in 2016. The IMF has projected a 7.8% growth rate for India in 2019. China, during the same period is expected to grow at 6.6% and 6.4%.



18. Government collected Rs 86,703 cr under GST in December 2017

Government has collected Rs 86,703 crore under GST in December 2017. One crore taxpayers have been registered under GST so far. Of them over 17 lakh are Composition Dealers which are required to file returns every quarter.

According to the Ministry of Finance, over 56 lakh GSTR 3B returns have been filed for the month of December till yesterday. 9.25 lakh returns were filed by Composition Dealers, paying a sum of over 421 crore rupees during October- December quarter.



19. Key points of Economic Survey 2017-18

According to the Economic Survey 2017-18, India's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 7% to 7.5% in 2018-19.

1. The average retail inflation has declined to a six-year low of 3.3%.
2. The Agriculture growth in FY18 likely to be at 2.1%
3. Industry growth for FY18 likely to be 4.4%
4. Services growth for FY18 likely to be at 8.3%
5. GST tax payers increased by 50%
6. Export growth is pegged at 12.1%
7. India will need \$4.5 trillion investment in infrastructure by 2040
8. Current account deficit expected to average 1.5-2% of the GDP this fiscal

20. India's crude steel production rises 6.2% to 101.4 MT in 2017

India has overtaken the US to become the world's third-largest steel producer. Country's crude steel production grew by 6.2% to 101.4 million tonnes, MT, in 2017 compared to 95.5 MT in the previous year.

Japan, the second largest global steel producer, witnessed a negative growth as steel output declined by 0.1% to 104.7 MT in 2017 from 104.8 MT in 2016. China remained the world leader by producing 831.7 MT in 2017, up 5.7% from 786.9 MT in the year-ago period.



21. HSBC forecasted India's GDP Growth at 6.5% in FY18 and 7.6% in FY20

HSBC forecasted India's GDP Growth at 6.5% in FY18 and 7.6% in FY20 due to demonetization and implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST). HSBC has forecasted that RBI will keep the repo rate on hold and reverse repo at 5.75 per cent while raising the inflation forecast for the remainder of 2017-18 to 4.3-4.7 per cent. Inflation is forecasted to be low down to 4%.

HSBC Holdings plc is a British multinational banking and financial services holding company, tracing its origin to a Hong in Hong Kong.



Environment

1. World to experience enhanced global warming of 2 degree Celcius

Scientists reported that there is an increase of 2 degree Celcius in world global warming. It will also impact significant life emerging in many parts of the world. Researchers sought that the reducing greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere will keep the global warming under 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius.



Scientists have reported serious threat such as agriculture, water quality, and biodiversity due to dryness of the land surface from precipitation and evaporation.

2. Schistura larketensis, new species of blind fish discovered in Meghalaya

A new species of blind fish, Schistura larketensis was discovered from Larket village, inside a cave in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya. The fish has been named after Larket village, where the cave was found.



Researchers have found that fish lost its sight due to reduction in orbital diameter as it matures. Since the cave is about 880 meters above sea level and over 7 km in length, blind fish lived in dark waters and lost its pigments too. Schistura larketensis is a fish having blackish spot-like depressions at the place of eyes.

3. Mercedes-Benz introduces India's first 'BS VI compliant - Made in India, for India' vehicle

Mercedes-Benz became the first automobile brand in India to launch the first ever BS VI compliant vehicles, 'Made in India, for India'. Mercedes-Benz has introduced BS-VI vehicles in India almost 2 years in advance of the regulations.



The Certificate of Compliance to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) for Mercedes-Benz India was presented by Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI). In a BS VI vehicle the Nitrous Oxide (NOx) limit reduction is upto 68% and Particulate Matter (PM) limit reduction is achieved at 82%, compared to that in BS-IV.

1. Parliament passed NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Parliament passed the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017. The Bill seeks to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981. The Bill allows the central government to increase the authorised capital of the Bank from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 30,000 crore. The capital can be increased further by the government in consultation with the RBI.



NABARD is responsible for providing and regulating facilities like credit for agricultural and industrial development in the rural areas.

2. Customers will not be charged on debit card transactions up to ₹2,000

Union Cabinet approved a proposal that government will bear the merchant discount rate (MDR) charges on transactions up to Rs 2,000 made through debit cards, BHIM UPI or Aadhaar-enabled payment systems to promote digital transactions. Customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments through debit card, BHIM app and other payment made for up to Rs 2,000.



Merchant discount rate (MDR) will be borne by the government for two years with effect from January 1, 2018 by reimbursing the same to banks.

3. Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank operationalized desktop ATMs in Rural India

Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) started operations of its first desktop mini ATM in rural area of Telangana. This is done to facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts within the branch premises. The first such mini ATM is inaugurated at Kasibugga in Mandi Bazar of Warangal in Telangana. Around 100 more desktop ATMs in different busy branches will be installed.



Desktop ATMs are designed to work in harsh climatic conditions and with minimum power requirements.

4. HDFC Bank partnered with Rajasthan Government to promote Start-Ups

HDFC Bank entered into a partnership with Government of Rajasthan to promote and nurture the start-ups in the state. Under the MOU, HDFC Bank will partner with the state Government to provide end-to-end solutions like current accounts, credit cards and other solutions to start-ups under SmartUp programme of HDFC Bank. Further, the Bank will not only evaluate the offerings by Startups in Rajasthan but also given them an opportunity to showcase their solutions/technologies.



The bank's new SmartUp portal, start-ups will be able to tap into the knowledge and experience of a complete network of start-ups.

5. SBI and NABARD to promote Joint Liability Groups in Bengal

NABARD in union with SBI will promote 2,500 joint liability groups (JLGs) in selected districts of the Bengal. Both have signed MoU with 5 NGOs. With this, NABARD will be able to achieve its target of credit linking 80,000 JLGs in West Bengal in 2017-18.



Under this MoU, NABARD will provide financial assistance of 60,000 JLGs by various NGOs through 339 projects in different districts and Joint Liability Groups are the 4-10 membered groups of tenant farmers who take responsibility to repay loans taken by the group from a bank.

6. RBI Bonds scheme replaced by 7.75% savings bonds scheme

Government of India announced to launch 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 replacing 8% GoI Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2003, to enable resident citizens/HUF to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling. The Bonds are open to investment by individuals (including Joint Holdings) and Hindu Undivided Families. NRIs are not eligible for making investments in these Bonds. Interest on the Bonds will be taxable under the Income-tax Act, 1961.



7. RBI imposed PCA on Allahabad Bank

RBI has triggered Prompt Corrective Action against Corporation Bank and imposed certain restrictions on it due to high non-performing loans, insufficient CET1 Capital and negative ROA for two years in a row. RBI has earlier placed restrictions on 10 banks which such as Oriental Bank of Commerce, Dena Bank, Central Bank of India and UCO Bank. Banks are placed under PCA on basis of Risk Based Supervision Model.



Once RBI initiates PCA against a bank, it can't open branches, recruit staff, or give employee increments, and can disburse loans only to companies with borrowing above investment grades.

8. IICA and IPPB inked MoU to provide training on payment banking

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed an agreement for the training of employees of India Post Payments Bank. IICA has been entrusted with the key responsibility of capacity building of IPPB through training of its officials/employees.



Training takes a central role as it impacts the operational efficiency as well proper utilisation of available technology. It will be agents" and bankers" understanding and initiative that will alleviate the fear of technology.

9. Paytm Payments Bank partnered with IndusInd bank for FD facility

Paytm Payments Bank partnered with IndusInd Bank to introduce a first-of-its kind facility to create a linked Fixed Deposit. Fixed deposit will have sweep out facility with balance exceeding Rs 1 lakh, providing 6.85 percent annual interest. Customers can redeem their deposit instantly, anytime without paying any pre-closure or miscellaneous charges. Senior citizens FDR will be on auto renewal mode under senior citizen scheme.



Paytm Payments Bank offers banking services and accept deposits of upto Rs. 1 lakh per customer in a Savings Account.

10. RBI approved TIHCL to operate as NBFC

Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited received RBI nod to register itself and work as a non-banking finance company (NBFC). Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited will be the first state promoted and co-financing NBFC. The company received SKOCH Platinum Award in September 2017 under the smart governance category in the MSME segment.

Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd has been appreciated for implementing the resolution of stressed assets in micro and small manufacturing enterprises which the faced from banks.



11. IndusInd Bank introduced India's first battery-powered interactive payment card

IndusInd Bank in partnership with Dynamics Inc. announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.

The new card has multiple buttons that let the consumers use a single card to pay in multiple ways. With a touch of a button consumers can select credit, points or monthly installments as payment option. A different color light will activate based on the selected payment option.

IndusInd Bank

12. Paytm announced set up of Paytm Money Ltd

Paytm announced the setting up of 'Paytm Money Limited', a wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications to build investment of \$10 million by creating a new entity. Paytm Money is meant for offering investment and wealth management solutions to customers. Paytm will have to seek approval from SEBI for acting as an investment advisor.

paytm

One97' has presented 4th product named as Paytm money ltd, after Paytm Mall, Paytm Payments Bank and Paytm wallet.

13. Flipkart's PhonePe inked MoU with FreeCharge

FreeCharge has partnered with Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe so that existing Freecharge wallets of customers will be able to link PhonePe used by 45 million users. Customers will easily be able to pay money using PhonePe using Freecharge wallets. Customers can pay on MakeMyTrip, PVR, Cleartrip, 1mg, FreshMenu, Cafe Coffee Day, Apollo Pharmacy, KFC, Barista, Spencer's and FoodWorld.



FreeCharge is an e-commerce website to recharge any prepaid mobile phone, postpaid mobile, DTH & Data Cards in India. PhonePe is a Fin-Tech company that provides online payment system based on Unified Payments Interface.

14. PNB inked MoU with NSFDC for assisting SC Families

Punjab National Bank and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Cast (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).



PNB, through its huge network and customer base, would act as Channelizing Agent (CA) for the loan schemes of NSFDC whereas NSFDC will provide concessional finance for setting up of self-employment projects and skill-training grants to unemployed SC persons living below the Poverty Line.

15. India becomes top borrower from AIIB in 2017

India became the top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans in 2017 and USD three billion more in the pipeline. Indonesia has emerged as the second largest borrower with about USD 600 million loans.



AIIB has a total authorised capital of USD 100 billion. China is the largest shareholder with 26.06% voting shares while India is the second

largest shared holder with 7.5% voting rights. AIIB charges about 1% to 1.5% interest with long term repayment including five-year grace period.

16. Capital First to Merge With IDFC Bank in an All-stock Deal

IDFC Bank and Warburg Pincus-backed non-banking financial company Capital First will merge in a share swap deal valued at about \$1.5 billion.

According to terms of the deal, shareholders in Capital First will receive 139 shares of the bank for every 10 shares held. Capital First's founder and Chairman V. Vaidyanathan will become chief executive of the combined entity. Post-merger, the combined entity will have an AUM of Rs 88,000 crore; PAT of Rs 1,268 crore (FY17).



17. BSE's India International Exchange lists IRFC's first Green Bond

BSE's India International Exchange (India Inx) has listed Indian Railways Finance Corporation's (IRFC) first green bond on its global securities market. The 10 year \$500 million worth bonds have an annual yield of 3.835% and are one of the highest credit rated bonds issued by an Indian corporate.

BSE's India Inx, which was inaugurated on January 9, 2017, is the country's first capital raising platform for international investors in any currency.



18. Bank of Baroda partnered with Invoicemart as a TReDS partner

Bank of Baroda has tied up with digital invoice marketplace Invoicemart to discount invoices for MSMEs. Buyers and sellers registered on the marketplace will now be able to access funding from Bank of Baroda.

TReDS is an online mechanism that helps MSMEs unlock working capital without the hassle of applying for loans. Invoicemart a joint venture between Axis Bank and mjunction services ltd.



19. WhatsApp unveiled separate Android app for small businesses

WhatsApp has launched separate Android app for small businesses that will allow companies to set up dedicated business profiles. It will help such businesses connect with their customer base in a more official way.

The app is currently available on Android and is free to download. It allows to create profiles containing information such as a business description, email or premises addresses, and website details. It has been rolled initially in Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, the UK and the US.



20. Yes Bank signed a MoU with Amplus Energy Solutions for strategic Solar Power tie-up

Amplus Energy Solutions has signed an MoU with Yes Bank for a strategic tie-up to co-finance solar energy projects. Total projects capacity is expected to be up to 1,000 MW under the partnership. These projects would be developed by Amplus by 2023.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed at International Solar Alliance pavilion at the World Future Energy Summit, Abu Dhabi. Yes Bank and European Investment Bank had in December 2017 announced about creation of a fund of \$400 million to fund solar and wind projects in India.



21. Government to infuse over Rs 88,139 crore in 20 PSBs

The government has announced Rs 88,139 crore capital infusion in 20 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) during the current fiscal to boost lending and revive growth. The capital infusion plan for 2017-18 includes 80,000 crore rupees through Recapitalization Bonds and 8,139 crore rupees as budgetary support.

- IDBI Bank – Rs 10,610/- Cr
- SBI – Rs 8,800/- Cr
- Bank of India – Rs 9,232 Cr
- UCO Bank – Rs 6,507 Cr
- PNB – Rs 5,473 Cr
- Bank of Baroda – Rs 5,375 Cr
- Central Bank of India – Rs 5,158 Cr



22. NIIF to set up \$3-billion investments, partnering platform with DP World

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has partnered with Dubai-based ports operator DP World Pvt. Ltd for creation of an investment platform up to \$3 billion for ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India.



NIIF is India's first sovereign wealth fund. It is the first investment platform from NIIF. NIIF was created to catalyse capital from international and domestic investors into energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure and allied sectors in India.

23. IOB signed MoU with NHB for rural housing

Indian Overseas Bank has signed an MoU with National Housing Bank for the Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHSS) of the Ministry of Rural Development.



Indian Overseas Bank

The interest subsidy under the scheme is 3% for a loan amount of ₹2 lakh for 20-year tenure. All the rural households whose name does not appear in the permanent wait list of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin are eligible to apply under RHSS.

24. RIL became first Indian company to cross Rs 6 trillion market cap

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs6 trillion market capitalisation after its shares hit an all-time high of Rs958.20. Currently, its market cap is at Rs6.02 trillion.

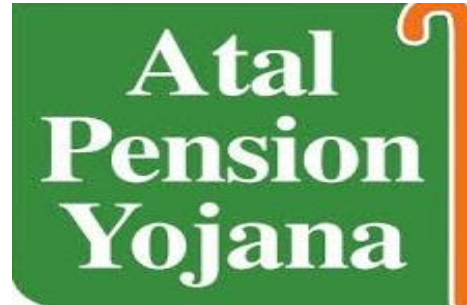


The stock added nearly Rs3 trillion market cap since April after its telecom arm Reliance Jio started charging its customers. Tata Consultancy Services follows RIL with market capitalisation of ₹5,95,946 crore. HDFC Bank became the first bank to cross market capitalisation of ₹5 lakh crore.

25. Small Finance and Payments banks to offer Atal Pension Yojana

10 Small Finance Banks and 11 Payment Banks have got license from Reserve Bank of India to offer Atal Pension Yojana, APY in the country.

At present over 84 lacs subscribers are registered under the APY scheme with an asset base of more than 3,194 crore rupees. Under the scheme, a subscriber would receive a minimum guaranteed pension of 1,000 to 5,000 rupees per month from the age of 60 years depending upon the contribution.



Important Days

1. Vice President inaugurated NCC Republic Day Camp

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the NCC Republic Day Camp 2018 on 6th January at Cariappa Parade Ground in Delhi. More than 2000 cadets from the three wings of the NCC Army, Navy and Airforce participated in the camp.



The National Cadet Corps is the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, bringing together youth hailing from different parts of our country; including the remote and tribal areas, and moulding them into responsible, disciplined and united citizens of our great nation.

2. National Youth Day

The 12th of January was observed as the National Youth Day across India. It also marks the 155th birth anniversary of India's foremost social reformer and philosopher, Swami Vivekananda. He is a role model for the Indian youth.



Every year this day is celebrated as the National Youth Day since the 12th of January, 1985 in recognition of Swami Vivekananda's ideals and teachings. National Youth Festival (India) is an annual gathering of young people associated with National Youth Day.

3. 70th Army Day celebrated on 15th January

The 15th of January 2018 was observed as the 70th Indian Army Day. General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff reviewed the Army Day Parade at Delhi.



Every year Indian Army celebrates 15th January as 'Army Day' to commemorate the day when General K.M Cariappa took over the command of Army from General Sir F.R.R Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army Post Independence.

4. National Girl Child Day observed

The National Girl Child day is celebrated annually on 24th of January with an aim to increase the awareness among people about all the inequalities faced by the girl child in the society.

The day is celebrated to bring focus on education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care and safety of girl children. According to census of India 2011, there are 940 females in the country against every 1000 males. The literacy rate of women is 68.4%. Almost one third of females in the country are malnourished. 26.8% of girls are forced into child marriage.



5. National Voters' Day 2018

The National Voters' Day is observed on 25th January every year. The theme this year is 'Accessible Elections'. The Election Commission of India was founded on this day.

The day aims to spread awareness among voters regarding effective participation in the electoral process. It is a day to celebrate the right to vote and vibrant democracy of India. This will be eighth National Voters' Day (NVD). The Election Commission of India is an autonomous and Constitutional body.



6. Nation celebrated 69th Republic Day

The nation celebrated 69th Republic Day marked by a grand parade from Rajpath to Red Fort. President Ram Nath Kovind took the salute of the parade. Ten ASEAN leaders attended the event as Chief Guests, in a historic first.

Marching contingents of defence and paramilitary forces and strategic defence weaponry showcased the country's military prowess. For the first time, All India Radio's tableau was part of the parade. A newly-raised all-women bikers contingent of the BSF made its debut on majestic Rajpath.



7. World Leprosy Day

The World Leprosy Day is observed annually on the last Sunday of January. This year it was observed on 28th January. The day focuses on the target of zero cases of leprosy-related disabilities in children.

This day was chosen in commemoration of the death of Mahatma Gandhi. Leprosy is one of the oldest diseases known to humankind. It is also known as Hansen's disease. It is an infectious chronic disease that targets the nervous system, especially the nerves in the cooler parts of the body - the hands, feet, and face.



8. World Hindi Day

The 10th January is observed as World Hindi day every year. The day is observed in addition to National Hindi Divas observed annually on 1st September. While World Hindi Day is observed for the promotion of the language at the global stage, National Hindi Divas is observed at national level.

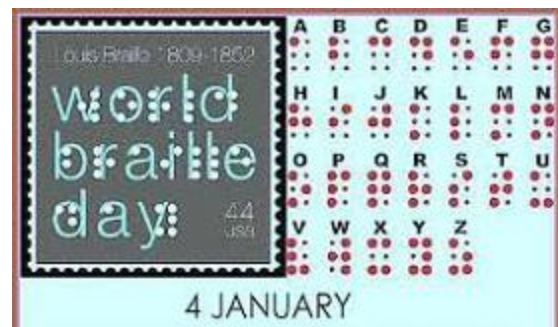
At present Hindi as a language is spoken in more than 20 countries around the world and is being taught in 150 Universities of the world.



9. World Braille Day Observed on 4th January

The World Braille Day is observed annually on January 4 to honor the birth anniversary of Louis Braille. He is credited with inventing the Braille language which helps blind people to read as well as write.

NGOs and various organizations work together on this day to raise awareness about the indifference towards blind people and to help them be equal with the rest of the people.



International

1. Pakistan State Bank allowed use of Chinese currency Yuan for bilateral trade & investment activities

Pakistan has allowed Chinese currency Yuan for exports and financing transactions. Both public and private sector enterprises of Pakistan and China are free to choose Yuan for bilateral Trade & Investment activities.

As per current foreign exchange regulations, Chinese Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan. After signing Currency Swap Agreement with People's Bank of China, Pakistan's state bank had taken a series of steps to promote use of Yuan in Pakistan for bilateral trade and investment with China.



2. Norway suspended arms exports to UAE amid war in Yemen

Norway suspended exports of munitions and arms to the United Arab Emirates. The action has been taken as a precautionary measure, based on its assessment of the situation in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition has been fighting Shiite rebels for the past three years. The UAE is part of the coalition.

Yemeni rebels, known as the Houthis, claim to have seized a US spy submarine. Yemen's war has killed more than 10,000 civilians and pushed millions to the brink of famine.



3. 6 countries joined UN Security Council

Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands are the countries who formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The UN Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council.

It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened. The Council is composed of 15 members with five permanent members and ten non-permanent members.



4. UNESCO placed Turkey's endangered 'bird language' in cultural heritage list

The "bird language" of Black Sea villagers in remote northern Turkey was placed in United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The bird language is called to be as unusual and very efficient whistle language used as a means of communication by villagers.



As per survey, only 10000 people in the world can speak this language. Some other whistle languages also exist in other parts of world such as Spain's Canary Islands, in Mexico or in Greek villages.

5. Nepal banned solo climbing on Mount Everest

In order to reduce accidents and ensure safety, Nepal has banned solo, visually impaired and double amputee climbers from attempting its many mountains, including the world's highest peak Mount Everest. As per the new safety regulations introduced by Nepal government, such exclusions has to provide a valid medical certificate.



The new rules will bind foreign climbers must employ a local guide. Nepal is famous for its eight of the world's 14 highest peaks.

6. Israel withdraws from UNESCO

Israel announced withdrawal from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) alongside the United States due to the organisation's criticism of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and its decision to grant full membership. Both the countries have decided to officially cease membership as of December 31, 2018.



UNESCO is best known for its work to preserve heritage, including maintaining a list of World Heritage sites, and promote education in developing countries.

7. Saudi Arabia and UAE implemented VAT for first time

The levy of 5% value-added tax was implemented by countries Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for the first time. It is also considered as first for the Gulf. As per the estimates, 5% sales tax will help in raising \$21 billion in 2018, equivalent to 2 per cent of GDP. It has been applied to most goods and services.



The other four Gulf states- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar are also expected to introduce VAT in early 2019.

8. India excluded Pakistan from a SAARC Initiative

Pakistan is the only member state of South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation that has been excluded from initiative of sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities for connecting its state-of-the-art National Knowledge Network (NKN). Pakistan has been excluded due to its continuing terrorist attacks launched by groups from across the border.



Telecom company will be appointed by government for connecting NKN to research and education networks in six South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation member states.

9. Iceland became first nation to legalise equal pay

Iceland legalized equal pay for the benefit of women's rights. Under the legislation implemented, companies and government agencies having more than 25 employees will be required to obtain government certification for their equal-pay policies.



The certificate will be considered as declaration confirming that the company is paying men and women equally. With this, Iceland became first country to make unequal pay as illegal. Icelandic government has objectives to completely put an end to the wage gap by 2020.

10. Spain became world's second most visited country after France

Spain surpassed the United States to become the world's second most visited country after France. Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said that 82 million people visited in 2017, a 9% increase over the previous year. Tourism earnings rose 12%.



According to the US International Trade administration, international tourism to the United States shrank during the first five months of Donald Trump's presidency. Arrivals fell 5% in the first quarter and 3% in the second quarter.

11. UK government doubled export backing for India

The UK government announced the doubling of its national credit support for UK businesses exporting to India. This means 4.5 billion pounds will now be available for UK companies exporting to India as well as Indian buyers of UK goods and services.



Mr. Prabhu held talks with Britain's International Trade Minister, Liam Fox, in London as part of the 12th meeting of the UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee to discuss greater cooperation between the two countries and identify barriers to trade and investment.

12. South Korea inked MoU with GCCI for business cooperation

South Korea and Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) have signed a memorandum of understanding for co-operation between industries with a focus on automobile, defence and textiles sectors.



The main objective of the MoU is to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Gujarat to explore opportunities through joint ventures with South Korean firms. The SMEs can take technological help from the Korean counterparts to reduce cost.

13. India loses its monopoly after Nepal acquired internet service from China

Nepal opened a new optical fibre link from China, thus, ending India's monopoly. Nepal Telecom (NT), the government-owned telecom service provider, has now acquired bandwidth from China Telecom Global Limited (CTGL). The Chinese optical fibre link enters Nepal at Rasuwa. Till date, Nepal was completely dependent on India for internet access. The connections from India are available at Biratnagar, Bhairahawa and Birgunj. India provides a 25-GBPS link while the Chinese link is 1.5 GBPS only.



14. Britain announced public register against money laundering

Britain's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has announced the world's first public register that requires overseas companies which own or buy property in the country to provide details of their ultimate owners.

The government is set to publish relevant draft laws and the register will go live by early 2021. It is a move of the British government to crack down on criminals who launder money through the British property market.



15. President of Nepal administered oath to Chiefs of seven provinces

The President of Nepal, Bidhya Devi Bhandari administered oath to Chiefs of 7 provinces. The cabinet had approved names of temporary capitals and chiefs of all seven provinces of the country.

Prof Dr Govinda Bahadur Tumbahang sworn in as the Chief of Province 1, Ratneshwar Lal Kayastha of Province 2, Ms Anuradha Koirala Province 3, Baburam Kunwar Province 4, Umakanta Jha Province 5, Durga Keshar Khanal Province 6 and Mohan Raj Malla as governor of Province 7.



16. India joins 3rd export control group

India has become a member of export control regime Australia Group. This is the third export control group which India has joined after Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

The Australia Group works to counter the spread of materials, equipment and technologies that could contribute to the development or acquisition of chemical and biological weapons (CBW) by states or terrorist groups.



17. US-Japan held annual Iron Fist joint military exercise

The American and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercise, Iron Fist, in the U.S. western state of California. The annual exercise is the 13th in the series and will continue through February 12.

More than 500 U.S. Marines and sailors are partnering with about 350 members of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force to train in fire support operations and amphibious assaults. This will be the last joint exercise before Japan establishes its Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade in March.



18. India contributed USD 50,000 towards UN youth mission

First Secretary in India's UN mission at the UN headquarters in New York, Paulomi Tripathi, handed over a cheque of USD 50,000 to UN Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake as India's contribution to the UN's youth mission which works to raise awareness and attention to youth issues globally.

The Youth Envoy's mission is to promote the engagement of youth and advocate for them across all the four pillars of the UN's work – sustainable development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action.



19. India attended its 1st SCO Military Cooperation meeting in Beijing

India attended its first meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) since joining the bloc in 2017.

The Indian delegation was led by Major General Ajay Seth and discussed issues of practical cooperation among SCO nations. This is the first meeting attended by India in the field of defence cooperation under the SCO framework. The SCO is comprised of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.



20. Malta's Valletta becomes Europe's Capital of Culture

Malta's Valletta has been inaugurated as the European Capital of Culture, 2018. It was chosen as the European City of Culture on October 13. The slogan for the opening was "The festa is here", and the streets were filled with music, bands and impressive performances.

Over 140 projects and 400 events have been planned in 2018 around three main themes: island stories, future baroque and voyages. The Prime Minister of Malta is Joseph Muscat.



21. 48th World Economic Forum annual meeting held in Davos

The 48th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting was held in Davos from January 23-26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the opening session of the WEF 2018.

The 48th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting therefore aims to rededicate leaders from all walks of life to developing a shared narrative to improve the state of the world. The programme, initiatives and projects of the meeting are focused on "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World".



22. ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit issued Delhi Declaration

The ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit was held in New Delhi on 25th January to celebrate the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The theme of the summit was "Shared Values, Common Destiny".



A joint statement, titled, "Delhi Declaration" was issued outlining the participating nations' commitment to political, economic and socio-cultural cooperation. The 10-member countries of ASEAN are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

23. WEF launched Global Centre for Cybersecurity

The World Economic Forum has launched a new Global Centre for Cybersecurity to help build a safe and secure global cyberspace. The centre will be based in Geneva, Switzerland.



The aim of the centre is to establish the first global platform for governments, businesses, experts and law enforcement agencies to collaborate on cybersecurity challenges. The cost of cybercrime to the global economy could go up to \$500 billion annually, according to experts.

24. Honduran President takes oath amid protests

Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez has been sworn-in for a new term. The 49-year-old lawyer is Honduras' first President to be re-elected.



The country's 1982 constitution bars presidents from seeking a new term and conservative politicians deposed a leftist president in 2009 for allegedly even considering re-election. But Hernandez won a Supreme Court ruling in 2015 to get around that prohibition.

Miscellaneous

- The 1st PIO-Parliamentarian Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- Karnataka topped all states with investment intentions of Rs 1.49 lakh crore till October 2017, which was 43% of the country's total investment intentions.
- Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic won the deciding Fast4 mixed doubles 4-3 (3), 4-2 over Germany to give Switzerland its third Hopman Cup title.
- World's largest Ice Festival 'International Ice and Snow Festival' was held in Harbin, China.
- Ministry of Petroleum launched Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) 2018 Campaign which is an annual flagship event of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India.
- North Korea and South Korea have agreed to march together under a single unified Korea flag at the Winter Olympics.
- The rural sanitation coverage has reached up to 76% from 39% when the Swachh Bharat Mission was launched.
- The Union Government would come out with EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) - Index for ranking of banks that would increase public accountability of PSBs as independent agencies to evaluate and rank PSBs annually on reforms.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated India-ASEAN Friendship Park (Bharat-ASEAN Maitri park) in New Delhi.
- Young Indian shuttler Siddharth Pratap Singh won the Swedish Open Junior International Series with a straight-game victory over Denmark's Mads Christophersen in the finals.
- UP Diwas was celebrated on 24th January.
- Prime Minister of Cambodia, Mr Hun Sen, was on a state visit to India.
- Sanjay Leela Bhansali-directed film Padmaavat has been banned in Malaysia by the country's censor board as the film touches on the sensitivities of Islam.
- Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga appointed as the Prime Minister of Mali -
- Om Prakash Singh has been appointed as the Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh recently.
- Indian origin scientist, Pratibha Laxman Gai, has been honoured with Damehood by Queen Elizabeth.
- Maharashtra has decided to impose a spot fine of Rs 500 for open defecation.

- Union Cabinet recently approved establishment of AIIMS under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana at Bilaspur.
- The United States has suspended security aid to Pakistan.
- Maharashtra state government is going to form an education board for non-English medium schools.
- Ricky Ponting has been appointed as the coach of the Delhi Daredevils franchise for the upcoming IPL 2018.
- The Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Department of Science & Technology signed a MoU for - Joint funding of Technology Mission for Indian Railways.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved five projects worth - Rs 295.01 crore
- The Colour of new Rs 10 note to be issued by RBI is Chocolate Brown.
- Focus country group in the New Delhi World Book Fair 2018 is European Union.
- France would be conferring its highest order of merit, the 'Legion of Honour', on legendary film and theatre actor - Soumitra Chattopadhyay.
- The output of wheat is expected to touch an all-time high of 100 million tonnes in 2017-18.
- India has signed the bilateral annual Haj 2018 Agreement with Saudi Arabia.
- Cricketer Yusuf Pathan was banned recently for five months for failing dope test.
- US approved the sale of anti-ballistic missile worth USD 133 million to Japan.
- Former Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel has been appointed as the new Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- Iran has lifted restrictions that were imposed on Internet use.
- India signed four agreements for collaboration in ICT sector with Sri Lanka.
- The Defence Acquisition Council has cleared procurement of small arms worth Rs 3547 Cr.
- India and US will jointly conduct a military exercise called 'Vajra Prahar'.
- Microsoft has topped Thomson Reuters' debut list of 'Top 100 Global Technology Leaders'.
- Tata Consultancy Services has signed a deal worth over 690 mn dollars with M&G Prudential.
- The Indian Coast Guard has begun its biennial search and rescue exercise with the Coast Guard of Japan.

- The Union Government has sanctioned projects worth over Rs 10000 cr for North-East to enable better connectivity.
- China has launched a new guided-missile frigate called 'Wuhai'.
- China has built the world's largest air purifier to fight pollution.
- Virat Kohli has been named ICC Cricketer of the Year 2017.
- Virat Kohli has been named as the captain of both ICC Test and ODI teams of the year 2017.
- Madhya Pradesh has claimed to become the first in India to fully achieve door-to-door garbage collection target.
- Steve Smith won the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year award.
- Maharashtra state cabinet has approved 1% reservation for orphans in government jobs.
- The Indian football team climbed 3 places and ranked 102 in the first FIFA rankings of 2018.
- Sri Lanka has become the first nation to be connected to India's National Knowledge Network.
- UP state cabinet has approved 'one district, one product' scheme - Uttar Pradesh.
- George Weah was sworn-in as President of Liberia.
- Researchers have discovered a new population of walking fish in Tasmania in Australia.

National

1. Cabinet approved Agreement between India and Myanmar on Land Border Crossing

The Union Cabinet approved the agreement between India and Myanmar on land border crossing to facilitate regulation and harmonization of already existing free movement rights for people ordinarily residing in the border areas of both countries. It will also facilitate movement of people on the basis of valid passports and visas which will enhance economic and social interaction between the two countries.



It is expected to provide connectivity and safeguard the traditional rights of the largely tribal communities residing along the border which are accustomed to free movement across the land border.

2. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Israel on Cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Israel on cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector.



The MoU is expected to provide impetus to India - Israel ties in the energy sector. The cooperation envisaged under the agreement will facilitate promotion of investments in each other's countries, technology transfer, R&D, conducting joint studies, capacity building of human resources and collaboration in the area of Start-ups.

3. WCD Ministry inaugurated online portal 'NARI' for women empowerment

Minister of Women & Child Development inaugurated an online portal NARI in New Delhi. The portal will provide women citizens with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women. In order to make this information more easily accessible in one place, the NARI portal summarizes over 350 government schemes and other important information for



the benefit of women, with more being added everyday.

It provides links to the Ministries, Departments and autonomous bodies offering these schemes as well as easy access to online applications and grievance redressal.

4. CCEA approved mandatory jute packaging for food grains

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved mandatory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in the jute material for the Jute Year 2017-18. The decision would sustain the core demand for the jute sector and support the livelihood of the workers and farmers dependent on the sector. The CCEA has extended the mandatory packaging norms under the Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987. The approval mandates that 90 percent of the food grains and 20 percent of the sugar products will be mandatorily packed in jute bags.



5. Government notified scheme of Electoral Bonds for political donations

The government notified the scheme of Electoral Bonds, aimed at cleaning the system of political funding in the country. The bonds will be a bearer instrument in the form of promissory note and will be an interest-free banking instrument.



The bonds will be issued and purchased for any value in the multiples of one thousand, ten thousand, one lakh, ten lakh and one crore rupees from the specified branches of the State Bank of India. The bonds will have a life of only 15 days.

6. Government exempted cruise tourists with e-visa from biometric enrolment till 2020

Home Affairs exempted cruise tourists arriving with e-visa from the requirement of biometric enrollment for a period of three years to promote cruise tourism in the country to make immigration clearance of such passengers faster, leaving them with more time to spend on shore.



E-Visa has been in place in the five major ports of Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin and Chennai. This simplified immigration clearance procedure is part of a

series of steps to attract and to enhance cruise passenger experience at the major ports.

7. India and Sri Lanka inked MoU on traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy

India and Sri Lanka inked MoU for cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy. The financial resources necessary to conduct research, training courses, conferences / meetings will be met from the existing allocated budget and existing plan schemes of Ministry of AYUSH.



The signing of the proposed MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of traditional medicine and homeopathy. India and Sri Lanka share several cultural, historical, linguistic and literary similarities.

8. Union government launched allied health professionals database portal

Allied health professionals database portal was launched by Government of India to reach out to all the allied and healthcare professionals in India so that they may be effectively tracked as part of the overall HRH data available with the Government of India. Healthcare professionals are educated, at either professional or lower levels, in a recognized or accredited health or health related or academic institution.



The portal is aimed at putting in place a robust data repository of healthcare workers, help in process of licensing of professionals and workforce policy planning.

9. Ministry of Defence cleared Rs 2420 Crore worth contracts for Navy and Army

Ministry of Defence approved the procurement of P-8I Training Solution and Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS), at a total cost of Rs 2419.32 crore. The P-8I Training Solution, along with 10-year comprehensive maintenance service, will be brought from M/s Boeing for Rs 1949.32 crore. This training solution accurately simulates P-8I aircraft and mission systems.



With these approvals, all projects related to sewage management in high pollution load towns along river Ganga have been sanctioned. Project aims to strengthen the poor condition of ghats and stone steps to ensure improved life of ghats.

13. Sushma Swaraj visited 3 Southeast-asian nations

In order to strengthen strategic ties with Southeast Asian nations, Indian external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj visited three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore. The ministers discussed political, defence and economic ties and all other bilateral relations.



During her visit to Singapore, minister inaugurated Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries on January 7, based on theme "Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN-India Partnership". Sushma Swaraj discussed relevant information about the forthcoming ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit which marks 25 years since the establishment of dialogue partnership between Indian and ASEAN.

14. 3rd Meeting of Council of Trade Development and Promotion held in New Delhi

The 3rd meeting of the Council of Trade Development and Promotion was held in New Delhi.



Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu released a study "LEADS-Logistics Ease Across Different States" which is a first ever sub-national logistics performance index. He also released the "State Exports Booklet" which is a compendium, of the status of exports from the States over the last 10 years.

15. Target under BharatNet Phase 1 achieved

Government has achieved a significant milestone under the BharatNet by completing Phase-1 of the project by connecting over one lakh Gram Panchayats (GP) across the country with high speed optical fibre network as per the declared deadline of 31 Dec 2017.



BharatNet network built under Phase 1 envisages delivery of high-speed broadband services in over 2.5 lakh villages benefitting

more than 200 million rural Indians. The target to complete the 2nd phase of the BharatNet has been set for March, 2019 by connecting 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats with broadband network.

16. Union Government notified the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017

The Central Government notified the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017 (Amendment Act). Some important amendments are:

1. Sec 53 of the Companies Act, 2013: The Amendment Act now allows companies to issue shares at a discount to its creditors when its debt is converted into shares.
2. Section 197 of the Companies Act, 2013: Post amendment, a company which has defaulted in payment of dues to a bank or any other secured creditor, needs their approval before making payment of managerial remuneration in excess of 11% of the net profits.

17. India and Saudi Arabia signed bilateral annual Haj 2018 agreement

India has signed the bilateral annual Haj 2018 agreement with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has given the green signal for India's decision to revive the option of sending Haj pilgrims through sea route.

The practice of ferrying Haj pilgrims between Mumbai and Jeddah by waterways was stopped from 1995. For the first time Muslim women from India will go to Haj without "Mehram" (male companion). Women "Haj Assistant" will be deployed for their assistance



18. Indian Railways conceives to deploy "Drone" cameras in all its Zones/Divisions

Indian Railways has decided to deploy "Drone" cameras (UAV/NETRA) for various railway activities especially project monitoring and maintenance of tracks and other railway infrastructure. This is in-line with Railways' desire to use technology to enhance safety and efficiency in train operations.

"Drone" cameras shall be deployed to undertake monitoring activities of relief and rescue operation, project monitoring, progress of important works, conditions of track and inspection related activities.



19. National Conference of CPCSEA on Welfare of Laboratory Animals held

A one-day National Conference on Welfare of Laboratory Animals was organised by CPCSEA, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The theme was "Implementation of 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) while using animals in academic research and regulatory testing in India".



The conference deliberated upon elaborating the understanding of animal use in academics, as well as regulatory testing and evaluating the use of alternatives, wherever animals can be exempted from testing.

20. Indian Railways launched transparent and efficient "New Online Vendor Registration System"

Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), (headquartered at Lucknow), the research arm of Ministry of Railways, has launched "New Online Vendor Registration System".



Public access to the information, expeditious process completion with defined timelines, simplification of procedures, round-the-year services, availability of all related information on RDSO Website, constant monitoring at all levels, reduction in cycle timelines, regular updation of online data, user friendly interface etc. are the hallmarks of the new system.

21. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Canada for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology

The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Canada for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology. The MoU will provide a mechanism and help to foster scientific cooperation between R&D and academic institutions of India and Canada.



An innovative model of R&D cooperation between India and Canada will be implemented under a MoU concluded by the

Department of Science and Technology with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada.

22. India and Malaysia held 5th Bilateral Meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine

The 5th Bilateral Technical Meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between Govt. of India and Malaysia was held at New Delhi which was a part of agreement signed between both countries in 2010. Key agendas discussed in the meeting:

1. Establishment of Ayurveda Chair in University of UTAR, Malaysia
2. Professional training in Panchakarma therapy for Malaysian experts in India
3. Bilateral MoU between National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH and Malaysia for Cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants.
4. Registration of Homeopathic Practitioner and their capacity building module in Malaysia.

23. Government divests 2.52 % of paid-up capital in National Mineral Development Corporation

Government has successfully divested 2.52 % of paid-up capital in National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) for an amount of Rs. 1200 crore approx. (Rs. 980.05 crore from non-retail investors and Rs. 232 crore approx. from retail investors) through Offer for sale (OFS) mechanism. The issue got over-subscribed by three times the base issue size.

With this transaction, the Government of India shareholding in NMDC has come down from 74.94% to 72.42%.



24. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways inked MoU with Transport for London

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways signed an MoU with Transport for London aimed at using the expertise of TFL to revamp the public transport architecture in the country.

TFL is the agency that manages the transport system for Greater London. It has created a unique system of operating buses in PPP model with over 17 operators under a single brand. A salient feature has been their double



decker buses which provide for high capacity with low road space requirement.

25. Indian Railways introduced OCR Kiosk Machines for quick printing of tickets

The Indian Railways has launched modern Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Kiosk Machines for quick & easy printing of tickets booked through UTS App for mobile phones by suburban commuters.



Western Railway (Hqrs. Mumbai) becomes first railway zone to introduce this facility for its Mumbai suburban commuters of Western Railway. Passengers have to feed their mobile number and booking ID received on their mobiles, in the ATVM machines to get their tickets printed or get it through UTS counter.

26. Ministry of Railway launched SFOORTI Application

Ministry of Railways have launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for Freight Managers which provides features for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard. Key features:



1. With this application, movement of freight trains on Geographic Information System (GIS) view can be tracked.
2. Expected Traffic at Interchange points to evaluate daily performance can be viewed.
3. This app provides a Bird's eye view of all Freight Assets in a single window.
4. Provides end to end Rake movement on Geospatial view.

27. Water Resources Ministry signed MoU with Bihar and Jharkhand

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, State of Bihar and State of Jharkhand for completion of balance works of North Koel reservoir project at an estimated cost of Rs. 1622.27 crore.

The three parties along with NABARD also signed a supplementary MoU for funding of



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Water Resources
Government of India

the state share under Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) for North Koel reservoir project. (For Details: <http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1516590>)

28. Niti Aayog to provide rankings to 115 aspirational districts

Niti Aayog will provide rankings to the 115 aspirational districts based on 10 parameters which will include nutrition, education and health among others.

According to the NITI Aayog, government targets to sanction over 12 lakh houses in 115 backward districts identified for development in 18 months under a housing scheme. Currently, 6.32 lakh houses have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Manti Awas Yojana (Urban) for these districts.



29. India, Bhutan jointly unveiled 'Special logo'

India and Bhutan jointly unveiled a "Special Logo" to mark the launch of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Meshed together in an unbreakable bond, the logo has two symbols of the countries- 5 is represented with Bhutan's national colour wrapped in dragon; while 0 (zero) is completed by the India's tri-colour. It highlights 50th anniversary of friendship.



30. UIDAI introduced 'Virtual ID' to shield Privacy and Security of Aadhaar Data

The Unique Identification Authority of India has introduced two new measures - virtual ID and limited KYC in order to strengthen security and privacy concerns around leakage of Aadhaar numbers and data.

The virtual identity or virtual ID will be a random 16-digit number mapped to the Aadhaar number of a citizen, and will come with an expiration date. The UIDAI has further introduced limited KYC (know your customer) process wherein only some entities,



categorised as global authentication user agency (global AUA) will be allowed to store a citizen's Aadhaar number.

31. Indian Navy signed MoU with Cochin Port Trust

The Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cochin Port Trust (CPT) for utilising the Port's berthing facility at Mattancherry wharf for Naval ships.

As per the MoU, Cochin Ports Q2 and Q3 berths at Mattancherry wharf, totaling 228 metre quay length, would be handed over to the Indian Navy for five years for berthing their ships. The lease has been signed at an approximate cost of ₹10 crore a year.



32. Government to set up India's Second FTII in Arunachal Pradesh

The Union Government will set up the second Film and Television Institute of the nation in Arunachal Pradesh as part of tapping the potential of the Northeastern region.

The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune. It is an autonomous institute operating under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. FTII, Pune is a member of the International Liaison Centre of Schools of Cinema and Television (CILECT), an organisation of the world's leading schools of film and television.



33. Cabinet approved amendments in FDI Policy

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to a number of amendments in the FDI Policy so as to liberalise and simplify the FDI policy so as to provide ease of doing business in the country. It has been decided to do away with this restriction and allow foreign airlines to invest up to 49% under approval route in Air India. Amendments include-

1. 100% FDI under automatic route for Single Brand Retail Trading and Construction Development



2. Foreign airlines allowed to invest up to 49%
3. FIIs/FPIs allowed to invest in Power Exchanges
4. Definition of 'medical devices' amended in the FDI Policy

34. List of MoUs/Agreements signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Israel to India

1. MoU on Cyber Security Cooperation between India and Israel
2. MoU between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Energy on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector
3. Protocol between India and Israel on Amendments to the Air Transport Agreement
4. Agreement on Film-co-production between India and Israel
5. MoU between the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH and the Centre for Integrative Complementary Medicine, Shaare Zedek Medical Center on Cooperation in the field of Research in Homeopathic Medicine
6. MoU between Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) and the Technion- Israel Institute of Technology for cooperation in the field of space
7. Memorandum of Intent between Invest India and Invest in Israel
8. Letter of Intent between IOCL and Phinergy Ltd. For cooperation in the area of metal-air batteries
9. Letter of Intent between IOCL and Yeda Research and Development Co Ltd for cooperation in the area of concentrated solar thermal technologies

35. Department of Commerce and CII sign MoU

The Department of Commerce under the Ministry for Commerce & Industry has signed a MoU with Confederation of Indian Industry to set-up an institutional mechanism for the development of Logistics sector in the country.



The Government has decided to reduce the Logistics cost in the country from the present 14% of GDP to less than 10% by 2022. The Government has recently granted infrastructure status to a number of Logistics activities, which shall enable them to avail cheaper and long term commercial loans.

36. NITI Aayog initiates the first course on Sustainable Urban Planning

The First Global Initiative on Academic Network GIAN course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System, GIS has been launched at IIT Kanpur's outreach center in NOIDA.



This course is being conducted under the Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN) Program. It aims to give participants state-of-the-art remote sensing and GIS skills that allows them to manage the rapidly changing urban environment of Indian cities. Focus will be on issues such as water resource management, water pollution and strategic emplacements for water treatment facilities.

37. PM Modi and Israeli PM Netanyahu dedicate iCreate

Prime Minister Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu dedicated the iCREATE facility to the nation. It is located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad.



iCreate is an independent Centre created with the objective of facilitating entrepreneurship through a blend of creativity, innovation, engineering, product design and leveraging emerging technologies to deal with major issues such as food security, water, connectivity, cybersecurity, IT and electronics, energy, bio-medical equipment and devices etc. iCreate aims to develop an ecosystem in India to generate quality entrepreneurs.

38. 100 accessible websites of various state governments/UTs under Accessible India Campaign launched

The government has launched 100 Accessible websites of various State Governments/UTs under Accessible India Campaign on the occasion of 'National Conference on Improving Accessibility' with an aim to empower Persons with Disabilities.



Accessible Websites are those websites into which Persons with Disabilities can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with the Web, and that they can contribute to the Web.

The Accessible India Campaign has three important components viz Built Environment; Transport and Information and Communication Eco-system accessibility.

39. The Fourth Asean-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry

The Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF) was held on 12 January 2018 in New Delhi. It was attended by representatives from 10 ASEAN countries.

The meeting held discussions focused on enhancing cooperation on exchange of expertise to promote resilience in food security and to address the price volatility of food supplies in the region. It was announced that 5th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry will be held in 2019 in Brunei Darussalam.



40. India signed MoU with UK on illegal migrants

India has signed an MoU with the United Kingdom to enable the return of illegal Indian migrants within a month of their detection by authorities abroad.

UK claims the number of illegal migrants to be in thousands while the Indian agencies have found only 2,000 Indians are overstaying. A MoU on sharing of criminal records is also in line between the two nations.



41. Digital launch of 'I4Fund call for proposal' website

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu launched the maiden call for joint R&D projects under the 'India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)' during the India-Israel Business Summit in New Delhi.

Under the I4F, the Department of Science and Technology, India and the National Innovation Authority of Israel have established a 40 million US dollar Fund. India and Israel will make a contribution of four million US Dollars each for the Fund, annually for five years.



42. IWDR I 2018 concluded successfully

The two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR I) successfully concluded at New Delhi. The workshop identified best practices in the infrastructure sector, as well as key issues in existing practices and ways to address them.

The workshop was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) jointly with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Experts from 23 countries representing a wide variety of development and disaster risk contexts participated in the workshop.



43. Union Government has sanctioned more than Rs 10,000 cr for better network connectivity in NE

In accordance to the 'Act East' policy, the Union Government has sanctioned more than Rs 10,000 cr for better network connectivity in the Northeast region. 2 MoUs have been signed to cover the uncovered areas in the North East including Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.



India's Act East Policy focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region with an objective to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The North East of India has been a priority in the Act East Policy (AEP).

44. ONGC acquired 51% share of Government in HPCL

The government has entered into an agreement with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited for the strategic sale of its 51.11% equity share-holding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for 36,915 crore rupees. The acquisition is an all cash-deal. ONGC will pay Rs 473.97 per share for 77.8 crore shares of the government in Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL).



Through this acquisition, ONGC will become India's first vertically integrated oil major company, having presence across the entire value chain.

48. Union Government launched National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal

The Union Government has launched the National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal.

The National CSR Data Portal will capture information on CSR activities carried out by eligible companies, filed on the MCA21 registry in their financial statements. The Corporate Data Portal aims at making all the financial and non-financial information of the companies available in a user friendly format to the general public. It also has facility to generate pre-defined reports and also customized reports.



49. India to set up \$350 million solar fund

The Union Government will set up a \$350-million solar development fund under the International Solar Alliance (ISA). India has set a target of adding 175 gigawatts (GW) in renewable energy by 2022.

Nine companies and banks have agreed to develop and finance various solar projects. Yes Bank Ltd will mobilise \$1 billion by 2023 for financing solar energy projects in India, and \$5 billion till 2030. Similarly, NTPC Ltd will contribute \$1 million to an ISA fund. The ISA currently has 121 member countries.



50. Ministry of Water Resources released assistance of ₹ 734 cr for irrigation projects

Ministry of Water Resources has released central assistance of 734 crore rupees for different irrigation projects. Of the total amount released, 247 crore rupees were for nine prioritized projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works and over 487 crore rupees for Command Area Development (CAD) works of 17 projects.

During FY 2017-18, funds worth over 1152 crore rupees have been released for 26 priority projects under AIBP. Apart from this, 436 crore rupees have been released under PMKSY- Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).



51. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) at Karaikal

Union External Affairs Minister Shushma Swaraj inaugurated the first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) of Puducherry at Karaikal.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts (DOP) have decided to set up Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) in the Head Post Offices (HPO) in the country. In the first two phases 236 POPSK have been announced in the country.



52. Government launched Phase-1 of the Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls

The Union Government has launched the Phase -1 i.e. the beneficiary module of the Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.

The RRS will facilitate the monitoring of the scheme and taking corrective measures by ensuring faster flow of information, accurate targeting of the beneficiaries and reduction of leakages. This Portal has been developed in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC). The URL for the portal is <http://sag-rrs.nic.in>.



53. AYUSH Minister laid foundation stone for Homeopathy Research Institute in Jaipur

The Minister of State (IC), for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone for Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur. Homeopathy research institutes at Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Lucknow in UP and Siligudi in West Bengal are in the pipeline.

It is the third CRI under the aegis of Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an autonomous body of Ministry of AYUSH for undertaking scientific research in Homoeopathy, with 23 institutes across the country.



54. Government to set up social media communication hubs in districts

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has planned to set up a 'Social Media Communication Hub' that would help it keep a tab on trending news in districts and gather feedback on the Centre's flagship schemes.

Under the project media persons would be employed on contractual basis in each district to be the eyes and ears of the government and provide real-time updates from the ground.



55. India to host 16th International Energy Forum meet

India will host the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting in New Delhi on April 10 to 12. The meeting will be hosted by Government of India and co-hosted by the Government of China and South Korea.

Representatives from 92 countries will be participating in the conference, including 72 member countries of IEF and 20 guest countries. India had last hosted the IEF ministerial conference in 1996.



56. India, Vietnam sign MoUs on I&B, space cooperation

India and Vietnam signed two Memorandum of Understandings in the field of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) as well as space cooperation.

Both the nations agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Broadcasting based on principles of equality and reciprocity pursuant. The countries even agreed on the implementation arrangement between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Vietnam's National Remote Sensing Department for the establishment of tracking and data reception station and data processing facility in Vietnam under the ASEAN-India Space Cooperation.



57. Union Government launched four new schemes for young scientists, researchers

The Union Government has launched four new schemes to promote young scientists and researchers in the country. The scheme primarily aims at early recognition and reward to young talent in the field of science.

- Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE) Scheme
 - Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship
 - SERB Distinguished Investigator Award (DIA)
 - AWSAR (Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research)
- (For Details: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175864>)



58. 325 routes awarded under the UDAN Phase-II

325 air routes have been awarded under the second phase of the regional connectivity scheme. Around 40 per cent, or 129, of the 325 air routes were for Northeastern and hill states, like Kargil in Jammu & Kashmir, Pakyong in Sikkim, and Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh.

Under the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), the government provides viability gap funding or subsidy for 50% of the seats set aside for being offered at discounted rates by airlines and all seats up to 13 passenger seats for helicopters.



59. NHIDCL signed MoU with IL&FS for Zojila tunnel project

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd for construction of 14.150 km long, 2-lane bi-directional Zojila tunnel at an estimated cost of Rs 6,808.69 crore. The tunnel will provide all weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.

This will be India's longest road tunnel and the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia. Zojila pass remains closed during winters (December to April) due to heavy snowfall and avalanches cutting off Leh-Ladakh region from Kashmir.



60. List of MoUs/Agreements signed during the State Visit of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia to India

S. No.	Agreement/MOU/Treaty and Purpose of MoU
1	Cultural Exchange Programme with Cambodia for the year 2018-2022. The CEP seeks to promote cultural exchange and strengthen the friendly relations between India and Cambodia.
2	Credit Line Agreement between the EXIM Bank, Government of India and the Government of Cambodia for a Line of Credit to finance the Stung Sva Hab Water Resource Development Project for US\$ 36.92 million.
3	Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. It seeks to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes through cooperation and legal assistance in criminal matters.
4	MoU on Cooperation for Prevention of Human Trafficking. It seeks to increase the bilateral cooperation on the issues of prevention, rescue and repatriation related to human trafficking.

61. India’s first smart grid project inaugurated in Panipat

India’s first smart grid project was inaugurated in Panipat. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs 145 crore. The project has been established in collaboration with a Japanese company, New Energy Industrial Technology and Development Organisation (NEDO).



The Smart Grid Pilot Project, being set up with the assistance of Japan, would ensure uninterrupted power supply to domestic as well as industrial consumers of the city. The project in Panipat, Haryana is one of the fourteen smart grid pilot projects launched by the Union Ministry of Power to modernize power distribution in India.

62. India set new record with over 1.1 million tweets on 69th Republic Day

The annual Republic Day celebrations generated a record number of tweets at over 1.1 million this year.



The celebrations garnered over 1.1 million tweets, setting a new conversation record for #RepublicDay, trended number one worldwide throughout the day, compared to over 900,000 tweets celebrating the occasion in 2017. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greetings to his countrymen in Hindi on the occasion the Republic Day was the most liked one.

63. Acid attack victims to get quota in central government jobs

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) recently wrote to all central government departments to ensure that 1% of each post be reserved for people with blindness and low vision; deaf and hard of hearing; locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, autism, mental illnesses, intellectual disability and victims of acid attacks.



In case of direct recruitment, 4% of the total number of vacancies, up from the existing 3%, in groups A, B and C shall be reserved for people with benchmark disabilities.

Persons in News

1. Akshay Kumar roped in by BMC for Swachh Survekshan 2018

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has been roped in by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation -BMC to promote cleanliness in Mumbai as part of the Swachh Survekshan 2018.

The Swachh Survekshan 2018 will commence from January 4 and will run till March 10 by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ranking urban and rural areas of the country on the basis of cleanliness.



2. MAS Chief Ravi Menon announced as best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific

UK-based magazine, The Banker declared managing director of Monetary Authority of Singapore, Ravi Menon as best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018. The Banker is a publication under The Financial Times Group, meant for survey of bankers and economists.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore is Singapore's central bank and financial regulatory authority. Ravi Menon has been appreciated for providing a better approach to fintech while maintaining macroeconomic stability.



3. 155th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda celebrated

The 155th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated on January 12. One of the greatest spiritual leaders of India Swami Vivekananda had introduced Indian philosophies of Vedanta and yoga to the western world.

His birthday is also observed as National Youth Day in the country. He became popular in the western world after his famous speech at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893. He was the chief disciple of the 19th-century Indian mystic Ramakrishna and founder of the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission.



4. Jeff Bezos became World's Richest Person of all time

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos became the richest person ever with a networth of \$105.1 billion. It is a record in terms of the amount of wealth owned by a single person.

Majority of Bezos' net worth is linked to the 78.9 million Amazon shares that he owns. The shares grew by over 56% in 2017 and it has already grown by 7% in this year. Microsoft founder Bill Gates with an estimated networth of \$93.30 stands second in the list.



5. A R Rahman becomes Sikkim's first brand ambassador

A R Rahman became the first brand ambassador of Sikkim. The Oscar-winning composer was felicitated by the state Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling during an inauguration of the 11-day Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival.

Rahman's appointment as the brand ambassador is expected to give a huge fillip to the tourism of the state. Nearly 12 lakhs tourists visited the state in 2017. Tourism contributes significantly to the economy of the state.



6. ICSI conferred Honorary Fellow Membership to Shri P.P. Chaudhary

The Institute of Company secretaries of India (ICSI) has conferred the Honorary Fellowship of ICSI to Union Minister of State for Law and Justice & Corporate Affairs, P.P. Chaudhary.

The Honorary Fellow Membership is granted to distinguished persons having made significant contribution to the profession of Company Secretaries. The Institute confers the Honorary Fellow Membership in recognition of valuable services for promoting professionalism of management and best corporate governance practices.



7. Indian origin Mehul Garg Beats Albert Einstein, Stephen Hawking in IQ Test

10-year-old Indian-origin boy, Mehul Garg, became the youngest ever applicant in a decade to garner the highest score in the very tough Mensa IQ test. He broke records set by geniuses such as Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

Mehul scored the highest score of 162 in the test. His score is two points higher than that of Einstein and Hawking. Mehul has now become a member of the Mensa, the High IQ Society.



Places in News

1. 3rd Edition of Science Film Festival held in Goa

Goa city organized third edition of the Science Film Festival of India. The festival is titled as SCI-FFI Goa. The festival was meant to promote the culture of science films and bring technology to the world via movies. The festival involved Science Film Making Competition with two categories where films of duration of 5 minutes and those above 5 minutes were included.



Prize money of 1 lakh was awarded to best film. The movies were showcased on research, analysis or innovations or even notable personalities from the field of science and technology.

2. 2018 Himalayan Hydro Expo held at Kathmandu

In order to release massive hydropower potential of Nepal and bring all stakeholders under one roof, Nepal organized Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 at Kathmandu. Expo was co-organized by Independent Power Producers' Association Nepal (IPPAN), the umbrella association of private sector developers, and Event Management Services.



The 3 day event involved seminars, discussions and competitions for engineering students. Nepal can generate 40,000 MW of economically feasible hydro power and develop around 600 MW hydro-power. The 3 day event witnessed 100 domestic and foreign companies offering different products and services.

3. President Kovind inaugurated three-day International Dharma Dhamma conference

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three day International Dharma- Dhamma conference in RAJGIR in Bihar.

The conference was on State and Social Order in Dharma -Dhamma Traditions. It was jointly organised by India Foundation, Nalanda University, Ministry of External Affairs, Asean India and Vietnamese Buddhist Sangha. It was a unique conference which witnessed



policy makers, people in governments, sages and monks sharing views on Dhamma (teaching of Buddha), Dharma (religion) and global peace.

4. Matunga Railway Station enters Limca Book of Records 2018

Matunga Railway Station in Mumbai Division of Central Railway has entered into Limca Book of Records 2018 for posting all women staff on the station. Ladies staff across all departments viz. operating, commercial, RPF, etc. are posted at Matunga Railway Station to make it first of its kind station on Railways.



Mamta Kulkarni, first women ASM to be recruited on Mumbai Division of Central Railway in 1992, is in-charge of Matunga Railway Station. A total of 41 women staff is handling the operations of the station round the clock.

5. First PIO Parliamentary Conference held in Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra' at New Delhi. 124 Members of Parliament and 17 mayors from 23 countries participated in the conference. In the Conference, the biggest delegation was from Guyana with 20 members of parliament and three mayors.



Every year, January 9 is celebrated as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

6. 60th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) inaugurated

The 60th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) was inaugurated by Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.



A total of 294 exporters from 11 states, namely Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, participated at the 60th IIGF.

International Garment Fair is a B-2-B fair started in 1988. The fair was organized by Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), in association with International Garment Fair Association.

7. Five-day Jaipur Literature Festival

The annual Jaipur Literature Festival was inaugurated by former Rajasthan governor Margaret Alva and British-born American essayist and novelist Pico Iyer. It began on 25th January. It was held at the Diggi Palace Hotel. The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is described as the 'greatest literary show on Earth' and the 'Kumbh of literature'.



The 11th edition of the five-day event represented over 15 Indian and 20 international languages this year. The Festival had initiated serious dialogues to save oceans, rivers, mountains, forests, wildlife.

8. 7th Asia Steel International Conference to be held in Bhubaneswar

The 7th Asia Steel International Conference will be held in Bhubaneswar from February 6 to 9. The conference will be conducted by Tata Steel in association with the Indian Institute Of Metals.



The last Asia Steel conference was held in 2015 at Yokohama, Japan. The conference is held every three years and provides a platform for exchange of knowledge on various aspects of the global steel industry.

9. Bharat Parv held at Red Fort in Delhi

As part of the Republic Day celebrations, cultural extravaganza Bharat Parv was held at the Red Fort in Delhi. The prime objective of the event was to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to ensure wider participation of the general public. The event included display of Republic Day Parade Tableaux, Performances by the Armed Forces Bands, a Multi-Cuisine Food Court, Craft Mela, Cultural Performances from different regions of the country and Photo Exhibition by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity.



10. Kolkata becomes first Indian metro to get floating market

Kolkata became the first metro in the country to have a floating market. The market will host at least 114 boats, each one accommodating two shops. Shoppers will approach the boats through wooden walkways.

All regular or daily-use items such as vegetables, fruits, flowers, fish and meat and poultry would be available in the shops. The executing agency of is Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.



11. National Handloom Expo held at Guwahati

Assam Handloom and Textile Minister Ranjit Dutta inaugurated National Handloom Expo at Guwahati. 12 states have participated in the event which would continue till 11 February.

The event is sponsored by Development Commissioner of Handloom, Govt of India and organized by Assam Apex Weavers' and Artisans Co-operative Federation (ARTFED). Total 130 stalls have been set up. The expo was organized to provide marketing platform of all kinds of hand-woven textile in cotton, silk, woolen and blended fabrics produced by the weavers across the country.



Regional

1. AAI allocates Rs 3400 crore for airports in North East region

The Airports Authority of India, AAI, has allocated nearly Rs 3400 crore for the upgradation of airports in the North East region.

An amount of Rs 1720 crore for Assam, Rs 525 crore for Tripura, Rs 800 crore for Manipur, Rs 42 crore for Nagaland, Rs 211 crore for Arunachal Pradesh and Rs 60 crore for Mizoram has been allocated. Airports in the NE region recorded a total passenger movement of 68.04 lakh in 2016-17 and registered a growth of 27.02% over the previous year.



2. Maharashtra issued notification for implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013

Maharashtra government issued a notification for creating an administrative framework for the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

The notification provides for setting up of the State Food Commission, creating the post of District Grievance Redressal Officer and a Targeted Public Distribution System whereby essential commodities will be made available to ration card holders through Fair Price Shops.



3. Uttar Pradesh to have India's second-largest rooftop solar plant

GAIL India has responsibility to commission India's second largest rooftop solar plant at Pata in Uttar Pradesh. The solar power plant has capacity 5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak), covering warehouses over rooftop on a total area of 65,000 square meters. It is part of target of India to have 40 GW of rooftop photovoltaics (PV) by 2022. Gail Limited is the largest state-owned natural gas processing and distribution company in India.



4. Karnataka state to host largest B2B travel event of India

Karnataka announced to host largest" B2B travel event 'Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE) in India, so as to project Karnataka globally and attract tourist footfall. Travel expo will display attractive wild life, luxury and adventure destinations, historical monuments and UNESCO world heritage sites.



Around 100 international buyers and 250 domestic or national buyers will witness the show. Karnataka will witness the first blogathon which will be attended by international travel bloggers.

5. Tamil Nadu hosted 171st Araadhanai music festival

Sri Thyagabrahma Mahotsava Sabha organized 171st Araadhanai Music Festival in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu to celebrate the Trinities of Carnatic Music Telegu Saint Thyagaraja. Thyagaraja brought attractions of classical music to the common man.



He is considered as one of the principal composers for artistes and practitioners of the most complicated genre of music. Around 1,000 musicians from all over the world paid tribute to Saint Thyagaraja on 5 day festival. The Aradhana festival is observed on Pushya Bahula Panchami day when the saint attained samadhi.

6. Arunachal Pradesh declared ODF

In an initiative to achieve milestone of Swatch Bharat Mission, Arunachal Pradesh was declared as ODF, well before its target of October 2, 2019. It could be completed due to reward of Rs 8,000 in addition to the Rs 12,000-grant provided by the Centre for building toilets.



Around 21 districts of Arunachal Pradesh were declared as Open Defecation Free. Other states that have been already declared as ODF in October 2017 are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Haryana.

7. National Register of Citizens' first draft released in Assam

The first draft of National Register of Citizens was released by the Registrar General of India, Sailesh, in Assam, with first batch of 19 million names out of the 32.9 million applicants from within the state as legal Indian citizens.

Citizens have the facility to check their names on website or through automatic receipt of SMS by sending an SMS on a number or through the printed version of the list at the NRC Seva Kendras. This will help in identification of illegal immigrants in Assam that borders Bangladesh.



8. Haryana introduced integrated solar based micro irrigation

Integrated solar-based micro irrigation scheme will be implemented in all districts of state Haryana. Scheme will be implemented under the supervision of committee under the Chairmanship of Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA) chairman. The project will cost Rs 24.65 crore for implementation in different canal outlets spread over 13 districts of Haryana.



The scheme will help farmers to utilize surplus water from 50 overflowing ponds in villages, save electricity, save water and will be economical for farmers.

9. Odisha received financial assistance of Rs 372.51 crore from NABARD

NABARD sanctioned financial assistance of Rs 372.51 crore loan to Odisha under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund for 17322 lift irrigation projects. These 17322 lift irrigation projects include bore wells, shallow tube wells, digging wells, micro river lifts and rural bridge construction.

With this financial assistance, around 40,000 farmers will get assured irrigation for about 36,440 hectares of agricultural land. Prior to this loan, NABARD had previously sanctioned Rs 242.34 crore for 14 Rural Bridge Projects and Rs 10,000 crore in third quarter of the current financial year.



10. Himachal CM launched "Shakti" app for women's safety

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister launched the 'Shakti' app. The app has a panic button. It was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Himachal Pradesh government.

The app would be available in Hindi and English languages and would not require internet connectivity. Shaking the device would trigger the app to send its location through GPS. A message would then be automatically sent to the nearest police control room.



11. West Bengal state's official emblem unveiled by state

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unveiled the official emblem 'Ashoka emblem' of the state, based on theme "Biswa Bangla". The emblem showed "Biswa Bangla" at the center and Ashoka pillar on top. The emblem is designed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

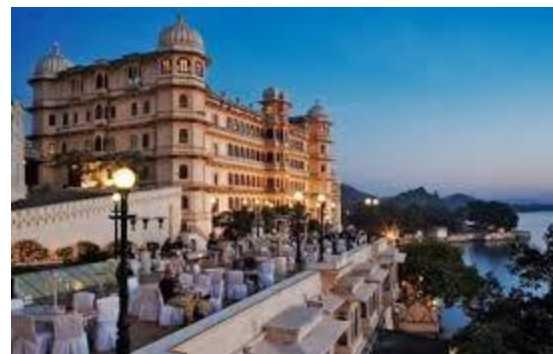
The emblem will be used in all the official documents and work of the State government. The state's name will be named as 'Bangla' in all the official documents of state.



12. 18th All India Whips' Conference held at Udaipur, Rajasthan

The 18th All India Whips' Conference was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The two-day conference hosted around 90 Delegates belonging to 19 States and Centre.

The purpose of the conference is to strengthen the parliamentary democracy, its institutions and ultimately serve the people at large. Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje released a coffee table book 'New India – We Resolve to make', on the occasion showcasing exhibitions held at 39 destinations across the country on India's freedom movement from 1857 to 1947.



13. Delhi became first city to launch common mobility card for bus and metro rides

Delhi became the first city in the country to have a common mobility card for rides on public buses and the metro. The card can be presently used on 200 DTC and 50 cluster buses, apart from metro trains.

The card will function like a debit card. It will be operational in all DTC and cluster buses from April 1.



14. 7th edition of 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2018' held in Karnataka

The 7th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix was held in Karnataka from 14th to 20th January, 2018 to celebrate the idea of unity in diversity.

The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme was launched by the Prime Minister on 31st October, 2016 to promote engagement amongst the people of different states/UTs so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India. The State paired with Karnataka is Uttarakhand.



15. Johnson & Johnson partnered with Maharashtra government on health interventions

The Maharashtra state government has formalized a partnership with Johnson & Johnson. As a part of the partnership, J&J India will organize skill development programs for nurses, along with activities including training to provide care to infants in nine districts in Maharashtra with maximum rate of infant mortality.



Maharashtra's mine workers who face an increased risk of tuberculosis will be part of awareness programs on the illness. The collaboration would also look at infection prevention, diabetes, obesity and menstrual hygiene and support healthcare professionals.

16. Punjab signed MoU with IOC to set up Biogas, Bio-CNG Plants

The Punjab government inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Oil Corporation to set up bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in the state.

The plants will be set up at a total investment of Rs 5,000 crore and will generate employment for around 4,000 people. The project will be initiated with 42 plants becoming operational in 2018. Over 400 plants will become operational in the next 3-4 years. 400 units will produce about 1,400 million kg per annum CNG and 6,000 million kg per annum manure.



17. Odisha CM launched Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana For Artistes' Welfare

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana (Chief Minister Artistes Aid Scheme) for the welfare of the artistes in Odisha.

Under the scheme, the government has enhanced the monthly pension from Rs 1000 Rs 1200 to the artists. The government also reduced the minimum age to 50 years for male artists and 40 years of age for female artists. The responsibility to identify the beneficiaries has been entrusted to the District Cultural Councils.



18. Maharashtra government launched 'Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed Sanmaan' scheme

The Maharashtra government has launched 'Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed Sanmaan' scheme, under which family members of martyrs would be provided jobs with the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC).

Apart from jobs, wives of martyrs would also be provided with lifetime free bus passes. MSRTC also launched 'Sleeper Shiv-shahi' buses. The MSRTC also launched a scheme for the youth in the Naxal-affected areas, under which driving training schools would be started for them.



19. Maharashtra became first state to unveil public cloud policies

The Maharashtra state government became the first state to unveil public cloud policy and instructed all state departments to migrate data storage onto the cloud platform. It will create \$2 billion opportunity for the industry.



The Maharashtra state government has also announced its State Innovation and Start-up Policy with an aim to generate five lakh jobs in the next five years. The objectives of the policy are to attract ₹5,000 crore investments in the development of incubation and start-ups.

20. The GoI, Uttarakhand and the World Bank sign \$120 million Loan Agreement to improve access to Water Supply Services

The Government of India, the Government of Uttarakhand and the World Bank Board signed a \$120 million Loan Agreement which will help increase access to improved water supply services in peri-urban areas in the State of Uttarakhand.



WORLD BANK

The Uttarakhand Water Supply Program for Peri-Urban Areas will help the State increase water supply coverage as well as ensure sustainable water supply service delivery in peri-urban areas. The \$120 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a 5-year grace period, and a maturity of 17 years.

21. Telangana signed MoU with Clean Authority of Tokyo

The Telangana government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Clean Authority of Tokyo for municipal solid waste incineration facilities.



The two parties will exchange knowledge in municipal solid waste incineration facilities and make an effort to realize human resource exchanges in view of technical cooperation in the future. The Telangana state government also signed a letter of intent with ISE Foods of Japan to set up a solar park to support egg production facility including the development of storage devices.

22. Garbage Fest or Kachra Mahotsav held in Raipur

Raipur became the first city in the country to host Garbage Fest or Kachra Mahotsav. The Raipur Municipal Corporation organised the garbage fest from January 19 – January 22 with an aim to guide people on waste management.



During the 3-day festival, talks, competitions and cultural performances were organized. In addition, different types of workshops were held to educate people on how effectively they can start managing their waste. In this fest, there were different stalls of utility items made out of waste.

23. Japan's Official Development Loan Assistance to India for an amount of Yen 45 billion

The Government of Japan has committed JICA Official Development Assistance loan for an amount of Yen 45 billion (=Rs.2587 crore approx.) for Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3).



This Project will provide residents of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) area especially in 110 villages with safe and stable water supply and sewerage services by carrying-out construction of water treatment plant and sewage treatment plants.

24. Andhra Pradesh-Zurich ink Sister State Agreement

The Andhra Pradesh Government and the Canton of Zurich signed a sister-state agreement. The two parties signed a letter of intent to promote mutual prosperity and development.



The agreement will promote collaborations between the two governments in the areas such as Information and Communication Technology, Environmental Technology, Life Sciences and Urban and Regional Development. The agreement will promote collaborations through exchange of experience and information. as well as regular expert-level consultations.

25. Punjab Government launched Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana

Punjab Chief Minister launched the release of benefits under 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.

The programme's objective was to give the distressed sections the help they need, socially or economically or psychologically. It will identify poor and distressed households which have been deprived of the benefits of the various welfare schemes launched by state government.



Reports

1. India's gross enrolment ratio in higher education registered increase of 0.7%

Gross Enrolment Ratio or Gross Enrollment Index (GEI) is a statistical measure used in the education sector to calculate the number of students enrolled in school at several different grade levels. All India Higher Education Survey reportedly showed an increase of 0.7%, from 24.5% in 2015-16.



Tamil Nadu state topped the All India Higher Education Survey's GER index at 46.9%. The index showed increase in rate of literacy. Bihar was ranked least among the list with 14.9%.

2. India registers significant decline in under five child mortality rate

According to the bulletin, under-five child mortality (U5MR) of India showed an impressive decline by 9%, a 4 points decline from 43 per 1000 in 2015 to 39 in 2016. The rate of decline has doubled over the last year.



The gender difference between female and male under-five mortality rates has now reduced to 11% which was as high as 17% in 2014. The neonatal mortality rate has reduced by 1 point from 25 per 1000 live births to 24 per 1000.

3. India topped domestic air traffic demand at 16.4% in November

According to a report published by the Global aviation body, International Air Transport Association, India's domestic air passenger traffic grew by 16.4% in November 2017, topping the growth chart worldwide. India continued to witness double-digit growth for the 39th consecutive month.



Globally, the total revenue passenger kilometres increased 8% compared to November 2016, the fastest growth rate in five months. The available seat kilometres (ASKs) grew by 6.3%. The ASKs for India was at 10.4%, second only to China where capacity grew by 12.9%.

4. Gujarat Tops Logistics Performance Index Chart

According to a report by the Commerce Ministry - LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States), Gujarat has topped logistics index chart. Jammu and Kashmir ranked lowest in the index.

Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra were in the top five respectively. The chart is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports in particular and economic growth in general. The report was prepared with the help of consultancy firm Deloitte.



5. India ranked 30th on global manufacturing index

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) first 'Readiness for the future of production report', has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index. According to the report, India's manufacturing sector has grown by over 7% per year on average in the past three decades.

The index is topped by Japan followed by South Korea, Germany, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, the US, Sweden, Austria and Ireland in the top 10. Among BRICS nations, Russia is ranked 35th, Brazil 41st and South Africa at 45th place.



6. India ranked 62nd on Inclusive Development Index: WEF

According to the Inclusive Development Index released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India ranks at the 62nd place among emerging economies. China has been placed at 26th position and Pakistan 47th.

Lithuania topped the list of emerging economies. Norway remains the world's most inclusive advanced economy followed by Ireland, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Denmark in the top five. The other top-five most inclusive emerging economies are Hungary, Azerbaijan, Latvia and Poland.



7. India placed 81st on Global Talent Competitiveness Index

India has been ranked 81st out of 119 countries on 2018 Global Talent Competitiveness Index. Among the BRICS nations, China has been ranked 43rd, Russia 53rd, South Africa 63rd and Brazil 73rd position.



Switzerland topped the index followed by Singapore, USA, Norway and Sweden in the top five respectively. Zurich (Switzerland), Stockholm (Sweden) and Oslo (Norway) were the top ranked Global Cities Talent Competitiveness Index.

8. India 5th most attractive market for investments in 2018: PwC Survey

According to the annual global CEO survey by consultancy giant PwC, India become the fifth most attractive market for investments and business optimism. India pepped Japan as the fifth most attractive market in 2018.



India was ranked 6th in 2017. The other top four markets are US, China, Germany, and the UK. As per the survey, 40% of CEOs are 'extremely concerned' about geopolitical uncertainty and cyber threats while 41% feel so about terrorism.

9. India ranked 177 in Environmental Performance Index 2018

According to a biennial report by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum, India has been ranked 177 out of 180 countries on the Environmental Performance Index 2018. India was ranked 141 in 2016.



Switzerland has topped the index followed by France and Denmark at No 2 and No 3 respectively. The index ranked 180 nations on 24 performance indicators across 10 categories. Deaths attributed to PM2.5 are estimated at 1,640,113, annually in India.

10. India's richest 1% accumulated 73% of wealth generation in 2017

According to a survey released by the international rights group Oxfam titled 'Reward Work, Not Wealth', the richest 1% Indians accumulated 73% of the wealth generated in the country in 2017. Also, 67 crore Indians which comprise of the poorest half population in India, had just 1% rise in their wealth.

According to the report, the wealth of India's richest 1% increased by over Rs. 20.9 lakh crore during 2017, almost equal to the total budget of the union government in 2017-18.



Resignations & Retirements

1. Ronaldinho confirmed retirement from football

The Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho has retired from football. He also won the 2005 Ballon d'Or. His last professional football match was in 2015 for Brazil's Fluminense.

Ronaldinho also won Champions League with Barcelona in 2006 and two FIFA player of the year Awards in 2004 and 2005. Ronaldinho made 97 appearances, scoring 33 goals, including two in the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.



2. Steve Wynn resigned as RNC finance Chairman

In the United States, Steve Wynn has stepped down as the Finance Chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), following allegations of decades of sexual misconduct.

The 76-year-old former business rival turned political ally of Donald Trump had assumed the RNC position after the US President took office in January 2017.

It was the first time that the US sexual harassment watershed has centred on the CEO and founder of a major publicly held company.



Science & Technology

1. PSLV successfully launched 31 satellites in a single flight

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its forty second flight, successfully launched the 710 kg Cartosat-2 Series Remote Sensing Satellite along with 30 co-passenger satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This flight is designated as PSLV-C40.



The 28 international customer satellites belong to Canada, Finland, France, Republic of Korea, UK and the USA. So far, PSLV has successfully launched 51 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.

2. India, US working together to develop vaccines

According to Washington's envoy to New Delhi Kenneth Juster, India and the United States are working together to develop vaccines against diseases such as tuberculosis and dengue. India and US jointly developed the first indigenous Indian vaccine for rotavirus.



The two nations were also engaged in the Global Health Security Agenda, which included acting to combat anti-microbial resistance and strengthening the detection and prevention of epidemics.

3. India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer dedicated to nation

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer to the nation.



The supercomputer named as 'Pratyush' meaning the Sun, established at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, will be a national facility for improving weather and climate forecasts and services under the umbrella of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India. Petaflops is a measure of a computer's processing speed.

4. ISRO released first image taken by Cartosat-2 series satellite

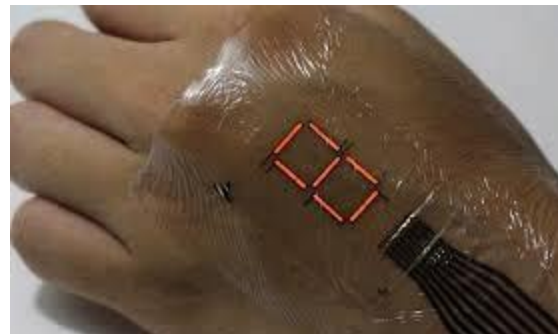
ISRO released the first image captured by its Cartosat-2 series satellite. Cartosat-2 Series satellite was successfully launched onboard the PSLV-C40 rocket by ISRO.

The image shows a part of Indore city in Madhya Pradesh with the Holkar Cricket Stadium in the centre. Cartosat-2 is an advanced remote sensing satellite similar in configuration to earlier six spacecraft in the series and intended to augment data services to the users.



5. Germany scientists developed ultra-thin electronic skin tattoos

Scientists in Germany have developed ultra-thin electronic skin tattoos that can help control virtual and physical objects with mere hand gestures. The polymer foil having sensors is extremely thin and almost invisible. It sticks to the palm of the hand like a second skin.



These sensors will enable people to manipulate everyday objects. It will also help control appliances both in the physical world and in augmented or virtual reality with mere gestures similar to how we use a smartphone now.

6. 2 NASA astronauts successfully conduct first spacewalk of year

Two NASA astronauts have successfully conducted the first spacewalk of the year, replacing a degraded robotic "hand" outside the International Space Station (ISS). Expedition 54 flight engineers Mark Vande Hei and Scott Tingle spent seven hours and 24 minutes working outside the orbiting laboratory.



Their primary task was to swap out one of the two "hands" on the Canadarm2 robotic arm. The event marked the 206th spacewalk conducted by ISS astronauts in support of the station's assembly and maintenance.

7. Scientists discover Gen-next smart solar windows

Scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) in the US have discovered a new material for next-generation smart windows. The material is a form of perovskite that not only helps darken automatically when the Sun is too bright but also convert solar energy into electricity.



The photovoltaic glass is reversibly thermochromic and can prove to be a revolution in green technology. The team of researchers was led by Peidong Yang.

8. Chinese scientists cloned monkeys for first time successfully

Scientists at the Institute of Neuroscience in Shanghai, China have successfully cloned monkeys using the same technique used to clone Dolly the sheep. The two identical long-tailed macaques named Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua are the first primates to be cloned from a non-embryonic cell.



The DNA from which Zhongzhong and Huahua were cloned came from fetal fibroblasts, a type of cell in connective tissue. Cloned and genetically modified monkeys could be very useful for studies of some diseases.

9. First India-designed vaccine to pass WHO test

The World Health Organisation has approved a vaccine conceived and developed in India to be “pre-qualified”. The Rotavac vaccine was developed by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Limited. To be “pre-qualified” means that the vaccine can be sold internationally to several countries in Africa and South America.



**World Health
Organization**

The vaccine was included in India’s national immunisation programme and it protects against childhood diarrhoea caused by the rotavirus. Rotavirus is responsible for an estimated 36% of hospitalisations for childhood diarrhoea around the world.

1. Sathiyam became India's highest-ranked player in latest ITTF rankings

G Sathiyam became India's highest-ranked player in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. He surpassed his compatriot the legendary Sharath Kamal. Sathiyam, at world No. 49, pushing Kamal to the second spot at 51, followed by Soumyajit Ghosh ranked 58th, Harmeet Desai ranked 60th, Sanil Shetty ranked 68th and Anthony Amalraj ranked 87th.



As for the women, Manika Batra is topping the world chart among Indians at 62, while Mouma Das is ranked 74th and Madhurika Patkar is ranked 81th.

2. India-South Africa Test series named as “Freedom Series”

The three-Test series between India and hosts South Africa has been named as “Freedom Series”. India had been among the principal opponents of apartheid. The Freedom Series was felt by both nations to be a more fitting name in recognition of shared history of South Africa and India who both won freedom through non-violence.



Besides, they also share love for cricket. A specially designed Freedom Series Trophy Podium commemorated the landmark series and was unveiled in a special ceremony ahead of the first Test in Cape Town.

3. Vidarbha bagged Ranji Trophy for the first time

It was for the first time that Vidarbha won the Ranji Trophy title defeating Delhi by nine wickets in Indore. Vidarbha bowled out Delhi for 295 runs in the first innings with Rajneesh Gurbani picking up six wickets. Some of the best performers were Akshay Wadkar 133, Aditya Sarwate 79, Wasim Jaffer 78, Siddhesh Neral 74, Faiz Fazal 67; Navdeep Saini 5/135, Akash Sudan 2/102.



The Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between teams representing regional and state cricket associations. It has 28 teams.

4. Indian Golfer Shiv Kapur bagged Royal Cup

Veteran Indian golfer Shiv Kapur created history by winning third Asian Tour title of 2017 against Thailand's Prom Meesawat. It was his sixth international title as he won twice on European Challenge Tour also. Shiv Kapur is the only golfer to win three Asian Tour tournaments this year. He is the only golfer to win multiple Asian Tour titles in 2017.



Shiv Kapur received US\$500,000 Royal Cup after he closed the tournament with a four-under-par 67 to finish 14-under-par 270. Asian tour Royal cup is considered as Professional golf in Asia.

5. Gilles Simon won inaugural Tata Open title

Gilles Simon of France has lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy. The unseeded French player humbled big-serving second seeded Kevin Anderson in straight sets 7-6, 6-2. Simon is ranked 89 in the world, while Anderson is ranked Fourteen.



The tournament is India's only ATP event. For the past 22 years, the tournament had been associated with the big metro cities, New Delhi hosting the inaugural edition in 1996, and Chennai becoming home to it for the next 21 years. This time, the event moved to the tier two city Pune and was rechristened Tata Open Maharashtra.

6. Meghalaya selected as the host city for 2022 National Games

IOA, the Meghalaya State Olympic Association and the state government signed 'host city contract' for National Games 2022. The contract details action timelines which include creation of the National Games Olympics Committee (NGOC) before April 3, 2018, NGOC Emblem and mascot(s) by July 18. The event coincides with statehood day of Meghalaya.



The National Games of India comprises various disciplines in which sportsmen from the different states of India participate against each other. Around 14500 athletes will participate in the event.

7. Sarjubala Devi claimed gold in National Women's Boxing Championship

Former world silver medallist Sarjubala Devi representing Manipur claimed the gold in 48 kg category in the National Women's Boxing Championships in Rohtak. She was also given the best boxer trophy.



Former world and Asian champion L Sarita Devi representing the All India Police picked up a gold medal in the 60 kg category. The other gold winners were Sonia Lather representing Railway Sports Promotion Board, RSPB in 57 kg category, Meena Kumari of AIP in 54 kg category and Rajesh Narwal from RSPB in 48 kg category. RSPB emerged as the overall champions.

8. Harjinder Singh appointed as Chef de Mission for Winter Olympics by IOA

The Indian Olympic Association has appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang. Mr Singh currently is General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.



The 2018 Winter Olympics, officially known as the XXIII Olympic Winter Games and commonly known as PyeongChang 2018 is scheduled to take place from 9 to 25 February 2018 in Pyeongchang County, South Korea.

9. Brazilian footballer Philippe Coutinho became 2nd most expensive transfer in world football history

Philippe Coutinho of Brazil became the second most expensive transfer in world football history after he moved to Barcelona from Liverpool for a staggering 160 million Euros.



The record for the most expensive transfer is held by Neymar when he moved to Paris Saint Germain from Barcelona in 2017 for 222 million Euros. Other Top 3 most expensive transfers (in Euros):

1. Ousmane Dembele – Borussia Dortmund to Barcelona – 2017 – 105 million Euros
2. Paul Pogba – Juventus to Manchester United – 2016 – 105 million Euros

3. Gareth Bale – Tottenham Hotspur to Real Madrid – 100 million Euros

10. Sports Minister launched 'Khelo India' Logo

Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore launched vibrant Khelo India logo, reflecting the freshness, agility and vitality of New India. The logo also conveys an impression of fitness and competitiveness.



The three-stroke Khelo India logo, designed by Ogilvy India, has in-built modularity, allowing plenty of adaptability and flexibility into endless pictorial forms. The color of the Indian flag evokes a sense of National pride and team-work.

11. Elina Svitolina won Brisbane International

Elina Svitolina won her first WTA title after she defeated Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-2, 6-1 in the Brisbane International final in Australia. Elina claimed the first Premier-level title of her career, after winning three Premier 5 titles in 2017 - the first player to ever do so in a single season. With this win, she now ranks No 3 in the world ATP rankings.



Nick Kyrgios won the men's singles after he defeated Ryan Harrison.

12. Aditya Mehta bagged Kolkata Open 2018 Snooker Championship

Asian Games cueist champion Aditya Mehta bagged Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship defeating Englishman Alfie Burden. It has been for the third time that Aditya Mehta has won Kolkata Open title. Aditya Mehta has won many professional snooker tournaments such as 2016 National Snooker championship, 2014 World Games etc. He became the first Indian to reach the final of a ranking tournament at his home event, the Indian Open.



The winner of Kolkata Open 2017 and 2016 Snooker Championship was Pankaj Advani.

13. Anchal Thakur won medal in India's 1st International Medal in Skiing

Anchal Thakur became first Indian to win a medal at an international skiing event. She won bronze medal in Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup under slalom race category, held at the Palandoken Ski Centre, in Erzurum in Turkey. It was conducted by Skiing's international governing body, Federation International de Ski (FIS).



Some other countries who bagged highest medals were Austria, Canada, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

14. Khelo India Anthem launched

Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore launched the Khelo India Anthem. The Khelo India Anthem was launched ahead of the Khelo India School Games which encourages mass participation and excellence in sports among youngsters.



The government has earmarked R1,756 crore over the next five years for Khelo India Program. Every year, 1000 athletes will be selected through an under 17 tournaments and a portal. They will be rewarded with a scholarship of Rs. 5 Lakhs every year continuously for 8 years.

15. India beat Pakistan to win the Blind Cricket World Cup 2018

India defeated Pakistan by two wickets to win and retain the Blind Cricket World Cup title. The final was played at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in UAE.



Pakistan had defeated Srilanka in the semi-final while India had defeated Bangladesh to enter the final. This was the fourth edition of the 40-over Blind Cricket World Cup competition. Sunil Ramesh of india was declared the man of the match.

16. West Indies to Host 2018 Women's World T20

The 2018 Women's World T20 will be played in Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and St Lucia from November 9-24. The November event in the Caribbean will be the first stand-alone ICC Women's World Twenty20 after the past six events were played alongside the men's event.

The hosts will be joined by New Zealand, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and world champions England who have all achieved qualification.



17. Lifter Rakhi Halder created new national record

Rakhi Halder of RSPB created a new national record in clean and jerk en route to a gold medal in the 63kg women's category in the 33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships.

Rakhi lifted 128kgs in the clean and jerk for a total of 230kgs to create a new national record, bettering Karnam Malleswari's feat (127kg) created in Athens in 1999. R V Rahul of RSPB won the gold medal in 85kg men's division of the 70th Men National Weightlifting Championships with a total lift of 335kg.



18. Australia Open: Wozniacki lifts her maiden Grand Slam title

Caroline Wozniacki lifted her first Grand Slam title as she beat Simona Halep 7-6, 3-6, 6-4 to win the Australian Open Tennis. With this victory, Caroline has also reached the number one spot in the ATP rankings.

Caroline has been known as one of the best players to have never won a major, though she had reached the US Open final in 2009 and 2014, and first becoming number one in 2010.



19. Australian Open: Oliver Marach, Mate Pavic win their first Grand Slam doubles title

Seventh-seeded Oliver Marach and Mate Pavic won their first Grand Slam doubles title after they won the Australian Open Men's doubles final. The duo, from Austria and Croatia, defeated Colombian pair of Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah.

Marach and Pavic's best performance before now as a team was an appearance in the Wimbledon final in 2017. Marach became just the third Austrian to win a men's doubles grand slam title.



20. Leander Paes won his 25th ATP Challenger level doubles title

Veteran Indian tennis star Leander Paes has won his 25th ATP Challenger level doubles title after he and his American partner James Cerretani defeated the duo of Denis Kudla and Treat Huey in the final of the Newport Beach event.

The second seeded Indo-American pair won in straight sets 6-4, 7-5 against the American-Filipino combine in the 150,000 US Dollar hard court tournament. Paes, winner of 11 singles titles on the Challenger Tour, had ended the 2017 season with consecutive trophies in Champaign and Knoxville with Raja.



21. Roger Federer retains his Men's Singles title at Australian Open

World Number two Roger Federer has retained his Men's Singles title at the Australian Open after he defeated sixth seed Marin Cilic of Croatia in five sets 6-2, 6-7, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the final.

It was Federer's sixth Australian Open and 20th Grand Slam title that brought the Swiss star to the elite group of Margaret Court, Serena Williams and Steffi Graf, the only players to have won 20 or more Grand Slam singles titles.

