

GENERAL AWARENESS : CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF JANUARY-2018

List of Important Days

- January 1 - World Day of Peace. (Theme - "Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in search of Peace")
- January 4 - World Braille Day.
- January 4 - Myanmar's 70th Independence Day.
- January 6 - World Day for War Orphans.
- January 9 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. (Theme - "Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN INDIA Partnership")
- January 10 - World Hindi Day.
- January 12 - National Youth Day. (Theme - "Sankalp Se Siddhi").
- January 15 - 70th Indian Army Day.
- January 21 - 46th Statehood Day of 3 states Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya.
- January 25 - National Voters Day. (Theme - "Assessable Elections")
- January 27 - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. (Theme - "Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility")
- January 28 - Data Privacy Day/ Data Protection Day. (Theme - "Respecting Privacy, Safeguarding Data and Enabling Trust")
- January 28 - Anti Leprosy Day.
- January 28 - National Immunization Day.
- January 30 - National Martyrs' Day.

Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India issued new **Rs.10 denomination banknotes** in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series bearing signature of Governor Urjit Patel.
 - The base color of the note was **chocolate brown**, and will have a motif of **Konark's Sun Temple**.
- The Reserve Bank of India has reportedly ordered banks to **recalibrate their ATMs** to ensure that they start dispensing the **Rs. 200 denomination notes**.
 - Around 522.8 crore has been spent on the printing of 178 crore pieces of 200 banknotes till December 8.
- According to a recently released data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **India's foreign exchange (Forex) reserves** have scaled to **fresh record** high of **\$409.366 billion** as on **December 29, 2017**.
 - The surge was due to massive spike in foreign currency assets, which is key component of the reserves.
- The **Indian government's four mints** have halted **coin production** as of **January 8** owing to excess coins at the mints.
 - Over 250 crore pieces of manufactured coins in the storage rooms are waiting to be picked up by the RBI.

- The government is going to invite fresh applications for the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor** Post although interviews were conducted last year.
 - The position remained vacant after **SS Mundra** retired after his three-year term on July 31, 2017.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **reiterated** that all **14 designs of 10 coin** are legal tender for transactions.

State Bank of India

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **NABARD** have signed an agreement with **five NGOs in Bengal** for the promotion of **2500 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)** in select districts of the State.
 - JLGs are informal groups of **4-10 members** engaged in **similar economic activities** and willing to jointly undertake the **responsibility** to repay loans taken by the group from a bank.
- **India's** largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced that it will hire over **9,500 people** for **customer support** and sales functions.

Other Banks

- Union Minister **Manoj Sinha** announced that the government is going to roll out all **650 branches** of **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** by **April 2018**.
- **India's fifth largest** private sector bank, **Yes Bank** and location-based social networking service **Nearby** tied up to provide **Aadhaar-enabled cardless** and **pinless ATM service** through which, customers can deposit or withdraw money at **retailers' place**.
 - Using the **PayNEARBY mobile application** on a smart phone, a retailer can become an **Aadhaar ATM/Aadhaar Bank branch** for cash withdrawals and deposits by a customer, **Yes Bank** said in a release.
- Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** inaugurated the **Platinum Jubilee (75 Years)** celebrations of **UCO Bank**.
 - The bank was established on **6th January 1943** by **Ghanshyam das Birla**.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has partnered **IndusInd Bank** to introduce a facility to create a **fixed deposit** when the customer balance exceeds **Rs.1 lakh** at the end of day.
 - Paytm Payments Bank customers can redeem their deposits instantly, anytime without paying any pre-closure or miscellaneous charges and can earn up to **6.85% annual interest**.
 - If a customer becomes a **senior citizen** before the **maturity period**, the account will be **auto renewed under the senior citizen scheme**, thus earning higher interest.
- **Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)** operationalized its first **desktop ATM** in **Warangal (Telangana)**, to facilitate customers to **withdraw small amounts**.
 - Desktop ATM has **low power requirements** and is designed to work in harsh climatic conditions.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)** have signed an MOU to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to **Scheduled Caste (SC) families** living below **Double Poverty Line (DPL)**.
 - Under this tie-up, PNB would act as a channelizing agent for the **loan schemes of NSFDC**.
- The **Ministry of housing and urban affairs** and **Allahabad Bank** signed a MoU to provide a centralized platform for processing **interest subsidy** under the **self employment programme** component of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihood Mission**.
- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** has announced that there is no proposal to **discontinue free banking services** and asked people not to pay heed to 'baseless rumors'.
 - This comes after reports that public sector banks will cease free services from January 20.

- **IDFC Bank's** board has approved a takeover of financial firm **Capital First** in a share swap deal.
 - Shareholders of Capital First will get **139 shares of IDFC Bank** for every 10 held.
 - The merger will form a combined entity with assets under management of **88,000 crore**, branch network of 194 and customer base of **over 5 million**.
- **IndusInd Bank** and **Dynamics Inc** announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive **payment cards** in the **Indian market** in **2018**.
 - This new card has multiple buttons that let the consumer use a single card to pay in multiple ways.
- **Federal Bank** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Hedge Equities Ltd** for providing **Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS)** services to **NRIs**.
- Private sector lender **HDFC Bank** became the first Indian bank to cross **5 trillion** (about \$78 billion) market capitalization.
 - The bank is also only the third Indian company to achieve this milestone after **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** and **Reliance Industries**.
- **Bank of Baroda** tied up with **Digital invoice** discounting marketplace **Invoicemart**, as **TReDS** (Trade Receivables Electronic Discounting System) partner.
 - **Invoice mart** is a joint venture between **Axis Bank** and **m-junction services**.
- **Paytm Payments Bank Savings Account** holders can now order **physical debit cards** from the **Paytm app**.
 - Earlier the bank provided only a **Digital Rupay card** which was linked to a user's Paytm Payments Bank savings account.
- The Centre announced it would infuse **88,139 crore** as capital into **20 state-owned banks** during the current fiscal.
 - **IDBI Bank** will get the most at **10,610 crore**, followed by **Bank of India** and **SBI** which will receive **9,232 crore** and **8,800 crore** respectively.
 - This is the first batch of the **2.11 lakh crore** recapitalization plan announced last year.
- Bhopal-based **Prodigee Finance Limited** received **Non Banking Financial Company NBFC** license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - This NBFC license from RBI makes it possible for the firm to provide **Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME)** loans as part of their services.
 - CEO of Prodigee Finance Limited : **Amit Goel**
- Rating agency **CRISIL** has revised its outlook on **18 public sector banks (PSBs)** from “**negative**” to “**stable**” after the government announced bank-wise capital infusion and reform plans.

Insurance

- Banking finance company **AU Small Finance Bank** has signed a MoU with **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** to offer **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**.
 - Under the MoU, LIC will give a life cover of **Rs 2 lakh** in case of **death** to the **customer** at a nominal premium of **Rs 330 per annum**.

Supreme Court

- **Modifying** its order on the **National Anthem**, **Supreme Court** announced that it is **not mandatory** to **play** the anthem in **cinema halls** before movie screenings.

High Courts and Sessions Courts

- A special **CBI court** sentenced **Rashtriya Janata Dal** chief **Lalu Prasad Yadav** along with other convicts to **3.5 years in jail** in the **89-lakh fodder scam case**.
 - The scam was exposed in 1996, leading to Yadav's resignation as the **Bihar CM**.

- **Patiala House Court** in **Delhi** has become the first trial court to have a permanent **National Flag** across the country.
 - The 50-feet high Tricolour, installed by the **Central Public Works Department**, was unfurled by the **Delhi High Court Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal**.

Election Commission

- The **Election Commission** has announced that the polling for legislative assembly elections in **Tripura** will be held on **February 18**, while polling in **Meghalaya** and **Nagaland** will be held on **February 27**.
 - The counting for all three states will be held on **March 3**. **EVMs and VVPATs** will be used in all three states.
- The **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** to be employed during the by-poll in **Rajasthan's Ajmer, Alwar** and **Mandalgarh** constituencies will carry photographs of candidates. The EVMs will also display names of the candidates and the party symbol.

Central Government

- The Centre has made it **mandatory** for **e-commerce firms** to display the **maximum retail price (MRP)** on goods.
 - Amendments in this regard were made to the **Legal Metrology (packaged commodities) Rules** in June 2017.
 - Along with MRP, the companies have to display manufacturing and **expiry date, net quantity, country of origin** and **consumer care details** on the label.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved a proposal that government will bear the **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges** on transactions **up to Rs.2000** made through **Debit Cards, BHIM UPI or Aadhaar-enabled payment systems** to promote digital transactions.
 - This rule comes into force from **1st January 2018**.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved construction, operation and maintenance of **2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel** on **Srinagar-Leh** section connecting **NH-1A** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - The strategic tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity to strategically important Leh region. On completion, **Zoiijila Tunnel** will be Asia's largest 2-lane bi-directional tunnel.
- The government has sought **Parliament's** approval to **issue bonds** worth **80,000 crore** to **fund capital infusion** into **public-sector banks**.
 - This forms a part of the **2.11-trillion capital infusion plan** announced by the government in October, 2017.
 - The government is expected to issue recapitalization bonds worth **1.35 trillion** under the plan.
- The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal allowing **100% foreign direct investment (FDI)** in **single-brand retail via automatic route**.
 - This move makes it easier for foreign brands to fully own their **Indian stores** when earlier they needed to **partner with local brands**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has decided to fix **three-year term** of **Chairperson** and the **Members of the board of the National Trust**, an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.
- To tackle crimes like **cyber threats**, child pornography and online stalking, the government is going to set up a **Cyber Warrior Police Force (CWPF)**.
- The government has announced **April 1** as the deadline for the **mandatory installation** of **Global Positioning System (GPS) devices** and **panic buttons** in all passenger transport vehicles, including **taxis and buses**.
 - Three-wheelers like **e-rickshaws** and **auto rickshaws** have been exempted from the rule.

- As a part of its policy to '**empower minorities without appeasement**', the Indian Government decided to end **Haj subsidy** from this year.
 - The government has announced that it has reduced additional **borrowing target** for this fiscal by **60% to 20,000 crore** from the earlier announced Rs.50,000 crore.
- The Centre added 9 cities including **Bareilly, Silvassa and Moradabad**, under its **Smart Cities Mission**, taking the total number of cities selected for the scheme to 99.
 - The **nine cities** have proposed an investment of over **Rs.12,800 crore** for undertaking around 409 **infrastructural** projects, including rejuvenation of water bodies, development of smart roads and classrooms, among others.
- The **Union government** has approved setting up of the long-awaited **Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)** at **Raichur** (Karnataka).
 - This is **2nd IIIT in Karnataka** after one in **Dharwad**.
- The Central government announced recently that the **Payments banks** such as **Airtel payments bank and small finance banks** such as **Utkarsh** and **ESAF** will also offer **social security scheme, Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, to their subscribers.
- **Acid attack victims, people with Autism, Mental Illnesses, and Intellectual Disabilities**, will now get **reservation for central government jobs**.
 - In case of direct recruitment, **4%** of the total number of vacancies will be reserved for people with benchmark disabilities.
 - **Benchmark disability** means a person with **not less than 40%** of a specified disability.
- To deal with **cybercrimes**, the **Union Home Ministry** is going to set up **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, an apex coordination centre in **New Delhi**.
- The government has **reversed** its decision to issue **Orange colored passports** to people requiring **emigration check** amid **criticism** that it might lead to **discrimination and segregation**.
 - The orange passports identify people who **don't file taxes** and are **not educated beyond Class 10**.
- To counter **Islamic radicalization of youth**, the Centre has proposed the adoption of the '**Singapore Model**'.
 - Under this model, there would be a **religious rehabilitation mechanism** with help from popular scholars and community leaders, instead of an extended criminal trial for the **radicalized youth**.

States

- The **Telangana** government launched a round-the-clock **power supply** to the state's **23 lakh farmers free of cost**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** emerged as the **second** State in the Northeast, after **Sikkim**, to be declared **Open Defecation Free**.
 - **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Haryana** were already declared open defecation free states in October 2017.
- **Kolkata** is set to get its first **floating market**, named '**The Floating Market of Patuli**', which is likely to be open for public in **January**.
- The **Karnataka** state government is going to purchase **640 electric vehicles** (40 buses, 100 cars and 500 three-wheelers) under the Central government's **FAME India** subsidized scheme.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Transport Department** is going to introduce the **Vehicle registration** number portability.
 - The **Vehicle Registration Number Portability** allows the vehicle owners to retain vehicle numbers even if they sell it.

- **Hyderabad** became **2nd large city** (above 1 crore population) to be declared **open defecation free (ODF)**, after **Mumbai**.
- **West Bengal** Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** unveiled the **Official emblem** of the **West Bengal State government**.
 - The logo, designed by the Chief Minister herself, highlights the **Ashoka emblem** on the top with the **theme** of "**Biswa Bangla**" at the centre.
- India's **1st park** for **people** with special needs was inaugurated by **Telangana Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao** in **Hyderabad**.
 - The park has a speech therapist, a physiotherapist, and vocational training instructors for differently-abled children.
- **Bihar** government has **banned manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, display, and advertisement** of **electronic cigarettes** in the state.
- **Haryana** became first state to launch **High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal**, to help in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases and ensure their timely referral to civil hospital.
 - This portal is designed to track every **high-risk pregnant woman** till **42 days after delivery**.
- In a bid to end the practice of manual scavenging, the **Kerala** government is procuring **50 robots** which are developed to **clean sewer holes**.
 - The robot, named '**Bandicoot**', has been developed by Kerala-based startup '**Genrobotics**'.
- **Delhi** Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched a **Common card** for **rides** on **public buses** and the **metro**.
 - With this **Delhi** became the **first city in the country** to have a common mobility card.
- **Haryana** has recorded its **Highest Sex Ratio** at birth with 914 girls per 1,000 boys in 2017.
 - Haryana had recorded the worst sex ratio at birth in the **2011 Census** with 834 girls per 1,000 boys.
- **West Bengal** government has launched a **Water ATM project** to provide bacteria-free **drinking water** in schools.
- **Odisha State Government** announced a scheme titled '**Mukshyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana**' (MMKSJ).
 - Under this scheme, artists from across the state will get a monthly assistance of **Rs 1200**.
 - This scheme will benefit around **50000 artists** from across state.
- The **Maharashtra** government has announced a **1% reservation** in **government jobs** and **education for orphans** in the state.
 - The reservation will be provided under the **general category** and the state won't increase its caste reservation quota.
- The **Haryana government** has decided to form a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** titled **Haryana State Financial Services Limited (HSFSL)**.
 - It will enable quick and hassle-free lending and **create financial discipline** among the **State government entities**.
- **Maharashtra** became **1st state** to unveil **Public Cloud Policy** that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their **data storage** onto **cloud**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** became **1st state** to completely implement **door-to-door garbage collection** in all urban areas, using measures like solid waste management at landfill sites and processing through **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** mode.
- **Maharashtra** state government has **banned** the **sale of tobacco** at shops selling **fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG)**.

- The **Maharashtra** government has launched '**Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed Sanmaan**' scheme, under which family members of martyrs would be provided jobs with the **Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC)**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched **24X7 'Gudiya'** helpline.
 - Named after a 16-year old rape and murder victim of **Kotkhai**, **Gudia** is used for quick police response cases of crimes against women.
 - The Chief Minister also launched '**Shakti Button**'- a mobile app linked to **police control rooms** for ensuring the **safety of women** in the state.
- The **Maharashtra government** has decided to hire **30 public relations officers**, one for each of the 30 ministers, for an estimated cost of 90 lakh per year.
- To promote organic farming, the **Himachal Pradesh Government** has launched **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project**.
 - This project aims to increase agriculture produce and the **income of farmers** by the year **2022**.

Place in the News

- The 150-metre-high **Dubai Frame** has opened nearly a decade after it was first designed.
 - The structure features a 93-metre-long glass observation deck and a neon-lit tunnel which leads **visitors** to an **interactive exhibition** on the **future of Dubai**.
 - The structure was built at a cost of **Dh160 million** (approximately 280 crore).
- **Arunachal Pradesh** is going to get its first **Film and Television Institute (FTII)**.
 - This would be the **second** such one in the country. The **first** Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in **Pune** in 1960.
- **Kolkata** became **first metro city in India** to get **floating market**.
 - The floating market is located on lake at **Patuli in South Kolkata** which is 400 metres long and 60 metres wide.

Defence and National Security

- The **Home Ministry** has declared **Nagaland** a "disturbed area" under **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** for six more months till June-end.
- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** approved the purchase of **240 precision-guided bombs** worth 1,254 crore for the **Air Force** and **131 Barak missiles** worth 460 crore for the **Navy**.
- **India** has signed **187 defence deals** to procure **military platforms** and equipment from **domestic and foreign firms** in the last four years.
 - The total value of the defence deals signed amounts to **2.8 lakh crore**.
 - Around 63% deals were signed with **Indian vendors**.
- **India** has **cancelled** a **3,174-crore** deal to **buy 1,600 Spike anti-tank guided missiles** with Israeli state-owned defence company **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems**.
 - India wasn't keen on the deal as its military research body **DRDO** was working on creating its own missiles.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has commissioned **Charlie-435**, a state-of-the-art patrol vessel at **Karaikal** in the Union Territory of **Puducherry**.
 - With commissioning of Charlie-435, the Coast Guard station at **Karaikal** now has **five vessels**.
- After serving the **Navy** for 30 and 28 years respectively, Indian Navy has decommissioned **INS Nirbhik** and **INS Nirghat** warships at **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai** (Maharashtra).
- The **Indian Navy** is planning to acquire its 3rd **Aircraft carrier** for 1.6 lakh crore along with 57 twin-engine fighter planes.

- While the Navy has one operational aircraft carrier, **INS Vikramaditya**, its second carrier, **INS Vikrant**, is under construction and is expected to join service in the next few years.
- **Indo-US** joint military exercise **Vajra Prahar** was held at **Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM)** in **Seattle (USA)**.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council**, led by **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, has approved the procurement of 72,000 assault rifles and around **94,000 carbines** worth **Rs.3500 crore** on a **fasttrack** basis.
- **India** test-fired the nuclear-capable inter-continental ballistic missile **Agni-V**, whose range includes the northernmost part of **China**.
 - It has been successfully tested **four** times before and may be inducted into the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.
- **Indian Air Force** was showcasing the **indigenously developed weapon system** integrated **helicopter Rudra** for the first time in the **Republic Day parade**.
 - The formation of the fly past was including a helicopter carrying the **ASEAN flag**.
- **Indian Navy** launched **INS Karanj**, the third of the six indigenous **Scorpene-class** submarines.
 - The submarine, equipped with superior stealth features and precision-guided weapons, has been built at **Mumbai's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited**.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** became the **first full-time Defence Minister** to fly in a **Sukhoi 30 MKI** of the **Indian Air Force**.
 - The Sukoi-30 MKI is a nuclear-capable aircraft which can penetrate deep into enemy territory.
- **Indian Naval Ship Vikramaditya**, the Indian Navy's largest ship and its sole aircraft carrier was formally affiliated to the **Indian Army's Bihar Regiment**.
- 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**.
 - It is expected to be inducted into service by September 2018 after trials on the equipment.
- **SARAS PT1N**, the new upgraded version of **SARAS**, the indigenous **transport aircraft** developed by **National Aeronautics Laboratory**, successfully made its maiden flight in **Bangalore**.
- Indigenously developed surveillance aircraft '**Netra**', also known as '**eye in the sky**', flew over **Rajpath** for the first time as part of the **Republic Day parade**.
 - **Netra** is an **Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C)** aircraft with a 200-km range, and was inducted by the **IAF** last year.
- The **Vietnam-India Bilateral Army EXercise (VINBAX2018)** was recently held at **Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)**.
 - **VINBAX-2018** is the **first military exercise** between India and Vietnam.
- **Pakistan's Navy** successfully test-fired its indigenously-built naval cruise missile '**Harba**' in the **Arabian Sea**.
 - The missile was launched from newly commissioned attack vessel **PNS Himmat**, which is around 63 metres long and is fitted with state-of-the-art sensors and weapons.

Committees/Commissions

- The government that formed a **4 Member Ministerial** committee to decide what to do with old, **pre-existing projects in ports**, which have become unviable.
 - Head of this Committee : **Arun Jaitley (Finance Minister)**

- The **Election Commission (EC)** has constituted 14 member committee to suggest changes to **Section 126** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act)** in view of social media expansion.
 - Head of this Committee - **Umesh Sinha** (Chief Election Commissioner)
- Less than three months after it was set up, the **Committee of Governors** submitted a report on best practices to President **Ram Nath Kovind**.
 - The report titled '**Rajyapal -Vikas Ke Rajdoot: Catalytic Role of Governors as Agents for Change in Society**', focuses on key work areas of development and the role that governors can play in taking this forward.
 - The 5 member committee comprised governors **E.S.L.Narasimhan** (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), **Banwarilal Purohit** (Tamil Nadu), **Ram Naik** (Uttar Pradesh), **Tathagata Roy** (Tripura) and **Acharya Devvrat** (Himachal Pradesh).

Schemes/Initiatives

- To provide information on all **central and state government schemes** for women, the **Women and Child Development Ministry** launched a **web portal** titled **NARI**.
- The **Union Finance Ministry** has launched **7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018 scheme** to help citizens invest in a taxable instrument, without any monetary ceiling.
 - It will enable resident citizens/Hindu Undivided Families (HUF) to invest in a **taxable bond**, without any monetary ceiling.
- The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** run by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has reached a subscriber base of **80 lakh**.
 - **Uttar Pradesh** is the highest contributing state at 11.41 lakh APY subscribers, followed by **Bihar** and **Tamil Nadu** at 8.87 lakh and 6.60 lakh respectively.
- To provide institutionalized **socio-economic security** for the **workers** in the **unorganized sector**, the **Jammu and Kashmir** government is set to launch a scheme called "**Muhafiz (Guardian)**".
 - Under this scheme, around **three lakh workers** registered with **Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWBB)** will be provided accidental, life and disability insurance, besides educational scholarships to their children under it.
 - The scheme also envisages extending **micro credit facility** to such workers and facilitating their registration through online and other modes.
- **Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj** and **Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lyonpo Damcho Dorji** jointly unveiled the '**Special logo**' for the 50 years of diplomatic relations (**Golden Jubilee**).
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the '**Economic Democracy Conclave**' at **Thane**.
 - This conclave was organized by **Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini**.
 - Aim - To create a platform for young entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals and provide them motivation, networking and mentoring.
- The **Odisha** state government has launched **Odisha eHospital Management Information System (OeHMIS)** to provide a computerized platform for online recording of clinical parameters of patients and reporting of performance criteria of hospitals.
 - According to the **OeHMIS system**, patients can be **registered online** and can view and download their **individual electronic health records** at their doorstep through **web portal** or **mobile application**.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** inaugurated **Puducherry's First Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)** at **Karaikal**.
 - It will enable locals to avail passport related services without having to travel to **Puducherry**.

- For the poor and disabled people, Manipur chief Minister **N Biren Singh** has launched a health assurance scheme titled **Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT)**.
 - The **CMHT scheme** will provide **cashless treatment to poor** at government hospitals, health centres and other empanelled selected private hospitals.
- The **Union Ministry of Civil Aviation** has awarded **325 air routes** under the **second phase** of government's flagship regional connectivity scheme **UDAN** (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).
 - Around 40% or 129 of 325 air routes were awarded to newly created category of 'priority areas' that include **Jammu and Kashmir**, Northeastern and hill states, **Andaman and Nicobar** and **Lakshadweep Islands**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu** inaugurated the **World War II Memorial Museum** in the state's **Changlang** district bordering **Myanmar**.
- In a bid to safeguard world from hackers and growing data breaches, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has launched new **Global Centre for Cybersecurity** headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
 - Aim - To establish first global platform for governments, businesses, experts and law enforcement agencies to collaborate on cyber security challenges.
- For the welfare of the downtrodden citizen across the state, the **Punjab Government** has launched a new scheme titled **Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojna (MGSVY)**.
 - This scheme is aimed at the inclusive **growth of the distressed sections** of the society.
- To solve the various complications faced by the power distribution sector, the **India-Japan Smart Grid Pilot Project** was inaugurated **Panipat, Haryana**.
 - It was inaugurated by State Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** in the presence of **Japanese Minister Keniko Sen**.
- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY)** has launched an initiative titled **Stree Swabhiman**.
 - Aim: To create sustainable model for **providing adolescent girls and women** an access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging **Common Service Centres (CSCs)**.
- Minister of State **Giriraj Singh** launched new Khaki colored uniforms for the **Department of Posts** personnel.
 - The department redesigned the uniform in collaboration with the **National Institute of Fashion Technology**.

Summit/Conference

- The 1st-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)**.
 - This conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- The 4th **International Dharma-Dhamma Conference** on "State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions" was recently held at **Rajgir in Nalanda district, Bihar**.
 - This conference was inaugurated by President **Ram Nath Kovind**.
 - The event was organized as part of commemorative events to celebrate **Silver Jubilee (25) year of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership**.
- The 1st **International Dam Safety Conference-2018** was recently held in **Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)** from **January 23-24, 2018**.
 - This conference was inaugurated by **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** and was presided over by Union Minister of State for Water Resources **Arjun Ram Meghwal**.
- The **ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit** was recently held at **New Delhi**.
 - This summit marks the 25 years of India's ties with the **Southeast Asian bloc**.
 - Theme - "Shared Values, Common Destiny".

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- The **Ministry of housing and urban affairs** and **Allahabad Bank** signed a MoU to provide a centralized platform for processing **interest subsidy** under the **self employment programme** component of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihood Mission**.
- **India** and **Saudi Arabia** signed bilateral annual **Haj 2018 agreement**, allowing Indian Haj pilgrims through **sea route** also that was suspended in 1995.
 - Sending pilgrims through ships will help **cut down travel expenses** significantly.
- The Union Cabinet approved MoU with **Canada** for cooperation in field of **Science & Technology**.
 - The MoU was signed by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** with **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)** of Canada.
- **India** has signed a MoU with the **UK** to enable the return of **illegal Indian immigrants** within a month of their detection.
 - Both the countries also agreed to share **criminal records**. Indians constitute the largest number of **illegal immigrants living in the UK**.
- The **Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation** has signed a MoU with **Bihar and Jharkhand** for completion of balance works of **North Koel reservoir project**.
- **Football Delhi** (earlier Delhi Soccer Association) signed a MoU with **ASSOCHAM** (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) for the development of the **sport in the capital city**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** have signed an agreement for the co-production of films between the two nations.
 - Aim - To establish a framework to encourage all audio visual media output, especially co-production of films for benefitting film industries of both countries.
- **Maharashtra Health** department and **Johnson and Johnson** signed MoU to **train rural midwives and social health activists** regarding **tuberculosis** and **maternal and infant mortality**.
- **Punjab Government** signed MoU with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** to set up bio-gas and bio-CNG plants in state, to find sustainable solutions to paddy straw burning.
 - Total 400 such plants will become operational in 3-4 years with investment of **INR 5000 crores**.
- **Department of Commerce** signed MoU with **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for integrated development of Logistics sector.
- The **Odisha** government has signed an agreement with **Software Technology Park of India (STPI)**, philanthropist **Sushmita Bagchi**, and **IIT Bhubaneswar**, for setting up the **Centre of Excellence for Virtual & Augmented Reality (VARCoE)**, an incubator for promoting research.
- The **Government of Telangana** and **Clean Authority of Tokyo** have signed a MoU in the field of municipal **solid waste** incineration facilities.
- The **Andhra Pradesh** government and the **Canton of Zurich** signed a sister-state agreement to promote mutual prosperity and development.
 - The agreement is expected to **strengthen economic and scientific relations** between the two governments in various fields.
- **India** has signed **\$120 million** loan agreement with multilateral lending agency **World Bank** to help increase access to improved **water supply services** in peri-urban areas in **Uttarakhand**.
 - The agreement was signed between **Government of India, Government of Uttarakhand** and **World Bank Board**.
- 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**.

- 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**.
- **India and Vietnam** signed two MoUs to enhance cooperation in field of **information and broadcasting and space cooperation**.
- **India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** have agreed to set up a **mechanism** aimed at enhancing **maritime cooperation**.
- **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**.
 - Under this deal, as many as 57 simulators will be manufactured at company's **Bangalore facility** and will be supplied to **Indian Army** over two years period.
- **India and Cambodia** have signed **four agreements** to boost bilateral cooperation between both countries.
- **India and Laos** have signed **civil aviation cooperation** agreement for providing **SkyRev360**, a comprehensive **e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system**.
 - The agreement was signed between **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and **Lao Air Traffic Management, Department of Civil Aviation**.
- **India and Pakistan** have extended an agreement on linking the two countries through **Munabao-Khokhrapar rail line** till **January 31, 2021**.
 - The rail link, which connects **Sindh and Rajasthan**, is important for improving relations between the two countries.
- The government and **World Bank** signed a **\$100 million** (about Rs.6400 crore) **loan agreement** to promote **rural economy** in selected blocks of **Tamil Nadu** across 26 districts, benefiting over 4 lakh people.

Meet/Visit

- External affairs minister **Sushma Swaraj** was visited to three **South-East Asian nations – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore**.
 - This visit, in line with India's '**Act East**' policy, comes ahead of India's Republic Day celebrations on **26 January** when leaders of all **10 Asean countries** arrive in India as chief guests.
- Union Minister (Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) **Nitin Gadkari** was visited to **Singapore** to inaugurate **ASEAN India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**.
- Congress **President Rahul Gandhi** visited to **Bahrain**.
 - He met Crown Prince **Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa** and discussed ways to develop **cricket ties** between the two countries.
- The 3rd meeting of **Council of Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP)** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - This meeting was chaired by **Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu**.
 - Aim: To enhance the **Centre's cooperation** with the **states and union territories** in making the latter active partners in **boosting India's exports**.
- The 4th **ASEAN-INDIA Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry** was held at **NASC Complex, New Delhi**.
 - The meeting was co-chaired by **India's Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh** and **Thailand's Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Grisada Boonrach**.

- **Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu** visited to **India** for a 6-day state visit. He is the second Israeli Prime Minister to visit India in the last 25 years of a diplomatic relationship.
 - He attended the ceremony to mark the formal renaming of **Delhi's Teen Murti Chowk** as **Teen Murti Haifa Chowk**, after the **Israeli city of Haifa**.
- **Minister for Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad** was visited to **Sri Lanka**.
 - During this Visit, India and Sri Lanka signed the following agreements **Collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector Connecting National Knowledge network (NKN)** for collaboration among universities and academics setting up of e-office system.
- For the first time, **India** has attended the meeting of **International Military Cooperation Departments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.
 - This meeting was held in **Beijing (China)**.
- The 10th **Global Forum for Food & Agriculture** was recently held in **Berlin (Germany)**.
 - India was represented by **Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**.
 - Theme - "Shaping the future of livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently".
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was visited to **Davos** to attend the **World Economic Forums Annual Meeting 2018**.
 - Theme: Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **Plenary Session** at the **World Economic Forum 2018** in **Switzerland's Davos**. With this he became the first Indian PM to address the WEF in 20 years.
- The **Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau** has announced that he will be on a state visit to **India** from 17th to 23rd February 2018.
- The 65th **Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)** was recently held at **New Delhi**.
 - This meeting was chaired by: **Prakash Javadekar** (Union Human Resource Development Minister)
- **India** is going to host **informal Ministerial** meeting of **World Trade Organization (WTO)** in **March 2018** in **New Delhi**.
 - Aim - To muster support for issues and also help to multi-lateral process.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will embark on 4-day official state visit to **Palestine, Oman and UAE** in February 2018.
 - To deal with disputes related to its **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, **China** has decided to establish 3 international courts in **Beijing, Shenzhen and Xi'an**, a development strategy focused on road connectivity and maritime cooperation between **Eurasian countries**.

Bills

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** gave his assent to **The Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017**.
 - This bill allows IIMs to award degrees instead of diplomas to their graduates.
- Parliament has passed the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017** with the approval of Rajya Sabha.
 - This Bill seeks to amend **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Act, 1981**.
 - The Act establishes NABARD for providing and regulating facilities like credit for agricultural and industrial development in the rural areas.

- Lok Sabha has passed **The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017** to allow government to take up **infrastructure projects** within **prohibited areas** around protected monuments.
 - This Bill amends the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958**.
- Amid a string of rape incidents in Haryana, the state is going to enact a law providing **death penalty** for **rapists of girls aged 12 years and below**.

Fund

- **India** has granted a **financial assistance** worth over **288 crore** (\$45.27 million) to develop **Sri Lanka's Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour** into a commercial port.
 - The move is aimed at strengthening **Sri Lanka's efforts** to become a **regional maritime hub**.
 - The **KKS Harbour** was destroyed by the **LTTE** during **Sri Lanka's civil war**.
- With USD 1.5 billion worth of loans in 2017, **India** becomes **top** borrower from **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.
 - **Indonesia** stood at second spot with **USD 600 million** worth loans.
- The government is going to set up a **2,200-crore fund** to **finance solar projects** to achieve its target of having **175 GW** in **renewable energy** by **2022**.
- The **Maharashtra** government has approved a **Rs 4,000- crore** project aimed at promoting climate-resilient agriculture, to be partially funded by the **World Bank**.
- **Japan** has committed **JICA Official Development Assistance loan** for an amount of **45 billion yen** (about Rs 2,587 crore) for **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3)**.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a **\$250 million loan** agreement to finance the construction of **6,254 kilometres** all-weather rural roads in the **States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal** under the **Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY)**.

Economy

- **Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro** has announced issuance of **over \$5.9 billion** (37,000 crore) in the country's new oil-backed **crypto currency** in coming days to fight the ongoing economic crisis.
 - Every **unit of the crypto currency** will be **equal** in value to **Venezuela's one oil barrel**.
 - Venezuela has the **world's largest oil reserves and generates** around 95% of its **export** revenue from oil.
- The **Union Cabinet** cleared a proposal allowing **100% foreign direct investment (FDI)** in single-brand retail via **automatic route**.
 - This move makes it easier for foreign brands to fully own their **Indian stores** when earlier they needed to partner with local brands.
- State-owned **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation ONGC** is going to acquire the **government's entire 51.11% stake** in **Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL)** for **36,915 crore**.
- According to a recently released census of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Mauritius** was the largest source of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in **India**, followed by the **US** and **UK** in 2016-17.
- Chief Economic Adviser **Arvind Subramanian** has drafted the **Economic Survey** for the year **2017-18 in Parliament**.
 - This survey predicted India's GDP growth at **7-7.5%** in the next fiscal.
 - The survey claimed that **collection of direct taxes** by **Indian states and local governments** is significantly **lower compared to other countries**.

- The Economic Survey 2017-18 tabled in Parliament has been printed in **Pink** to highlight **gender issues** amid economic development.

Companies/Industry

- Micro-blogging website **Twitter** has announced it would **not block the accounts** of world leaders even if **their statements** are “**controversial**,” citing a need to promote a “**public conversation**” on **political issues**.
- **Paytm** has announced setting up of its **wealth management** division **Paytm Money** for users to **store cash** and **earn interest**.
 - Paytm Money will be the company's **fourth** consumer brand after **Paytm, Paytm Mall, and Paytm Payments Bank**.
- **US** imaging firm **Eastman Kodak** announced its crypto-currency **KODAKCoin**.
 - It also announced a block chain-powered image rights platform **KODAKOne** which creates a digital ledger of rights ownership that photographers can use to **register and license their work**.
- **Mukesh Ambani**-led **Reliance Jio** is going to create its own crypto currency called **JioCoin**.
 - Mukesh Ambani's son **Akash** is expected to lead the project, comprising a 50-member team of young professionals to work on **blockchain technology** for **JioCoin**.
- **Messaging** app **Telegram** is developing a **blockchain platform** to rival world's second biggest crypto **Ethereum** and is seeking to raise **\$1.2 billion** through an **Initial Coin Offering (ICO)**.
 - Called the '**Telegram Open Network**' (**TON**), it is designed to host a new generation of crypto currencies and decentralized applications.
- **Chinese** e-commerce giant **Alibaba**-owned messaging app **DingTalk** unveiled an **English** version in **India** that caters to the small and medium-sized enterprises.
- **Samsung India** has launched a new shopping app and service, called **Samsung Mall**, exclusively for the **Indian market**.
 - The app offers visual searching of products online and provides an interface to shop across different e-commerce sites, like **Amazon** and **Flipkart**.
- **Facebook**-owned messaging service **WhatsApp** is going to launch its **digital payments feature** in **India**.
 - WhatsApp is working with **State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank** to integrate its **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** - based payments platform.
- American online social media and social networking website **Facebook** has launched its '**Marketplace**' to buy and sell used **goods and services** across **categories** such as **electronics, entertainment, and housing** in **India**.
- **Chkfake Brand Protection Solutions** announced the launch of '**Chkfake**'- a unique global platform which allows users to check authenticity of **currency notes** of any major currency globally.
- Technology giant **Apple** has partnered with **Malala Fund** to support **girls' education**, thereby becoming its **first Laureate partner**.
- American electronic commerce and cloud computing company **Amazon** has launched a checkout-free hi-tech grocery store called '**Amazon Go**' in **Seattle, US**.
- **Digital payments** startup **Paytm** has introduced '**Paytm for Business**' app for **merchants** and businesses to accept payments instantly for **zero charges**.
- **American** online social media and social networking service **Facebook** announced that it has **invented a new unit of time** called '**flick**' to measure the **speed of digital audio and video**.

- Google's parent company **Alphabet** has launched a cyber security business named '**Chronicle**' which aims to help companies find and stop **cyber attacks** before they **cause harm**.
- **Jack Ma**-led Chinese e-commerce giant **Alibaba** became a **\$500 billion** company.
- **Chinese Bike Sharing Firm OFO** launched its services across seven **Indian cities** (Indore, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Delhi, Pune, Coimbatore, and Chennai), in partnership with digital payments firm **Paytm**.

Taxation/Trade

- **Saudi Arabia** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** introduced **Value Added Tax (VAT)** for the first time.
 - This comes as the Gulf nations aim to diversify **their revenue generation** from sources **other than oil and cope** with low oil prices.
 - The other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council- **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar**- have also committed to **introducing VAT**.
- **Income Tax (IT) Department** under the **Union Finance Ministry** has launched an **on-line chat service** on its national website **www.incometaxindia.gov.in**.
- The **GST Council** has decided to put **29 handicraft** items in the **0% tax slab** and **reduce rates** on **53 services**.

Agriculture/Production

- To boost production of the **nutrient rich millets** and the **sunrise agri industry**, the **Indian Government** has approved 2018 as **National Year of Millets**.

Space

- To explore the sun's outer atmosphere, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is going to launch **Parker Solar Probe** in this year 2018.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is launching two **new missions** this year to explore the **starting point of space**, nearly **100 km above Earth's surface**.
 - The missions **GOLD** and **ICON** would make complementary observations from different points said NASA.
 - **GOLD** - Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk
 - **ICON** - Ionospheric Connection Explorer
- **ISRO's** commercial arm, **Antrix**, earned **288.75 crore** by launching satellites for other countries in the last financial year.
 - To date, **ISRO** has launched over **200 foreign satellites**, including **101 nanosatellites** in its record launch in **February 2017**.
 - The **US** had become **ISRO's biggest client** with 96 of the 101 foreign satellites hailing from there.
- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** successfully launched its **100th satellite** from **Sriharikota spaceport** in **Andhra Pradesh**, along with 30 other satellites.
 - India's weather observation **Cartosat-2 series satellite** was the heaviest satellite, weighing **710 kg**.
- **China** successfully launched two **BeiDou-3 satellites** to provide navigation and positioning services to countries along **Belt and Road initiative (BRI)** by the **end of 2018**.
 - The two satellites were designated as **BeiDou-3 M7** and **BeiDou-3 M8** (26th and 27th satellites) in **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)**.
- **Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** successfully launched a **new Earth observation satellite**, equipped with **X-band radar** which is capable of obtaining high-resolution terrain images.

- The **Advanced Satellite with New System Architecture for Observation** (ASNARO-2) was launched aboard a third-generation **Epsilon rocket** from the **Uchinoura Space Center**, in the southwestern prefecture of **Kagoshima, Japan**.
- The **International Space Station** has completed **7,000 days** orbiting the Earth at a 400-km altitude, after its first module was launched in 1998.
- US commercial startup **Rocket Lab** has launched its **Electron rocket** into orbit and deployed **three satellites** for the first time.
 - Rocket Lab has also signed contracts with **NASA** and Seattle-based **Spaceflight** for small-satellite launches.

Science and Technology

- **Taiwanese** multinational hardware and electronics company **Acer** has unveiled a **laptop, Swift 7 Ultrabook**, which is the world's thinnest computer with a thickness of 8.98 mm (0.35 inches).
- The **Union Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan** launched India's **fastest and first "multi-petaflops"** supercomputer 'Pratyush' at the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** in **Pune**.
 - The system, which will be a national facility for **improving weather and climate forecasts**, will also help improve India's peak computing capacity from **1 petaflop to 6.8 petaflops**.
 - Petaflop is a measure of processing **speed** and equals a **quadrillion floating point operations per second**.
- **Russian scientists** have discovered a **dinosaur species** that **roamed Siberia 120 million years ago** named the **Siberian Titan**.
- Two **Macaque Monkeys** have become the **first primates** to be **cloned** using the **same approach** that produced **Dolly** the sheep, the first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell.
 - The monkeys were named **Zhong Zhong** and **Hua Hua** after their **birthplace China** (Zhonghua in Mandarin).

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- The **Union Health Ministry** launched an **online cancer detection course** to help **non-cancer specialists** detect early signs of the disease, especially in villages and smaller cities.
 - This course was designed by **Tata Memorial Hospital**.
- A health worker from **Mandi district** in **Himachal Pradesh**, **Verma** has featured in **World Health Organization (WHO)** calendar for 2018, for her efforts to ensure hundred per cent coverage of her area of operation under **measles and rubella programme**.

Energy/Gas/Oil

- The largest state-owned natural gas processing and distribution company in India, **GAIL India Ltd** has commissioned **India's second largest rooftop solar power plant** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
 - The **world's largest rooftop solar power plant** of 11.5 Mw capacities was inaugurated in **Amritsar** (Punjab) on 19th May 2016.
- The **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** under **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** has launched a month long annual flagship event titled **Saksham 2018** (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav).
 - Aim - Creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and sensitize masses about efficient use of petroleum products.
- **Kazakhstan** has overtaken **Iraq** to become the biggest overproducer in the pact between **OPEC** and its allies to curb oil output.
 - **OPEC** - Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

Environment

- The **UK's ban on plastic microbeads** used in **cosmetics** and **personal care products** came into effect.
 - This move is aimed at protecting **marine life** as the small beads enter water bodies and get absorbed or eaten by the wildlife, affecting their growth.

Education

- To make learning more interesting, the Centre has decided to launch '**Operation Digital Board**'.
 - This programme will help students view **diagrams and presentations** through **digital tools**.
- To reduce stress caused by parents over marks, the **Madhya Pradesh Education Department** has decided to replace marks with **smileys** in the report cards of Class 1 and 2 **government school** students.
- The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** said that **engineering students** will study **vedas, puranas, and yoga** under the **revised curriculum** from the next academic session.
 - The modified course will also focus on Indian philosophical, linguistic and artistic traditions.
- The **Oxford Dictionaries** announced '**Aadhaar**' as its 2017 '**Hindi Word of the Year**' at the Jaipur Literature Festival.
 - The shortlist included words such as '**Mitron**', '**Notebandi**', '**Bahubali**' and '**Gau-rakshak**', among others.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- To promote cashless payments, the **Indian Railways** is going to launch its **own debit card** in association with **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**.
- **Railway Minister Piyush Goyal** has announced that the **Indian Railways** is going to have **22 coaches** in all the trains under its network so that they can run on any route, irrespective of the time taken to complete the journey.
- Three Ministries viz. Ministry of **Railways**, Ministry of **Human Resource Development (HRD)** and Ministry of **Science & Technology** have signed MoU for joint funding of **Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR)**.
- To help plan traffic flows and optimize freight operations, the **Union Ministry of Railways** has launched an application titled **SFOORTI**.
 - This app will help **Freight Managers** to monitor and manage freight business using **Geographic Information System (GIS)** views and dashboard.
 - SFOORTI - Smart Freight Operation Optimization & Real Time Information
- The **Indian Railways** is going to introduce self-propelled '**Made in India**' **luxury trains** that are expected to reduce travelers' time by around 20%.
 - Two trains, called **Train 18** and **Train 20**, have been designed by a **Chennai factory** and can run at a speed of up to **160 kmph**. Train 18 is expected to be manufactured by June 2018.
- On the occasion of the **69th Republic Day**, the **Indian Railways** renamed **Fairy Queen**, the world's oldest working **steam engine**, as '**69 Ganrajya Express**'.
 - The engine, constructed in the UK and inducted to the then East Indian Railway in 1855, was christened as '**Fairy Queen**' in 1895.
- The **Indian Railways** has changed the category name '**viklang**' (handicapped) to '**Divyang**' (divine bodies) in its concession forms offered to people with special needs.
 - From February 1, the new forms will have the word '**Blind**' replaced with '**Persons with visual impairment with total absence of Sight**', while '**Deaf and Dumb**' will be changed to '**Persons with Hearing and Speech Impairment**'.

Films and Film Festival

- **Rachel Morrison** has become the **first female cinematographer** to receive an **Oscar nomination** in the 89- year-old history of the Awards.
 - She has been nominated for her work in the film '**Mudbound**'.
- The **Gal Godot** starrer 2017 film '**Wonder Woman**' has won the award for **Best Action Movie** at the **2018 Critics' Choice Awards**.
- The **Irrfan Khan and Saba Qamar** starrer '**Hindi Medium**' was named the **Best Film** at the **63rd Filmfare Awards**.
 - **Irrfan Khan** was named **Best Actor** for '**Hindi Medium**'.
 - **Vidya Balan** won **Best Actress** for '**Tumhari Sulu**'.
- The documentary '**Kailash**', which is about **Nobel Peace Prize** winner **Kailash Satyarthi** and his efforts to **end child slavery**, won the '**US Grand Jury Prize: Documentary**' at the **Sundance Film Festival**.

Festival

- The 26th edition of annual **World Book Fair** was begun in **New Delhi**.
 - This festival has been jointly organized by **National Book Trust (NBT)** and the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** in association with **India Trade Promotion Organization**.
 - **Theme - 'Environment and Climate Change'**.
 - **Focus Areas - Environment issues like climate change, global warming, and water pollution.**
 - **Guest of Honor Country for 2018 - European Union**
- **Goa** hosted a **film festival** based on **Sci-Fi genre**. The 3rd edition of **Science Film Festival 2018** was started on 16th January 2018.
- The **Raipur Municipal Corporation** in **Chhattisgarh** organized the three-day **Kachra Mahotsav 2018**. This is India's first **Garbage Festival**.
 - Aim: To increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively, and to showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labeled as garbage.
- The 1st -ever public **LGBT festival** was held in **Myanmar** after the government gave its approval for the '**&Proud**' festival, though homosexuality is illegal in the country.
 - The primary goal of the event is to acknowledge equality and human rights, and create awareness among the people about the **LGBT community**.

Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- **Idea Cellular** and **Vodafone India** will start operating as a merged entity from **April, 2018**.
 - The two companies now require the **Department of Telecommunications'** approval to proceed with the merger.
 - The merged entity will create India's largest telecom operator, having almost 400 million customers with 35% customer share and 41% revenue market share.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- Senior diplomat **Vijay Keshav Gokhale** has been appointed **Foreign Secretary** for a two-year term.
 - He is going to replace **S Jaishankar** whose tenure ends on January 28.
- Former RAW Chief **Rajinder Khanna** has been appointed as the **Deputy National Security Advisor**.
 - He is currently working as **Officer on Special Duty** (Neighbourhood Studies) in the **National Security Council Secretariat**.
- **Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita** has appointed **Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga**, a former defense and foreign minister and intelligence chief as the **new Prime Minister**.

- **Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF)** appointed former captain **Hasan Sardar** as the new **chief head coach** of the **national team** ahead of three major tournaments this year.
- **Kia Motors India (KMI)** has announced the appointment of **Kookhyun Shim** as **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)**.
- **Political scientist Gopal Guru** has been appointed as the **Editor of the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)**.
- **Tamil Nadu** government appointed **B. Rajendran** as **Chairperson of Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (REAT)** for **Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- Government appointed **AB Mathur** as its representative to hold talks with **United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)**.
- **Rajesh Ranjan** has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to Botswana**.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, an umbrella organization for **retail payment systems** in India, has appointed **Dilip Asbe** as MD&CEO of the organization.
 - He will replace **A.P.Hota**, who retired in August.
- IPS officer **Sita Ram Mardi** has been appointed as the **new Director General of Police of Himachal Pradesh**.
 - He has replaced **Sanjay Kumar**.
- Music maestro **AR Rahman** has been officially appointed as the **Brand ambassador of Sikkim**.
 - The Oscar-winning musician would also **compose** the **tourism anthem** for the state.
- **Singapore-based** Indian-origin businessman **Sunny Verghese** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**.
- **UK Prime Minister Theresa May** has inducted **Rishi Sunak**, an Indian-origin lawmaker and the son-in-law of Infosys Co-founder **Narayana Murthy**, into her government.
 - Sunak has been appointed as the **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government**.
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** appointed **Harjinder Singh** as the **Chef De Mission** for the **23rd Winter Olympic Games** to be held in **Pyeongchang**.
- **JK Tyre & Industries**, tyre major and leaders of radial tyres in **India**, has appointed **Rajiv Prasad** as its President (India Operations).
- **Indu Malhotra** became the first ever **female lawyer** to be directly recommended for the position of a **Supreme Court judge** by the **Collegium**.
- **US-based** software major **IBM** named **James Kavanaugh** as its **new Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
 - Kavanaugh will replace **Martin Schroeter**, who is going to take a new role as Senior Vice President, **Global Markets**.
- Senior sports administrator **Anil Khanna** was named **Chairman** of the **Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association**.
- **V.J. Mathew** has been appointed as the **1st chairman** of the **Kerala Maritime Board**.
- Bollywood Actress **Kajol**, an active supporter of eradicating preventable deaths from hygiene-related issues, has become an **Advocacy Ambassador** for a **Swachh Aaadat Swachh Bharat initiative**.
- Market regulator **SEBI** has approved appointment of **Vijay Kumar** as **Managing Director and CEO** of leading agri-commodity bourse **NCDEX (National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited)**. He will replace **Samir Shah**.

- The **Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** appointed **Pramod Agarwal** as its new **Chairman**.
 - He will replace the outgoing **chairman Praveenshanker Pandya**.
 - **Colin Shah** has been appointed as the **vice-chairman of GJEPC**.
- **Ajendra Bahadur Singh** has been appointed as **Chief of Western Naval Command of Indian Navy**.
 - He will replace **Admiral Ravneet Singh**.
- **UK PM Theresa May** appointed **Tracey Crouch** to look after the **loneliness-related issues** of people across the country.
 - With this, Crouch will be the world's first-ever minister tasked with the portfolio of 'Loneliness'.
- **Bengaluru**-headquartered mobile advertising startup **InMobi** has appointed investment banker **Marc Steifman** as its **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.
- The government appointed senior IAS officer **S Selvakumar** as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL)**.
 - He will replace **Anurag Agarwal** who was appointed to the post on **September 27, 2017**.
- **Romania's** ruling party has nominated **Viorica Dancila** as the country's **new Prime Minister** after **Mihai Tudose** resigned from the post following a power struggle within the party.
 - Dancila will become **Romania's first female PM** and the **third premier** to assume the office in seven months.
- **Facebook** has appointed outgoing American Express CEO **Kenneth Chenault** to its board.
- Former **Chief Minister of Gujarat Anandiben Patel** will be appointed as the **Governor of Madhya Pradesh**.
 - She will replace Gujarat Governor **OP Kohli**, who was given the additional charge of the office of **Madhya Pradesh Governor** in 2016.
- **Om Prakash Rawat** has been appointed as the **new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India**.
 - He is going to replace **Achal Kumar Joti**. Rawat will assume office on January 23 and will serve office till November 2019.
- Senior IPS officer **Sudeep Lakhtakia** has been appointed as the new **Director General (DG)** of the '**black cats**' commando force NSG.
 - He will replace **S P Singh** who will retire from the post of NSG DG on January 31.
- **Indian American Manisha Singh**, a lawyer and **Congressional staffer**, has been sworn in as the **Assistant Secretary of State** for economic and business affairs in the **Trump administration**.
- Former international football player **George Weah** has been sworn in as the **new President of Liberia**.
- **Momtaz Moussa** has been appointed as the **Business' General Manager of Online** classifieds platform **OLX India**.
- Noted scientist **S Somanath** took charge as **Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
 - He has replaced **K Sivan**, who was recently appointed as Chairman of ISRO.
- Cab-hailing startup **Uber** has hired **Bo Young Lee** as its first **Chief Diversity Officer (CD)**.
- Senior scientist **Dr V Narayanan** has assumed charge as **Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**.
 - He has replaced **S Somanath**, who was appointed as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

- **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** appointed **Dilip Chenoy** as its **Director General**.
- The **US Senate** has approved **President Donald Trump's** selection of **Jerome Powell** to be the **next Chairman** of the **Federal Reserve** beginning next month.
 - Powell will replace **Janet Yellen**, the first woman to lead the Fed, when her term ends Feb. 3.
- The Ambassador of India to Cuba **Tsewang Namgyal**, has been appointed as the next **Ambassador** of India to the Republic of **Poland**.
- **Srikumar Menon**, presently Ambassador of India to South Sudan has been appointed as the next **Ambassador** of India to the Republic of **Angola**.
- Presently Counselor, High Commission of India, Port Moresby **Rajesh Agarwal** has been appointed as the next **Ambassador** of India to the Republic of **Niger**.
- **Hemant Kumar Sharma**, a 2002-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the **Divisional Commissioner** of **Jammu**.
- **HARMAN International**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd**, appointed Bollywood actress **Priyanka Chopra** as **Global brand ambassador** for its **JBL and Harman Kardon audio brands**.
- **Vijay Keshav Gokhale** assumed charge as the new **Foreign Secretary** for a two-year term.
 - He has replaced the former foreign secretary **S Jaishankar** who completed his term of three years, including one extended year, this month.
- **American** online social media and social networking giant **Facebook** has hired technology giant **Google's Director of Product** for augmented reality (AR) **Nikhil Chandhok**.
- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** (Chairman and managing director of Biocon Ltd), **Rajiv Lall** (IDFC Bank founder), **Abbott Laboratories** (Chairman and CEO Miles White) and **William Thomas** (KPMG International global Chairman) are among those who have been appointed to the **Board of US India Business Council** for 2018.
 - The board is comprised of industry leaders from the **US and India**.
- Indian-American Adobe **CEO Shantanu Narayen** has been elected as the **Vice Chairman** of the **US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)**, a new organization set up to enhance business relations between **India** and the **US**.
 - Former CIA Director Gen (rtd) **David Petraeus** has been appointed as the **new advisor to the organization**.
 - **Ajay Singh**, chairman and managing director of Spice Jet Limited and **John Kern**, senior vice president of Supply Chain Operations at Cisco, have been appointed as **new members of USISPF**.
- The **Czech president, Milos Zeman**, has been elected to a **second** five-year term after winning a runoff vote.
- **Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez** has been **sworn** in for a **second term**.
- **Opposition** leader **Raila Odinga** declared himself as the "**people's president**" and took oath at a ceremony in the capital city of **Nairobi**.
- **Finland's President Sauli Niinisto** has been comfortably **re-elected** for a **second** six-year term.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- **Brazilian** legend and **2002 World Cup** winner **Ronaldinho** announced his retirement from football.

Arrests/Jailed

- The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has registered **22 cases** against **Punjab National Bank (PNB) officials** for fraudulently **processing loans causing a loss** of about **80 crore**.
- **Delhi Police Special Cell** arrested **Abdul Subhan Qureshi**, the 2008 **Gujarat** serial blasts mastermind.
- Former **Andhra Bank** director **Anup Prakash Garg** has been sent to a seven-day **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** custody in a 5,000-crore bank fraud case.

Deaths

- Poet **Anwar Jalalpur** (71), who translated **Bhagavad Gita to Urdu**, passed away.
- Novelist and intellectual giant of **Sri Lankan** origin, **Ambalavaner Sivanandan** (94) has passed away.
- Veteran actor **Shrivallabh Vyas** (60), known for acting in films like '**Lagaan**' and '**Sarfarosh**', passed away.
- **NASA** astronaut **John Young** (87), who became the first human to fly solo around the Moon during Apollo 10 mission in 1969, passed away.
- **India's** power lifting world champion **Saksham Yadav** (28) succumbed to **his injuries** following a road accident at Delhi-Haryana border.
 - Yadav, who last won a **world championship gold** in 2017, was among six athletes travelling from Delhi to Panipat.
- **M S Subbulakshmi's** stepdaughter and Renowned Carnatic vocalist **Radha Viswanathan** (84) passed away.
- Former wrestler and coach **Sukhchain Singh Cheema** (67), who won bronze in the 1974 Asian Games, passed away in a road accident near Patiala.
- Renowned writer, poet and critique **Dudhnath Singh** passed away.
- Former Union Minister **Raghunath Jha** (78) passed away.
- **Dan Gurney** (86), the first driver with wins in each of the Formula One, IndyCar and NASCAR Cup series, died.
- The lead singer of the **Irish** rock band '**The Cranberries**' **Dolores O'Riordan** (46) has passed away.
 - She is known for songs like '**Zombie**' and '**Linger**'.
- Veteran actress **Ava Mukherjee** (88), who played the role of Shah Rukh Khan's grandmother in the 2002 film '**Devdas**', passed away.
- **India's** longest living army veteran, retired **Major FKK Sircar** (101), passed away.
- **Simon Barnes** (52), the actor who played Tinky Winky in the children's TV series Teletubbies passed away.
- Noted agricultural scientist and pioneer of India's **Green Revolution**, **Gurcharan Singh Kalkat** (92) passed away.
- **Ingvar Kamprad** (91) the **Founder of Swedish furniture giant Ikea** passed away.

Awards/Honours

- Indian-origin **Ravi Menon**, the **MD of Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)**, has been named the **Best Central Bank Governor** in Asia-Pacific for 2018.
 - Ex RBI Governor **Raghuram Rajan** was awarded the honor in 2016.

- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, India's Premier Container Port** has won "**Samudra Manthan-Caring Organization of the Year**" award.
- **75th Golden Globe Awards** American actor **SterlingK Brown** created history by becoming **1st African-American** to win **Golden Globes** for **best actor in drama television series**.
 - **Black comedy crime film 'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'** has won the **Best Motion Picture Award** in the **drama category**.
 - **Frances McDormand** was named **Best Actress** in the **drama category** for the above movie.
 - **Gary Oldman** won the **Best Actor** in the **drama category** for '**Darkest Hour**'.
- **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** was honored with the **1st Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award for Probity in Public Life**.
- The first **all-women station in India, Matunga on Central Railway (CR)**, manned by a staff of 41 women, has entered the **Limca Book of Records**.
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- **West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee** received an **honorary Doctorate of Literature (DLitt)** from the **Calcutta University**.
- Actor **Sudhir Dalvi** was honored with the **Janakavi P Sawlaram Award**.
 - The award is jointly given by the **Thane Municipal Corporation** and the **Janakavi P Savlaram Kala Samiti**.
- Well-known dancer **Jaishree T** was bestowed with the **Ganga Jamuna Award**, which is instituted in memory of a popular song written by Sawlaram.
- **US President Donald Trump** has been awarded a '**Medal of Bravery**' by the **residents of Afghanistan's Logar province** for his stance against **Pakistan**.
- British-Indian sculptor **Anish Kapoor** was honored with **Genesis Prize**, dubbed the **Jewish Nobel Prize** for his commitment to Jewish values.
 - He has pledged this **\$1 million prize** to five charities helping refugees worldwide.
- **Virat Kohli** has been named the **ICC Cricketer of the Year** and **ODI Cricketer of the Year**.
 - He has also been named the captain of **Men's ODI and Test Teams** of the Year.
 - World's top-ranked Test batsman **Steve Smith** has been named **ICC's Test Cricketer** of the Year.
 - **England's woman cricketer Anya Shrubsole** won the **ICC Spirit of Cricket award** for consoling **South African captain Dane van Niekerk**, after England's semi-final victory in the **2017 Women's World Cup**.
- **PM Narendra Modi** was felicitating **7 Girls and 11 Boys** with the **National Bravery Awards** on **January 24**.
- The **Minister of State for Law and Justice & Corporate Affairs, P. P. Chaudhary**, has been conferred **Honorary Fellowship of Institute of Company secretaries of India (ICSI)**.
- Bollywood Actress **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** along with 111 other **women achievers** were felicitated by President **Ram Nath Kovind** at **Rashtrapati Bhawan**.
 - Titled the '**First Ladies**' awards, it was an initiative of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** to honor women who are the first to set a milestone in their respective fields.
- **Odisha based Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust** has won the prestigious **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Award for Innovation in Tourism Enterprise**.

- The trust was honored with the coveted award for "Innovation in Tourism Enterprise" at the 14th UNWTO Awards ceremony held in **Madrid, Spain**.
- Hollywood Actor-director **Angelina Jolie** will be honored by the **American Society of Cinematographers** with **ASC Board of Governors Award**.
- Bollywood Actor **Shah Rukh Khan** was felicitated at the 24th **Annual Crystal Awards** as part of **World Economic Forum's 48th Annual Meeting** for his leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India.
- Former cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar's** biopic '**Sachin: A Billion Dreams**' has won **2 awards** at the recently concluded **11th Tehran International FICTS Festival 2018**.
 - The biopic's director **James Erskine** got the award for the '**Best Director of a Long Documentary**', and an honorary diploma.
 - Producer **Ravi Bhagchandka** received the '**Special Award for the Best Film**' in the Long Documentary section.
- Hollywood actress **Meryl Streep** received her **21st Oscar nomination** for the movie titled '**The Post**'.
 - With this she breaks her own record as the **most nominated actress** in Oscar history.
- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister **Edappadi K Palanichamy** received **UNESCO Award of Merit** awarded to the iconic **Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple** in **Tiruchirapalli**.
- **Sheikh Salim Gafur**, the driver of the bus carrying pilgrims during the **Amarnath Yatra attack** in July 2017 has been conferred the **Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak** for showing courage in saving life under dangerous circumstances.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** honored **7 girls** and **11 boys** with the **National Bravery Awards**.
- Bollywood Actress **Deepika Padukone** was named the **Most Stylish Female** at the **HT India's Most Stylish Awards 2018**.
 - **Shahid Kapoor** got the **Most Stylish Male Award**.
 - **Sonam Kapoor** won the **Global Style Icon Award**.
 - **Aishwarya Rai** won the **Timeless Style Diva Award**.
- The Government of India has announced **3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan** and **73 Padma Shri Awards** for 85 personalities.
 - This includes a **Padma Shri** award to an individual from each of the **10 ASEAN countries**.
 - Musicians **Ilaiyaraaja, Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan**, and Hindutva ideologue **P Parameswaran** were awarded the **Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award**.
- Martyred **IAF Garuda Commando Jyoti Prakash Nirala** was honored with the **Ashoka Chakra**, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, posthumously for his role in a counter-terrorist operation in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - With this, he became the first-ever airman to receive the honor for a ground combat operation.
- **Maharashtra** has won the award for the **Best tableau** at the 69th **Republic Day parade** in **New Delhi**. **Assam** won the **Second Prize** followed by **Chhattisgarh**.
- The album '**24K Magic**' by singer **Bruno Mars** won **7 awards** including **Album Of The Year** and **Best R&B Album** at the 60th **Grammy Awards** this year.
- Playback singer **Asha Bhosle** was chosen for the 5th edition of **Yash Chopra Memorial Award** for her outstanding contribution to the Hindi film industry.
 - She will be presented with this award in February 2018 by Maharashtra Governor **C Vidyasagar Rao**.
- The **Indian Parliamentary Group** has announced **5 Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards**.
 - For the year 2017: **Bhartruhari Mahatab**

- For the year 2016 : **Dinesh Trivedi**
- For the year 2015 : **Ghulam Nabi Azad**
- For the year 2014 : **Hukumdev Narayan Yadav**
- For the year 2013 : **Dr Najma Heptulla**
- Former world number one badminton player **Prakash Padukone** was conferred with **Badminton Association of India's** (BAI) inaugural **Lifetime Achievement** award for his contribution to the sport.
- The tableau of **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** was adjudged the **best tableau among** all the **ministries** which participated in the **Republic Day parade**.
 - The theme of the tableau was '**Khelo India**'.
- In a first for an Indian, **NITI Aayog Member Vinod Paul** has been chosen to receive **WHO's** prestigious **IhsanDogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize** for his services in the field of family health.
 - This award will be presented to **Paul** at the **World Health Assembly** in **Geneva, Switzerland**, in **May**.
- Bollywood Actor **Varun Dhawan** has become the youngest **Bollywood actor** to get a **wax statue** at the **Madame Tussauds museum**.
 - The actor unveiled his wax statue at the **Madame Tussauds museum** in **Hong Kong**.

Sports/Game

- **Indian** golfer **Shiv Kapur** won the **Royal Cup** in **Thailand**. This is his third Asian Tour title of 2017.
- **Meghalaya** signed the **Host City Contract** with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** for hosting the **39th National Games in 2022**.
 - The tripartite contract was signed between the **IOA**, the **Meghalaya State Olympic Association** and the **state government** at **Shillong**.
- Liverpool's **Egyptian** forward **Mohamed Salah** was named the **African Footballer of the Year**.
- **Delhi Daredevils** named former **Australian captain Ricky Ponting** as their new **head coach** for the **Indian Premier League 2018**.
- The **23rd Maharashtra Open 2018** was held at **Pune, India**, from **1st January to 7th January 2018**.
 - This is the only ATP tournament played in India. It was the first edition of the tournament to be held after it was moved from **Chennai to Pune**.
 - Winners: Singles - **Gilles Simon** (France)
 - Doubles - **Robin Haase** (Netherlands) / **Matwe Middelkoop** (Netherlands)
- **India** bagged its first-ever medal at an **international skiing** event after 21-year-old **Aanchal Thakur** won **Bronze** at the **Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup** in **Erzurum, Turkey**.
- **Bahrain** is going to host the first-ever '**Baby Olympics**' where two to four-year-olds will take part in the games in April.
 - The games will include five disciplines– **athletics, gymnastics, football, basketball and weightlifting**.
- Professional player **Aditya Mehta** won the **Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship** at **Hindusthan Club, Kolkata**.
- The **6th edition of Shenzhen Open 2018** (also known as Shenzhen Gemdale Open) was recently held at **Shenzhen Longgang Sports Center** in **Shenzhen, China**.
 - Singles - **Simona Halep** (Romania)
 - Doubles - **Irina-Camelia Begu** (Romania) and **Simona Halep** (Romania)

- After taking **five wickets** in the first Test against India, 22-yearold **South African** pacer **Kagiso Rabada** has become the **world's highest-ranked Test bowler**.
 - Rabada dethroned England's **James Anderson**, who held the spot since September 2017.
- The five days **Ice Hockey Tournament 2018** concluded at **Goshan International Ice Hockey Rink, Drass in Jammu & Kashmir**.
 - The Cup was lifted by **Goshan A** by 2 Goals defeating **Himalayan B**.
 - The tournament was organized by **District Police Kargil** under **Civic Action Programme** in which more than **11 teams** from all over **Kargil Participated**.
- The **Afghanistan Cricket Board** has announced that the first ever **Afghanistan Premier League** will take place in the **UAE** in October this year.

The **T20 tournament** will be played between five teams, with the auction to **purchase teams** to be held in **March**.
- **Assam Hockey** won the 8th **Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018** (B Division) by beating **Hockey Rajasthan** in the finals at **Hojai Hockey stadium, Assam**.
- **Hyderabad Hunters** won the 3rd edition of the **Premier Badminton League** championship by beating **Bangalore Blasters** in the final at **Gachibowli Indoor Stadium** in **Hyderabad**.
- **North Korea** and **South Korea** have agreed to march **together** under a **unified Korea flag** at the upcoming **Winter Olympic Games** in **PyeongChang, South Korea**.
- Wrestling superstar and former UGA defensive lineman **Bill Goldberg** will be inducted into **World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Hall of Fame**.
- Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** launched **official anthem** and mascot of **Khelo India School Games**, beginning January 31.
- Defending champions **India** defeated **Pakistan** by **2 wickets** to clinch the **5th Blind Cricket World Cup 2018**.
 - This is India's **second consecutive title** win in the **Blind Cricket World Cup**. **Pakistan** has also won the title **twice** while **South Africa** won the title once.
- The **Indian hockey** team defeated hosts **New Zealand** to reach the final of the **Four Nations Invitational Tournament**.
- **Bangladeshi cricketer Tamim Iqbal** overtook ex-Sri Lankan captain **Sanath Jayasuriya** to record most ODI runs on a single venue.
- **Windies'** all-rounder **Kieron Pollard** has become the **first cricketer** to play **400 T20 matches**, achieving the feat while playing for **Melbourne Renegades** against **Adelaide Strikers** in the BBL.
- Former India captain **MS Dhoni** has been awarded India's third highest civilian honor, **Padma Bhushan**, making him the 11th cricketer to receive the award.
- English football club **Arsenal** has become the first major **global sporting team** to sign a **sponsorship deal promoting a cryptocurrency**.
 - The club will promote a new crypto currency sold by gambling platform **CashBet**.
- Indian Badminton Player **Siddharth Pratap Singh** won **Swedish Open Junior International Series** by defeating Denmark's **Mads Christophersen**.
- **World number two tennis** player **Caroline Wozniacki** won her maiden **Grand Slam** title at the **Australian Open** by beating the world number one **Simona Halep**.
- **Delhi** beat **Rajasthan** by 41 runs at the **Eden Gardens** to clinch their maiden **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy**.

- An option titled the **Right to Match card**, has been introduced for the first time in the **IPL auctions**.
 - Right to Match card is an option for a team to **retain a player**, by matching the **highest bid amount** for the player by **another team** during the auction.
- Swiss professional tennis player **Roger Federer** became the **first male tennis player** to win **20 Grand Slam titles**, after winning a joint-record sixth **Australian Open** title. In the finals he defeated Croatia's **Marin Cilic** to win this title.
- **England** all-rounder **Ben Stokes** became **Most expensive buy of IPL 2018** auction after being bought by **Rajasthan Royals** for **12.5 crore**.
 - **Jaydev Unadkat** became the **most expensive Indian player** at the auction (also bought by Rajasthan Royals for **11.5 crore**).
- Veteran India tennis star **Leander Paes** won his 25th **ATP Challenger level doubles title** with partner **James Cerretani** after beating **Denis Kudla** and **Treat Huey** in the final of the **Newport Beach** event.
- **Football Delhi** has decided to celebrate current India football captain **Sunil Chhetri's birthday** on **August 3** as **Delhi's Football Day**.

Report

- The **R.S Puram Police Station of Coimbatore** declared as the **Best Police Station** in the country in category of **SMART Police Stations**, an initiative by **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Gujarat** has topped the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)** index released by **Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
 - Top 5: Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- **Gallup International Association (GIA)** has ranked **Indian PM Narendra Modi** as the **number three** world leader in its **annual survey**.
 - **US President Donald Trump** stood at the **top position** followed by the **Russian President Vladimir Putin**.
- Telecom tycoon **Strive Masiyiwa** (57) has become **Zimbabwe's first billionaire** with a fortune of **\$1.7 billion**, according to **Forbes**.
- According to a recently released report of the **National Family Health Survey**, **Delhi** is the **richest state of India**.
 - According to this survey, **Bihar** is **India's poorest state**. The survey also revealed that **Jains** are the **richest religious community**.
- **India** ranked **30** in the **Global Manufacturing Index** released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
 - The Index was topped the by **Japan**.
 - Top 5: Japan, South Korea, Germany, Switzerland, and China.
- American technology company **Microsoft** has topped **Thomson Reuters' list of Top 100 Global Technology Leaders**.
 - US-based **Chipmaker Intel** and **computer networking company Cisco** stood at **2nd** and **3rd** places respectively.
- **Thomson Reuters Corp** published its debut "**Top 100 Global Technology Leaders**" list with **Microsoft Corp** in the **no. 1 spot**, followed by chipmaker **Intel Corp** and network gear maker **Cisco Systems Inc**.
- **Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri** announced the commencement of India's first-ever '**Livability Index**' to assess the living standard in 116 cities.

- Technology giant **Apple** has topped **Fortune magazine's** list of the '**World's Most Admired Companies**' for 2018.
 - E-commerce giant **Amazon** has retained its **second** spot, followed by **Google's** parent **Alphabet**.
- **India** ranked **62nd** in the **Inclusive Development Index** released by the **World Economic Forum** (WEF).
 - **China** stood at **26th position** and **Pakistan** is at **47th position** in this Index.
 - This index takes into account the "**living standards, environmental sustainability, and protection of future generations** from further indebtedness".
 - **Norway** remains the **world's most inclusive advanced economy**, while **Lithuania** topped the list of **emerging economies**.
- **India** has been ranked **177** among 180 countries in the recently released **Global Environmental Performance Index 2018**.
 - **Top 5: Switzerland, France, Denmark, Malta, and Sweden**
- **India** has been **81st** in the recently released **Global index of talent competitiveness (GTI) 2017**.
 - Last year's rank: **92nd**.
 - **Top 3: Switzerland, Singapore, and US**
- **American** multinational technology company **Apple** topped the **Fortune magazine's World's Most Admired Companies List 2018** for **11th Consecutive** year.
 - **Top: Apple, Amazon, Alphabet** (Parent company of Google)
- **India** has been ranked **6th** in the list of **wealthiest countries** with total wealth of **\$8,230 billion**.
 - The **United States** topped the list with the total wealth of **\$64,584 billion**.
 - **Top 3: US - \$64,584 billion, China - \$24,803 billion, Japan - \$19,522 billion.**
- According to recent report published by **World Steel Association (WSA)**, **India** has overtaken **US** to become the **world's third largest steel producer** in 2017.

General - National

- **India** and **Pakistan** have exchanged lists of their **nuclear installations** for the **27th consecutive** time under the **Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations Agreement**.
 - The annual exchange of lists is aimed at updating the nations about the installations to be covered under the agreement.
- The **Rajya Sabha** created a record, **completing all the issues and Special Mentions** on the **Zero Hour agenda** for the first time.
- As a part of the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, the Centre launched a cleanliness **survey** titled '**Swachh Survekshan 2018**'.
 - The survey, third of its kind, will rank 500 cities on the national level, while 3,541 cities will have state and regional ranking.
- **India** recently **retrieved** a stolen **12th-century** idol of **Brahma and Brahmani** from **London**.
 - The idol was stolen from the **UNESCO World Heritage Site Rani-ki-Vav** in **Gujarat's Patan** in 2001 and smuggled out of the country.
- China-led **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, in which **India** is a **second** largest shareholder, is going to issue its first **US dollar-denominated bond** with minimum worth of **\$100 crore** by **June** this year.
 - With 84 members so far, the AIIB was officially established in **December 2015** and opened for **business** in **January 2016**.
- **Bhopal** railway station in **Madhya Pradesh** has become **India's first** railway station to have a **sanitary napkin vending machine**.

- The machine named '**Happy Nari**', installed by the **Railway Women Welfare Association of Bhopal**, dispenses two sanitary napkins for **Rs. 5**.
- Amid the controversy over a data breach, the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has announced a '**Virtual ID**'.
 - The Aadhaar-card holder can generate these temporary **16- digit Virtual IDs** from UIDAI's website and give it for various purposes, wherever Aadhaar number is necessary to provide.
- For the first time, an **All-woman bikers** contingent from the **Border Security Force (BSF)** was part of the **Republic Day parade** this year.
 - The contingent, named '**Seema Bhavani**', was including women aged between 25 and 30 years, who are drawn from various combat ranks of the force.
 - The women contingents of Army, Navy, Air Force made their debut in 2015.
- The **External Affairs Ministry** has announced that the **last page of passports**, which carries the **holder's address**, will no longer be printed, making the document an invalid address proof.
 - This comes after a committee recommended that the father's name, which is also on the last page, be omitted.
- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** announced the introduction of **Face authentication** feature for **Aadhaar** users by **July 1, 2018**.
- **India** became the 43rd member of the **Australia Group**, which counters the **export of material, equipment and technologies** that could create **chemical and biological weapons**.
 - In 2016, **India** had joined the **Missile Technology Control Regime**, aimed at restricting missile proliferation.
 - Last year, **India** joined the **Wassenaar Arrangement**, which controls export of conventional weapons.
- In a move aimed at promoting **Indian traditions** abroad, **India** is going to offer **Yoga training** sessions at the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** in **Davos, Switzerland**.
 - **PM Narendra Modi** was the **first Indian Prime Minister** to attend the summit in 21 years.
- **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** performed the '**Halwa**' ceremony to mark the commencement of the printing process for **Budget 2018-19**.
 - The Halwa ceremony is conducted to maintain the **secrecy of the budget preparation process**.
 - After the ceremony, the Finance Ministry officials are not allowed to leave the printing press until the Budget is presented on **1st February 2018**.
- **China** is going to build a '**Great Wall**' along the border of the **Muslim-dominated Xinjiang** province to prevent infiltration by militants.
- Ahead of the nation's **Republic Day** on 26th January, the **Microblogging site Twitter** has introduced an '**India Gate**' emoji.
 - The emoji appears when you type hash tags including '**#RepublicDay**' and '**#HappyRepublicDay**' while composing a tweet.
- **6 Southeast Asian** nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei) formed an initiative titled '**Our Eyes**'.
 - Aim of '**Our Eyes**': To counter terrorism and extremism in the region.
- **India** celebrated its **69th Republic Day** with a record 10 heads of state from ASEAN Nations, watching the grand parade with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at **Rajpath, Delhi**.

General - International

- To battle sexual harassment, **300 Hollywood celebrities** including **Jennifer Lawrence** and **Meryl Streep**, have launched a campaign named '**Time's Up**'.

- The **US state** of **California** legalized the sale of **recreational marijuana**, over 20 years after legalizing its **medical use**. With this, it has become the **sixth US state** to do so.
- **Iceland** has become the **first country** in the world to make it **illegal to pay men more than women**.
- **North Korea** has accepted **South Korea's proposal** to hold **official talks** to discuss **inter-Korean relations** and its **possible participation** in the **Winter Olympics in South Korea** next month.
 - These will be the first high-level talks between the two after a communication gap of more than two years.
- The **United States** has placed **Pakistan** on 'Special Watch List' for "severe violations" of **religious freedom**.
 - Pakistan is the only country to be put under the newly-formed list.
- **Pakistan** has decided to allow the **Chinese yuan** to be used for **imports, exports** and **financing transactions** for **bilateral trade** and **investment activities**.
- **China** is planning to build its **second overseas military base** in **Pakistan** near the **Gwadar port**.
 - The base would be used to dock and maintain naval vessels, as well as provide other logistical support services.
- The **South Australian** government has approved a proposal of a US-based company to build the world's largest **solar-thermal power plant** in the **Australian state**.
 - The 150-megawatt plant which worths over **3,200 crore**, will create **650 construction jobs** and 50 ongoing positions when completed.
- The **Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry** announced that it has granted citizenship to **WikiLeaks** founder **Julian Assange**.
- For the first time in more than 60 years, the **Sri Lankan government** announced that it is going to **allow women over the age of 18** to buy **alcohol legally**.
- **Nepal** has started **accessing internet** from **China** after commercial operation of **Nepal-China optical fibre link** via **Rasuwagadhi gateway** across **Himalayan Mountains** became operational.
 - This project now ends Nepal's sole dependence on India for internet bandwidth. Both revenue wise and strategically, it is a big loss for India.
- **Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedoy** has issued an order **banning women from driving** in the country.
- **China** has set up world's first **3D-printed bus stops** in **Fengjing** (Shanghai). The bus stops have a closed loop design, accommodating two-round stools inside the structure.
- The **US** officially opened its **new embassy** in **London** which is believed to be the **world's most expensive embassy**.
 - The embassy worths over **6,400 crore** and is designed like a **crystalline cube**.
- **China** has constructed a 330-foot tall air purifying tower dubbed the "**world's biggest air purifier**".
 - The tower, which is being tested by researchers, has produced more than **10 million** cubic meters of clean air since it was launched.
- The government of **Iran** has lifted restrictions on use of **Internet**, including messaging app **Telegram**.
 - These restrictions were put after **protests** against unemployment and rising consumer prices in December 2017.
- **Saudi Arabia's King Salman** has ordered deposit of **\$2 billion** into **Yemen's central bank** to support the country's national currency rial.
 - This comes a day after the **Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed bin Daghr** publicly appealed for funds to save the local currency.

- The **US** government has officially **shut down** after the **Senate failed to agree on a bill to fund** the government until **February 16**, causing the **fourth** government shutdown in **25 years**.
- **Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena** announced that he would take control over the country's economy from **Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe** amid the **crisis** between the ruling **United National Party (UNP)** and its coalition partner.
- **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**.
- The **UK government** has approved a plan to build a **memorial in London** to honour the **Indian Sikh servicemen** who fought for **Britain** during **WWI** and **WWII**.

Books and Authors

Book's Name

Author's Name

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Majuli: Resources and Challenges | Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti |
| • Imperfect | Sanjay Manjrekar |
| • Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House | Michael Wolff |
| • Dilli Meri Dilli : Before and After 1998 | Former Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit |
| • Staniya Svasasan Mei Addhi Aabadhi | Dr. Sadhana Pandey |
| • The Tall Man Biju Patnaik | Sundar Ganesan |
| • A comic book titled ' The Wall ', based on former India captain Rahul Dravid's life , has been released by Sportwalk , a Chennai based sports media and merchandise startup, on the occasion of the cricketer's 45 th birthday. | |
| • Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched a graphic novel series titled ' Bharat Ke Veer '. | |
| – Publisher of this Book : Amar Chitra Katha. | |
| – Publications Author of this Book : Anurag Agarwal. | |

THE CHENNAI SCHOOL OF BANKING

TO THE POINTS: JANUARY-2018

- **Vijay Keshav Gokhale** has been appointed as new foreign secretary.
- **Telangana** state government on January 01, 2018 launched a round-the-clock power supply to the state's 2.3 million farmers free of cost.
- The first draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam recognized **1.9 crore** people as Indian citizens.
- **Haryana** state government has approved service bye-laws for contractual employees working under the National Health Mission (NHM) in the state.
- **Karnataka** state government would be obtaining electric vehicles under the Centre's FAME-India scheme recently.
- **Uttar Pradesh** would be the theme state for the 32nd Surajkund International Crafts fair, beginning from the first week of February at Faridabad in Haryana.
- Uttar Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy-2017 was notified under **Noida, Greater Noida, and Yamuna Expressway** have been declared as electronics manufacturing zones.
- Jammu frontier of the Border Security Force (BSF) was celebrated its 38th raising day on **January 01**.

- **Nagaland** has been declared as “disturbed area” for six more months, till June- end, under the controversial AFSPA.
- **Kerala** government has decided to set up a Madrasa Teachers Welfare Fund Board to make available pension and other benefits for Madrasa teachers.
- **GAIL** has placed orders for ~400-km for pipeline connectivity from Dobhi (Bihar) to Durgapur (West Bengal).
- Markets regulator SEBI has imposed a total penalty of Rs.10 lakh on Prime Capital Market and Warner Multimedia for disclosure lapses in the matter of Blue Circle Services.
- **Nepal** has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in a bid to reduce accidents.
- Global Family Day was observed on **January 01**.
- **Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates** introduced value-added tax from January 01, 2018.
- **Germany** is set to start enforcing a law that demands social media sites move quickly to remove hate speech, fake news and illegal material.
- India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear installations for the **27th** consecutive time under the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations Agreement.
- **Vidarbha** team won the Ranji Trophy title 2017.
- **Manu Bhaker** has emerged as the best shooter in Pistol events in the 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions.
- **Ashwini Ponnappa** has been named as Co-org Person of the year.
- **Salil Parekh** took charge as managing director and chief executive of IT major Infosys.
- **PJ Nayak** has been appointed as Chairman of Ayana Renewable Power.
- Traditional folk art form festival ‘Utsavam 2018’ will be held in **Kerala**.
- The Indian Railways will soon launch its own debit card in association with **State Bank of India** and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to promote cashless payments.
- The Minister of Women & Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi has inaugurated an online portal **NARI** in New Delhi.
- Merchants won’t have to pay any Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) to banks on all debit cards, BHIM UPI, and Aadhaar-based transactions of up to Rs.2000 from January 1.
- India’s first floating market is set to open for public in January 2018, in **Kolkata**.
- **China** has developed a new underwater surveillance network along the maritime Silk Road, which includes the Indian Ocean.
- **Andhra Pradesh** government has launched the ‘Janmabhoomi-Maa Vooru’ programme.
- **Haryana** government has directed the irrigation department to implement the integrated solar-based micro irrigation scheme in all districts of the state.
- The Indian Railways have decided to give a discount of Rs.100 to passengers if food booked for the journey isn’t served on time in the train.
- Cobblers in **Haryana** can now look forward to getting bank loans of up to Rs.15,000 for setting up kiosks in the state under a new scheme.
- A law mandating equal pay for men and women in **Iceland** came into effect, making it the first country to have such legislation.

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided financial assistance of Rs.10000 crore to **Odisha** by end of the third quarters of the current financial year.
- Anwar Jalalpuri who passed away recently was a **Poet**.
- **Abhay** has taken charge as the new chief of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- **Uttar Pradesh** Transport Department will introduce vehicle registration number portability soon, allowing owners to retain vehicle numbers even if they sell it.
- An Indian-origin philanthropist in **South Africa** has been elected to a US-based global organization which works for the welfare of the community.
- **Assam** government has launched a free CT scan service under 'Chief Minister Free Diagnostic Services'.
- The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of an AIIMS in **Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh**.
- The Union Cabinet was apprised of a pact between India and **Italy** for cooperation in the field of renewable energy.
- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a pact signed between India and the **USA** for co-hosting the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2017 in India.
- **Rajinder Khanna** has been appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor by PM Narendra Modi-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- **Meghalaya** was signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of Asia's longest bi-directional Zojila Pass tunnel at an estimated cost of Rs.6089 crore in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The government has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and **UK** to improve public transport in the country.
- A spot fine of Rs.500 will be imposed on people found defecating in open in **Maharashtra**.
- The Cabinet has approved an agreement signed between India and **Belgium** to increase cooperation in the field of information and communication technology.
- Madhukarrao Kimmattkar who passed away recently, he was a former minister of **Maharashtra**.
- **Ravi Menon** has been named as the best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018.
- **West Bengal** recently got a logo highlighting the "Biswa Bangla" theme with Ashoka Pillars.
- **Pakistan** Navy successfully test-fired its indigenously-built naval cruise missile 'Harba' in the Arabian Sea.
- Meghalaya Chief Minister **Mukul Sangma** inaugurated the 40 MW Umtru hydro-electric project at Dehal in Ri Bhoi district.
- The RBI issued new Rs.10 notes under the Mahatma Gandhi series with chocolate brown color as the base; The note will reportedly feature a picture of **Konark Sun Temple**.
- World Braille Day was observed on **January 04**.
- An international yoga festival recently held on **Puducherry**.
- **China** is planning to build a 13.8 billion yuan (\$2.12 billion) artificial intelligence development park.
- **China** has developed a new underwater surveillance network to help its submarines lock on to targets.

- NASA has announced that it would launch two missions to explore the little-understood area of **96** km above Earth's surface.
- **Delhi Daredevils** team has appointed former Australian captain Ricky Ponting as their new head coach for the 2018 season.
- **T S Tirumurti** was appointed as the Secretary (Economic Relations) in the External Affairs Ministry.
- **Maharashtra** has planned to form the International Education Board.
- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated and laid foundation stones for nearly 200 projects worth more than Rs. **300** crore.
- Rating agency Fitch has announced that India has the potential to grow at an average **6.7%** rate over the next five years.
- **Health Ministry** launched a seven-month online course designed by Tata Memorial to help non-cancer specialists detect early signs of the disease, especially in villages and smaller cities.
- Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport has become the **5th** Indian airport having CAT III B landing system, enabling flights to land even when visibility is 50 metres.
- **Uttar Pradesh** education board has been approached by the government of Nepal for "support and guidance" to its newly established National Examination Board of Nepal.
- **Saudi Arabia** was intercepted a ballistic missile over the kingdom's southern province of Najran, bordering Yemen.
- **Mohamed Salah** was named African Footballer of the Year for 2017.
- Pacer Jasprit Bumrah became India's **290th** Test player after making his Test debut in the first Test against South Africa.
- Air Marshal Asghar Khan who passed away recently, he was the first native commander-in-chief of **Pakistan** Air Force.
- **Manipur** gets waste management plant to preserve green cover recently.
- **Assam** government inaugurated various skill development centres across the state.
- A Defence Innovation Centre would be set up in **Coimbatore** by industry body CODISSIA.
- India's first park for people with special needs was opened in **Hyderabad**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** government was set to launch a major welfare initiative for workers in the unorganized sector to provide them institutionalized socio- economic security.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** would get its first Film and Television Institute, being set up by the union government as part of tapping the potential of the North Eastern Region.
- **West Bengal** gets the official emblem of the state government, the emblem featuring the 'Biswa Bangla' logo.
- The Indian Navy and **Cochin Port Trust** have entered into an Memorandum of Understanding for utilizing the Port's berthing facility at Mattancherry wharf for Naval ships.
- The international kite festival was held in **Gujarat**.
- The India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) is set to hold the country's first startup competition in **New Delhi**.
- World Sweet Festival to be held in **Hyderabad** from January 13.

- Paytm Payments Bank has partnered with **IndusInd Bank** to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds Rs.1 lakh at the end of day.
- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** plans to issue its first US dollar-denominated bond with minimum worth of a USD billion by June this year.
- **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** won the Best Motion Picture Award in the drama category at this year's 75th Golden Globe Awards.
- **Iceland** has stepped up for equality and has become the first country in the world to legalize equal pay.
- The World Day of War Orphans was observed on **January 06**.
- **Kerala** government is procuring 50 robots which are developed to clean sewer holes.
- **Elina Svitolina** won the Brisbane International tennis title 2018.
- **Roger Federer** won the Mastercard Hopman Cup title 2018.
- Astronaut John Young who passed away recently, he was from **USA**.
- **Nitish Kumar** was conferred with the first Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award for Probity in Politics and Public Life.
- AR Rahman was named the official brand ambassador of **Sikkim**.
- **Kerala** state Police has decided to add high-tech cameras as part of its uniform in a bid to improve security measures in the state.
- Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved is likely to partner with **Eight** leading e-tailers including Amazon, Flipkart, and Paytm Mall, to push the online sale of its FMCG products.
- **Uber** is re-launching its 'Auto' service in India, almost two years after shutting down the offering in March 2016.
- **Haryana** state government has set up a state road safety council under the chairmanship of transport minister and district road safety committees.
- **Iran** has banned the teaching of English in primary schools.
- The Indian Railways has announced its plan to equip all 8,500 rural and urban stations across the country with Wi-Fi by **March 2019**.
- **Ethereum** has surpassed Ripple to become the world's second largest cryptocurrency.
- The Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival, the world's largest ice festival has kicked off in **China**.
- **Haryana** has achieved the distinction of becoming the first state in the country to launch High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal.
- India and **Nepal** have reached an agreement to resolve differences on reconstructing damaged pillars along the mutual border.
- Shrivallabh Vyas who passed away recently was an **Actor**.
- The government has extended the deadline for linking Aadhaar with small saving schemes by **March 31 2018**.
- **Dilip Asbe** has been appointed as MD and CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- **Karen Bradley** has been appointed as new Northern Ireland secretary.
- Rajesh Ranjan has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to **Botswana**.

- India's fastest supercomputer with "multi-petaflops" was dedicated to nation in **Pune**.
- A string of butterfly parks, providing natural habitat for beautiful flying insects that is getting endangered, will soon play as 'eco-monitors' in **Kerala**.
- **Bihar** state government has banned e-cigarette recently.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was observed on **January 09**.
- Ola, the taxi hailing app, has tied up with **ICICI Bank** to provide a range of integrated offers, including micro-credit to their customers.
- **IndusInd Bank** and Dynamics Inc have announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards in the Indian market in 2018.
- Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe has partnered mobile wallet company **FreeCharge** to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- China has agreed to stop road construction activity at Bhising area in upper Siang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Yusuf Pathan** has been handed a five-month back-dated suspension by the BCCI for testing positive for a banned substance during a domestic T20 competition in March 2017.
- **Aditya Mehta** won the Kolkata Open International Invitation Snooker Championship.
- **K Sivan** has been appointed as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to replace of A S Kiran Kumar.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed **Harjinder Singh** as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang.
- The World Hindi Day was observed on **January 10**.
- The World Bank has projected India's GDP growth rate at 7.3% for 2018 and 7.5% for the next two years.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Canada** for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology.
- **Bhopal railway station** has become India's first railway station to have a sanitary napkin vending machine.
- **Rajasthan** government has decided to digitize 10,000 pages daily to preserve administrative and historical records of Rajputana's princely states.
- Paytm has announced setting up of its wealth management division **Paytm Money** for users to store cash and earn interest.
- **Bank of Maharashtra** and Aviva Life Insurance have entered into a corporate agency arrangement to distribute the latter's products.
- India's IndiGo is the **Fourth** most 'mega carrier' in the world.
- India and **Malaysia** have discussed cooperation in the field of traditional systems of medicine.
- **Aanchal Thakur** won the first-ever medal for India at an international skiing event.
- **Bahrain** going to host first-ever Baby Olympics Games.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was honored with a Doctorate of Literature (D.Litt.) degree by **Calcutta University**.
- The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal allowing **100%** foreign direct investment (FDI) in single-brand retail via automatic route.

- **SanDisk** has unveiled a prototype of what it claims is the world's smallest 1 TB USB flash drive at CES 2018.
- **Maharashtra** government is planning to introduce a separate category for orphans appearing for various competitive exams.
- **Sunny Verghese** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development.
- **Indu Malhotra** became the first ever female lawyer to be directly recommended for the position of a Supreme Court judge by the Collegium.
- Ministry of Railways have launched Smart Freight Operation Optimization & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for Freight Managers, **Piyush Goyal** is the Union Minister of Railways.
- The 4th Annual Women Leadership Summit held at **IIM-Bangalore**.
- US approves Rs.800-crore anti-ballistic missile sale to **Japan**.
- **Europe** based researchers have discovered that liquid water can be cooled down to -42.55°C, far below its normal freezing point of 0°C.
- **Australia** to build world's largest solar-thermal power plant.
- **Wonder Woman** has won the award for Best Action Movie at the 2018 Critics' Choice Awards.
- International Business Machines Corp was appointed **James Kavanaugh** as chief financial officer.
- **Kerala** government allowed prisoners lodged in the state's jails to donate their organs to close relatives.
- 12th International Film Festival on Art and Artist held in **Odisha**.
- **Kazakhstan** has overtaken Iraq as the biggest over-producer in the pact between Organizations of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- **Maharashtra** government is now planning to ban plastic banners, containers and hoardings, among others, by March 2018.
- **Haryana** government is contemplating implementation of an insurance scheme in the health sector for the people of the state.
- National Youth Day was observed on **January 12**.
- The National Company Law Tribunal has approved the proposed merger between Idea Cellular and **Vodafone**.
- Indian space agency ISRO launched its **100th** satellite along with 30 others in a single mission from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh.
- India has granted a financial assistance worth over Rs.288 crore (\$45.27 million) for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour in **Sri Lanka**.
- Sukhchain Singh Cheema who passed away recently was a **Wrestler**.
- The Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF) was held in **New Delhi**.
- India has signed a MoU with the **UK** to enable the return of illegal Indian migrants within a month of their detection by authorities abroad.
- The 13th annual Iron Fist exercises kicked off in the U.S. It was a joint military exercise between USA and **Japan**.

- **Anil Khanna** has been named Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- **India** has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year.
- **India** has contributed USD 50,000 to the UN's youth mission which works to raise awareness and attention to youth issues globally.
- The World Economic Forum ranked India **30th** on a global manufacturing index.
- **IDFC Bank** and Capital First to merge in Share Swap Deal.
- **Ethiopia** has banned adoption of children by foreign families amid concerns that the children face abuse.
- Johnson & Johnson partners with **Maharashtra** government on health interventions.
- The iconic Teen Murti Chowk has been renamed after the Israeli City **Haifa**.
- **Saudi Arabia** has allowed women to attend a men's football match for the first time from a sports stadium recently.
- **Both INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat** warships decommissioned recently.
- Microsoft Accelerator has partnered with **Accenture** to help scale B2B (businesses catering to businesses) startups in national and international markets.
- As per the National survey conducted by the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4), Poorest state of India is **Bihar**.
- ISRO is set to conduct a "bungee jump" on **Chandrayaan-2**.
- The Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** was visited to India for a six-day state visit.
- **Haryana** claimed to have logged the highest ever sex ratio of 914 girls against 1,000 boys in 2017.
- Sarjubala Devi representing Manipur claimed the **Gold** in 48 kg category in the National Women's Boxing Championships in Rohtak, Haryana.
- **Yuki Bhambri** among the Indian players qualified for the Australian Open recently.
- **Sudhir Dalvi** was honored with the Janakavi P Sawlaram award at Thane, Maharashtra.
- SEBI has approved appointment of **Vijay Kumar** as Managing Director and CEO of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDRI) in **New Delhi**.
- **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** has launched month long Saksham 2018 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav).
- Indian Army Day was observed on **January 15**.
- **LG** has unveiled a hospitality robot at CES 2018 designed to deliver food and drinks to travelers in hotels and airport lounges.
- **Federal Bank** has entered into a strategic partnership with Hedge Equities for providing portfolio investment scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.
- India and **Israel** have inked nine pacts in key areas, including cyber security and oil & gas sectors.
- India and **Sri Lanka** have signed four agreements for collaboration in ICT sector, setting up of e-office system and connecting of National Knowledge network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics.

- **Assam** won the Hockey India 8th Sub-Junior Men's National Championship 2018.
- Raghunath Jha who passed away recently, he served as Union Minister of state for **Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise**.
- Gnani Sankaran who passed away recently, he was a famous **Tamil** writer, journalist and theatre personality.
- Buddhadev Dasgupta who passed away recently was a **Musician**.
- Charu Rohatgi who passed away recently was an **Actress**.
- **Ajendra Bahadur Singh** took charge as the new Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command.
- **Odisha** government launched the 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana' (MMKSJ) - an assistance scheme for Artists in the state.
- **Telegram** is developing a blockchain platform to rival world's second biggest crypto Ethereum and is seeking to raise \$1.2 billion through an Initial Coin Offering (ICO).
- **Maharashtra** government is planning to link the Public Distribution System (PDS) with Aadhaar across all the 52,000 ration shops in the state by March End.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** government has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) to bring normalcy in the state through education reforms.
- Digital invoice discounting marketplace - Invoicemart has tied up with **Bank of Baroda** to discount invoices for MSMEs.
- **India** for the first time, took part in a meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- **Bajaj Finance** will acquire 12.60% stake in digital wallet startup Mobikwik.
- **Italy** participated as partner country in the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) for second year in a row.
- NK Trikha who passed away recently was a **Journalist**.
- The government has appointed **S Selva Kumar** as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL).
- The biennial search and rescue exercise by ships and aircraft from the Indian and **Japan** Coast Guards, to be witnessed by observers from 27 maritime nations.
- **Karnataka** state Government has decided to use the blockchain technology and is planning to bring out a White Paper on 'Blockchain Use in Governance' as a prelude to a separate policy.
- **Grab** has acquired Bangalore-based payments startup iKaaz.
- **Haryana** government has decided to form a new non-banking financial company (NBFC) to act as an in-house treasury manager for efficient management of surplus funds of state public enterprises and autonomous bodies.
- Samsung India has launched a new shopping app and service, called **Samsung Mall**, exclusively for the Indian market.
- **Gujarat** to get largest accelerator for start-ups - "DevX".
- The Adani Group would invest Rs.750 crore to double the capacity of the company's edible oil refinery in **West Bengal**.
- World's biggest flooded cave found in **Mexico**.

- **China** has constructed an experimental air purifying tower, touted to be the worlds biggest at a height of over 100 meters (328 feet).
- **Mumbai** has been ranked as Asia's fifth most expensive rental city for expatriates.
- World's fifth largest diamond discovered in **Lesotho**.
- **Microsoft** tops Thomson Reuters top 100 global tech leaders list.
- Famous footballer Ronaldinho has retired from football, he belongs to **Brazil**.
- W.B. Rao who passed away recently, he was a renowned **Hindi** film cinematographer.
- Ava Mukherjee who passed away recently was an **Actress**.
- Qlik, a leader in data analytics has announced the appointment of **Arun Balasubramanian** as its Country Manager for India.
- Issuer-independent digital financial services platform MobiKwik has announced the appointment of **Puneet Agarwal** as the chief risk officer.
- **Maharashtra** government has announced 1% reservation for orphans in government jobs and education.
- **Andhra Pradesh** government and NITI Aayog have entered into a MoU for development of monitoring mechanism.
- **Maharashtra** government announced its State Innovation and Start-up Policy, aiming to generate five lakh jobs in the next five years.
- The Central government will set up a \$350 million fund to finance solar projects as the country steps up efforts to achieve its ambitious target of adding 175 gigawatts (GW) in renewable energy by 2022.
- 10th Global Forum for Food & Agriculture held in **Berlin**.
- **HDFC Bank** was crossed Rs.5 trillion market capitalization for the first time, making it only the third Indian company to achieve this milestone.
- **Viorica Dancila** is the new Prime Minister of Romania.
- The government has announced **April 01** as the deadline for the mandatory installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices and panic buttons in all passenger transport vehicles, including taxis and buses.
- **State Bank of India** ties up with Transfast Remittance LLC for remittance.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** account holders can now order physical debit cards from the App.
- Amplus Energy Solutions has signed a MoU with **Yes Bank** for a strategic tie-up to co-finance projects in the solar energy sector in India.
- **India** overtook the US to take the second spot for the number of app downloads in 2017, as per the App Annie 2017 Retrospective report.
- India has successfully conducted the "first pre-induction trial" of it's over 5,000-km range **Agni-V** intercontinental ballistic missile.
- **Britain** has appointed politician Tracey Crouch as the minister to tackle the epidemic of loneliness.
- **Virat Kohli** was named as the ICC Cricketer of the Year.
- **Steve Smith** has been named as ICC's Test Cricketer of the Year.
- **Susanta Kumar Roy** has been appointed as Director (Projects), NTPC, the state-owned company.

- **Sudeep Lakhtakia** has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the 'black cats' commando force (NSG).
- **Harish Manwani** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Executive Board of the Indian School of Business (ISB).
- In a first, India will host Yoga training sessions at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in **Switzerland**.
- **Microsoft** is developing an artificial intelligence technology (AI) that can generate images based on text descriptions.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** has signed a MoU with LIC to offer Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).
- India became the **43rd** member of the Australia Group, which counters the export of material, equipment and technologies that could create chemical and biological weapons.
- **Telangana** government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Clean Authority of Tokyo for solid waste management.
- **Tamil Nadu** government is in the process of coming out with an exclusive Aerospace and Defence policy.
- **Britain** has announced the world's first public register that requires overseas companies that own or buy property in the country to provide details of their ultimate owners.
- **Kerala** to setup first block chain academy in India.
- **Whatsapp** has formally announced the launch of a new 'Business' application.
- Anandiben Patel has been appointed governor of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **P.P. Chaudhary** was conferred with the Honorary Fellowship of Institute of Company secretaries of India (ICSI).
- Union Government launches **100** accessible websites for Divyangs.
- Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri has announced the commencement of the country's first-ever 'Livability Index' to rank **116** cities.
- **Maharashtra** government has approved Rs.4000-crore project aimed at promoting climate-resilient agriculture, to be partially funded by the World Bank.
- **Telangana** government had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Clean Authority of Tokyo in connection with municipal solid waste incineration.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** will host its maiden international martial arts games event in October this year, in which over a dozen countries are expected to participate.
- **Odisha** government has launched e-Hospital Management Information System in which paperwork would be reduced and diagnostic reports, prescription details.
- **Arun Jaitley** launched the National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal.
- Turkey began a military operation against the Kurdish militia in **Syria**.
- The fourth edition of the India International Science Festival will be held in **Lucknow**.
- **INS 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.
- A second passenger bus to Kolkata via Dhaka was started from Agartala, Tripura, to give a boost to the trans-border relationship between India and Bangladesh. The second bus service has been named **Maitre-2**.

- **Russia** and the European Union (EU) have signed agreements to finance and implement two new cross-border cooperation programmes for the period until 2020.
- Chandi Lahiri who passed away recently was a **Cartoonist**.
- **Hindi Medium** has been named Best Film at Filmfare Awards 2018.
- **Om Prakash Rawat** took charge as the Chief Election Commissioner in place of Achal Kumar Joti.
- **ONGC** to acquire government's entire stake in HPCL for Rs.36,915 crore.
- Nutrient-rich millets have got a boost with the Union government deciding to declare **2018** as the 'national year of millets'.
- Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) to set up training, resource centre in **Hyderabad**.
- **New Delhi** hosted the Ramayana Festival of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.
- **Tamil Nadu** will host its first-ever bi-annual defence exhibition in April.
- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** announced the Cyber Surakshit Bharat to strengthen the cybersecurity ecosystem in India.
- **Axis Bank** is partnering with NGO Srijan through an initiative called Buddha Fellowship Programme to help nurture talent for the development sector.
- **Apple** ranked in the top spot in Fortune's list of the world's most admired companies.
- **India** won the Blind Cricket World Cup title 2018.
- Industry Chamber FICCI has appointed **Dilip Chenoy** as its Director General.
- India was ranked at the **62nd** place among emerging economies on an Inclusive Development Index.
- Aviation services trainer Flight Simulation Technique Centre (FSTC) has set up a simulation services centre in **Hyderabad**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** government launched "social equality" movement through a "cultural integration" trust.
- **USA** to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's second-largest oil producer this year, according to forecasts by International Energy Agency (IEA).
- India's 1st Garbage Festival organized in **Chhattisgarh**.
- World Bank and India have inked \$ 120 million loan agreement which will help increase access to improved water supply services in **Uttarakhand**.
- **Facebook** launches 'Marketplace' to buy, sell goods in India.
- **Valletta** has been officially inaugurated as the European City of Culture, 2018.
- **Siddharth Pratap Singh** won the Swedish Open Junior International title.
- Jimmy Armfield who passed away recently was a **Football Player**.
- **S Somnath** has taken charge as the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), which is ISRO's lead centre for launch vehicles.
- **Shah Rukh Khan** was awarded with the Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum 2018.
- Srikumar Menon has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **South Sudan**.
- The Minister of State (IC), for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone for Central Research Institute (CRI) in **Jaipur**.

- **UAE** has launched a mobile app for Indians seeking work visas in a bid to simplify the application process.
- **Andhra Pradesh** government and the Canton of Zurich have signed a letter of intent, to promote mutual prosperity and development.
- India has emerged as the **Fifth** most attractive market for investments and the optimism over global economic growth is at a record level, a survey of CEOs by global consultancy.
- **Spain** scientists developed an artificial intelligence (AI) system that can predict the likelihood of corruption in a government as well as the conditions that favor their appearance.
- George Weah has been sworn in as the new President of **Liberia**.
- India is projected to grow at **7.4%** of its gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018 as against China's 6.8%, the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Digital payments startup Paytm has introduced **Paytm for Business** app for merchants and businesses to accept payments instantly for zero charges.
- **Indian Overseas Bank** has signed a MoU with National Housing Bank for the Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHIS) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- The 2018 edition of the Women's World T20 will be hosted by **West Indies**.
- Trumpeter and singer Hugh Masekela who passed away recently, he belongs to **South Africa**.
- FKK Sircar who passed away recently, he was a former **Army Major**.
- Nara Lokesh was felicitated with Dr. Kalam Innovation in Governance Award 2018 here at the Dr. Kalam Centre; He is the present Information Technology (IT) Minister of **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Jerome H Powell** has been appointed as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve.
- World War II Memorial Museum inaugurated in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The government announced **88000** crore capital infusion in 20 public sector banks (PSBs) during the current fiscal.
- **China** will build a 'Great Wall' along the border of the Muslim-dominated Xinjiang province to prevent infiltration by militants.
- National Girl Child Day was observed on **January 24**.
- The 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting will be held in **New Delhi**.
- India ranked **81** on Global competitiveness Index.
- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), and **Dubai** ports operator DP World Pvt. Ltd, have announced the creation of an investment platform to invest up to \$3 billion in ports.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) was announced a new Global Centre for Cybersecurity in **Geneva**.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) in partnership with India's most valued firm Reliance Industries (RIL) has agreed to set up a new Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) in **Mumbai**.
- Rakhi Halder related to **Weightlifting**.
- **Usha Ananthasubramanian** has been elected as the first woman Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- **Assam** assembly will introduce digital budget in its next session, doing away with the traditional printed booklet form practice.
- **Jharkhand** recently launched 'Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat' in the state.

- **UK** has announced a dedicated national security unit to combat fake news and disinformation.
- **Tripura** is getting a new bridge, road and rail links to serve as gateway to Chittagong Port.
- The third edition of international spice conference will be held at **Jaipur**.
- National Voters' Day or Rashtriya Matdata Diwas was observed on **January 25**.
- National Tourism Day was observed on **January 25**.
- India Ranks **177** in Environmental Performance Index.
- India and **Vietnam** have released first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to mark the long term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries.
- **Alphabet** launched a new business unit that will sell cyber security software to Fortune 500 companies.
- The award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer Ursula K. Le Guin passed away recently, she was from **USA**.
- **Jyoti Prakash Nirala** was conferred with India's highest peacetime gallantry award, Ashok Chakra.
- **V Narayanan** has assumed charge as Director of the space agency's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).
- **China** researchers have successfully cloned a macaque monkey fetus twice, producing sister monkeys Hua Hua and Zhong Zhong using the same basic method used to create Dolly.
- India celebrated its 69th Republic Day with a grand parade along with **10** ASEAN leaders who attended the event as chief guests, in a historic first.
- India and **Vietnam** has signed a MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of information and broadcasting.
- Ride-hailing startup Uber is planning to launch its bike service UberMOTO in **Amritsar and Kanpur**.
- **China** unveiled plans to build a 'Polar Silk Road' across the Arctic as part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held in **New Delhi**.
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has launched the beneficiary module of the Rapid Reporting System (RRS) for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.
- The government has cut GST rate from 12% to **8%** on houses purchased using the credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna.
- India's first floating market opened in **Kolkata**.
- US create task force to promote 'internet freedom' in **Cuba**.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS : JANUARY-2018

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. The 70th edition of Army Day 2018 has celebrated on which date in India?
(1) January 16 (2) January 14 (3) January 15 (4) January 13 (5) None of these
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated PCA against Allahabad Bank over its high bad loans. What does "PCA" stands for?
(1) Principal Component Action (2) Principal Complaints Action
(3) Prompt Control Action (4) Prompt Corrective Action (5) None of these
3. NABARD has signed pact with which bank to promote Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) in Bengal?
(1) Punjab National Bank (2) Bank of India (3) State Bank of India
(4) Dena Bank (5) None of these
4. The Rajasthan Government has tied up with which bank to promote and nurture startups in the state?
(1) SBI (2) HDFC Bank (3) ICICI Bank (4) PNB (5) None of these
5. The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) has signed MoU with which Payments Bank to provide training on payment banking?
(1) Paytm Payments Bank (2) Airtel Payments Bank (3) Fino Payments Bank
(4) India Post Payments Bank (5) None of these
6. Who has become the first woman lawyer to be directly promoted as a judge of the Supreme Court (SC)?
(1) Roma Joseph (2) Sudha Misra (3) Meenakshi Arora
(4) Indu Malhotra (5) None of these
7. Who is the head of the newly-constituted 5-judge constitution bench of the SC to hear a range of crucial cases?
(1) AK Sikri (2) AM Khanwilkar (3) Dipak Mishra
(4) Ashok Bhushan (5) None of these
8. Which committee has been constituted by the Election Commission (EC) to suggest changes to Representation of the People Act in view of social media expansion?
(1) Umesh Sinha committee (2) Pukhraj Kukreja committee (3) N K Singh committee
(4) Nilesh Gupta committee (5) None of these
9. Which state will be the theme state for the 32nd Surajkund International Crafts fair?
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Rajasthan
(4) Haryana (5) None of these
10. Which state government has recently received the approval for purchase of electric vehicles under Central government's FAME-India scheme?
(1) Karnataka (2) Assam (3) Himachal Pradesh
(4) Gujarat (5) None of these
11. The first draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) has released for which state?
(1) Nagaland (2) Assam (3) Punjab (4) Kerala (5) None of these
12. Which state has become the first Indian state to launch High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) portal?
(1) Punjab (2) Kerala (3) Haryana (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these

13. Which state government has launched Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana (MKSY) for artists?
(1) Odisha (2) Rajasthan (3) Assam (4) Kerala (5) None of these
14. The Chamara Dam is located in which state/UT?
(1) Puducherry (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Himachal Pradesh
(4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
15. The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) is located in which state?
(1) Uttarakhand (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Kerala
(4) Punjab (5) None of these
16. The Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP) is located in which state?
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Rajasthan (3) Uttar Pradesh
(4) Punjab (5) None of these
17. The Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) is located in which state?
(1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Assam (4) Manipur (5) None of these
18. India's second Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) will be set up in which state/UT?
(1) Mizoram (2) Tripura (3) Arunachal Pradesh
(4) Odisha (5) None of these
19. Where is the headquarters of the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA)?
(1) Chennai (2) Kochi (3) Kolkata (4) Bhubaneswar (5) None of these
20. Which city is hosting the International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR)?
(1) Kanpur (2) Chennai (3) Kochi (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
21. Which country is hosting the 10th Global Forum for Food & Agriculture (GFFA-2018)?
(1) France (2) Germany (3) India (4) China (5) None of these
22. The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched which operation on Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) International Border to curb infiltration?
(1) Operation Border (2) Operation Control (3) Operation Alert
(4) Operation Star (5) None of these
23. According to Union defence ministry, the Defence Innovation Centre (DIC) will be set up in which city to assist small industries in manufacturing components for the defence sector?
(1) Kochi (2) Coimbatore (3) Chennai (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
24. The Indian Navy has inked a MoU with which port trust for utilizing the Port's berthing facility at Mattancherry wharf for Naval ships?
(1) Kandla Port Trust (2) Kolkatta Port Trust (3) Cochin Port Trust
(4) Chennai Port Trust (5) None of these
25. The 13th joint military drill exercise "Iron Fist 2018" has started between United States and which country?
(1) South Korea (2) Japan (3) Germany (4) France (5) None of these
26. The Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2018' will be held in which city?
(1) Kochi (2) Visakhapatnam (3) New York (4) Seattle (5) None of these

27. The Telangana government has recently constituted the SC/ST Commission. Who will be the head of the Commission?
(1) Chilakamarri Narasimha (2) Boyilla Vidyasagar (3) M Rambal Naik
(4) Errolla Srinivas (5) None of these
28. Which union minister has launched a new start-up incubation centre "Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning (CEOL)" in Mangaluru?
(1) Arun Jaitley (2) Prakash Javadekar (3) Nirmala Sitharaman
(4) Ravi Shankar Prasad (5) None of these
29. Which union minister has launched an online portal NARI for the empowerment of women?
(1) Maneka Gandhi (2) Narendra Modi (3) Uma Bharti
(4) Smriti Irani (5) None of these
30. The Union Cabinet has recently given its approval for establishment of new AIIMS in which state under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)?
(1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Jammu & Kashmir (3) Tripura
(4) Nagaland (5) None of these
31. Which union minister will inaugurate the 2018 ASEAN-India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)?
(1) Rajnath Singh (2) Prakash Javadekar (3) Nitin Gadkari
(4) Sushma Swaraj (5) None of these
32. Which union ministry has launched India's first digital online oncology tutorial series?
(1) Ministry of Human Resource Development
(2) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(3) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(4) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(5) None of these
33. Which country's Prime Minister has inaugurated the third edition of the geo-political conference – Raisina Dialogue 2018?
(1) Israel (2) Canada (3) Afghanistan (4) Sweden (5) None of these
34. NITI Aayog has launched the first GIAN course on Sustainable Urban planning using Remote Sensing and GIS in which IIT institute?
(1) IIT Kanpur (2) IIT Indore (3) IIT Delhi (4) IIT Bombay (5) None of these
35. Which state government has launched Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna to promote climate-resilient agriculture?
(1) Odisha (2) Karnataka (3) Goa (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
36. Which union minister has recently launched 100 accessible websites for Divyangs?
(1) Narendra Modi (2) Alphons Kannanthanam
(3) Thaawarchand Gehlot (4) Narendra Singh Tomar (5) None of these
37. Which city is hosting the Conference on Transformation of Aspirational Districts?
(1) New Delhi (2) Kochi (3) Chennai (4) Bangalore (5) None of these
38. The 2018 Annual Conference of DGPs and IGP's has started in which state?
(1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Madhya Pradesh (3) Gujarat
(4) Assam (5) None of these

39. The Union Government has signed pact with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for logistics. Where is the headquarters of CII?
(1) Lucknow (2) New Delhi (3) Chennai (4) Kochi (5) None of these
40. Who has led Indian delegation at the 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) military cooperation meeting?
(1) Yogesh Kumar Shukla (2) Dinesh Kumar (3) Ajay Seth
(4) Akansha Ranjan (5) None of these
41. Who will lead the Indian delegation at the 48th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF-2018)?
(1) Narendra Modi (2) Suresh Prabhu (3) Arun Jaitley
(4) Sushma Swaraj (5) None of these
42. India has recently signed pacts with which country on illegal migrants' return?
(1) United States (2) United Kingdom (3) Germany
(4) France (5) None of these
43. The Delhi government has recently signed a friendship agreement with which country for cooperation in various fields?
(1) Germany (2) United States (3) Japan (4) France (5) None of these
44. Which country to host the mini-ministerial meeting of WTO members in Feb 2018 to revitalize the multi-lateral trade body?
(1) Israel (2) Argentina (3) India (4) United States (5) None of these
45. Which city hosted the 4th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF)?
(1) Jakarta (2) New Delhi (3) Brunei (4) Kuala Lumpur (5) None of these
46. Who is leading the Indian delegation to 10th Global Forum for Food & Agriculture (GFFA-2018) in Germany?
(1) Santosh Kumar Gangwar (2) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
(3) Alphons Kannanthanam (4) Jitendra Singh (5) None of these
47. India has contributed how much amount to UN's Youth Mission to raise awareness and attention to youth issues globally?
(1) \$1,50,000 (2) \$1,00,000 (3) \$50,000 (4) \$2,50,000 (5) None of these
48. What is the India's GDP forecast in 2018, as per World Bank's latest report "2018 Global Economic Prospects (GEP)"?
(1) 7.3% (2) 7.5% (3) 7.6% (4) 7.0% (5) None of these
49. What is the India's economic growth forecast for FY19, as per latest report by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)?
(1) 6.5% (2) 7.1% (3) 7.4% (4) 7.6% (5) None of these
50. KKR & Co. has become the India's first Foreign-Owned Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC). It is associated to which country?
(1) United States (2) France (3) Germany
(4) New Zealand (5) None of these

51. Which company has bagged the broadcast rights of 2018 Khelo India School Games (KISG)?
 (1) Sahara (2) Star Sports (3) Adidas (4) Reebok (5) None of these
52. Which commodity exchange has launched India's first agri-commodity options contract in guar seeds?
 (1) National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)
 (2) Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)
 (3) Universal Commodity Exchange (UCX)
 (4) National Multi-Commodity Exchange (NMCE)
 (5) None of these
53. ISRO has successfully launched Cartosat 2 Series satellite into space from which launch vehicle?
 (1) PSLV C-44 (2) PSLV C-42 (3) PSLV C-40 (4) PSLV C-46 (5) None of these
54. India's fastest and first multi-peta-flops supercomputer "Pratyush" has established at which institute?
 (1) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) Dehradun
 (2) Central Institute of Technology (CIT) Kokrajhar
 (3) Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Gwalior
 (4) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune
 (5) None of these
55. Which research arm of Indian Railways has launched "New Online Vendor Registration System"?
 (1) Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunication
 (2) Research Designs and Standards Organization
 (3) National Academy of Indian Railways
 (4) Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers
 (5) None of these
56. Which state hosted the 12th International Film Festival on Art and Artist 2018?
 (1) Assam (2) Kerala (3) Odisha (4) Manipur (5) None of these
57. The 171st Araadhanai Music Festival (AMF) has started in which state?
 (1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Odisha (4) Tripura (5) None of these
58. Which city to host the 2018 Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE)?
 (1) Bangalore (2) Bijapur (3) Mysuru (4) Hubli (5) None of these
59. The 2018 Mylapore festival has started in which state?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Kerala (3) Andhra Pradesh
 (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
60. Which city is hosting the Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018?
 (1) Kathmandu (2) Shimla (3) Gangtok
 (4) Itanagar (5) None of these
61. The 2018 International Kite Festival (Uttarayan) has launched in which city of Gujarat?
 (1) Surat (2) Ahmedabad (3) Gandhinagar (4) Vadodara (5) None of these
62. Which city to host World Sweet Festival (WSF-2018)?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Lucknow (3) Hyderabad (4) Chennai (5) None of these
63. Which state is hosting the 7th edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)?
 (1) Kerala (2) Karnataka (3) Uttar Pradesh (4) Chattisgarh (5) None of these

64. Which city is hosting the Ramayana Festival of ASEAN Countries?
 (1) Lucknow (2) New Delhi (3) Ahmedabad (4) Hyderabad (5) None of these
65. Which city to host the 4th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF-2018)?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Chennai (3) Ahmedabad (4) Lucknow (5) None of these
66. Who has taken charge as the Managing Director (MD) of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)?
 (1) Pankaj Jain (2) Sridhar Kumar (3) Arun K Shah (4) T S Joshi (5) None of these
67. Who has taken charge as the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) of National Cricket Academy (NCA)?
 (1) Rahul Johri (2) Tufan Ghosh (3) Saba Karim (4) MV Sridhar (5) None of these
68. Who has been appointed as the new Deputy National Security Adviser (NSA)?
 (1) Manish Pandey (2) Arvind Gupta (3) Rajinder Khanna
 (4) Nikhil Singh (5) None of these
69. Who has taken charge as the new chief of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)?
 (1) R R Bhatnagar (2) Rina Mitra (3) Abhay
 (4) Om Prajapati (5) None of these
70. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (REAT) for Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands?
 (1) Indira Banerjee (2) V Rajamani (3) N Swaminathan
 (4) B Rajendran (5) None of these
71. Who has been appointed as the Editor of the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)?
 (1) Gopal Guru (2) Paranjy Guha Thakurta (3) Geetanjali Das
 (4) Priyank Kumar (5) None of these
72. Who has been appointed the Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)?
 (1) Mukesh Agnihotri (2) Janardan Dwivedi (3) T S Tirumurti
 (4) Narayanan Chandrakumar (5) None of these
73. Which Indian-origin personality has been appointed as the Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)?
 (1) Bhupendra Kainthola (2) Sunny Verghese (3) Gurdip Singh
 (4) Sunil Chauhan (5) None of these
74. Which Bollywood personality has become the official brand ambassador of Sikkim?
 (1) Irrfan Khan (2) Naseeruddin Shah (3) Akshay Kumar
 (4) AR Rahman (5) None of these
75. Who has been appointed as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games (WOG-2018) by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) ?
 (1) Dhruv Batra (2) Abhinav Bindra (3) Harjinder Singh
 (4) Mary Kom (5) None of these
76. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Kerala Maritime Board (KMB)?
 (1) V J Mathew (2) M.A. Asif (3) M.P. Shibu
 (4) Prakash Iyer (5) None of these

77. Who has been appointed the Chairman of the newly formed Finance Commission by Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?
(1) Anil Khanna (2) BS Landge (3) GS Mander
(4) Tarlochan Singh (5) None of these
78. Which Bollywood personality has been named advocacy ambassador for Swachh Aaadat Swachh Bharat initiative?
(1) Priyanka Chopra (2) Kajol (3) Amitabh Bachchan
(4) Aamir Khan (5) None of these
79. Who has been appointed as new CMD of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL)?
(1) Anurag Agarwal (2) S Selvakumar (3) S Bhattacharya
(4) Pradeep Singh Kharola (5) None of these
80. Who has become the new Governor of Madhya Pradesh?
(1) Rameshwar Thakur (2) Kizhekethil Chandy (3) Anandiben Patel
(4) Vajubhai Vala (5) None of these
81. R Margabandu, the noted politician passed away. He hailed from which state?
(1) Gujarat (2) Odisha (3) Chattisgarh (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
82. Radha Vishwanathan, the noted vocalist has passed away. She hailed from which state?
(1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Karnataka (4) AP (5) None of these
83. Vasant Shankar Davkhare, who passed away recently, was the noted politician of which party?
(1) Communist Party of India (2) Indian National Congress
(3) Nationalist Congress Party (4) Bharatiya Janata Party (5) None of these
84. Peter Sutherland, who passed away recently, was the former director general of which organization?
(1) United Nations Organization (2) UNESCO
(3) International Monetary Fund (4) World Trade Organization (5) None of these
85. Baldev Raj, the director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) passed away. Where is the headquarters of NIAS?
(1) Kochi (2) Bengaluru (3) New Delhi (4) Kanpur (5) None of these
86. John Young, the legendary astronaut passed away. He hailed from which country?
(1) United Kingdom (2) United States (3) Germany
(4) France (5) None of these
87. Doodhnath Singh, the well-known Hindi writer has passed away. He hailed from which state?
(1) Rajasthan (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Madhya Pradesh (4) Gujarat (5) None of these
88. NK Trikha, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?
(1) Sports (2) Law (3) Politics (4) Journalism (5) None of these
89. Raghunath Jha, the former Union minister has passed away. He belongs to which state?
(1) Odisha (2) Punjab (3) Bihar (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
90. Charu Rohatgi, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?
(1) Film Industry (2) Politics (3) Journalism (4) Law (5) None of these

91. Pt Buddhadev Dasgupta, who passed away recently, was a well-known maestro of which musical instrument?
 (1) Sarod (2) Tabla (3) Sarangi (4) Bansuri (5) None of these
92. Saksham Yadav, who passed away recently, was associated with which sports?
 (1) Powerlifting (2) Badminton (3) Chess
 (4) Boxing (5) None of these
93. Which Container Port has won the 2017 "Samudra Manthan - Caring Organisation of the Year" award?
 (1) Haldia Port (2) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (3) Kolkata port
 (4) Visakhapatnam Port (5) None of these
94. Who has been named as the best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018?
 (1) Ravi Menon (2) Pramod Jain (3) Usha Visvas
 (4) Nirmal Kumar (5) None of these
95. Who has become the first African-American to win Golden Globe for best actor in a drama television series at the 75th Golden Globe Awards 2018?
 (1) Aziz Ansari (2) Ewan McGregor (3) Sterling K Brown
 (4) Alexander Skarsgard (5) None of these
96. Which chief minister of India has been bestowed with the 1st Mufti Mohammed Sayeed Probity in Politics and Public Life Award?
 (1) Nitish Kumar (2) Pema Khandu (3) Sarbananda Sonowal
 (4) N. Chandrababu Naidu (5) None of these
97. Which Indian personality will be conferred with the France's highest order of merit 'Legion of Honor at the 42nd International Kolkata Book Fair 2018?
 (1) Soumitra Chattopadhyay (2) Priyanka Chopra (3) Deepika Padukone
 (4) Amitabh Bachchan (5) None of these
98. Which has been honored with the Janakavi P Sawlaram award?
 (1) Meenakshi Shinde (2) Vishwas Patil (3) Jaishree T
 (4) Sudhir Dalvi (5) None of these
99. Which Indian architect has been conferred France's top cultural award "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres"?
 (1) B V Doshi (2) Aishwarya Tipnis (3) Ebrahim Alkazi
 (4) Sheila Sri Prakash (5) None of these
100. Which Union minister has recently conferred the Honorary Fellowship of Institute of Company secretaries of India (ICSI)?
 (1) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (2) Arun Jaitley (3) P.P. Chaudhary
 (4) Ravi Shankar Prasad (5) None of these
101. Which cricket team has won the 2017 Ranji Trophy tournament?
 (1) Hyderabad (2) Gujarat (3) Chhattisgarh (4) Vidarbha (5) None of these
102. Who has become the India's highest-ranked player in latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings?
 (1) Sharath Kamal (2) Soumyajit Ghosh (3) G Sathiyan
 (4) Anthony Amalraj (5) None of these

103. Rajneesh Gurbani is associated with which sports?
(1) Cricket (2) Chess (3) Boxing (4) Table Tennis (5) None of these
104. Which state to host the 39th National Games in 2022?
(1) Meghalaya (2) Nagaland (3) Mizoram (4) Assam (5) None of these
105. Which country has won the 30th edition of the Hopman Cup tournament 2018?
(1) France (2) Germany (3) Spain (4) Switzerland (5) None of these
106. Elina Svitolina has won the 2018 women's singles Brisbane International tournament. She hails from which country?
(1) Switzerland (2) Ukraine (3) Belarus (4) France (5) None of these
107. Aanchal Thakur has become the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing. She hails from which state?
(1) Punjab (2) Kerala (3) Odisha (4) Himachal Pradesh (5) None of these
108. Sarjubala Devi has clinched gold in which category at the 2018 National Women's Boxing Championship?
(1) 57kg category (2) 48kg category (3) 54kg category
(4) 62kg category (5) None of these
109. Who has won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Cricketer of the Year 2017?
(1) Steve Smith (2) Virat Kohli (3) Quinton de Kock
(4) AB de Villiers (5) None of these
110. Which state has topped the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index, according to recently released report by Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry?
(1) Punjab (2) Karnataka (3) Maharashtra (4) Gujarat (5) None of these
111. Which railway station entered Limca Book of Records 2018 for having all-women staff?
(1) Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station
(2) Matunga railway station
(3) Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station
(4) Kolkata railway station
(5) None of these
112. Who has been ranked first in the latest Gallup international annual survey "Opinion of Global Leaders"?
(1) Angela Merkel (2) Vladimir Putin (3) Emmanuel Macron
(4) Narendra Modi (5) None of these
113. Prime Minister's official website - www.pmindia.gov.in - is available in how many languages?
(1) 13 (2) 10 (3) 11 (4) 15 (5) None of these
114. Which of the following is the focus country in the New Delhi World Book Fair 2018?
(1) European Union (2) United States (3) United Kingdom
(4) Egypt (5) None of these
115. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra has dedicated iCREATE facility to the nation. This facility is located in which state?
(1) Gujarat (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Rajasthan
(4) Odisha (5) None of these

116. Which of the following countries has recently joined the Australia Group export control regime?
 (1) China (2) South Africa (3) Russia (4) India (5) None of these
117. Which country has launched the world's largest human genome research project?
 (1) China (2) Japan (3) Brazil (4) Russia (5) None of these
118. Which of the following countries has formally joined as the new non-permanent members of UNSC?
 (1) Poland (2) Japan (3) India (4) Egypt (5) None of these
119. Endangered 'bird language' has entered the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is belong to which country?
 (1) Senegal (2) Turkey (3) India (4) Uruguay (5) None of these
120. Which country has become the world's first country to enforce equal pay for women and men?
 (1) Finland (2) France (3) Iceland (4) Sweden (5) None of these
121. Which country has recently banned teaching of English language in primary schools to fight against western cultural invasion?
 (1) Iraq (2) Iran (3) Israel (4) UAE (5) None of these
122. Which country has granted citizenship to Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks?
 (1) United Kingdom (2) Ecuador (3) Sweden
 (4) South Korea (5) None of these
123. Which Indian cricketer has launched his autobiography "Imperfect"?
 (1) Dilip Vengsarkar (2) Sanjay Manjrekar (3) Rahul Dravid
 (4) Sourav Ganguly (5) None of these

Answers: 1-3, 2-4, 3-3, 4-2, 5-4, 6-4, 7-3, 8-1, 9-2, 10-1, 11-2, 12-3, 13-1, 14-3, 15-1, 16-3, 17-2, 18-3, 19-4, 20-4, 21-2, 22-3, 23-2, 24-3, 25-2, 26-4, 27-4, 28-3, 29-1, 30-1, 31-3, 32-2, 33-1, 34-1, 35-4, 36-3, 37-1, 38-2, 39-2, 40-3, 41-1, 42-2, 43-3, 44-3, 45-2, 46-2, 47-3, 48-1, 49-2, 50-1, 51-2, 52-1, 53-3, 54-4, 55-2, 56-3, 57-2, 58-1, 59-4, 60-1, 61-2, 62-3, 63-2, 64-2, 65-4, 66-1, 67-2, 68-3, 69-3, 70-4, 71-1, 72-3, 73-2, 74-4, 75-3, 76-1, 77-1, 78-2, 79-2, 80-3, 81-4, 82-3, 83-3, 84-4, 85-2, 86-2, 87-2, 88-4, 89-3, 90-1, 91-1, 92-1, 93-2, 94-1, 95-3, 96-1, 97-1, 98-4, 99-2, 100-3, 101-4, 102-3, 103-1, 104-1, 105-4, 106-2, 107-4, 108-2, 109-2, 110-4, 111-2, 112-3, 113-1, 114-1, 115-1, 116-4, 117-1, 118-1, 119-2, 120-3, 121-2, 122-2, 123-2.

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