

GK Tornado for Syndicate & Canara Bank Manipal 2018Exam

Dear readers,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in last **3.5 months (1st November 2017– 7 February 2018)**. **Tornado** is important and relevant for all competitive exams like Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

February Month 2018

- 1. RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6%** - On 7th February 2018, RBI in its sixth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement decided to keep the policy Repo rate unchanged at 6%. Therefore, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 per cent.

New Policy & Reserve Rates

1. Repo Rate	6% (unchanged)
2. Reverse Repo Rate	5.75% (unchanged)
3. CRR (Cash Reserve Ratio)	4.00% (unchanged)
4. SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)	19.50% (unchanged)
5. MSF (Marginal Standing Facility)	6.25% (unchanged)
6. Bank Rate	6.25% (unchanged)

Note:

- Retail inflation estimated at 5.1 pc in Q4 this fiscal and 5.1-5.6 pc in H1 of FY2018-19;
- Inflation likely to ease to 4.5-4.6 per cent in H2 of FY19;
- Gross Value Added (GVA) growth for 2017-18 is projected at 6.6 per cent.
- GVA growth for 2018-19 is projected at 7.2 per cent.

- 2. RBI lowers economic forecast to 6.6% for FY18 -**

The Reserve Bank lowered the economic growth projection for 2017-18 to 6.6 per cent.

- 3. RBI to set up ombudsman for non-banking finance companies -** The Reserve Bank today will bring about a customer grievance redressal mechanism for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) by February month end.

- To be implemented in phased manner, it will cover all deposit taking NBFCs and those with customer interface having asset-size of Rs 100 crore and above.

- 4. RBI will link Base rate with MCLR -** The Reserve Bank of India would order banks to link the movement of their Base Rate with the Marginal Cost funds-based Lending Rate to ensure that the existing borrowers do not lose out on the benefits of lower interest.

- From April 1, 2018, base rate will be linked to MCLR and they will move in cycle.
- In effect, when a bank revises its MCLR, either upwards or downwards, the base rate will

move in the same direction and by the same amount.

- The new MCLR regime was implemented in April 2016.
- Base Rate was put into practice in 2010.
- The Base Rate was the lowest rate that a bank would lend to its best customers, and there won't be any lending below that floor rate.

- 5. RBI relaxes priority sector lending rule for banks -** Reserve Bank of India has made banks' priority sector norms lenient by saying that **all loans to micro small and medium enterprises (MSME)** will henceforth qualify as priority sector lending.

Note:

- Till date, loans up to **Rs 10 crore per MSME** borrower was considered for priority sector calculation.
- The sub-target for bank lending to the micro enterprises has been **7.50 percent** of adjusted net bank credit or credit equivalent amount of

off-balance sheet exposure, whichever is higher.

- Foreign banks will also have to follow **8%** sub-target for lending to the small and marginal farmers.

January Month 2018

1. Mauritius largest source of FDI in India in 2016-17

– RBI

- According to the Reserve Bank of India report - Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies 2016-17 - Mauritius was the largest source of FDI in India.
- Mauritius was the largest source of FDI in India (21.8 per cent share at market value) followed by the USA, the UK, Singapore and Japan.
- In Overseas Direct investment (ODI) Singapore (19.7 per cent) was the major ODI destination, followed by the Netherlands, Mauritius, and the USA.

2. Telangana launches India's 1st co-financing NBFC for MSMEs - Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd. got RBI clearance to register and function as a non-banking finance company for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- TIHCL will be the first state promoted and co-financing NBFC.

3. RBI Introduces New Rs. 10 note in Chocolate Brown Colour.

- The new denomination has motif of Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse and the base colour of the note, Chocolate Brown.
- The dimension of the banknote will be 63 mm x 123 mm.

December Month 2018

1. NPAs of Public Sector Banks reach Rs 7.34 lakh crore - RBI data

– According to the Reserve Bank of India data - Bad loans of Public sector banks (PSBs) stood at Rs 7.34 lakh crore by the end of second quarter this fiscal, a bulk of which came from corporate defaulters.

- "The gross non-performing assets of public sector and private sector banks as on September 30, 2017 were Rs 7,33,974 crore, Rs 1,02,808 crore, respectively.
- Among the major public sector banks, State Bank of India (SBI) had the highest amount of NPAs at over Rs 1.86 lakh crore followed by Punjab National Bank (Rs 57,630 crore), Bank of India (Rs 49,307 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 46,307 crore), Canara Bank (Rs 39,164 crore) and Union Bank of India (Rs 38,286 crore).
- Among private sector lenders, ICICI Bank had the highest amount of NPAs on its books at Rs 44,237 crore by the end of September, followed by Axis Bank (Rs 22,136 crore), HDFC Bank (Rs 7,644 crore) and Jammu and Kashmir Bank (Rs 5,983 crore).

2. Uma Shankar appointed RBI Executive Director.

3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will open an office in the north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

4. RBI sets up task force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) - The Reserve Bank of India constituted a 10-member 'High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India'. The task force will be headed by **YM Deosthalee**, ex-CMD of L&T Finance Holdings.

5. Legal Entity Identifier mandatory for all large corporate borrowers: RBI - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made 20-digit Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) compulsory for companies having aggregate fund-based and non-fund based exposure over Rs 5 crore. The move is aimed at improving risk management in wake of huge stressed assets in banking system. Before this, RBI had made LEI mandatory for transactions in interest rate, forex and credit derivative market

Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

- **LEI is a 20-digit unique code** to identify parties to financial transactions worldwide.
- It is a global reference number that uniquely identifies every legal entity or structure that is party to a financial transaction, in any jurisdiction.
- LEI code has been conceived as key measure to improve quality and accuracy of financial data systems for better risk management post the global financial crisis.

- The LEI system was developed by G20 in response to inability of financial institutions to identify organisations uniquely, so that their financial transactions in different national jurisdictions can be fully tracked. The first LEIs were issued in December 2012.
- Legal Entity Identifier India Limited (LEIL), a **wholly-owned subsidiary of Clearing Corporation of India (CCI)**, acts as a local operating unit (LOU) for issuing globally compatible legal entity identifiers (LEIs) in India.

6. Banks to Provide Funds at 7% to Women SHGs

under DAY-NRLM: RBI - The RBI has issued guidelines to banks will provide funds to women self help groups, SHGs, in rural areas at 7 per cent under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in the current fiscal (2017-18).

Note:

- **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** is a poverty alleviation project implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.
- NRLM is focused on promoting **self-employment** and organization of rural poor.
- **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana** or DAY is a Government of India scheme for the helping the poor by providing skill training.

15. RBI opens branch in Dehradun – RBI had opened its new branch in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The branch was inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. Earlier, the state government had to do financial transactions through the Kanpur branch of the RBI.

16. Reserve Bank of India acknowledged HDFC Bank Ltd as a **Domestic-Systemically Important Bank (D-SIB)**. With this, HDFC Bank joins State Bank of India and ICICI Bank in the elite D-SIB list.

Note: The higher capital requirements applicable to D-SIBs will be applicable from April 1, 2016, in a phased manner and would become fully effective from **April 1, 2019**.

17. P2P platforms will now act as NBFCs: Govt. - According to the gazette notification issued by the government, all Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will now considered as Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and will be regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

About Peer-To-Peer Lending (P2P) - Peer-to-peer lending (P2P) is a method of bulk funding that enables individuals to borrow and lend money - without the use

of any official financial institution or bank as an intermediary. Peer-to-peer lending removes the middleman from the process and matches lenders with borrowers online, but it also involves more time, effort and risk than the general lending process.

18. RBI issues guidelines for Peer to Peer lending platform

– Following are the guidelines -

- Unless an NBFC has received the Certificate of Registration, it cannot start the the business of a P2P lending platform.
- New companies who are looking for registration with the bank as an NBFC-P2P must have a net owned funds of not less than **20 million rupees** or such higher amount as the RBI may specify.
- The existing NBFC-P2Ps have to apply for registration as NBFC-P2Ps within 3 months.

Functions of NBFC-P2P

– Following are the functions of NBFC-P2P –

- (i) It is necessary to provide online platform to members involved in P2P lending.
- (ii) Cannot lend on its own.
- (iv) Cannot hold its own balance sheet of funds received from lenders or funds given to borrowers
- (v) NBFC-P2P can't cross-sell products.

Guidelines for lenders and borrowers –

- (1) A lender can't lend more than Rs 10 lakh to all borrowers at any point of time across all P2Ps
- (2) Borrowers can't borrow more than Rs 10 lakh from all lenders at any point of time across all P2Ps
- (3) Not more than Rs 50,000 can be borrowed from single lender to the same borrower, across all P2Ps.
- (4) The maturity of the loans shall not exceed 36 months.

Fund transfer mechanism – Bank account is mandatory for transfer of funds. The transfer of funds between lenders & borrowers on the P2P platform will be done through escrow account mechanisms. Cash transactions are not allowed in P2P platform.

19. RBI to pay Rs 30,659 cr dividend to Govt. - The Reserve Bank has to pay Rs 30,659 crore to the government for the fiscal ended June 2017. It is a less than half of what it paid in 2016. Previous year in 2016 RBI had paid Rs 65,876 crore dividend to the government.

20. RBI issues new Rs 200, Rs 50 banknotes - After demonetization, Rs 200 is the fourth note introduced by the apex bank.

Features of Rs. 200 bank note – The note will carry the signature of RBI governor Urjit Patel, the year of printing on the left, and the Swachh Bharat logo with the slogan.

- **Colour** – The colour of the bank note is Bright Yellow.

- **Design:** It has a motif of Sanchi Stupa on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
- **Dimension** - The dimension of the bank note will be 66mm X 146mm.

Features of 50 Rs bank note – The note will carry the signature of RBI governor Urjit Patel, the year of printing on the left, and the Swachh Bharat logo with the slogan and language panel.

- **Colour:** The bank note is fluorescent blue in colour.
- **Design:** The note bears the motif of 'Hampi with Chariot' on the reverse that depicts India's cultural heritage.
- **Dimension** - Dimension of the banknote will be 66 mm x 135 mm.
- **Note:** Till now, India has currency denominations of Rs. 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 2,000.

21. **RBI broadens scope of Banking Ombudsman Scheme** – With the amendment, from 1 July 2017, the banking ombudsman scheme will include –

- i. sale of insurance, mutual funds and other third-party investment products by banks
- ii. mobile and online banking services.

Now, a bank customer also files a complaint to Banking Ombudsman on following issues –

- i. **Mutual Fund & Insurance policy** - wrongly sold third party products such as mutual fund schemes & insurance policies.

- ii. **mobile and online banking services** - delay or failure of online payments or fund transfers and unauthorized electronic payments or fund transfers.

Key points -

- So far, the banking ombudsman only accepted complaints about banking products and services.
- Third-party products sold by banks, such as insurance and mutual fund products, were kept out of its ambit.
- RBI has included in its amended scheme that in case of any grievance, you can lodge a complaint against the bank for its non-adherence to RBI's instructions on mobile banking and electronic banking services in India.

Increase in compensation amount: The RBI has increased the compensation limit **from Rs10 lakh to Rs20 lakh**. The compensation excludes the amount involved in the dispute. For case, if you have a complaint about a transaction amount of, say, Rs15 lakh. The compensation will be over and above this amount.

22. **RBI's notification related to Interest Subvention Scheme for Short Term Crop Loans during the year 2017-18** – A farmer can avail loans up to Rs. 3 lakh at an interest rate of 7% p.a. during the year 2017-18.

Highlights of the Union Budget 2018

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Mr. Arun Jaitley** presented the **General Budget 2018-19** with remarkable flexibility in adjusting with the structural reforms.

- To reflect the status, role and empowerment of women in the society and gender equality, **economic survey 2018** carries **the pink theme**.

Agriculture and Rural Economy

- The government has decided to keep **MSP** for all unannounced **kharif crops** at least one and half times of their production cost after declaring the same for the majority of rabi crops.
- The government proposed to raise the volume of institutional credit for agriculture sector to **Rs.11 lakh crore** for the year 2018-19.
- Proposal for setting up a **Fisheries and Aqua culture Infrastructure Development Fund (FAIDF)** for fisheries sector and an **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)** for financing infrastructure requirement

of animal husbandry sector with a total corpus of **Rs.10,000 crore** for the two new funds.

- **"Operation Flood"** replaced with a new Scheme **"Operation Greens"** was announced with an outlay of **Rs 500 Crore** to address the challenge of price volatility of perishable commodities like tomato, onion and potato with the satisfaction of both the farmers and consumers.
- The government announced to develop and upgrade existing **22,000 rural haats** into **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)** to take care of the interests of more than **86%** small and marginal farmers.

- The Finance Minister announced a Re-Structured **National Bamboo Mission** with an outlay of **Rs.1290 crore** to promote bamboo sector in a holistic manner, **Bamboo** as '**Green Gold**'.
- The Finance Minister increased the loan to **Self Help Groups of women** to about Rupees 42,500 crore in 2016-17, growing 37% over previous year and expressed confidence that loans to SHGs will increase to **Rs. 75,000 crore** by **March, 2019**.
- Propose to extend the facility of **Kisan Credit Cards** to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their working capital needs.
- Long-Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) in **NABARD** for meeting funding requirement of irrigation works, expanded to cover specified command area development projects.
- Allocation on **National Social Assistance Programme** this year has been kept at **Rs. 9975 crore**.
- National Health Protection Scheme, the world's largest government funded health care programme, is introduced to cover over **10 crore** poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto **5 lakh rupees** per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- The Government also decided to allocate additional **Rs.600 crore** to provide nutritional support to all **TB patients** at the rate of **Rs.500 per month** for the duration of their treatment.
- **24 new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals** will be setting up by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country.
- The free **LPG connection scheme** (Ujjwala Yojana) will be expanded to **8 crores** households.
- The government will provide free **4 crore** electricity connections to the poor under Saubhagya Yojana.

Education, Health and Social Protection

- This year, 2018-19 the estimated budgetary expenditure on **health, education and social protection** is **Rs.1.38 lakh crore** against estimated expenditure of Rs.1.22 lakh crore in 2017-18 .
- Technology will also be used to upgrade the skills of teachers through the recently launched digital portal "**DIKSHA**".
- To provide the best quality education to the tribal children in their own environment by **2022** in every block with more than **50% ST population** and at least **20,000 tribal persons** with special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development, the government announced setting up of **Ekalavya Model Residential School** on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas.
- To set up "**Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)** by 2022" with a total investment of Rs.1,00,000 crore in next four years.
- The government would launch the "**Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF)**" Scheme this year to improve the quality of teachers an integrated B.Ed. programme for teachers will be initiated.
 - Under this scheme **1,000** best B.Tech students will be identified each year from premier institutions and provide them facilities to do Ph.D in IITs and IISc, with a handsome fellowship.

Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) and Employment

- **MUDRA Yojana** is proposed to set a target of **Rs.3 lakh crore** for lending under MUDRA for 2018-19.
- The launch of **National Apprenticeship Scheme** with stipend support and sharing of the cost of basic training to give training to **50 lakh** youth by 2020.

Infrastructure and Financial Sector Development

- According to the Finance Minister, investment in excess of **Rs.50 lakh crore** is needed to increase growth of GDP and connect the nation with a network of roads, airports, railways, ports and inland waterways.
- Under the **Bharatmala Pariyojana**, about 35000 km road construction in Phase-I at an estimated cost of **Rs.5,35,000 crore** has been approved.
- Smart Cities Mission aims at building 100 Smart Cities with state-of-the-art amenities.
- 99 Cities have been selected with an outlay of Rs. 2.04 lakh crore.
- Rs 1.48 lakh crore have been allocated for the **Indian Railways** for the year 2018-19.
- In Railways, 18,000 km of **doubling of tracks** would eliminate capacity constraints.

- **Niti Aayog** to establish a national program to direct efforts in artificial intelligence towards national development.

Digital Economy

- The Budget doubled the allocation on **Digital India** programme to **Rs 3073 crore** in **2018-19**.
- Explore the use of **blockchain technology** proactively to boost digital economy.
- Department of Science & Technology will launch a **Mission on Cyber Physical Systems** to support establishment of centres of excellence for research, training and skilling in robotics, artificial intelligence, digital manufacturing, big data analysis, quantum communication and internet of things.
- The Finance Minister allocated **Rs. 10000 crore** in 2018-19 for creation and augmentation of Telecom infrastructure.

Disinvestment

- The government set disinvestment target of **Rs. 80,000 crore** for 2018-19.
- Three Public Sector Insurance companies- **National Insurance Co. Ltd., United India Assurance Co. Ltd., and Oriental India insurance Co. Ltd.**, will be merged into a single insurance entity.
- The Budget proposes to revise emoluments to **Rs.5 lakh** for the **President**, **Rs 4 lakhs** for the **Vice President** and **Rs.3.5 lakh** per month to **Governor**.

Employment Generation

- The Government will contribute **12%** of the wages of the new employees in the **EPF** for all the sectors for next three years.
- The Budget proposed an outlay of **Rs.7148 crore** for the **textile sector** in 2018-19 as against Rs.6,000 Crore in 2016.

International

In the Union budget 2018-19, the Ministry of External Affairs was granted Rs **15,011** crore, up from last year's Rs 213 crore.

- This time government has come up with a **maritime strategic diplomacy through Union Budget**.
- Island nations located in the Indian Ocean region were granted a large sum of money. Countries like **Seychelles, Mauritius, Sri Lanka** and **Maldives** got budget allocations. Indian Ocean region is a crucial region as China as been trying to gain supremacy.
 - In the Budget 2018, **Seychelles** was given **Rs 300 crore**.
 - **Rs 350 crore** were allocated for another island nation **Mauritius**.
 - **Maldives** was allocated **Rs 125 crore**.
 - **Afghanistan** was allocated **Rs. 325 crore**.
 - **Bangladesh** was allocated **Rs. 175 crore**.
 - **Chabahar Port** in **Iran** was allocated **Rs 150 crore**.
 - **Bhutan** was granted **Rs 2,650 crore**.
 - **Nepal** got **Rs 650 crore** for projects in Budget 2018.
 - In the Union Budget, **Myanmar** was granted **Rs 280 crore**.
- In **Mauritius**, India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the improvement in sea and air transportation facilities at the **Agaléga island**.
- With the government announcing **withdrawal of subsidy** on the **Haj pilgrimage**, there were no funds allocated under this category.
- Separately, **Rs 3,772.60 crore** has been earmarked for other expenditures such as funds for the **Nalanda university** (Rs 200 crore), maintenance cost of Aircraft of **Air India** for **VVIP travel** (Rs 141 crore) and '**Special Diplomatic Expenditure**' (Rs 2,400.01 crore).
- The budget also provides for **Rs 280 crore** towards schemes/projects in **Myanmar**. India had also inked a pact with Myanmar last December on the restoration of normalcy and development of the Rakhine State, from where thousands of Rohingya Muslims recently fled following incidents of violence against the community.

Highlights of the Economic Survey 2017-18

Economic Survey - The central government presents Economic Survey just ahead of the Union Budget every year. The survey was prepared by the by the Chief Economic Adviser **Arvind Subramanian**

- **The Pink-color Economic Survey 2017-18** tabled in Parliament by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley **highlights Gender Issues Against Backdrop of Development**

- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao;
- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana and
- Mandatory Maternity Leave are all Steps in Right Direction, Acknowledges Survey.

New Facts of Indian Economy

- A large increase in registered indirect and direct taxpayers.
 - A 50 percent increase in unique indirect taxpayers under the GST compared with the pre-GST system
 - An addition (over and above trend growth) of about 1.8 million in individual income tax filers since November 2016
- Indian society exhibits strong son “Meta” Preference.
 - Parents continue to have children until they get the desired number of sons. This kind of fertility-stopping rule leads to skewed sex ratios but in different directions: skewed in favor of males if it is the last child, but in favor of females if it is not the last.

Important points in Economic Survey

Growth -

- The Survey forecasts a growth rate of 7 to 7.5 per cent for FY19, as compared to the expected growth rate of 6.75 per cent in FY18
- Industry growth seen at 4.4% in 2017/18
- Farm sector growth seen at 2.1% in 2017/18
- Real GDP growth expected at 6.5 per cent in 2017-18

- GVA growth at basic prices is expected to be 6.1 per cent in 2017-18

FISCAL DEFICIT

- Central Government is confident of achieving fiscal deficit of 3.2 per cent of GDP for 2017-18.
- Current account deficit for 2017/18 expected to average 1.5-2 pct of GDP

Inflation and monetary policy:

- Retail inflation averaged 3.3% in 2017-18, lowest in last 6 fiscals
- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation seen at 2.9 per cent in 2017-18
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.0 per cent in August 2017.

Others

- Policy agenda for next year -- support agriculture, privatise Air India, finish bank recapitalisation
- Rs 20,339 cr approved for interest subvention for farmers in current fiscal
- FDI in services sector rises 15% in 2017-18 on reforms
- Swachh Bharat initiative improved sanitation coverage in rural areas from 39% in 2014 to 76% in January 2018
- GST data shows 50% rise in number of indirect taxpayers
- Agriculture, industry & services sectors are expected to grow at the rate of 2.1%, 4.4%, and 8.3% respectively in 2017-18.

India's GDP Growth Rate Projected by Different Org. – 2018

1. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** – In its latest World Economic Outlook update IMF projected India's GDP growth rate at **7.4% in 2018** and **7.8% in 2019**.
2. **World Bank** - The 2018 Global Economics Prospect (GEP) released by the World Bank projected India's GDP growth to pick up to **7.3% in 2018** and to **7.5% in 2019 & 2020**.
3. **HSBC report** – HSBC projected India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate to **7.0% in 2018-19** and **7.6% in 2019**.

Rank of India in Different Indexes

February 2018

1. **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2018**
– India ranked at 44th among 50 nations.
 - The US tops the list followed by United Kingdom and Sweden.
 - The report is published by the US Chambers of Commerce.
2. Times Higher Education (THE) rankings for Asian universities 2018 - Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore ranked 29th and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay ranked at 44th position.
 - The National University of Singapore once again topped the list.

January 2018

1. **Global Democracy Index (GDI) 2017** – India was ranked at **42nd among** 165 independent states.
 - The index is released by UK-based company, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
 - India's rank has slipped from **32nd in 2016** GDI.
 - Moreover, India was classified India as a flawed democracy in 2017 GDI
 - **Top 3 countries in 2017 GDI:** Norway, Iceland, Sweden
2. **Environmental Performance Index 2018** - India was ranked at **177th position** among 180 countries.
 - Top 3 countries – Switzerland, France, Denmark.
 - US rank at 27th & China rank 120 spots.
 - India ranked at 141 in 2016.
 - The report is report is produced by researchers at Yale and Columbia Universities in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.
3. **Global Index of Talent 2018** - India was ranked at **81st position** among 188 countries.
 - **Top three countries are** – Switzerland, Singapore & US.
 - The index measures ability of countries to compete for talent i.e. how countries grow, attract and retain talent.
 - Last year India ranked at – 92 positions
4. **Inclusive Development Index 2018** - India was ranked at the **62nd position among** 74 emerging economies countries in Inclusive Development Index 2018.
 - China ranked at 26th and Pakistan ranked at 47th position in Inclusive Development Index 2018
 - The index has been divided into two parts – (i) 29 advanced economies and (ii) 74 emerging economies.
 - **Among advanced economies**, Norway is followed by Ireland, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Denmark in the top five.
 - The top-five most **inclusive emerging economies** are Lithuania, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Latvia and Poland.
 - India was ranked 60th among 79 developing economies last year.

About IDI

- World Economic Forum published the Index annually.
- Inclusive Development Index measures progress of 103 economies on three individual pillars — growth and development; inclusion; and inter-generational equity.

5. **Global Manufacturing Index 2018** - India was ranked at **30th position** among 100 countries in Global Manufacturing Index 2018.
 - The report has been developed in collaboration with World Economic Forum & A T Kearney.
 - Japan topped the index.
 - Top 3 countries in GMI: Japan, South Korea, Germany.
6. **Ease Doing Business Report 2018** – India ranked at **100th position** among 190 countries.
 - The report is published by World Bank.
 - Top three countries –New Zealand, Singapore & Denmark.
 - India has jumped over **30 ranks to attain 100th spot from 130th position in 2017** Ease of Doing Business Index.

Rank of India in Different Reports/Survey

1. **India is 6th wealthiest Country:** New World Wealth Report
 - India is 6th wealthiest countries with total wealth of \$8,230 billion, in a list of top 10 wealthiest nations, according to a report by New World Wealth.
 - Top 3 wealthiest nations – **US, China & Japan**
2. **India becomes third largest producer of crude steel:** WSA Report
 - India has overtaken US to become the world's third largest steel producer in 2017, according to recent report published by World Steel Association (WSA).
 - Top 2 largest producer of crude steel: **China** is the largest and **Japan** is second largest global steel producer.
3. **India 5th most attractive market for investments:** PwC survey
 - According to the survey by global consultancy PwC, India has emerged as the fifth most attractive market for investments and the optimism over global economic growth.
 - “The US remains the top spot for global investment, followed by China and Germany at second and third places, respectively.
 - At the fourth spot is the UK. “India beat Japan as the fifth most attractive market in 2018,” it noted.

Banking & Financial Awareness

February 2018

1. **Bank of Baroda launches cash management services for corporates** – Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched '**Baroda DigiNext**' — a product for digitising cash management of corporate and government customers.

Aim - to provide the combined benefits of the Government of India's vision of a 'Digital India' coupled with National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) retail payment systems to the customers of both corporates and government.
2. **The Union Finance Ministry is planning to ban cryptocurrencies from payments system** and at the same time appoint regulator to oversee unregulated exchanges that trade in crypto assets.
 - **The Dinesh Sharma committee** constituted by the Government - **to look into issues relating to cryptocurrencies** will finalise its recommendations by submitting its report in current fiscal year, ending on March 2018.
3. **India's first sentiment index 'CriSidEx'** for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) jointly launched by SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) and ratings agency Crisil.
 - It was inaugurated by Finance Minister 'Arun Jaitley' in New Delhi.
 - **CriSidEx** is a composite index based on a diffusion index of eight parameters and measures MSE business sentiment on a negative to positive scale.

January 2018

1. **'Electoral Bond' scheme announced** which aimed at increasing transparency in political funding. The Union Finance electoral bonds scheme was announced by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the 2017 Budget.
Objective - to bring transparency in funding of political parties and elections.
Key points –
 1. **Interest free instrument** - Electoral bonds would be a bearer instrument like promissory note and an interest-free banking instrument.
 2. **Denomination** - Electoral bonds can be purchased for any value in multiples of **₹1,000, ₹10,000, ₹10 lakh, and ₹1 crore.**
 3. **Outlet** - From any of the specified branches of the State Bank of India.
 4. **KYC norms mandatory** - The purchaser will be allowed to buy electoral bonds only on due fulfilment of all the extant KYC norms and by making payment from a bank account.
 5. **Validity** - The bonds will have a **life of 15 days** during which they can be used to make donations to registered political parties that have secured **not less than 1% of the votes** polled in the **last election to the Lok Sabha or Assembly.**
 6. **Available only 4 months in a year** - The bonds shall be available for purchase for a period of **10 days each in the months of January, April, July and October**, with an additional 30 days to be specified by the Central government in the year of a general election.
 - The bond shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through a designated bank account with the authorised bank.
 - It will not carry the name of the payee.
2. **ONGC to acquire Government's entire 51.11% stake in HPCL** - The Union Government and state-run oil explorer ONGC clinched deal for acquisition of government's 51.11% stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) for a consideration of Rs. 36,915 crore.
Note: In 2017-18 Union Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced that state-run oil companies will be merged to create 'oil major'. Following this Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCA) in July 2017 had granted 'in-principle' approval to the strategic sale of HPCL to ONGC.
3. **Gujarat tops in Logistics Ease Across Different States index** - Gujarat has topped among 22 states in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index released by Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
 - **Punjab** has acquired second position followed by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
4. **IDFC Bank, Capital First announce merger** - IDFC Bank and Capital First announced merger between the two to form a combined entity with assets under management of Rs 88,000 crore, branch network of 194 and customer base of over 5 million.
 - As per the agreement, IDFC Bank will issue 139 shares for every 10 shares of Capital First.
5. **No Charges on Debit Card Transactions Up to Rs 2,000**: Finance Ministry
 - 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.
6. **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)** – It is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
Objective - to provide social security during old age and to protect elderly persons aged 60 and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.
Age limit –
 - Minimum Entry Age: 60 years (completed)
 - Maximum Entry Age: No limit**Key points**
 - The scheme provides an assured return of 8% per annum for 10 years.
 - Minimum purchase price under the scheme is **Rs.1,50,000/-** for a minimum pension of Rs. 1,000/- per month and
 - Maximum purchase price is **Rs.7,50,000/- for a maximum pension of Rs.5,000/-** per month.
 - The scheme is exempted from Goods and Services Tax (GST).
 - The scheme is open for subscription till 3rd May 2018.

7. Railways to set up coach factory in Maharashtra's Latur - Under 'Make in India' initiative, the Indian Railways will set up a coach factory in Maharashtra's Latur district to manufacture EMUs (electric multiple units) for suburban trains and coaches for metros.

8. HDFC Bank partnership with Rajasthan Government to promote and nurture start-ups in the state.

9. The chief statistician of India (CSI) T.C.A. Anant retired from the office after holding the office for seven-and-half years. During his tenure, the statistical arm of the government revised the base years for GDP and the index of industrial production (IIP).

10. Govt. to Infuse Over Rs88, 100 cr in 20 PSB - Under recapitalisation plan, the government has announced to infuse Rs. 88,139 crore capitals for 20 public sector banks across the country.

- In addition, banks have raised more than **Rs10,000 crore** so far and will raise more in the coming months from the market, taking the total recapitalisation to over Rs1 trillion this fiscal.
- The recapitalisation bonds will be of a tenor of 10-15 years and will be issued once the boards of banks commit to the banking reforms.
- IDBI Bank Ltd and Bank of India, will receive the highest capital infusion from the government at Rs10,610 crore and Rs9,232 crore, respectively.
- Both the banks were placed under prompt corrective action (PCA) by Reserve Bank of India.
- State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank, which are not under the PCA framework, will get Rs8,800 crore and Rs5,473 crore, respectively, as the government looks to support their growth.

11. IOB, NHB join hands for Rural Housing Push - Indian Overseas Bank has signed an agreement with National Housing Bank for the Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHISS). of the Ministry of Rural Development.

- The IOB will now be able to provide the benefit of RHISS to its rural home loan customers of its 923 rural branches spread across India.

- Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHISS) is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development to achieve the objective of '**Housing for All**' by 2022.
- The aim of the RHISS is to provide subsidy for housing loans taken by those living in rural areas for construction and modifications of their dwelling units.
- The interest subsidy under the scheme is 3 per cent for a loan amount of ₹2 lakh for 20-year tenure.

12. HDFC become the first Indian bank to cross Rs. 5 trillion market capitalization - India's most-valued lender HDFC Bank Ltd crossed Rs5 trillion market capitalisation for the first time.

- HDFC bank became third Indian company to achieve this milestone after TCS & Reliance Industries.
- Reliance Industry Ltd remained the most valued company with a market cap of Rs. 5.82 trillion, followed by Tata Consultancy Services Ltd with a market cap of Rs. 5.57 trillion.

13. India INX lists 1st debt security at IFSC: IRFC's green bonds - Indian Railway Finance Corporation's (IRFC's) green bonds has been listed by the India International Exchange (India INX) on its debt listing platform-Global Securities Market (GSM).

- With this, IRFC green bonds became first debt security to be listed on exchange at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat's GIFT city.
- India INX's GSM segment is India's first debt listing platform. It allows raising funds in any currency of choice by both foreign and Indian issuers from investors across the globe.

About INX -

- The India International Exchange (INX) is opened in 2017 is India's first international stock exchange.
- It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- It is located at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City in Gujarat.
- The chief of the INX is V. Balasubramanian.

About IRFC -

- Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) is a finance arm of the Indian Railway.
- The headquarter of IRFC is in Mumbai.
- It raises financial resources for expansion and running through capital markets and other borrowings.
- IRFC raises money through financial bonds and from banks and financial institutions.

14. India's first agri-options trading in Guar seed

launched by NCDEX - India's first agricultural-commodity options in Guar seed launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX).

- It was inaugurated by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.
- It is a unique hedging tool will allow farmers to mitigate their price risk along with taking advantage of upward price movement.
- NCDEX is second exchange after MCX to launch options trading in commodities. In

October 2017, MCX had launched gold options.

- National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) is an online multi-commodity exchange. It's headquarter is in Mumbai.

15. **Punjab National Bank** has signed a MoU with National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Castes families living below Double Poverty Line.
16. Central Statistics Office (CSO) forecast 6.5 per cent growth in gross domestic product for the fiscal year ending in March (2017-18).
17. IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc. has announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.
18. **Paytm Payments Bank has partnered IndusInd Bank** to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds Rs1 lakh at the end of day.

December 2017

1. J&K bank launches 'Sahafat Finance Scheme' -

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) bank's chairman & CEO Parvez Ahmad has launched a special financial scheme "J&K Bank Sahafat Finance Scheme" for journalists of the state.

- It will enable journalists to buy cameras, laptops, tablets, and books.
- The minimum loan under the scheme is fixed at Rs 50,000 while maximum limit is Rs 3 lakh.

2. India ranked at 5th position among the countries with highest NPA

- India has the highest level of non-performing assets (NPA) among BRICS countries and is ranked fifth on a list of countries with the highest levels of NPAs, a report by CARE Ratings revealed.

Note: Greece has the highest NPA which is followed by Italy, Portugal and Ireland.

3. Sebi recommends 10% cross-shareholding cap in rating agencies

- Market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed cross-holding in credit rating agencies (CRAs) will be capped at 10 percent

- The regulator also decided to raise the minimum net-worth requirement to Rs 25 crore from the current Rs 5 crore.

4. Small savings schemes' interest rates cut by 20 bps

- The union government has slashed the interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF (by 0.2 % point) for the January-March period from the rates applicable in the previous quarter.

- Interest rate in Public Provident Fund (PPF) is now at 7.6%
- Interest rate in National Saving Certificates (NSC) will fetch a lower annual rate of 7.6%
- Interest rate in Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is 7.3%.
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been retained at 8.3%
- The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi Account will offer 8.1% (existing 8.3%) annually.

5. SEBI hikes FPI investment limit

- Capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has raised the investment limit for foreign portfolio investors in central government securities to over 1.91 lakh crore from next month.

- Currently, investment limit for foreign portfolio investors is 1.89 lakh crore rupees.
- The move is part of an effort by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to push inflow from overseas investors in the country's capital markets.

6. **Niti Aayog to set up Methanol Economy Fund** - The 'Niti Aayog' is planning to set up a Methanol Economy Fund with a corpus of Rs 4,000-5,000 crore to promote production and use of the clean fuel through this fund.

- The Objective of Methanol Economy Fund to promote the use of methanol fuel, which is safer, cheaper, and pollution free.

7. **UPI transactions cross 10 crores in November** - The number of transactions on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), has crossed 10 crores mark in November 2017.

Note:

- UPI is a mobile-digital payment interface which is introduced by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- In August 2017, the transactions on UPI platform is around 1.66 crore. In September it crossed up to 3 crores and which increased to 7.67 crores in October.

8. **Paytm launched Paytm FASTag Across India** - Paytm Payments Bank has launched the Paytm FASTag across the India.

Note:

- As per the government directions, it is mandatory to use of FASTag on every new vehicle sold from December 1.
- FASTags are simple and reusable tags based on radio-frequency identification technology (RFID) that can be placed on a vehicle's windscreen and enables electronic toll fee collection on highways across the country.
- The FASTtag project is run in partnership with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and NPCI.

5. **Govt. constitutes Alternative Mechanism Panel for PSBs consolidation** - The Union Government has

constituted Alternative Mechanism Panel headed by Union Finance **Minister Arun Jaitley** to oversee merger proposals of public sector banks (PSBs). The other members of the panel include Railway and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

6. **PFRDA increases maximum age of joining under NPS-Private Sector to 65 years** - The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) increased the maximum age of joining under National Pension System (NPS)-Private Sector (All Citizen and Corporate Model) from the existing 60 years to 65 years of age.

Note:

With this, any Indian Citizen, resident or non-resident, between the age of 60- 65 years can now join NPS and continue up to the age of 70 years in NPS.

7. **First regional centre of New Development Bank opened in Johannesburg, South Africa.**

Note:

- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) with an initial authorised capital of the bank is USD 100 billion.
- The headquarter of NDB is in Shanghai, China.
- K.V. Kamath is the first President of NDB.

8. **BSNL Launches digital wallet bespoke** - BSNL went digital by launching a **bespoke mobile wallet** (mobile payment App) that would enable its existing 100 million customers to make Bill payments. The wallet has been developed and issued by MobiKwik on behalf of BSNL.

9. **Nestle set up a first food safety institute in Manesar, Gurugram** to help develop standards in food safety and quality. It will provide guidance and training on food safety. While this is the first such institute in India, Nestle already runs a similar Institute each in China and Lausanne, Switzerland.

Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** - Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** - Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** - Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **BBPS** - Bharat Bill Payment System
6. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
7. **CBS** - Core Banking System
8. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
9. **CTS** - Cheque Truncation System
10. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring

11. **CASA** - Current Account Saving Account
12. **CAD** - Capital Account Deficit
13. **CRR** - Cash Reserve Ratio
14. **ECS** - Electronic Clearing Service
15. **DNS** - Domain Name System
16. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
17. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
18. **EFT** - Electronic Fund Transfer.
19. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
20. **LGD** - Loss Given Default

21. **LTV** - Loan To Value
22. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
23. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
24. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
25. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
26. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
27. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
28. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
29. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
30. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
31. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
32. **NPA** - Non- Performing Assets
33. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
34. **NFS** - National Financial Switch
35. **NACH** - National Automated Clearing House
36. **NEFT** - National Electronic Fund Transfer
37. **NFC** - Near field communication
38. **NDTL** - Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
39. **OTC** - Over the Counter
40. **PIN** - Personal Identification Number
41. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
42. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
43. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
44. **RTGS** - Real Time Gross Settlement
45. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
46. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
47. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
48. **GDR** - Global Depository Receipt
49. **GAAR** - General anti avoidance rule
50. **PAN** - Permanent Account Number
51. **PLR** - Prime Lending Rate
52. **SLR** - Statutory Liquidity Ratio
53. **SDR** - Special Drawing Rights
54. **DTAA** - Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
55. **TIEA** - Tax Information Exchange Agreement
56. **EFSF** - European Financial Stability Facility
57. **PPP** - Purchasing Power Parity
58. **PPP** - Public Private Partnership
59. **NPS** - New Pension Scheme
60. **EEFC** - Exchange Earner's Foreign Currency
61. **FII** - Foreign Institutional Investor
62. **DII** - Domestic Institutional Investor
63. **GST** - Goods and Services Tax
64. **DTC** - Direct Tax Code
65. **FCNRA** - Foreign Currency Non- Resident account
66. **MFI** - Micro Finance Institutions
67. **MFDC** - Micro Finance Development Council
68. **TRAI** - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
69. **MSF** - Marginal Standing Facility
70. **IDF** - Infrastructure Debt Fund
71. **CRIS** - Comparative Rating Index for Sovereign
72. **LIBOR** - London Inter Bank Operation Rate
73. **MIBOR** - Mumbai Inter Bank Operation Rate
74. **MICR** - Magnetic Ink Character Recognition
75. **SARFAESI** - Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest
76. **BCBS** - Basel Committee on Banking Supervision
77. **NPCI** - National Payments Corporation of India

Agreement & Deals

February 2018

1. **Google & NCERT joins hand for Digital Safety** - Google National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed a pact to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology curriculum.
 - It was signed on the occasion of **Safer Internet Day (06th February)**.
2. **Assam Govt & Ola signed an agreement** for River Taxi service in the state.
3. **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) & World Bank** signed US \$375 million loan agreement - For Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) i.e. National Waterway-1 on Ganga River from Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) to Haldia (West Bengal).
4. **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Russian firm United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) to develop specialized vessels for Inland and Coastal shipping.
5. **India Joins Ashgabat Agreement** - India has joined Ashgabat Agreement on the establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
Note: The agreement was signed in 2011, which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

India's agreement with other countries

January 2018

1. **India & Israel signed 9 agreements** - Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu visited India in January 2018.

List of agreements signed between two countries –

- On Cyber Security
- On Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector
- On Amendments to the Air Transport Agreement
- On Film-co-production
- in the field of Research in Homeopathic Medicine
- for cooperation in the field of Space
- Intent between Invest India and Invest in Israel
- For cooperation in metal-air batteries
- for cooperation in concentrated solar thermal technologies

Note:

- Israel Capital – Jerusalem
- Israel Currency – Shekel

2. **India & United Kingdom (UK)** - have signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

- dealing with return of Indians residing in Britain as illegal migrants.
- sharing of criminal records and intelligence.

Note:

- UK Capital – London
- UK Currency – Pound
- UK PM - Theresa May

3. **India & Canada** - The Union Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Canada for cooperation in field of **Science & Technology**.

Note:

- Canada Capital – Ottawa
- Canada Currency – Dollar
- Canada PM - Justin Trudeau

4. **India & Sri Lanka** - signed four agreements for collaboration in **Information and communication technology (ICT)** sector between both countries.

Note:

- Capital of Sri Lanka – Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.
- Currency of Sri Lanka - Rupee.
- President - Maithripala Sirisena
- PM - Ranil Wickremesinghe.

5. **India & Vietnam** - signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) to enhance cooperation in field of **information and broadcasting and space cooperation**.

Note:

- Capital of **Vietnam** – Hanoi
- Currency of **Vietnam** - Dong.
- President - Maithripala Sirisena

6. **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) & Malaysia** - signed an MoU with for exchange of information and cooperation in areas such as policies to aid development of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the two countries.

Note:

- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister- **Giriraj Singh**.
- Capital of Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur
- Currency of Malaysia - Ringgit.
- PM - Najib Razak

7. **India & Laos** - signed civil aviation cooperation agreement for **providing SkyRev360, a comprehensive e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system**.

Note:

- **SkyRev360** is fully automated and comprehensive data gathering invoicing and collection service system.
- It is developed by AAI in collaboration with International Air Transport Association (IATA) under the Government's Make in India initiative

Note:

- Capital of Laos – Vientiane
- Currency of Laos - Kip.
- PM - Thongloun Sisoulith

8. **India & Asean** - India has signed an agreement to step up maritime cooperation with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

- The agreement was signed during India-Asean Commemorative Summit which was held to mark 25 years of bilateral partnership in New Delhi.
- The theme of the summit was - "**Shared Values, Common Destiny**".

Note:

- All the 10 ASEAN leaders was also the Chief Guest be at India's 69th Republic Day on 26th January 2018.
- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries are** – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei.

9. India & Seychelles on Assumption Island - India and Seychelles signed a revised agreement that will allow the country to build military infrastructure on **Assumption Island** for the Seychelles People's Defence Forces.

- The island nation has made it clear that it can suspend India's right to use the facilities if it is at war.
- The agreement is very important for India, as it works hard to mark a military presence on both Seychelles and Mauritius (**Agalega island**), in its drive to extend its strategic footprint in the Indian Ocean.

Note:

- **Assumption Island is a small island** in the Outer Islands of Seychelles north of Madagascar, with a distance of 1,135 km southwest of the capital, Victoria, on Mahé Island.

- Agalega is a small island in the Indian Ocean, 697 miles (1122 Kms) almost north of Mauritius. In fact it consists of two islands; the **North Island and the South Island**.
- The allocation for Seychelles has also been increased from Rs 200 crore to Rs 300 crore in the budget, presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in Parliament.
- Last week, India and Seychelles signed a revised agreement for the development of facilities on **Assumption** island which will also allow India to develop an airstrip and jetty there.

Note:

- Capital of Seychelles – Victoria
- Currency of Seychelles - Seychellois rupee.
- President - Danny Faure

India's agreement with Financial Institutions

January 2018

1. India & World Bank – Agreement for Project to boost Rural Economy of Tamil Nadu.

- Loan Agreement - **\$100 million**.

2. NABARD & Odisha – NABARD has sanctioned loan assistance of **Rs 372.51 crore** under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to Odisha towards irrigation and rural bridge projects for the last quarter of this fiscal.

- loan assistance - **Rs 372.51 crore**

3. The Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has inked MoU with IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd for construction of the 14.150 km long, 2-lane bi-directional **Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir**.

Note: This would be India's longest road tunnel and longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia. On completion, the tunnel will provide all weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.

4. India & World Bank - to help increase access to improved **water supply services** in peri-urban areas in **Uttarakhand**.

- Loan Agreement - \$120 million.

5. India & Asian Development Bank (ADB) - to finance the construction of 6,254 km of all-weather rural roads in 5 states - Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

- Loan Agreement - **\$250 million**.

6. IFAD & India - agreement to sustainably raise incomes and food security for tribal farming households in northeast India.

- Loan Agreement - **\$168 million**.

Note:

- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was established in 1977.
- IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.
- Gilbert Hounbo is the head of IFAD.
- IFAD HQ is in – Rome, Italy.

Important Committees

February 2018

1. **Vinay Sheel Oberoi committee** - to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernisation of the armed forces.
2. **N Chandrasekaran (Tata Sons Chairman) committee** - to study use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military.
3. **Dinesh Sharma committee** - to look into issues relating to cryptocurrencies.

January 2018

1. **BR Sharma committee** - to frame guidelines on playing national anthem in cinemas and other public places.

Important Committees constituted in 2017

1. **Amitabh Kant Committee** - to address the problem of Non-performing assets (NPAs) or stressed assets in India's power sector.
2. **YM Deosthalee Committee** - task force on Public Credit Registry (PCR). The committee will review the current availability of information on credit in India.
3. **B C Khanduri Committee** - parliamentary standing committee on defense. The committee will examine the operational preparedness of armed forces and review accidents involving strategic defence assets and also assess the procurement policy relating to defence equipment.
4. **Arun Jaitley Committee** - The union govt. has constituted a ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to oversee merger proposals of state-owned banks.
5. **Rina Mitra Committee** - The Union govt. has set up a study group under Special secretary in the home ministry to examine the problems of people along IB, LOC in J&K.
6. **Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini Committee** - to examine the sub-categorization of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
7. **Dr Hasmukh Adhia Committee** - The Union government has constituted a GST Committee on Exports headed by Dr Hasmukh Adhia.
Note: The panel is mandated to recommend to the GST Council a suitable strategy for helping the export sector in the post-GST set-up.
8. **Dr. Rajiv Kumar Committee** - With an aim to create new jobs by enhancing India's export, the NITI Aayog constituted an Expert Task Force. The task force will be chaired by the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, **Dr. Rajiv Kumar**.
9. **Dr V. Kamakoti Committee** - The Union Government constituted a task force on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the country's Economic Transformation**. The 18-member panel, headed by **Dr V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras**.
10. **K Kasturirangan Committee** - to prepare National Education Policy.

Schemes

Schemes launched in Union Budget 2018

February 2018

- 1. KUSUM scheme 2018** - Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan scheme announced in the Union Budget 2018.
 - **Objective:** to encourage farmers for solar farming across the country.
 - **Budget allocation - Rs. 48,000 crore**
 - **Benefits** – Govt. will provide Solar Agricultural Pumps to the farmers.
 - **Target** – Doubling farmers income by 2022.
- 2. Ayushman Bharat Scheme** – In the Union Budget 2018 two major initiatives in health sector as part of Ayushman Bharat programme announced by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitely.

(i) Health and Wellness Centre - Under this **1.5 lakh centres** will bring health care system closer to the homes of people. These centres will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services.
Budget - The Budget has allocated **Rs.1200 crore** for this flagship programme.

(ii) National Health Protection Scheme - National Health Protection Scheme will cover over **10 crore** poor and vulnerable families. It will have **50 crore beneficiaries**. This scheme will be world's largest government funded health care programme.
- 3. Operation Green** – On the lines of “Operation Flood” a new Scheme “Operation Greens” is announced in the Union Budget 2018.
 - **Aim** – The aim of Operation Green scheme is to promote farmer producers organisations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.
 - It is a price fixation scheme that aims to ensure farmers are given the right price for their produce.
 - The operation aims to aid farmers and help control and limit the erratic fluctuations in the prices of onions, potatoes and tomatoes.
 - **Budget Allocation – Rs. 500 crore**
 - **Objective** - to double the income of farmers by the end of 2022.
- 4. National Bamboo Mission (NBM)** – Terming Bamboo as ‘Green Gold’, the Union Finance Minister launched announced the scheme in the Union Budget 2018. It is a wholly-sponsored central scheme.
 - **Objective** - to promote the bamboo sector in the country. This will help the people of rural and tribal areas.
 - **Budget Allocation - Rs 1,290 crore**
- 5. Gobar Dhan Yojana - Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resource Fund Scheme** - In Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitely has announced the new scheme for the villagers.
Objective - To make the villages open defecation free and improving the lives of villagers.
Key points
 - Under this scheme the solid waste and cattle dung will be composed into useful elements such as Bio-CNG and Bio-Gas that are needed in agricultural sector.
- 6. Affordable Housing Fund (.Kifayati Aawas yojna)**– In Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitely has announced the new scheme to provide homes at low cost.
Objective – To boost demand and supply of low-cost homes.
Key points –
 - Government will establish a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) in National Housing Bank, funded from priority sector lending shortfall and fully serviced bonds authorized by the Government of India.
- 7. Eklavya School** – In the Union Budget 2018, the Finance Minister Arun Jaitely has announced the scheme to educate children from the Tribal Community.
Objective – To bring major revolutions in the education sector.
Key points
 - Under this mission, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% Scheduled Tribes (ST) population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Ekalavya Model Residential School.
 - “Ekalavya schools will be on a par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture, besides providing training in sports and skill development.”

8. Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) - To make India produce better research and make its institutions climb up in global rankings.

- **Objective** - To step up investments in research and related infrastructure in premier educational institutions, including health institutions.
- **Agency** - Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) would be suitably structured for funding this initiative.

- **Budget allocation** - a total investment of ₹1 lakh crore in the next four years.

9. Prime Minister Fellowship Scheme – A 'Prime Minister Fellowship Scheme' was announced for top 1,000 B.Tech students in the country to provide opportunity to the students to pursue a PhD in IITs and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

**Other Schemes launched by Union/State Govt.
January 2018**

1. Govt relaxes norms for Atal Pension Yojana - The Union Finance Ministry has relaxed norms of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to allow small finance banks and payment banks to offer APY distribution. The move is expected to help expand coverage of the scheme.

Key features of the APY –

- It is a social security scheme.
- It replaced earlier Swavalamban scheme.
- Age limit – **18 – 40 years**
- Pension - Under scheme, subscriber will receive a minimum guaranteed pension of **Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000 per month**, depending on his contribution, from age of 60 years.
- There is no exit to the scheme before the age of 60.

Note: Uttar Pradesh with 11.41 lakh subscriber (APY accounts) is highest contributing state of the scheme followed by Bihar (8.87 lakh subscribers) and Tamil Nadu (6.60 lakh).

2. Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana (MGSVY) – Punjab government launched the 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' (MGSVY) aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.

3. Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative - The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.

Objective - to strengthen cybersecurity ecosystem in India in line Government's vision for a 'Digital India'.

Key points

- It was launched in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat is first public-private partnership of its kind.
- It will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cybersecurity.

- The founding partners include leading IT companies such as Microsoft, Intel, WIPRO, Redhat and Dimension Data.

4. Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna - Maharashtra state government launched the Yojna. **Objective** – To promote climate-resilient agriculture in the state.

Total budget - Rs.4,000-crore.

Note:

- The yojna will be roll out in 2018-19 and continue till 2023-24.
- The Scheme has been named after social activist Nanaji Deshmukh who has worked in fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance, and has been honoured with Padma Vibhushan.

5. Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' launched by HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar **in Kochi, Kerala.**

- The programme is an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.

6. 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana' – Odisha state government launched the yojana assistance scheme for Artists in the state.

Objective – To provide financial assistance to the artists of the state.

Note:

- The government has decided to give Rs 1,200 per month as artist assistance.
- As per new eligibility criteria, a male artist can get assistance under after attaining the age of 50 years (earlier it was 60 years) and female artist can get it at age of 40 years (earlier it was 50 years).

7. **National Programme for Control of Viral Hepatitis scheme** – The scheme will be roll out by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Objective - The focus will be on anti-viral treatment of Hepatitis C which will be provided free at all government health set-ups.

Budget - Rs 600 crore for the next three years.

December 2017

1. **'Prakash hai to vikas hai'** - The Uttar Pradesh Government launched 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' Scheme, a free household power connection scheme for the poor in the state.

Note: Under the scheme, the government will cover 16 million households by the end of 2018.

2. **Kisan Uday Yojana** - UP government has also launched the yojana for farmers.

Objective - Existing 5 HP (Horse Power)/7.5 HP submersible and coupling sets of farmers will be replaced free of cost.

Note: The scheme will cover 10 lakh farmers by 2022 and will lead to 35% saving on power consumption.

3. **Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)** – The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a new skill development scheme.

Objective - to ensure steady supply of skilled manpower in the labour-intensive textile sector.

Budget - Rs. 1300 crore.

Note: It will remain operational for three years ending in 2019-20.

4. **Project 'Blue Flag'** – The project was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Objective - a pilot project for beach cleanup and development in the country.

5. **SAMEEP – 'Students and MEA Engagement Programme'** - Ministry of External Affairs launched the initiative.

Objective - to bring Indian foreign policy to students across the country.

Note:

- Under this, MEA officials will talk to students to help them better understand foreign policy.
- The main purpose of SAMEEP is to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across the country.

6. **'Ganga Gram' project at Ganga Gram Swachata**

Sammelan - The Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Uma Bharti has launched the 'Ganga Gram' project at the Ganga Gram Swachata Sammelan in New Delhi.

Objective – To make the development of villages situated on the banks of the holy river with the active participation of villagers.

7. **Project DARPAN** - The Minister of communications Manoj Sinha has launched 'DARPAN' (The Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India) in New Delhi.

Objective - to improve level of postal services for rural customers.

Budget - 1400 crore rupees

Note:

- DARPAN offers core banking services to the account holders.
- The IT modernization project aims at realizing financial inclusion of un-banked rural population.

Summits & Conference

Feb 2018

1. Global Investment Summit held in - Assam
2. 7th India Energy Congress – New Delhi
 - The theme of the summit is 'Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030'.
3. 7th Asia Steel International Conference – Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
4. International Bird Festival will be held at the Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh in February 2018.

January 2018

1. **16th International Energy Forum (IEF)** Ministerial meeting will be held in New Delhi in April 2018.
2. World Economic Forum Summit held in – Davos, Switzerland
3. **India-ASEAN business** and investment conference held in **New Delhi**.
Note:
 - The theme of the conference was “Shared Values, Common Destiny”.
 - The conference was held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of sectoral dialogue between two sides.
4. The first **International Dam Safety Conference-2018** was held in Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
5. India has announced to host informal Ministerial meeting of **World Trade Organisation (WTO) in March 2018** in New Delhi to muster support for issues and help to multi-lateral process.
6. The 10th edition of Global Forum for Food & Agriculture was held in Berlin, Germany.
 - The theme of this year’s event is “Shaping the future of livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently”.
7. **The first-ever Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)** Parliamentary Conference was held in the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in New Delhi on the occasion of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD).
Note:
 - This year’s PBD celebrated ASEAN-Indian partnership and was themed *Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN INDIA Partnership*.
8. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on January 9 to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
8. 7th International Coffee festival – Bengaluru.
9. World Future Energy Summit held in - Abu Dhabi.
10. India-Israel Business Summit held in Mumbai.
11. India for the first time took part in a meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in **Beijing, China**.
12. 3rd edition of the Geo-Political conference, 'Raisina Dialogue' held in New Delhi.
 - This year's topic of Raisina Dialogue is 'Managing Disruptive Transitions - Ideas, Institutions and Idioms.'
 - The conference was inaugurated Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
13. International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDRRI) held in New Delhi.
14. 4th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry held in New Delhi.
15. 5th Bilateral Technical Meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine India and Malaysia held in New Delhi.
16. 4th International Dharma Dhamma Conference held in Rajgir in Bihar.
17. The 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be held from March 16 to 20 at Manipur University in Imphal.

December 2017

1. 100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association held in Guntur of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The third World Telugu Conference held in Hyderabad.
3. 11th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
4. 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue held in New Delhi.
5. The 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit held in New Delhi.
6. International Conference on Climate change held in - Nepal

November 2017

- 1. World Food India 2017** - New Delhi.
 - The theme of WFI 2017 is ‘Transforming the Food Economy’.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated World Food India 2017 (WFI) at the India Gate Lawns in New Delhi.
 - Germany, Japan and Denmark are partner countries to World Food India.
 - This is first time India is hosting such an event for the Food processing sector.
- 2. 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017** – New Delhi, India.
 - Theme of the conference – ‘Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace’
 - The 4th GCCS conference held in The Hague, Netherlands.
- 3. 19th UN Climate Change Summit 2017**- Bonn, Germany.
- 4. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2017** – Astana, Kazakhstan.
 - **SCO General Secretary** – Rashid Alimov.
 - **SCO Headquarter** - Beijing, China.
 - **Official Language** – Chinese, Russian.
 - **SCO comprises 8-member countries:** China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
 - **India and Pakistan** became full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) **on 9 June 2017**.
 - **Venue of SCO Summit 2018**- China.
 - **Venue of SCO Summit 2016**- Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- 5. ASEAN (30th & 31st) 2017 Summit** – Manila, Philippines.
 - **Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) organisation comprising 10 South east Asian countries** - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
 - **Its motto is** - “One Vision, One Identity, One Community.
 - **Note:** ASEAN Summit held twice a year.
 - **Secretary General** – Le Luong Minh.
 - **Chairman** - Philippines Rodrigo Duterte
 - **ASEAN headquarter** – Jakarta, Indonesia.
 - **Venue of ASEAN (32nd & 33rd) 2018 Summit** - Singapore.
 - **Venue of 28-29th ASEAN Summit 2016** – Vientiane, Laos
- 6. 29th APEC 2017 Summit** – Danang, Vietnam
 - **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organisation comprising 21 members countries** – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, Vietnam.
 - **Chairman** - Trần Đại Quang
 - **Executive Director** - Alan Bollard
 - **APEC headquarter** – Singapore
 - **Venue of 30th APEC 2018 Summit** - Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
 - **Venue of 28th APEC Summit 2016** – Peru, Lima

October 2017

- 1. 3rd International Conference on Yoga 2017** – New Delhi, India.
 - Theme of the conference is – “**Yoga for Wellness**”.
- Conference was organised by – **Ministry of Ayush**.

September 2017

- 1. India Mobile Congress 2017** - New Delhi.
- 2. 9th BRICS Summit 2017** - Xiamen, China.
 - Theme of the Summit - “**BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future**”.
 - **Note:** BRICS comprises 5-member countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Venue of 10th BRICS Summit 2018**- Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Venue of 8th BRICS Summit 2016**- Goa, India

July 2017

1. **G-20 Summit 2017** – Hamburg, Germany.
 - Theme of the summit – “**Shaping an Inter-connected World**”
 - **The G20 comprises 19 countries plus the European Union. These countries are** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South

Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA).

- **Meeting of G20 Labour Ministers 2017** – Bad Neuenahr, Germany.
- **Meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors 2017** – Baden, Germany.
- **Venue of G-20 2018 Summit** - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **Venue of G-20 2016 Summit** – Hangzhou, China

May 2017

1. **43rd G-7 Summit 2017** - Sicily, Italy.
 - Theme of the summit - “Building the foundations of renewed trust.”
 - **The G-7 comprises 7 countries** – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States.
 - **Venue of 42nd G-7 2016 Summit** – Shima, Japan
 - **Venue of 44th G-7 2018 Summit** – Canada
2. **NATO Summit 2017** – Brussels, Belgium.
 - **Note:**
The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) comprises 29 countries – Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia,

France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

- **NATO headquarter** - Brussels, Belgium.
- **NATO Secretary General** - Jens Stoltenberg
- **NATO 2018 Summit** – Brussels, Belgium.
- **NATO 2016 Summit** -Warsaw, Poland
- **Note:** Turkey’s offer to host the 2018 NATO summit is rejected by Canada and 18 European NATO members. Hence, 2018 NATO Summit will be held in **Brussels, Belgium**.

Books & Author

Feb 2018

1. Book titled ‘**Exam Warriors**’ authored by – Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi
2. Book titled “**A Century is Not Enough**” autobiography of – Sourav Ganguly.

Jan 2018

3. Book titled ‘**Imperfect**’ autobiography of – Sanjay Manjrekar (cricketer-turned-commentator)
4. Book titled “**Citizen Delhi: My Times, My Life**” autobiography of - Former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit.
5. Book titled “**Indian Instincts**” authored by – Dr. Miniya Chatterji
6. Book titled “**The Diary of a Domestic Diva**” authored by - Shilpa Shetty.
7. Book titled “**The Widows of Malabar Hill**” authored by - Sujata Massey.
8. Book titled “**Why I am a Hindu**” authored by- Shashi Tharoor.
9. Book titled “**A State of Freedom**” authored by - Neel Mukherjee.
10. Book titled ‘**An Unsuitable Boy**’ biography of – Karan Johar.

Books launched in 2017

1. Novel 'Two' authored by - Gulzar (Veteran lyricist)
2. Book titled "**The Coalition Years**" authored by – Pranab Mukherjee (Former President of India)
3. Book titled "**The Golden House**" authored by – Salman Rushdie.
4. Book titled "**India 2017 Yearbook**" authored by – Rajiv Mehrishi
5. Book titled "**I Do What I Do**" authored by – Raghuram Rajan (former RBI Governor)
6. Book titled "**Immortal India**" authored by – Amish Tripathi.
7. Book titled "**A Horse Walks into a Bar**" authored by - David Grossman (Winner - Man Booker International Prize 2017)
8. Book titled "**How India Sees the World**" – Shyam Saran.
9. Book titled "**Hit Refresh**" – Satya Nadella.
10. Book titled "**Unstoppable: My Life So far**" authored by – Maria Sharapova.
11. Book titled "**The Shershaah of Kargil**" authored by - Deepak Surana (Biography of Kargil war hero – Late Captain Vikram Batra)
12. Book titled "**I am HIV positive, so what?**" authored by – Jayanta Kalita (The book is based on the life of an international bodybuilding champion Khundrakpam Pradipkumar Singh hailing from Manipur, who was diagnosed HIV-positive.)
13. Book titled "**Cryptocurrency for Beginners**" authored by – Amit Bhardwaj.
14. Book titled "**Making of a legend**" authored by – Bindeshawar Pathak.
15. Book titled "**Dalhousie Through My Eyes**" authored by – Kiran Chadha.
16. Book titled "**Playing With Fire**" authored by – Katie Price.
17. Book titled "**Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives**" authored by – C. Raj Kumar.
18. Book titled "**The Ministry of Utmost Happiness**" authored by – Arundhati Roy.
19. Book titled "**The Crisis Within**" authored by – Ganesh Devy.
20. Book titled "**Indira Gandhi – A life in Nature**" authored by – Jairam Ramesh.
21. Book titled "**Beren And Luthien**" authored by – J.R.R. Tolkien.
22. Book titled "**Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji**" authored by – Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank".
23. Book titled "**Matoshree**" authored by - Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan

Obituaries

February 2018

1. Hukum Singh passed away - BJP senior leader and Lok Sabha MP from Kairana (U.P.)

January 2018

1. Gurcharan Singh Kalkat passed away - Noted agricultural scientist and pioneer of India's Green Revolution
2. Supriya Devi passed away - Veteran Bengali film actress & Padmashri awardee
3. Chandi Lahiri passed away - Eminent cartoonist & writer
4. Raghunath Jha passed away - Former Union Minister & Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader
5. Dr N K Tripathi passed away - Veteran journalist & author
6. Charu Rohatgi passed away - TV actress known for her roles in serials like 'Uttaran'
7. Gnani Sankaran passed away - Veteran Tamil writer, journalist and theatre personality
8. Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta passed away - Sarod maestro.
9. Baldev Raj passed away - a renowned administrator of nuclear power technologies & director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)
10. Saksham Yadav passed away - World powerlifting champion
11. Doodhnath Singh passed away - Famous Hindi story writer
12. Anwar Jalalpur passed away - Noted Urdu poet

December 2017

1. Partha Mukhopadhyay passed away - Famous Bengali film actor
2. Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay passed away - Acclaimed Bengali singer
3. Neeraj Vora passed away - Bollywood actor, writer, and filmmaker
4. Lalji Singh passed away - a pioneer of DNA fingerprinting technology in India and former Vice-Chancellor of Benares Hindu University, BHU
5. Sukharanjan Sengupta passed away - Veteran journalist
6. Shashi Kapoor passed away - Veteran Actor

International

February 2018

1. Francisco Nunez Olivera - World's Oldest Man passed away at the age of 113.
 - He was 10 years old when World War One broke out.

January 2018

1. **Jo Jo White passed away** - Basketball Hall of Famer & and an Olympic gold medalist
2. **John Young passed away** - NASA's Astronaut
 - A great American astronaut who travels six times in space, revolves around the moon and wanders on its rocky surface.
 - He made the world record to spend the most time in space.
3. **Peter Sutherland passed away** - Former & first Director-General of World Trade Organization (WTO)

Dec 2017

4. **Bob Givens passed away** - Cartoonist, animator, one of the animators behind designing the iconic characters Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd
5. **Robbie Malinga passed away** - Legendary South African musician

Appointments

National

February 2018

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Indian Chef-de-Mission for the Commonwealth Games 2018 - Vikram Singh Sisodia. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vikram Singh Sisodia is the president of Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association. | 2. New Director-General of Sports Authority of India - Neelam Kapur. |
| | 3. New Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army - Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan |

January 2018

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. First woman Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) - Usha Ananthasubramanian. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She is the MD & CEO of Allahabad Bank. | 5. New Director General of FICCI - Dilip Chenoy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FICCI stands for - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry. |
| 2. New Foreign Secretary of India - Vijay Keshav Gokhale <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He succeeded S Jaishankar. | 6. New Director General of National Security Guard (NSG) - Sudeep Lakhtakia |
| 3. New Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - K Sivan. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He succeeded A.S. Kiran Kumar. | 7. New Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) - Om Prakash Rawat <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He became the 22nd CEC of India.• He succeeded Achal Kumar Joti. |
| 4. New Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre - S Somanath <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He succeeded K Sivan.• K Sivan appointed new ISRO Chairman. | 8. New Election Commissioner - Ashok Lawasa (Former Finance secretary) |

9. New Governor of Madhya Pradesh - Anandiben Patel (Former Gujarat Chief Minister)
10. New Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL) - S Selvakumar
11. New Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command - Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh
12. New MD & CEO of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) – Vijay Kumar
13. First woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India - Indu Malhotra
14. 'Chef De Mission' For Winter Olympics 2018 - Harjinder Singh
 - 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
15. New MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - Dilip Asbe
16. Brand ambassador of Sikkim state - A R Rahman (Music composer)
17. New Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA) - Rajinder Khanna

December 2017

1. New Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh - Jai Ram Thakur.
 - He replaced Virbhadr Singh.
 - Jai Ram Thakur became the 6th Chief Minister of the HP.
2. New President of ICCR (Indian Council of Cultural Relations) - Vinay Sahasrabudhe
 - He is the BJP's national Vice President and a Rajya Sabha member from Maharashtra
3. New Chairman & Managing Director of Air India - Pradeep Singh Kharola.
 - He succeeds Rajiv Bansal.
4. Uma Shankar Appointed RBI Executive Director.
5. Re-appointed Prasar Bharati Chairman - A Surya Prakash.
6. Chairman of 15th Finance Commission – **NK Singh**.
7. New CEO & MD of Infosys - Salil S. Parekh

November 2017

1. UN Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India - Dia Mirza
2. Chairman of National Anti-Profiteering Authority under GST – **BN Sharma**.
3. **New Finance Secretary** – Hasmukh Adhia. He succeeds Ashok Lavasa.
4. New Chairman of **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** – S. Ravi.
 - He succeeds Dharendra Swarup.
5. First woman Pilot in Indian Navy - Shubhangi Swaroop.
 - She became the first woman to be inducted as Pilot in Indian Navy.

International

February 2018

1. **16th Chairman of the Federal Reserve** - Jerome H Powell
 - He succeeded Janet Yellen.
 - The Federal Reserve is the Central Bank of the United States.
2. Federal Reserve headquarter is in Washington, D.C., United States.
2. New Chief Justice of Bangladesh - Syed Mahmud Hossain
3. Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades re-elected for the second term.

January 2018

1. **New Liberia's president** - George Weah (Ex-football superstar).
 - He replaced Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

December 2017

1. New UNICEF Chief - Henrietta Holsman Fore.
 - She replaced Anthony Lake
2. Secretary General of Amnesty International - Kumi Naidoo (South Africa).
 - He replaced Salil Shetty.
3. New President of Chile - Sebastian Pinera.
 - He replaced Michelle Bachelet.

November 2017

1. Re-elected to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) -
Dalveer Bhandari

Honours & Awards

National

February 2018

1. Times Power Woman 2017 Award - Shabnam Asthana
2. V. Shantaram lifetime achievement Award - Shyam Benegal (Veteran film producer and director)
3. Sahitya Akademi's Bhasha Samman - Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar

January 2018

1. **Bharat Bharti Award** - Eminent writer Anand Prakash Dixit was awarded the Bharat Bharti Award, the highest literary award given by the Uttar Pradesh government.
 - Mr Dixit was awarded by UP government for his research paper published in 1960 'Ras Sidhhant'.
2. **Five MPs Chosen for Outstanding Parliamentarian Award** - The Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) headed by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan announced that five members of parliament (MPs) selected for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards. This includes
 - (i) Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015)
 - (ii) Trinamool Congress' Dinesh Trivedi (2016),
 - (iii) Manipur's governor Najma A Heptulla (2013)
 - (iv) BJP's Lok Sabha member Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (2014) and
 - (v) five-time Rajya Sabha member Bhartruhari Mahatab of the Lok Biju Janata Dal (BJD) (2017).
3. **Yash Chopra Memorial Award 2018** - Asha Bhosle (Bollywood playback singer)
4. **Padma Awards 2018** - This year the President of India has approved conferment of 85 Padma Awards. The list comprises 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri Awards.

Padma Vibhushan

1. Shri Illaiyaraja - Field - Art-Music. **State - Tamil Nadu**
2. Shri Ghulam Mustafa Khan - Field - Art-Music. **State - Maharashtra**
3. Shri Parameswaran Parameswaran - Literature and Education. **State - Kerala**

Padma Bhushan

1. **Shri Pankaj Advani** - Field - Sports-Billiards/Snooker. State - Karnataka.
2. **Shri Philipose Mar Chrysostom** - Field - Others-Spiritualism. State - Kerala.

3. **Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni** - Field - Sports Cricket. State - Jharkhand.
4. **Shri Alexander Kadakin (Foreigner/Posthumous)** - Filed - Public Affairs. Country - Russia
5. **Shri Ramachandran Nagaswamy** - Field - Others-Archaeology. State - Tamil Nadu
6. **Shri Ved Prakash Nanda (OCI)** - Field - Literature and Education - Country - USA
7. **Shri Laxman Pai** - Field - Art-Painting - State - Goa
8. **Shri Arvind Parikh** - Field - Art-Music -State - Maharashtra
9. **Ms. Sharda Sinha** - Field - Art-Music. State - Bihar

Padma Shri - List of some sports personalities

1. Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu -Weightlifting. State - Manipur
 2. Shri Somdev Devvarman -Tennis. State - Tripura
 3. Shri Murlikant Petkar - Swimming. State - Maharashtra
 4. Shri Kidambi Srikanth --Badminton. State - Andhra Pradesh
 5. Shri Murlikant Petkar -Swimming. State - Maharashtra
5. **63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018** held in Mumbai. Here is the list of important awards -
 - Best Film - '**Hindi Medium**' (Director - Saket Chaudhary)
 - Best Actor in A Leading Role (Female) - **Vidya Balan** for 'Tumhari Sulu' (Director - Suresh Triveni)
 - Best Actor in A Leading Role (Male)- **Irrfan Khan** for 'Hindi Medium'
 - Best Director - **Ashwiny Iyer** Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
 - Best Actor in A Supporting Role (Male) - **Rajkumar Rao** for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
 - Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female) - **Meher Vij** for 'Secret Superstar'
 - People's Choice Award for Best Short Film '**Anahut**'

- Best Short Film (Fiction) - **'Juice'**.
- Best Short Film (Non-Fiction) - **'Invisible Wings'**
- Lifetime Achievement Award - **Mala Sinha & Bappi Lahiri**

1. 'Harivaranam' Award 2017 - K S Chitra (Veteran singer)

- The award is instituted by the Kerala government.

2. **Sahitya Akademi Award 2017** announced in 24 languages. It is a literary award.

Here is the list of some important awards –

- In English Lang - **Mamang Dai (Itanagar, AP)** won the award for her novel – **'The Black Hill'**
- In Hindi Lang - **Ramesh Kuntal Megh** won the award for his literary criticism – 'Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar'
- In Sanskrit Lang - **Niranjan Mishra** won the award for his Sanskrit novel **'Gangaputravadanam'**
- In Punjabi Lang – Nachhattar won the award for his Punjabi novel **'Slow Down'**

3. **Zee Cine Awards** - Here is the list of important awards –

- Best actor male- Varun Dhawan for 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania'
- Best actor female- Sridevi for 'Mom'
- Best director- Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
- Best film- 'Golmaal Again'

1. International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Awards – The 48th International Film Festival of India held in Goa.

Here is the list of winners at IFFI 2017

- Best Film Award at IFFI 2017 - 120 Beats Per Minute (A French film on fight against indifference towards AIDS) Note: The film is directed by - Robin Campillo
- Indian film personality of the year award - Amitabh Bachchan
- Best Female Actress Award – Parvathy Thiruvoth Kottuvatta for the film "Take Off" (directed by - Mahesh Narayanan)

6. **Janakavi P Sawlaram Award** - Sudhir Dalvi (Actor)

December 2017

- Global icon award- Priyanka Chopra.

4. **31st Moortidevi Award 2017 - Joy Goswami** (Eminent Bengali poet)

- The award was given for his poetry collection titled **'Du Dondo Phowara Matro'**
- It is the first time the award will be given to a Bengali poet.

5. **PETA's Person of the Year 2017** - Anushka Sharma

6. **Mr. India 2017** - Jitesh Singh Deo bagged the title of 'Peter England Mr. India 2017' (ninth edition).

7. **Mrs. India Pride of the Nation Award** – Mayanka Patel

8. **Mamta Kalia Selected for Vyas Samman 2017** -

Eminent Hindi litterateur & playwright Mamta Kalia has been selected for 'Vyas Samman-2017' for her novel **'Dukkham Sukkham'**.

9. **Star Screen Awards 2017** held in Mumbai.

Here is the list of important awards –

- Best Film (Critics): Newton
- Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal)
- Best Actress (Critics): Vidya Balan (Tumhari Sulu)
- Best Actor (Critics): Rajkumar Rao (Newton)
- Best Actress: Konkona Sen Sharma (Lipstick Under My Burkha)
- Best Actor: Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)

November 2017

- Best Male Actor Award – Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Beats Per Minute

- Best Director Award – Vivian Qu, Angels Wear White

- Lifetime Achievement Award – Atom Egoyan

- ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal - Marathi Film Kshitij-A Horizon, directed by Manoj Kadam.

2. **53rd Jnanpith award 2017**- Krishna Sobti (eminent Hindi writer).

International January 2018

- 1. Grammy Awards 2018** - The 60th Annual Grammy Awards were held at Madison Square Garden in New York City, the USA.
Here is the complete list of winners
 - Album of The Year: Bruno Mars
 - Song of the Year: Bruno Mars', That's What I Like
 - Record of The Year: Bruno Mars, 24K Magic
 - Best Pop Solo Performance: Ed Sheeran, Shape of You
 - Best Pop Vocal Album: Ed Sheeran, Divide
 - Best Dance Recording: LCD Soundsystem, Tonite
 - Best Music Film: The Defiant Ones
 - Best Children's Album: Feel What U Feel, Lisa Loeb
 - Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media: La La Land
 - Producer of the Year, Classical: David Frost
- 2. World Economic Forum 24th Crystal Award** - Shah Rukh Khan (Bollywood actor)
- 3. Golden Globe Awards 2018** - The 75th Golden Globe Award ceremony was held in Los Angeles, the USA.

Here is the list of important Awards -

- Best Picture - Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.
 - Best motion picture, musical or comedy: Lady Bird.
 - Best Director - Guillermo del Toro, "The Shape of Water".
 - Best Actress - Frances McDormand.
 - Best Actor - Gary Oldman.
 - Best motion picture, animated: Coco
 - Best motion picture, foreign language: In the Fade
 - Best television series, drama: The Handmaid's Tale, Hulu
- 4. Best Central Bank Governor in Asia – Pacific - Ravi Menon**
 - The Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Ravi Menon, has been named the best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018 by UK-based magazine, The Banker.

December 2017

- 1. BBC's Sports Personality of The Year Award – Mo Farah (Britain)**
 - He becomes the first long-distance runner to win the Sports Personality award.
 - He is a four-time Olympic champion.
- 2. International Children's Peace Prize 2017 - Mohamad Al Jounde (Syria)**
 - The award was given for his efforts to ensure the rights of Syrian refugee children.

- 3. Time's Person of the Year for 2017 - The Silence Breakers**
 - Time magazine has named 'the silence breakers' its Person of the Year for 2017 mentioning to those women and men who have raise a voice to sexual assault and harassment by powerful public figures in America.

November 2017

- 1. Miss Universe 2017** - Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters (Miss South Africa).
 - The event was held at the AXIS theatre at Planet Hollywood Las Vegas, US.
- 2. Miss World 2017** - Manushi Chhillar (Miss India).
 - The event was held in Sanya City Arena in China.

- She was born in Rohtak, Haryana.
- 3. Mother Teresa Award 2017** - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017.

October 2017

1. **2017 Man Booker Prize** - George Saunders (US author).
 - He won the award for fiction for his first full-length novel 'Lincoln in the Bardo'.

List of Nobel Prize 2017

1. Nobel Prize in Peace

- Winner - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- Field - ICAN for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.
- ICAN headquarter at – **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- ICAN Executive Director - **Beatrice Fihn**

2. Nobel Prize in Literature

- Winner - Kazuo Ishiguro.
- He is a British author and best known for his novel "The Remains of the Day".
- He was born in Nagasaki, Japan.

3. Nobel Prize in Economics

- Winner - Richard Thaler
- Field – for his work in behavioral economics.
- **Richard Thaler** born in New Jersey, United States. He is a professor of behavioural sciences and economics at University of Chicago.

4. Nobel Prize in Medicine

- Winner - Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young
- Field - for their discoveries on how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with the Earth's revolutions.
- **Jeffrey C. Hall** – He is from New York, US and currently Professor at Brandeis University.
- **Michael Rosbash** – He is from Missouri, US and currently Professor at Brandeis University.
- **Michael W. Young** – He is from Miami, Florida, US and Professor at Rockefeller University,

University of Texas at Austin, Stanford University School of Medicine.

5. Nobel Prize in Physics

- Winner - Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne.
- **Field** - Their decisive contributions to the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory) detector and the observation of gravitational waves.
- **Rainer Weiss** born in Berlin, Germany. He is a Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- **Barry C. Barish** born in Nebraska, U.S. He is a professor at California Institute of Technology.
- **Kip S. Thorne** born in Utah, U.S. He is a professor at California Institute of Technology.

6. Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- Winner - Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson.
- **Field** - They developed cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution. It's a method of simplifying and improving the imaging of biomolecules.
- **Jacques Dubochet** born in Aigle, Switzerland. He is a professor at University of Lausanne.
- **Joachim Frank** born in Siegen, Germany. He is a professor at Columbia University.
- **Richard Henderson** born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He is a professor at Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

National Affairs

February 2018

- 1. Development of Solar Cities**” scheme launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
 - MNRE has sanctioned development of 60 Solar Cities including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities up to 12th Five-year Plan period (2012–2017).**Aim** – reducing minimum 10% in projected demand of conventional energy at end of five years, through combination of enhancing supply from renewable energy sources in city and energy efficiency measures.
Objective - Enable and empower Urban Local Governments (ULBs) to address energy challenges at City-level.
- 2. Pay as You Use Tolling** – National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will launch a pilot project “Pay as You Use Tolling” on the **Delhi - Mumbai national highway**.
Objective - to study implement ability of system in the country.
Note:
 - The proposed tolling system will work on combination of mobile telecommunications technology (GSM) and satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS).
 - It will be able to deduct money from vehicle account, credit money to concessionaire within one day and open toll gate.
- In case of failed transaction, it will be able to alert toll operator to collect payment manually and not open the gate.
- 3. Google & NCERT signed agreement to teach students digital safety.** - Google and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has signed an agreement to integrate a course on ‘Digital Citizenship and Safety’ in information and communication technology (ICT) curriculum.
Aim - to bring awareness amongst the young generation of India to make Internet a Safe space.
- 4. Three tools to rank states and union territories** - The Commerce and Industry Ministry (DIPP) has launched three tools to rank states and union territories based on measures taken by them to promote budding entrepreneurs.
These tools will help promote the start-up drive -
 - (i) start-up-India ranking framework,
 - (ii) compendium of good practices for promoting startups in India and
 - (iii) Startup India Kit.

January 2018

- 1. GeM 3.0 - (Government e-Marketplace)** - The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched third version of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM 3.0).
Aim - to transform the way in which procurement of goods and services is done by the Government Ministries/Departments, PSUs, autonomous bodies etc.
- 2. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** will be set up in New Delhi. It will be set up by the Union Home Ministry.
- 3. India-Japan Smart Grid Pilot Project** launched in Panipat, Haryana.
Objective – to solve the various complications faced by the power distribution sector.
- 4. Rapid Reporting System (RRS)** launched by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD).
 - Rapid Reporting System is a web based on line monitoring for **Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)**.
- 5. Management Information System (MIS) portal** launched by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched for Anganwadi Services Training Programme.
- 6. ‘Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities’** launched in Goa by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
 - It has been developed under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban for rating cities on 7-star rating system based on multiple cleanliness indicators for solid waste management.
- 7. “Bharat Ke Veer”** an official anthem launched by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
 - The song is composed by the singer **Kailash Kher**.
 - **‘Bharat Ke Veer’ is an initiative** with corpus fund to help the families of paramilitary troopers killed in the line of duty. So far, it has raised Rs. 12.93 crore for kin of paramilitary personnel killed in the line of duty.
 - Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as brand ambassador of **‘Bharat Ke Veer’ initiative**.

8. 'Liveability index' launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs (MoHUA) to rate **116 Indian cities**.

Note:

- Liveability index is tool that aims to measure quality of life in 99 smart cities, capital cities and those with a population of over one million.
- It will be funded by the World Bank and ranking of these cities is expected to be ready by June 2018.

9. **2018 as National Year of Millets** - Government has approved 2018 as National Year of Millets to boost production of the nutrient-rich millets and the sunrise agri industry involved in it.

10. **India** became the **43rd member** of the Australia Group.

- Australia Group is an informal bloc (group) of countries that keeps a tight control over exports of substances used in making of chemical weapons.

11. India's **first automatic Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS)** will be commissioned by March 2018 in Odisha.

- It will provide Odisha's entire population residing on 480 km length coastline a pre-warning siren in event of occurrence of natural disasters like tsunami or cyclone.

12. **Solar Development Fund of \$350 million** will be set up for financing solar projects under the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- The fund was announced by Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh at first ever ISA outreach programmes '**International Solar Alliance Forum**' held in Abu Dhabi's World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2018.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) headquarter is in Gurugram, Haryana, India.

13. '**ICREATE**' facility launched at **Deo Dholera Village in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

- It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu
- **iCreate aims** to develop an ecosystem in India to generate quality entrepreneurs.

14. The NITI Aayog has launched first course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) at IIT Kanpur's outreach centre in Noida.

About Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)

- GIAN in Higher Education is scheme of **HRD Ministry** that aims to boost the quality of the country's higher education through international collaboration.

15. **Operation Digital Board** launched by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE).

Objective - to improve quality of education.

Key points

- Govt plans to install digital boards in all schools in next five years.
- Under it, students will be empowered with 360 degree information with interesting learning experience and increase teacher accountability.
- It will be undertaken jointly by Centre, State, Corporate Social Responsibility and community.

16. The International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR) was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

17. '**Teen Murti Chowk**' in central New Delhi was renamed as '**Teen Murti-Haifa**' after Israeli City Haifa.

18. **Delhi is the richest state** in India - National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4).

Note:

- **Bihar is the poorest state.**
- Punjab is the other state that is featured at top in the list in terms of richest states of the country.
- Delhi is the richest states with 60% of their households in the top wealth quintile.
- Bihar is the poorest state having more than 50% households in the bottom wealth quintile.
- The survey was conducted on more than 6 lakh households of country.
- According to report, 29% of the rural population is poor, whereas the percentage of poor people in urban areas is just 3.3%.
- Among religious communities, **Jains are the richest** with more than 70% of their population in the top quintile.
- Survey conducted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Objective - To collect essential data on health and family welfare needed for policy and programme purpose.

19. Saksham 2018 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) launched by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

- Saksham is annual flagship event of PCRA with active involvement of Oil & Gas PSUs along with other stakeholders like State Governments.

20. NITI Aayog to rank 115 backward (aspirational) districts by April 2018.

- It will be ranked on 10 socio-economic parameters which will include nutrition, education and health.
- It was announced at 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' conference.
- The Union Government had selected 115 backward districts for rapid transformation by 2022 in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to create a "New India" over the next five years.
- These 115 backward districts include 35 districts affected by Left Wing Extremists (LWE) violence, 55 districts just affected by LWE and another 15 including districts in Jammu and Kashmir and northeast affected by terrorism.

21. SFOORTI app launched by the Ministry of Railways.

- SFOORTI stands for - Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information.
- **Objective** - to monitor and manage freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) views and dashboard.

22. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced two-tier security feature viz. **Virtual ID** and **Limited KYC** to address privacy concerns.

Aim - to strengthen security and privacy of Aadhaar data.
Virtual ID - The Virtual ID will be random **16-digit number** that can be generated from UIDAI's website and give for various purposes, wherever Aadhaar number is necessary to provide.

Limited KYC - It was introduced to address issue of storage of Aadhaar number within various databases. It will only provide need-based or limited details of user to authorised agency that is providing particular service. It will evaluate Authentication User Agencies (AUAs) and split them into two categories: Global AUAs and Local AUAs.

23. First digital Online Oncology Tutorial - launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- It was designed by the Tata Memorial Centre.

Aim - to train the doctors across the country to educate them in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers.

24. Asia's longest bi-directional Zojila Pass tunnel - The government approved the **Rs. 6,809-crore** strategic Zojila pass tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir.

Objective - To provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh, which remains cut-off from the rest of the world during winters due to heavy snowfall.

25. India and Vietnam country released the first-ever Memorial Stamps to mark the long-term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries.

- The two set of stamps released carry picture of Sanchi Stupa and Thien Mu Pagoda.

26. Mumbai Matunga Railway station figured in the 'Limca Book of Records 2018' for having an all-woman staff.

- The achievement comes six months after 'Matunga' became the first railway station in the country to be run by an all-woman staff.

27. 'Swachh Aadat, Swachh Bharat' a new campaign launched by the Hindustan Unilever Limited.

- Objective - to promote simple hygiene habits among children.
- Film actress Kajol Devgan appointed ambassador for the initiative.

28. Railways will roll out a 'first of its kind' semi-high speed, self-propelled train - **'Train 18' & 'Train 20'**

- The Chennai-based Railways' Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has designed the train sets and will manufacture the first with 16 fully air-conditioned coaches by June 2018.
- Touted as Train 18, it will have 'world-class' passenger amenities such as on-board Wi-fi and infotainment, GPSbased passenger information system and plush interiors with diffused LED lighting.
- Another set of train, named as **Train 20, likely to be launched in 2020**. These will also be equipped with world class facilities to replace another elite train, Rajdhani Express, used in overnight travel.
- Both Train 18 and Train 20, a "Make in India" project by ICF will be manufactured at a price half than the cost of imported train sets.
- Both train can travel at speeds of up to 160 kmph.

29. India's second largest rooftop solar power plant commissioned at Pata in Uttar Pradesh.

- It was commissioned by GAIL India Ltd.

- It is 5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak) solar plant.

December 2017

1. Bengaluru becomes the first Indian city to have its own logo - "Be U". The logo, 'Be U' is a mix of typography in English and Kannada. The objective of the logo to make every person coming to the city to spend on memorabilia. The logo was designed by **Nammur**, a design start-up.

2. India's first design University Opens in Haryana - India's first design university '**World University of Design**' opened its campus at **Sonipat, Haryana**.

3. India to get its first runway on sea-bridge at Lakshadweep - India is all set to get its first runway on a 'sea bridge', as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been given a nod to extend **Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport**.

4. India's first home-grown high purity gold reference BND-4201 standard launched - The Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201) is India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard. The BND-4201 is reference material for gold of '9999' fineness (gold that is 99.99% pure with impurities of only 100 parts-per-million). It will be beneficial to the consumers and public at large to ensure purity of gold.

5. Blue Flag pilot project launched for beach clean-up and development - The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched pilot project 'Blue Flag' to develop and enhance standards of cleanliness on beaches.

6. Paytm becomes India's first payments app to cross 100 million downloads on Play Store - India's largest mobile-first financial services platform, Paytm announced that its app has crossed the 100 million milestones on Google Play Store.

7. Maharashtra tops in GST collection in first five months - Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are top contributors among states and Union Territories in the first five months since the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in July 1, 2017.

8. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated Start-up Incubation Centre in Mangalore - Defence Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated a modern development centre - the Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning - for budding entrepreneurs in Mangalore. The aim of this centre is to promote Startup India initiative in the country.

9. Mumbai gets country's first AC suburban train - Mumbai Railway Service (Western Railway) started the first ever Air-Conditioned local train has been flagged off from Borivali station in Mumbai.

10. PM Modi launched Tuirial Hydropower project in Mizoram - PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 60-megawatt Tuirial hydroelectric power project in Aizawl, Mizoram.

- Now, the Mizoram had become the third power-surplus state in the north-east after Sikkim and Tripura.
- Prime Minister also inaugurated the Shillong - Nongstoin Rongjeng Tura road.
- The hydropower project would produce '251 million units' of electrical energy every year.
- The Tuirial hydropower project has been built on Tuirial River, a tributary of Barak River.

11. Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates eastern India's First CNG Stations - The Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated eastern India's first compressed natural gas (CNG) stations for scooters in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

12. Indian Railways plans to make all stations 100% LED lit by March 2018.

13. Patanjali ranked India's most trusted FMCG Brand - Indian FMCG company, Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Brand by the Brand Trust Report India Study 2017.

14. The Union Cabinet has approved proposal of Ministry of Railways to set up first ever National Rail and Transport University (NRTU) in Vadodara, Gujarat.

15. HAL's Dornier 228 planes made under 'Make in India' set for commercial flights - The 19-seater Dornier 228 aircraft is manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under licence from Swiss technology company RUAG for the defence forces and European markets.

16. A new LIGO gravitational wave detector to be built in India by 2025 - The new Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) detector to be built in India by 2025. This will be the third detector the two already operational in the US.

- 17. Air Deccan gets DGCA nod for UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme** - The aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted flying permit to Air Deccan, a move that will enable the airline to operate flights under the regional connectivity scheme called UDAN.
- 18. Odisha recognised as 'Champion State' for exports** - The Centre has recognised Odisha as a 'Champion State' for recording the highest growth in exports during 2016-17.
- The exports from the state have increased from Rs 19,082 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 40,872 crore in 2016-17 with merchandise exports from Odisha registering the highest growth rate of 114 per cent among all the states,
- 19. UNESCO names Kumbh Mela in list of Intangible Cultural Heritage** – The Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO has inscribed 'KumbhMela' on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Note:**
- KumbhMela is the 14th intangible cultural heritage from India to be listed in UNESCO's list.
- 20. Uttar Pradesh first State to approve Centre's triple talaq draft bill** – Uttar Pradesh became first state to approve Union Government's draft law — Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act that makes practice of instant "triple talaq" or talaq-e-biddat. a cognisable and non-bailable criminal offence.
- 21. India and Israel open centre for floriculture in Tamil Nadu** – India and Israel have jointly set up a centre for excellence in floriculture at Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu. It is first agro-technology development centre to be set up with Israel's assistance in Tamil Nadu.
- 22. India's first mobile food testing lab unveiled in Goa** – India's 'first' mobile food testing laboratory enabling on-the-spot food safety tests was launched in Goa. It was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.
- Note:**
- This is the first ever 'Food Safety on Wheel' mobile laboratory in the country.
 - The vehicle is equipped to conduct on-the-spot tests to check food quality and curb adulteration.
- It will also check hygiene level of water and the results can be received within 15 minutes.
- 23. Mt Hope new tallest mountain in British Antarctic Territory** – As per new discovery from cartographers surveying Antarctica, Mt Hope is the tallest mountain in the British Antarctic Territory (BAT). Its height is measured at 3,239 meters above sea level.
- Note:** Earlier, maps showed Mt Jackson with the height 3,184 meters as the tallest mountain in the territory according to researchers at British Antarctic Survey (BAS).
- 24. Uttarakhand government makes LED bulbs compulsory in all government offices** – The state government of Uttarakhand has taken a new initiative for energy conservation by making it compulsory for all government offices to install LED bulbs.
- 25. Kerala's Alappuzha in top UN clean city list** - The waste management system was being implemented in Kerala's coast town of Alappuzha has been recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of the five models across the world for fighting the pollution menace.
- Note:**
- Alappuzha called "the Venice of East" has been listed in the UNEP environment report.
 - PM Narendra Modi Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ranked Alappuzha at 380 among the 500 cities in the country in the Swachh Survekshan Survey 2017.
- 26. Farmer engagement app 'Jai Kisaan' launched in Goa** – The Chief Minister of Goa Manohar Parrikar launched a farmer engagement app named 'Jai Kisaan' which aims to fulfil the needs of the farmer's community in India.
- 27. PM Narendra Modi launches UMANG App** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the UMANG App (Unified Mobile Application), a platform that brings more than 100 government services on a single mobile app.
- 28. PM Modi inaugurated Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the B.R Ambedkar International Centre in the New Delhi.

29. Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh has been included in the National Capital Region (NCR). Now there are total 23 districts which come under the National Capital Region.

30. Kacheguda becomes first energy-efficient rail station – Kacheguda railway station (South Central Railway) has earned the unique distinction of being the First Energy Efficient 'A1 Category' Railway Station on Indian Railways. The station has achieved 100% energy efficiency replacing 1,312 conventional lights with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting.

31. India's largest floating Solar Power Plant opened in Kerala by the State power minister MM Mani in Kerala. The total budget for the project is Rs. 9.25 crore. The plant is built at **Banasura Sagar dam Kerala.**

About Banasura Sagar Dam

1. One Rupee note turns 100 - The one rupee note turns 100 years old on 30th November 2017.

Note:

- The first one-rupee note was introduced on November 30, 1917, with the photo of King George V.
- In 1926, the RBI discontinued issuance of one-rupee note but it got reintroduced in 1940. In 1994 again, the note got discontinued which got back reintroduced in 2015.
- The One Rupee note is issued by Ministry of Finance and it bears the signatures of Finance Secretary.

2. Cyclone Ockhi strikes in the Tamil Nadu & Kerala - The cyclone Ockhi strikes in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu and some parts of Kerala state.

3. 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space held in New Delhi.

Note: The theme of the conference is Cyber for all, a secure and inclusive cyberspace for sustainable Development.

4. **India re-elected member of UNESCO's executive board** - India was re-elected as member of executive board of United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO).

Note: Executive board is UNESCO's top decision-making body. The election was held at 39th session of General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, France.

5. **Facebook launches Disaster Maps in India** - The social networking giant Facebook Inc. has rolled out

- The Banasura Sagar Dam is located in Wayanad District of Kerala in the Western Ghats. It is built over Kabini River.
- It is the largest earthen dam in India and the second largest in Asia.
- The Dam is named after the Banasura, the son of Mahabali who was a very respected king of Kerala.

32. 'Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival' held in New Delhi - The 7th edition of the Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival' held at the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.**

November 2017

Disaster Maps for India in a bid to help communities recover and rebuild faster in aftermath of natural disasters.

6. **India's second Technology & Innovation Support Centre** established at Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), Anna University, Chennai.

Note:

- The objective of TISC is to stimulate dynamic, vibrant and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation.
- It will thereby help to promote entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development by establishing network of TISCs in India.

7. **Supreme Court refuses to ban Kambala** - The Supreme Court has refused to pass an interim order to stay Ordinance allowing kambala, the traditional buffalo slush track race in Karnataka. People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), a non-governmental organisation, had challenged the Ordinance.

Note: **Kambala** is traditional slush track buffalo race that is held annually in coastal districts of Karnataka to entertain rural people of the area. The sports season generally starts in November and lasts till March.

8. **BRO builds world's highest motorable road in Ladakh** - The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed the world's highest motorable road in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, passing through Umlingla Top at a height of over 19,300 feet.

The feat was achieved under '**Project Himank**' of the organisation.

9. Govt. launched Food Regulatory & Nivesh Bandhu portal - Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal announced the launch of the **Food Regulatory Portal and Investor Facilitation Portal "Nivesh Bandhu"**.

About Nivesh Bandhu Portal –

1. **Govt. launched MSME Samadhaan Portal** - The Union Government has launched MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise) delayed payment portal 'MSME Samadhaan'.

Key points –

- The portal will give information about the pending payments of MSEs with individual CPSEs, Central Ministries, State Governments, etc.
 - The portal will help in monitoring the delayed payments in a more effective manner.
 - It will also empower the MSEs to access the portal and monitor their cases.
2. **Indian Railways to get its first set of solar plants** - Indian Railways' first set of solar plants having a total capacity of 5 megawatt peak (MWp). The plants built on the roof tops of Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Anand Vihar and Delhi railway stations would be generating 76.5 lakh units of solar power cumulatively every year and are expected to meet about 30 per cent of the energy requirement of these stations.
 3. **BharatMala Pariyojana:** The Union Government has approved mega highway projects to build 83677 km of highways over the next five years at a cost of Rs 7 lakh crore.

Note:

- These highway projects include the ambitious Bharatmala project which is the second-largest highway project after National Highways Development Project (NHDP) that saw development of about 50000 km of roads.
- The Bharatmala Pariyojana or Project will subsume all the existing highway projects, including the flagship National Highways Development Project (NHDP).
- Bharatmala project is an umbrella programme for roads under which 34800 km of highways will be constructed at a cost of Rs 5.35 lakh crore.

- "Nivesh Bandhu" portal will assist investors to make informed investment decisions.
- It will provide information on Central and State Governments' investor friendly policies, agro-producing clusters, infrastructure, and potential areas of investment in the food processing sector.

October 2017

- Bharatmala Project will include **9000 km of economic corridors, 6000 km of inter-corridor** and feeder routes, **5000 km of national corridors** efficiency improvement, **2000 km of border road** connectivity, **800 km of expressways** and **10000 km of balance NHDP** projects.
 - A study under the Bharatmala project by global consultancy firm AT Kearney identified 44 economic corridors for development. The corridors included Mumbai-Cochin-Kanyakumari, Bengaluru-Mangaluru, Hyderabad-Panaji and Sambalpur-Ranchi among others.
 - The government has assigned NHAI, National Highway and Industrial Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and state Public Work Departments (PWDs) for the Bharatmala Project.
4. **PM Modi launches 'Ro-Ro' ferry service in Gujarat** - The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Phase 1 of the RO RO (Roll on, Roll off) ferry service between Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat. This is the first of its kind project not only in India but also in South-East Asia,"

About RO RO Ferry Service

- The term ro-ro is generally taken for large ocean-going vessels. This is in opposite to the lo-lo (lift-on and lift-off) vessels, which apply a crane to load and unload cargo.
 - This is a first of its kind of services in India. The RO RO ferry service will be able to bear up to hundred of vehicles (cars, bus, truck etc.) and 250 passengers linking the two ports.
 - The ro-ro ferry services will take wheeled cargo on and off the ferry on their own wheels or using a platform vehicle. The wheeled cargo includes, cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars.
5. **PM dedicated first All India Institute of Ayurveda to nation** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

dedicated first All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi to the nation on the occasion of National Ayurveda Day.

Note:

- The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is an apex institute under Ministry of AYUSH.
6. India's **first micro forest** being built in Chhattisgarh.
 7. The union minister **Harsh Vardhan** has launched SECURE Himalaya project in association with UNDP at the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) conference in New Delhi.
 8. The National Highways Authority of India has launched a mobile app for smooth functioning of electronic toll collection --**MyFASTag**.

- It aims to bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology. It has been set up on lines of AIIMS

9. Country's first 'Videsh Bhavan' launched in **Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai** by External Affairs Minister 'Sushma Swaraj'.
10. India's first Hyperloop project will come up in **Andhra Pradesh**.
11. The 'Kandla Port' has been renamed as -- **Deendayal Port**.
Note: Kandla Port is the largest sea port of India (by volume of cargo handled) located in Kutch District of Gujarat.

State Affairs

February 2018

1. **Arunachal Pradesh** Chief Minister Pema Khandu laid the foundation stone for **Rhododendron Park** in Tawang.
2. '**Pelican Bird Festival-2018**' was held for first time in **Atapaka Bird Sanctuary** at Kolleru lake in Andhra Pradesh.
 - Kolleru is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the country.
3. 32nd edition of **Surajkund International Crafts Mela** was held at Faridabad, Haryana.

- This year **Uttar Pradesh** is **theme state** and **Kyrgyzstan** is the **partner nation**.

4. **Uttar Pradesh govt. launched the Dastak Campaign**
Objective - Door to door campaign to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease in the state.
Association - The campaign was launched in association with UNICEF.
Slogan - 'Darwaja Khatkhatoo, AES aur JE ko bhagao'.

January 2018

1. **Ghodazari to be a new wildlife sanctuary** - Maharashtra
 - The Maharashtra Government approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as a new wildlife sanctuary.
 - The new sanctuary will include about 159 sq km area of Bramhapuri forest.
 - The area is home to 10 to 15 tigers and 23 leopards.
2. **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project** launched by the Himachal Pradesh Government
Objective - to promote organic farming in the state.
Aim - to increase agriculture produce and the income of farmers by the year 2022.
3. **India's first floating market opens in Kolkata**

- The floating market is located on lake at **Patuli in South Kolkata** which is 400 metres long and 60 metres wide.
 - The lake has been transformed into the floating market similar to the one in Thailand.
 - The market will host at least 114 boats, each one accommodating two shops.
 - These shops will sell regular or daily-use items that include vegetables, fruits, flowers, fish and meat and poultry.
 - Shoppers can approach these boats through wooden walkways.
4. Uttar Pradesh Diwas is observed on 24th of January.
 5. Himachal Pradesh celebrates its 48th Statehood Day on **25th January**.

6. India's first garbage festival '**Kachra Mahotsav 2018**' held in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.
7. AYUSH Minister Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, laid the foundation stone for **Homeopathy Research Institute** in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
8. **Srirangam Ranganathaswamy** temple of **Tamil Nadu** awarded with the UNESCO Award.
 - Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanichamy received the award.
 - The award was given for the reconstruction activities undertaken in temple without in least affecting its traditional splendour and Vedic rituals.
9. **Maharashtra** become the first state to enforce the ban on the sale of tobacco in shops selling FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) items like chocolates, chips and other edible items.
10. **Maharashtra** became first state in country to unveil **Public Cloud Policy** that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their data storage onto cloud.
11. Maharashtra Government has approved 1% reservation for orphans in government jobs and education for orphans in the state under general category.
12. Manipur Government launched the **Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang** (CMHT), a health assurance scheme for the poor and disabled people.
13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd (HRRL) project commencement of oil refinery in Rajasthan's Barmer district. It is first oil refinery to be set up in Rajasthan.
14. Haryana become first state in the country to launch High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) portal.
15. Arunachal Pradesh was officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) state.
 - It is second State from Northeast, after Sikkim and overall fifth state after Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Haryana to be declared ODF state.
16. India's second Film and Television Institute to be set up in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune.
 - Anupam Kher is the present chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India.

December 2017

1. **Losar festival** celebrated in **Ladakh** region of Jammu and Kashmir to mark the beginning of New Year in this Himalayan region.
2. **Hot Air Balloon** festival held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
3. The Festival of International Poetry 'Mystic Kalinga' was organized in Odisha's Bhubaneswar.
4. International Sweet Festival will be held in Hyderabad, Telangana.
5. **Meghalaya launches India's first social audit law** - Meghalaya state has become the first Indian state to operationalize The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017, a law that makes a social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.
6. Vaikunta Ekadasi festival celebrated in **Tamil Nadu**
7. **Rajasthan becomes the first state to offer e-mail IDs in Hindi** - Rajasthan has become the first Indian state to launch free email addresses in Hindi (in Devanagari script) for its residents.
8. **Hornbill festival held in Nagaland** - The 18th Hornbill festival held in Nagaland. The festival is celebrated from 1-10 December every year in Nagaland. It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.

November 2017

1. **Sangai Festival** was celebrated in Manipur.
 - It is grandest festival of the state to promote Manipur as a world class tourism destination.
2. The first ever **Namami Barak** festival was held at **Silchar** in **Assam**.
 - It was inaugurated by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
3. **Telangana Govt: Urdu as Second Official Language** - Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao declared Urdu as the state's second official language.

October 2017

1. **Aerospace Park to be set up in Tamil Nadu** – The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami, laid the foundation stone for an aerospace park at Kanchipuram district.
2. **Rajasthan assembly first in India to call motions online'** - Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government,
3. **Allahabad to get India's First Black Buck Conservation Reserve** - Uttar Pradesh cabinet decided to make India's first conservation reserve for blackbuck in Allahabad's Meja.
4. **Haryana became the first State in India to treat Hepatitis-C Patients with Oral Medicine** - Haryana has emerged as the first state in the country to treat Hepatitis-C patients through oral medicine.
5. India's first-ever Industrial Training Institute for the Divyangans will be set up at Dibrugarh ITI Complex at Borboruah in Assam.

International Affairs

February 2018

1. **Dubai International Airport** is the World's Busiest International Airport in 2017.
2. Bermuda has become the first country in the world to legalise and then repeal same-sex marriage.
3. **Falcon Heavy**, world's most powerful rocket, launched by SpaceX.
 - SpaceX successfully launched its first Falcon Heavy, the most powerful rocket in operation anywhere in the world.
 - SpaceX is an Aerospace company of United States.
4. **Sweden** has signed Strategic Partnership Agreement with United Nations for committing record \$370 million dollars to UN World Food Programme.
 - The contribution is for next four years i.e. 2018-2021. It is the biggest ever contribution made by donor within a WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement.
5. **Japan launches world's tiniest 'SS-520' rocket into orbit** - The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has successfully launched the world's smallest rocket 'SS-520' to carry a 'TRICOM-1R' satellite into orbit.
6. **UAE launches World's longest Zip Line** - The United Arab Emirates has made a record by opening the world's longest zip line, measuring 2.83 km in length.
7. Rwanda has become the first poor country to provide **universal eye care** for its 12 million population.
8. **Maldives declares state of emergency as political crisis worsens** - The Maldives president, Abdulla Yameen, has declared a state of emergency in the country as heavily armed troops stormed the country's top court and a former president Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed was arrested in a deepening political crisis.

January 2018

1. The World Economic Forum (WEF) launched new Global Centre for Cybersecurity in Geneva, Switzerland. It will become operational from March 2018.
Objective - to safeguard world from hackers and growing data breaches — especially from nation-states.
2. Valletta becomes Europe's Capital of Culture - Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.
 - Valletta will share the title with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.
 - Valletta is the smallest capital of the European Union. It is located in a fort and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. North and South Korea have agreed to march together under a single unified Korea flag at Winter Olympics 2018.
 - Winter Olympics Games will be held in February 2018 in Pyeongchang in South Korea.
4. **China became Nepal's second internet service provider** – Nepal country has started internet from China.
 - China Telecom Global (CTG) has teamed up with Nepal Telecom to provide alternate cyber-connectivity to Nepal.
 - So far, Nepal had been linked to the global internet network through Indian telecom operators.

- World's largest Ice Festival Held in China** - World's largest Ice Festival 'International Ice and Snow Festival' was held in Harbin, China.
- Iceland has become the first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men and women.
- Six countries enter UN Security Council** – Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Note:

- The UN Security Council has 15 members, including five with permanent seats who have the power to

December 2017

- India to set up IT center in Egypt's Al Azhar University** - India will be establishing a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at Al Azhar University in Egypt.
- Norway becomes 1st Nation to shut national broadcasts on FM** - Norway has become the world's first country to shut down national broadcasts of its FM network by completing its transition to digital radio.
- China successfully tested its first Photovoltaic road** - The first photovoltaic (solar) highway based on home-grown technology was successfully tested in Shandong province of China.
- Google launches artificial intelligence research center in China** – Alphabet Inc's Google is opening an artificial intelligence (AI) research center in China to target the country's local talent.
- India to Become the Fifth Largest Economy in 2018: Cebr Report** – According to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) report- India's economy is expected to overtake that of Britain and France to become the fifth largest in the world in dollar terms in 2018, and third largest in 2032.
- World's longest glass bridge opens in China at 755 feet high** - The 488-metre-long bridge at Hongyagu Scenic Area in Hebei, is the world's longest glass-floor bridge.
- Belgium becomes the first country to appoint female ambassador to Saudi Arabia** - Dominique Mineur, who is currently posted in the United Arab Emirates, will join the Belgium embassy in Saudi capital Riyadh in summer 2018.
- ISA become Treaty-based International Intergovernmental organization** –The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has become the

veto resolutions - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

- The six countries who left the UN Security Council on December 31 are Egypt, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay.
- Saudi Arabia, UAE introduce VAT for first time** - Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) became first countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to introduce Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time to increase their revenue away from oil reserves.

treaty-based international intergovernmental organization one month after Guinea became the 15th country to ratify it.

Note:

- Till now, 46 countries have signed and 19 ratified Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- It is the first treaty-based international government organisation to be based in India.
- Its headquarter is located on the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gwalpahari, Gurgaon, Haryana.

About ISA

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is jointly launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande on the sidelines of COP-21 of UN Climate Conference in Paris in November 2015.
- The ISA is an alliance of more than 121 countries. The institutional structure of ISA consists of an Assembly, a Council and a Secretariat.
- The alliance is also called International Agency for Solar Policy and Application (IASPA).

- Taj Mahal named second-best UNESCO world heritage site** – According to a survey, the Taj Mahal of Agra, India is the second-best UNESCO world heritage site in the world.

Note: Angkor Wat of Cambodia named as the Best UNESCO World Heritage Site.

10. PM Modi emerges as most tweeted about world leader after Trump - According to the microblogging site Twitter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the most tweeted about world leader after US President Donald Trump this year.

11. Iran President opened the first phase of Chabahar port which is known as the **Shahid Beheshti port**. Iran President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the port. The Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar is now the only and largest port in Iran on the Indian Ocean and will significantly help in regional development with the rest of world countries.

12. India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council. YK Sinha, India's

ambassador to the UK, represented India at the assembly in London. India joined the International Maritime Organisation Council as a member in 1959.

Note:

- The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the agency of United Nation which plays an important role in relation to the global shipping industry.
- It was established in 1959.
- The IMO has 172 Member States and three Associate Members.
- Headquarter of IMO – London, United Kingdom
- Head - Kitack Lim

Sports

Cricket

February 2018

- 1. Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018** – India defeated Australia in the final.
 - The final was played at Mount Maunganui in New Zealand.
 - India has won the World Cup title for fourth times.
 - India captain – **Prithvi Shaw**.
 - Man, of the match - **Manjot Kalra**
 - Player of the Tournament - **Shubman Gill**
 - Anukul Roy join Afghanistan's Qais Ahmad and Canada's Faisal Jamkhandi in the list of the Highest wicket taker in the tournament. They took 14 wickets in the tournament.

January 2018

- 1. Australia** will host the **ICC World Cup T20 in 2020**.
 - Both men's & women's event will be held in Australia.
 - Melbourne Cricket Ground will host the final of both the men's and women's World T20.
- 2. Sandeep Lamichhane** becomes first Nepal player to get IPL contract.
 - He was picked by **Delhi Daredevils**.
- 3. West Indies** will host 2018 **Women's World T20**.
 - ICC has decided not to host the Men's World T20 in 2018.
 - West Indies won the both men's & women's World T20 title in 2016.
- 4. Blind Cricket World Cup 2018** – **India** defeated Pakistan in the final.
 - The final match was played at Sharjah Cricket Stadium, the UAE.
 - India Captain - Ajay Kumar Reddy
 - Man of the match - Sunil Ramesh
- 5. Virat Kohli** named Captain of ICC's Test & ODI Teams of The Year
- 6. ICC Award 2017** – Here is the list of the winners
 - ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - Steve Smith (Australia)
 - Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
 - ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)

- ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
 - ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
 - ICC Men's T20I Performance of the Year - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England) (India)
 - David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year – Marais Erasmus
 - ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)
 - ICC Fans Moment of the Year - Pakistan stuns India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.
7. **Ranji Trophy 2017 – Vidarbha** defeated Delhi in the final.
- For the first Vidarbha lifted the Ranji Trophy.
 - Final match was played at Holkar stadium in Indore.
 - Rajneesh Gurbani was declared player of the Match.

December 2017

1. **Virat Kohli became the first captain to hit six double centuries in Test cricket.** He scored his record sixth Test double hundred in 238 balls on the second day of the ongoing third Test against Sri Lanka at the Feroz Shah Kotla.
Note: Also, Virat Kohli became the second Indian cricketer to score back-to-back double hundreds after Vinod Kambli.

Football

January 2018

1. Brazilian footballer **Ronaldinho Gaúcho** has announced his retirement from football.
2. Philippe Coutinho joins Barcelona.
 - Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million).
 - With this, transfer of Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History.

December 2017

1. **FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017** – For the first time, India hosted the 17th edition of FIFA U-17 World. Nicolai Adam is the coach of Indian team. Amarjit Singh Kiyam (Manipur) is the captain of U-17 FIFA Indian team.

Key Facts –

- **Winner – England** won the title by defeating **Spain** by 5-2 in the final.
 - **Best Player Award** - Phil Foden of England has been adjudged tournament's best player and has been awarded '**Golden Ball**'.
 - **Golden Glove' Award** - **Gabriel Brazao** the goalkeeper of **Brazil's** national football team has won the 'Golden Glove'.
 - Brazil has won the Fair Play Award.
 - **Jeakson Singh** (Manipur) creates history by scoring India's first ever goal in FIFA U-17 World Cup against **Colombia**.
 - FIFA U-17 WC in India becomes **most attended in event's history** for the first time.
 - USA-Based **Namit Deshpande** becomes the **First NRI** to Play for India's U17 World Cup Team.
 - **Esther Staubli** (Switzerland) became the first female football referee to officiate a match.
 - The **official Mascot** for the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 was clouded leopard named '**Kheleo**'.
 - The official ball for Under-17 football World Cup is called '**Krasava**'.
 - The final match of the event was held in **Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata**.
2. **Bangladesh won SAFF U-15 Women's Championships title** – Bangladesh defeated India in the final to win the SAFF Under-15 Women's Championships.
- This is the first South Asian title for Bangladesh in women's football.
 - India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan participated in this South Asian Football Federation tournament.

October 2017

1. **Iceland makes history to Qualifies for FIFA 2018 World Cup** - Iceland created history by qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. This is the first time that Iceland qualified for the World Cup.

Badminton

February 2018

1. **India Open 2018 winner list** – The tournament was held in Siri Fort Sports Complex, New Delhi.
 - Women's Single Title: **Beiwen Zhang** (American) defeated **P V Sindhu** in the final.
 - Men's single title: **Shi Yuqi** (China) defeated Chou **Tien Chen** (Taiwan) in the final.
2. **Swedish Open Junior Badminton** Title held in Sweden.
 - Indian shuttler **Siddharth Pratap Singh** won the maiden title.
 - He defeated Mads Christophersen (Denmark) in the final.

January 2018

1. Indonesia master's held in Jakarta.
 - **Tai Tzu Ying** of Taiwan defeated **Saina Nehwal** in the final.

Lawn Tennis

January 2018

1. **Australia Open 2018** Tournament held in Melbourne Park, Australia.
 - **Men's Single Title** - **Roger Federer** (Switzerland) defeated Marin Cilic (Croatia) in the final.
 - It was Federer's 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Australia Open title.
 - Women's Single Title - **Caroline Wozniacki** defeated Simona Halep (Romania) in the final.
 - She became the first player of the Denmark to win the Grand Slam title.
2. **Tata Open Maharashtra** Tennis trophy - **Gilles Simon** of France won the trophy.
 - He defeated Kevin Anderson (French) in the final.
3. **Hopman Cup – Switzerland won the tournament.**
 - **Switzerland** won their third Hopman Cup as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber in the final.
4. **Brisbane International** - Elina Svitolina beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich in the final.

September 2017

1. **US Open Title 2017** – List of Winners –
 - **Men's single** – Rafal Nadal (Spain) defeated Kevin Anderson (South African)
 - **Women's single** - Sloane Stephens (American) defeated Madison Keys (American)

Boxing

February 2018

1. **India Open International Boxing tournament** held in New Delhi.
 - **Mary Kom** defeated Josie Gabuco (Philippines) in the final to win the **gold** medal in the women's 48kg weight category
 - **Pinki Rani** defeated Jargalan Ochirbat (Mongolia) in the final to win the gold medal in the fly (48-51 kg) category.
 - L Sarita won the silver medal in 60 kg category.
 - Sanjeet won the gold medal in 91 kg weight category.
 - Satish Kumar won the silver medal in the +91 kg weight category.
 - Dinesh Dagar won the silver medal.
 - Shiva Thapa won the bronze medal in the 60 kg category.

December 2017

1. **Sachin Siwach named ABC's best youth boxer** - The World youth champion Sachin Siwach has been named the Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year 2017.
2. Ankushita wins 'Best Boxer' title in World Youth Women's Boxing Championship
 - Ankushita Boro, of Assam, has won the Best Boxer' title in World Youth Women's Boxing Championship held in Guwahati.
3. **Asian Boxing Championship 2017**: Indian boxer MC Mary Kom won Gold in 48 kg category.
4. **India** will host the Men's World Boxing Championship for the first time in 2021.

Table Tennis

January 2018

1. Table Tennis National Championship
 - **Sharath Kamal** (Tamil Nadu) defeated Anthony Amalraj to win the men's singles title for the eighth time.
 - **Suthirta Mukherjee (West Bengal)** defeated Manika Batra to win the women's singles title
2. International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings.
 - **G Sathiyan** has become India's highest-ranked player. His current rank is 49.
 - He surpassed Sharath Kamal whose rank is 51.
 - Among the women, **Manika Batra** is topping the world chart among Indians at 62th.

Weightlifting

January 2018

1. **33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships** held in **Mangaluru, Karnataka**.
 - Rakhi Halder created a new national record in clean and jerk and win the gold medal in the 63kg women's category.
 - She 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.

December 2017

1. Mirabai Chanu becomes the second Indian to win the Gold medal in World Weightlifting Championships at Anaheim, USA.
 - She won the Gold medal in the women's 48kg category.

Squash

February 2018

1. **Saurav Ghosal** becomes the highest ranked Indian squash player.
 - He ranked at 14 positions in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings.
 - **Joshna Chinappa** ranked at 17th spot.
 - **Dipika Pallikal Karthik** remained on 20th spot.

Snooker

January 2018

1. **Kolkata Open 2018** International Invitation Snooker
 - Aditya Mehta defeated Alfie Burden (England) in the final.

Skiing

January 2018

2. **Aanchal Thakur** won the India's first ever international medal in skiing. She won the bronze medal in the **slalom race category**.
 - Aanchal Thakur hails from Manali, Himachal Pradesh.

Chess

December 2017

1. World Rapid Chess Championship held in Saudi Arabia for the first time.
 - **Viswanathan Anand** won the title by defeating Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia.
 - **China's Ju Wenjun** won the women's title.

Hockey

December 2017

1. **Hockey World League winner - Australia** beat Argentina by 2-1 in the final to retain their Hockey World League title. The final was played in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
Note: India defeated Germany by 2-1 to grab the bronze medal at the event.

November 2017

1. **Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2017** - India beat China in the final to clinch Asia Cup 2017 title. The final was played in Kakamigahara in Japan.

October 2017

2. **Men's Asia Cup Hockey 2017** - India beat Malaysia in the final to clinch Asia Cup 2017 title. The final was played in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Note: It last clinched the trophy in 2003 and 2007 in Kuala Lumpur and Chennai respectively.

Shooting

December 2017

1. 61st National Shooting Championship held in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
 - Anisa Sayyed won the gold in women's 25m pistol category.
 - She creates a new national record score of 33.
 - Jitu Rai has clinched the Men's 50-metre pistol national title 2017.
 - He set a record of 233.

Other news -

February 2018

1. **Khelo India School Games held in Delhi.**

Key points -

- Anu Kumar of Uttarakhand grabbed the first gold medal winning the 1,500m race at the Khelo India School Games.
- **Haryana emerged as the overall champions**, finishing with **102 medals**, which included 38 gold, 26 silver and 38 bronze medals.
- **Maharashtra** with 111 medals, but due to their lower gold medal count (36), they had to contend with the **second spot**.
- **Delhi finished** the Games at the third position with 94 medals, which included 25 gold, 29 silver and 40 bronze.

January 2018

1. Khelo India, an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
Aim - to bridge the gap between sports at the school level and professional sports.
 - PM Narendra Modi on January 31, kicked off KISG at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
2. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
 - Harjinder Singh is at present the General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.
3. 39th National Games in 2022 will be held in **Meghalaya**.
4. Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won the Royal Cup at Pattaya.

December 2017

1. **Birmingham to host Commonwealth Games in 2022** - Earlier, the 2022 Commonwealth Games were originally given to Durban (South African city) in 2015, but the city was stripped of the event because of financial difficulties.
Note: Shooting game is excluded from Commonwealth Games 2022.
2. **IOC banned Russia from 2018 Winter Olympics Games** - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has banned Russia from the 2018 Winter Olympics Games.
3. Gopi Thonakal became the first Indian man to win **Asian Marathon Championship** held at Dongguan in China. He belongs from Kerala state.
4. **Kanchanmala Pande wins India's 1st World Para Swimming Championship Gold** - Kanchanmala Pande of Nagpur has created history as she became the first Indian to secure pole position at the World Para-Swimming Championship in Mexico.
Note: She won the gold in the 200-meter medley event in the S-11 category and was also the only Indian to qualify for the women's category.

List of Upcoming Sports Venue

1. **Asian Games** - The Asian Games, also known as Asiad is a Pancontinental multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. The Games were regulated by the Asian Games Federation (AGF).
Note: First Asian games were held in New Delhi, India in 1951.
 - Venue of Asian Games 2014 - **Incheon, South Korea.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2018 - **Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2022 - **Hangzhou, China.**
 - Venue of Asian Games 2026 - **Nagoya, Japan.**
2. **Commonwealth Games (CWG)** - The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations held every four years.
Note: The first Commonwealth Games held in 1911 in London, England.
 - Venue of CWG Games 2010 - **New Delhi, India.**
 - Venue of CWG Games 2014 - **Glasgow, Scotland.**
 - Venue of CWG Games 2018 - **Gold Coast, Australia.**
 - Venue of CWG Games 2022 - **Birmingham, England.**
3. **Olympics Games** - The Olympic Games are held every four years, with the Summer and Winter Games alternating by occurring every four years but two years apart.
Note:
 - The first modern Olympics games were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.
 - International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarter - Lausanne, Switzerland.
 - IOC President - Thomas Bach**Summer Olympic -**
 - Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2016 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 - Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2020 - Tokyo, Japan
 - Venue of Summer Olympic Games 2024 - Paris, France**Winter Olympic -**
 - Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2014 - Sochi, Russia.

- Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2018 – Pyeongchang, South Korea.
 - Venue of Winter Olympic Games 2022 – Beijing, China.
4. **ICC World Cup Cricket** - The ICC Cricket World Cup is the international championship of One Day International (ODI) cricket. The event is organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC), every four years.
- Note:** The first World Cup was held in England in June 1975. West Indies won the title by defeating Australia in the final.
- Australia has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 5 titles and 2 runners up. India won the first World Cup title in 1983 by defeating West Indies in the final. Australia won the World Cup title in 2015 after defeating New Zealand in the final.
- International Cricket Council (ICC) headquarter - **Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**
 - President of ICC – **Zaheer Abbas.**
 - Chairman of ICC – **Shashank Manohar.**
 - CEO – **David Richardson.**
 - Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 – India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.
 - Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 – Australia & New Zealand.
 - Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 – England, Wales.
 - Venue of ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 – India.
5. **ICC World Cup T20** – The ICC World Twenty20 is the international championship of Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Note:**
- The first T20 World Cup was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2007.
 - India won the first T20 world cup title after defeating Pakistan in the final.
 - West Indies won the T20 World Cup title two times.
West Indies won the title in 2016 after defeating England in the final.
 - Venue of World Cup 2014 – Bangladesh.
 - Venue of World Cup T20 2016– India.
 - Venue of World Cup 2020 – Australia.
6. **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup** – The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the oldest and most prestigious international women's cricket tournament.
- Note:**
- The first Women's World Cup was held in England in **1973**, two years before the inaugural men's tournament. England won the title by defeating Australia in the final.
- Australia has been the most successful team in the Women's World Cup, with 6 titles and 3 runners up. England won the Women's World Cup in 2017 by defeating India in the final.
- Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2013 – India.
 - Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2017 – England.
 - Venue of ICC Women Cricket World Cup 2021 – New Zealand.
7. **ICC Women's World Cup T20** - The ICC Women's World Twenty20 is the international championship for Women's Twenty20 cricket. It is organised the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Note:**
- The first Women's T20 World Cup was held in England in 2009.
 - England won the first T20 world cup title after defeating New Zealand in the final.
 - Australia has been the most successful team in the Women's World Cup, with 3 titles and 1 runners up.
 - West Indies won the title in 2016 after defeating Australia in the final.
 - Venue of World Cup 2014 – Bangladesh.
 - Venue of World Cup T20 2016– India.
 - Venue of World Cup T20 2018– West Indies
 - Venue of World Cup 2020 – Australia.
8. **Hockey Men's World Cup** – The Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organised by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.
- Note:** The first Men's Hockey World Cup was held in 1971 Barcelona, Spain. Pakistan won the title after defeating Spain in the final.
- Pakistan has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 4 titles from 6 appearances in the final.
- Australia won the title in 2014 after defeating Netherlands in the final.
- Note:**
- International Hockey Federation (IHF) headquarter - **Lausanne, Switzerland.**
 - **President of IHF** - Narinder Batra.
 - Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2010 – New Delhi, India.
 - Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 – The Hague, Netherlands.
 - Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 – Bhubaneswar, India.
9. **Hockey Women's World Cup** - The Women's Hockey World Cup is an international field hockey competition organised by the International Hockey Federation

(FIH). It is held every four years, bridging the four years between the Summer Olympics.

Note: The first Women's Hockey World Cup was held in 1974 in Mandelieu, France. Netherlands won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.

Netherlands has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 7 titles from 11 appearances in the final.

Netherlands won the title in 2014 after defeating Australia in the final.

- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2010 – Rosario, Argentina.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2014 – The Hague, Netherlands.
- Venue of Hockey Men's World Cup 2018 – London, England.

10. FIFA (Football) World Cup – The FIFA World Cup is an international association football competition contested by the senior men's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note: The first FIFA World Cup was held in 1930 in Uruguay. Uruguay won the title after defeating Argentina in the final.

Brazil has been the most successful team in the World Cup, with 5 titles from 7 appearances in the final.

Germany won the title in 2014 after defeating Argentina in the final.

Note:

- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) headquarter - Zürich, Switzerland.
- **President of FIFA** - Gianni Infantino.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2014 – Brazil.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2018 – Russia.

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2022 – Qatar.

11. FIFA Women's World Cup – The FIFA Women's World Cup is an international football competition contested by the senior women's national teams of the members of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every four years.

Note: The first FIFA Women's World Cup was held in 1991 in China. United States won the title after defeating Norway in the final.

USA is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with 3 titles and 1 runners up.

USA won the title in 2015 after defeating Japan in the final.

- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2015 – Canada.
- Venue of FIFA World Cup 2019 – France.

12. FIFA (U-17) World Cup – The FIFA U-17 World Cup, founded as the FIFA U-16 World Championship, later changed to its current name in 2007, is the world championship of association football for male players under the age of 17 organized by Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). It is held every two years.

Note: The first FIFA (U-17) World Cup was held in 1991 in Italy. Ghana won the title after defeating Spain in the final.

Nigeria is the most successful nation in the tournament's history, with five titles and three runners up.

Nigeria won the title in 2015 after defeating Mali in the final.

- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2015 – Chile.
- Venue of FIFA (U-17) World Cup 2017 – India.

Science & Defense

Military Exercise

January 2018

1. **VINBAX** - 'VINBAX' is the first military exercise between India & Vietnam. It was conducted in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
2. **'Iron Fist'** - Joint military exercise between US & Japan held in California, US.
3. **'National Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise'** - Joint Naval exercise between India & Japan was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in Bay of Bengal.

December 2017

Military Exercise -

1. **'Naseem Al Bahr' or 'Sea Breeze'** - Naval exercise between India & Oman held in Oman.
2. **Ekuverin'** - Indo-Maldives joint military exercise held at Belagavi, Bengaluru.
3. **'Hamesha Vijayee'** - The Indian Army's Southern Command had conducted exercise 'Hamesha Vijayee' in the deserts of Rajasthan
4. **'Ajeya Warrior'** - Indo-UK military exercise 2017' held in Bikaner, Rajasthan
5. **'Vigilant Ace'** - Largest Air exercise between United States & South Korea held in Seoul, South Korea.

November 2017

1. **PRABAL DOSTYK 2017:** India & Kazakhstan Joint Exercise held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
2. **Indra-2017 – India & Russia.** First mega tri-services war game involving their armies, navies and air forces with an aim to boost their operational coordination conducted at **Vladivostok in Russia.**
3. **'Sampriti' 2017 – India & Bangladesh** Joint Military Combat Exercise held in Meghalaya and Mizoram.
4. **'MITRA SHAKTI 2017' – India & Sri Lanka** Joint Training Exercise conducted at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
5. **'Blue Flag-17' – India & Israel** bi-annual multilateral exercise held at Uvda Air Force Base in Israel.
6. **CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol)** – The bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy conducted at Belawan Indonesia.

February 2018

1. **Agni-1 missile successfully test-fired** - Nuclear capable ballistic **Agni-1** successfully test-fired from the Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island) off the Odisha.
 - Agni-1 is indigenously developed intermediate range **surface-to-surface, single-stage missile.**
 - It has strike range of over **700 km.**
2. **First foreign military chief to fly Tejas aircraft** - The Chief of US Air Force, **General David L Goldfein flew** indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
 - With this he became first foreign military chief to fly Tejas aircraft.

January 2018

3. **INS Karanj: Third submarine of Scorpene class launched** - Indian Navy has launched Scorpene submarine INS Karanj at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - It is the third Scorpene class submarine built by MDL under ambitious Project 75 of the Indian Navy.
 - The first submarine **INS Kalwari** of this category was launched on December 14 last year.
 - The other submarine **INS Khanderao** has already been launched.
4. **Alpha Design Technologies to supply simulators to Indian Army** - Alpha Design Technologies Ltd. has signed Rs. 45-crore deal with Ministry of Defence to supply indigenous simulators for gunnery and missile firing from BMP II vehicles to Indian Army.
 - The BMP II is a Soviet-origin amphibious infantry fighting vehicle. The simulators will be used to train missile firing personnel.
5. **Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named 'Vijaya' launched** – The second indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named Vijaya built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Shipyard for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard, Tamil Nadu.
6. **INS Vikramaditya formally Affiliated to Bihar regiment** - Indian Naval Ship Vikramaditya, the Indian Navy's largest ship and its sole aircraft carrier was formally affiliated to the Indian Army's highly-decorated and battle-hardened Bihar Regiment and the Indian Air Force's No 6 Squadron.

7. **Agni-5 ballistic missile successfully test-fired** - Indigenously developed long-range surface-to-surface Agni-5 ballistic missile was successfully test fired successfully from Abdul Kalam Wheeler Island, Odisha.
 - It has strike range of over 5,000 kilometres and can carry nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.
8. **China commissioned new missile frigate 'Rizhao'** - It is China's indigenous missile frigate named after Rizhao city in Shandong Province of China.
9. **Indian Navy decommissions INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat warships** - Indian Navy has decommissioned INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat warships at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai (Maharashtra), after a glorious 30 and 28 years respectively in the service of the nation.
10. **Charlie-435: Indian Coast Guard commissions patrol vessel** - The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned Charlie-435, a state-of-the-art patrol vessel at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

December 2017

1. **India's submarine 'INS Kalvari' inducted in Indian Navy** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commissioned India's modern conventional submarine 'INS Kalvari' into Navy's fleet in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
2. **India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence (AAD)** supersonic interceptor missile, capable of destroying any incoming ballistic missile at low altitude, from a test range in Odisha.
3. **Godrej Aero gets new contract for BrahMos Missile airframes** -
 - Godrej Aerospace has won the deal from BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) for supply of additional 100 units airframe fuel management systems for BrahMos Air-Launched Cruise Missile.
 - Godrej Aerospace had recently completed the supply of its 100th airframe for the missile.
 - Since 2000, it has been associated with BrahMos. It is a unit of Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd.

BrahMos missile

- Brahmos is supersonic cruise missile developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint-venture between Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - It is capable of carrying a warhead of 300 kilograms (both conventional as well as nuclear).
 - It is hailed as world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.
 - It is a two-stage missile, the first one being solid and the second one ramjet liquid propellant.
4. **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted flight test of NIRBHAY Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile** at Chandipur, Odisha.
About NIRBHAY Missile
 - It is India's first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile.
 - It has operational range of 1000 km and can carry warheads of up to 300 kg including nuclear warheads. It can be launched from various kind of platforms.
 5. **First offshore patrol vessel 'Vikram' handed to Indian Coast Guard** - Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named "Vikram" to the Indian Coast Guard. It is country's first-ever such defence vessel to be built in a private shipyard. It will be inducted into service by April 2018 after completion of extensive trials of equipment and machineries.
 6. **'INS Kiltan' commissioned into Indian Navy** - Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has commissioned an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
Note: INS Kiltan is the latest indigenous warship after Shivalik class, Kolkata class and sister ships.
 7. **India successfully tests its first fully indigenous 'Glide bomb'** in Chandipur in Odisha.
Note:
 - The bomb - SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon) - was dropped from an Indian Air Force aircraft at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur.
 - The bomb has been developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with other laboratories of the DRDO and the Indian Air Force.

