



IBPS Guide

Complete Guide for Bank & SSC Exams

GK and Current Affairs Capsule December 2017

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Dear Readers, we have given here the December month important Current affairs news for the Banking and other Competitive Examination.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
DEC 1	World Aids Day (Recognized by the UN)	Right to health
DEC 1	Nagaland Statehood Day	-
DEC 1	Border Security Force Raising Day	-
DEC 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (Recognized by the UN)	Remember Slavery: Recognising the Legacy and Contributions of People of African Descent
DEC 2	World Computer Literacy Day	-
DEC 2	National Pollution Control Day	-
DEC 3	World Conservation Day	-
DEC 3	World Day of the Handicapped	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all
DEC 4	Indian Navy Day	-
DEC 5	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development (Recognized by the UN)	Volunteers Act First Here. Everywhere.
DEC 5	World Soil Day	-
DEC 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – Status of Women Canada	-
DEC 7	Indian Armed Force Flag Day	-
DEC 7	International Civil Aviation Day (Recognized by the UN)	-
DEC 9	The International Day against Corruption (Recognized by the UN)	United against corruption for development, peace and security
DEC 10	Human Rights Day	Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity
DEC 10	International Animal Rights Day	-
DEC 11	International Mountain Day (Recognized by the UN)	Mountains under Pressure: climate, hunger, migration
DEC 12	The International Day Of Heavy Metal	-
DEC 14	National Energy Conservation Day (India)	-
DEC 18	International Migrants Day (Recognized by the UN)	Safe Migration in a World on the Move
DEC 18	Minorities Rights Day	-
DEC 19	Goa Liberation Day	-
DEC 20	International Human Solidarity Day (Recognized by the UN)	-
DEC 22	National Mathematics Day	-
DEC 23	Farmers Day (India)	Planting for Food and Jobs
DEC 25	Christmas	-
DEC 25	Good Governance Day	-



Important State Wise National News

Andhra Pradesh

Capital: Hyderabad, Amaravati; Chief Minister : N.Chandrababu Naidu; Governor: E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan

Andhra Cabinet approves pension, house plot for transgenders:

- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved a scheme to provide a pension of Rs 1,500 to transgenders above 18 years of age in the state.
- Under this scheme, the transgenders will also be provided skill development for financial stability. The transgenders will also be provided ration cards, plots and scholarships.
- They will further be given loans through banks so that they can start small businesses. Special toilets will be built in public places like malls and cinema halls. Subsidized bus passes and health care through Arogyasri scheme will also be provided.
- Last month, chief minister Naidu announced a pension scheme for the transgender community in the state.
- Andhra Pradesh has become only the next state after Kerala and Odisha to sanction a pension scheme for the transgender community.

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority ties up with Ford:

- Ford and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to assess the feasibility of a common digital mobility solution for city commuters.
- Ford will collaborate and work with the civic authorities to analyse the capital's existing transportation system and design tech-based mobility solutions to improve commuter experience by optimising efficiency for transport operators and reduce congestion.
- While different modes of public transport such as light rail, metro and buses co-exist in Hyderabad, 800 vehicles are added to the city's streets each day.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu dedicates first digital village:

- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu dedicated the first 'digital village', facilitated by the Karur Vysya Bank (KVB), at Bandarupalli in Guntur district, remotely from the city.
- The Chief Minister participated as the chief guest at the 101st Founders' Day of the KVB.
- The KVB has adopted Bandarupalli, a remote village without banking facilities, and set up a digital branch there.

University of Singapore, Andhra govt collaborate for improving governance in state:

- The National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on various aspects of governance.
- The three are strengthening knowledge and practices of governance and public administration, independent audit of real-time monitoring system and key performance indicators and master plan on ease of doing business in Andhra Pradesh.
- The NUS has agreed to work on a potential programme designed for supporting the senior public officials on formulation of public policies, emerging governance models via case studies, seminars, research and field trips.

Ola partners Hyderabad Metro Rail to offer last-mile linkage:

- Ola has announced its partnership with L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd to offer metro consumers last-mile connectivity.
- Another agreement was entered into recently by Uber with the metro rail to provide connectivity.
- Under the partnership, TSavaari, the official Hyderabad Metro Rail app has integrated Ola's services, including Ola Money.



- The integration allows metro commuters to recharge their metro smart cards directly from the Ola Money app.
- Commuters will also have an option to pay from their Ola Money wallet on the TSavaari app. Additionally, users will be able to book an Ola cab or Ola auto directly from their TSavaari apps.

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital: Guwahati (Judiciary), Itanagar; Chief Minister: Pema Khandu; Governor: BD Mishra

Union home Secretary Rajiv Gauba attends State Level Core Group Meeting in Itanagar:

- Union home Secretary Rajiv Gauba attended State Level Core Group Meeting in Itanagar.
- The meeting was convened by Chief Minister Pema Khandu on the issues of security of the state.
- During the meeting home secretary underlined to strengthen the security-related infrastructure in the state.
- He assured the state government that the union home ministry will extend all support in addressing all the issues of state.

Assam

Capital: Dispur; Chief Minister; Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

Venkaiah Naidu launches scheme for differently abled people in Assam:

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched Deen Dayal Divyangajan Sahajya Scheme in Assam on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Under the scheme every differently abled person in the state would be entitled to a one-time grant of Rs 5,000 for their treatment.
- Vice President stated that “It is necessary that there is a change in the thought process as just making laws will not help in improving the situation for the differently abled,”
- The Vice President also lauded the Assam government for introducing the Pranam Act that entails all government employees to make contributions from their salaries for the elderly and differently abled family members.

6th International Tourism Mart 2017 begins in Assam:

- In Assam, the 6th International Tourism Mart 2017 began in Guwahati.
- Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal and Union Tourism minister K L Alphans attended the inaugural program.
- The three day program has been organized by Ministry of Tourism in association with all North Eastern states.
- Panel discussions, workshops, business to business meetings, cultural programs are being organized.

Assam government to set up three Terminal Mart for agricultural products:

- For the first time in North East, the Assam government will set up three Terminal Mart in the state for the agricultural products.
- The Centre will extend support in setting up the project which will create employment opportunities for thousands of youth.
- The marketing board has generated 4.73 crore rupees more in March to May this year in comparison to previous year despite the fact that two gates of the board were closed after implementation of GST.
- Awareness drive is being carried out on organic farming in the state as well as use of Soil Health Card. The Minimum Support Price of paddy will be increased to 1,550 rupees per quintal in comparison to 1,470 rupees.

Chandigarh

Capital : Chandigarh; Administrator: V. P. Singh Badnore

Chandigarh launches smart city cards:

- Chandigarh Administrator VP Singh Badnore has launched smart city cards for facilitating payments for various government and commercial utilities in the Union Territory.
- The card, which can be availed by Aadhaar card holders, costs Rs.500 of which Rs.150 is non-refundable



- While users can transfer up to Rs.50,000 to the card, one-time passwords will be sent for transactions worth over Rs. 2,000.
- Users will be able to know about all the transactions via SMS alerts to prevent misuse.

Chhattisgarh

Capital: Raipur; Chief Minister: Raman Singh; Governor: Balram Dass Tandon

Two-day Adivasi Mahotsav starts in Raipur:

- The two-day Adivasi Mahotsav is started in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur.
- The festival aimed at displaying the rich and diverse tribal traditions of the central state inaugurated by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram and Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh.
- Tribal culture, literature and food festivals, tribal olympiad and hackathon will be held during the event.
- The festival has been organised in the memory of 1857 revolutionary from the region, Shaheed Veernarayan Singh on his martyrdom day.

Baba Ramdev's Patanjali signs Rs.671-crore pact for Chhattisgarh food unit:

- Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved will invest Rs.671 crore in Chhattisgarh for setting up food and herbal processing unit.
- The unit will be spread over an area of 500 acres which will benefit around 2 lakh farmers.
- The project would generate direct employment for 2,200 persons besides indirect employment for 22 million people.
- The Chhattisgarh government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with three food processing firms, including Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved, to set up processing units at an estimated investment of Rs.762.80 crore.
- The pacts were signed with Patanjali Ayurved Limited, Manorama Industries Private Ltd and Aakriti Snacks Private Limited during a meeting held here at the official residence of Chief Minister Raman Singh.

Gujarat

Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani ; Governor Om Prakash Kohli

BJP wins Gujarat Assembly elections for 6th consecutive term:

- The Bharatiya Janata Party has won the 2017 Gujarat Assembly elections with a majority of 99 seats and 49.1% vote share, whereas the Congress secured 77 seats with a 41.4% vote share.
- BJP bags 99 seats in 182-member Gujarat Assembly; Congress gets 77 and others six.
- Notably, BJP had won 115 seats in the 2012 Gujarat Assembly elections.

Haryana

Capital: Chandigarh; Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor: Kaptan Singh Solanki

Haryana Government announces free sanitary napkins in all schools:

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Miss World Manushi Chhillar announced that the state government will provide free sanitary napkins for all girls in government schools.
- Chhillar, who hails from Haryana, is spreading awareness about menstrual hygiene through her project 'Shakti'.
- The initiative will cost the Haryana government Rs.18 crore.
- The state government will also launch a programme to prevent anaemia among children in the state and Chhillar will be the brand ambassador for the programme

Haryana gets ready for mega mock drill for earthquake:

- Haryana is getting ready for a mega mock drill on earthquake which will even involve six columns of Army.
- The exercise will be carried out in the eventuality of a hypothetical earthquake occurring "West of Gurugram along Jaipur Ridge and the Sohna Fault Line".
- This is first time when an exercise of this magnitude will be conducted in Haryana



- Earlier in 2013, a major exercise was conducted by the NDMA involving the Northern state in which Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh had participated.
- During the upcoming exercise, central agencies like Army, CRPF, NSG and ITBP will also take part apart from the state machinery.

Himachal Pradesh

**Capital: Shimla, Dharamsala(Second Capital in Winter); CM: Jai Ram Thakur;
Governor : Acharya Dev Vrat**

BJP defeats Congress to form government in Himachal Pradesh:

- The Bharatiya Janata Party has won the 2017 Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections with 44 seats and 48.8% vote share, whereas the Congress secured 21 seats with a 41.7% vote share.
- The BJP had earlier declared Prem Kumar Dhumal as its chief ministerial candidate.
- Results in the Sujampur constituency, from where BJP's chief ministerial candidate Prem Kumar Dhumal is contesting, were the last to be declared. Dhumal lost by 1919 votes to his once-protege Rajinder Rana who contested on a Congress ticket.
- The election for the 68-member Assembly witnessed a record voter turnout of 74.6%.

Jammu and Kashmir

Capital: Srinagar(Summer), Jammu(Winter); Chief Minister: Mehbooba Mufti; Governor: N N Vohra

Jammu and Kashmir Deputy CM Nirmal Singh launches high-speed broadband internet service in state:

- Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh launched a high-speed broadband internet service in the state as part of initiatives under the Digital India programme of the Central government.
- People living in Jammu, Srinagar, Ladakh, and Katra will be able to avail the benefits of the service.
- The launch of the service will help in achieving the goal of the Digital India programme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Centre sets up two centres for NEET candidates in Kashmir:

- The central government has decided to set up two examination centres in Kashmir Valley for the 2018 post-graduate National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET).
- The government's decision to set up the centres in Srinagar and Baramulla is in response to the plea made by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.
- The Union Health Ministry has informed the board of professional examination authorities of the state to redirect the candidates belonging to Kashmir in this connection.

Jammu & Kashmir government launches SAUBHAGYA to provide free electricity:

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched SAUBHAGYA (Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) with an aim to provide free electricity connections to poor people in the state.
- SAUBHAGYA, an initiative taken by the prime minister, seeks to provide electricity to 4 crore families across the country by December 2018.
- The state's Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh launched the scheme, and stated that electric connections would be given to poor people, identified by the Socio Economic and Caste Census of 2011 and others sections for Rs 500, payable in 10 installments in the bill.
- The scheme also promises on-the-spot registration of applicants.

Losar Festival being celebrated in Ladakh:

- Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir is celebrating Losar Festival.
- The festival is celebrated to mark the new year and the celebrations continue for three days to nine days in different parts of Ladakh.
- Losar Festival is an important festival in winter months. Because of several ritual performances and traditional events during the celebrations, it has now turned into one of major events for visitors in winter.



- Losar Festival is celebrated by making symbolic meals and offerings. Houses are decorated with good luck signs. Prayer flags are hoisted in important religious places to welcome the new year.

Karnataka

Capital : Bangalore; Chief Minister : Siddaramaiah; Governor : Vajubhai Vala

Karnataka second safest state in South India:

- Karnataka is the second safest state in South India, after Andhra Pradesh, and has one of the lowest crime rates in the country, according to 'Crime In India - 2016' report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Neighbouring states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have a significantly higher crime rate.
- For instance, crime rate in Kerala - 1980.1 crimes per lakh population - is about six times the rate in the state at 286.8 and around three times the crime rate in Tamil Nadu - 672.3.
- Andhra Pradesh has a lower crime rate at 250.1 crimes per one lakh population.

Bengaluru becomes first city to get its own logo:

- Karnataka's capital city Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to have its own logo, after the state government launched it.
- Brand Bengaluru got its own logo – the tagline 'Bengaluru – Be U' (be you). The logo was designed by a design start-up and uses both English and Kannada alphabets.
- The red and black logo is part English and part Kannada.
- With this, Namma Bengaluru joins a select group of global cities like New York City, Melbourne and Singapore to have a tourism logo of its own.
- The logo for the city was a crowdsourced one made by Bengalureans themselves.

Kerala

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram; Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor : P.Sathasivam

Kerala launches India's largest floating solar power plant:

- Kerala Electricity Minister MM Mani inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad district.
- The plant, worth approximately Rs.9.25 crore, floats on 6,000 square metres of water surface
- With a capacity of 500 kilowatts, the plant comprises 1,938 solar panels and 17 inverters.

Ramayana-themed Jatayu Adventure Centre opens in Kerala:

- The Jatayu Adventure Centre has recently opened on a 1,000-foot-tall hill in Kerala's Chadayamangalam, which is where Jatayu is believed to have died.
- The 65-acre park boasts a 200-ft-long sculpture of Jatayu, the vulture from Ramayana who was slain while trying to rescue Sita from Ravana.
- It also features over 20 adventure activities, including rock climbing, ziplining, rappelling, and archery.

Madhya Pradesh

Capital :Bhopal; Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Om Prakash Kohli

Madhya Pradesh government to provide pulses at concessional rate in tribal areas:

- The Madhya Pradesh government announced that pulses would be provided at Rs 10 per kg to the members of scheduled tribes in tribal areas of the state to tackle malnutrition.
- The scheme will be first introduced in Karahal and Khalwa blocks of Sheopur and Khandwa districts, respectively, on pilot basis.
- It is expected to benefit 3.50 lakh persons from 75,000 families in these two blocks.
- The state cabinet had approved the scheme, aimed at tackling malnutrition.

Madhya Pradesh assembly approves death for raping girls aged below 12 years:

- The Madhya Pradesh Assembly has unanimously passed a bill that imposes death penalty for convicts in rape and gangrape cases involving girls aged 12 years or below.



- The bill was approved by CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led Cabinet recently and would now go for the President's approval.

Madhya Pradesh government announces to plant 8 crore saplings on July 2 next year:

- The Madhya Pradesh government has announced that eight crore more saplings will be planted on July 2, 2018.
- “Eight crore saplings will be planted in the districts located in the catchment areas of the Narmada river in a single day on July 2 next year,” Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced while addressing a programme organised to mark one year of ‘Namami Devi Narmade Sewa Yatra’, at Jabalpur.
- Chouhan urged social organisations and citizens to come forward to achieve this target and to commit themselves to planting saplings and ensuring their protection.
- An amount of Rs 1400 crore has been approved for establishing treatment plants in other cities located on the banks of river Narmada and the works in this connection will start from the month of March.

Maharashtra

Capital: Mumbai; Chief Minister: Devendra Fadnavis; Governor: C.Vidyasagar Rao

Maharashtra most-corrupt state for 3 years in a row:

- Maharashtra has been the most corrupt state in India for three years in a row, as per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.
- The state recorded 1,016 corruption cases in 2016, which is around 23% of the total corruption cases in India during the year.
- Odisha was placed second with 569 recorded corruption cases, while Kerala (430) was placed third.

Maharashtra government grants approval to Versova-Bandra sea link:

- The Maharashtra government accorded administrative approval to the Versova-Bandra sea link (VBSL) project, eight years after the state cabinet committee on Infrastructure (SCCI) cleared it.
- In a Government Resolution (GR), the state has pegged the project cost to be around Rs 7,502 crore and its length is estimated to be about 17.17 km.
- The SCCI had cleared the project on August 18, 2009. However, it took another four years, for the government to get the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and environment clearance from the Centre which were given in January 2013

Maharashtra records max violations under Environment Protection Act:

- With a total of 97 cases, Maharashtra has recorded the most number of violations in 2016 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, National Crime Records Bureau has revealed.
- Compared to 2015, the state saw a 33% increase in 2016 in overall environment-related offences which cover violations under five laws including the Forest Act and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Maharashtra signs 34 MoUs to ‘transform’ villages:

- The Maharashtra government signed 34 MoUs with leading corporate houses to take ahead its ambitious project of social transformation of 1,000 villages across Maharashtra.
- An initiative to promote public-private partnership, the move aims at benefiting more than 75 lakh people with a budget of Rs 335 crore.
- It also envisages creation of 31,000 water tanks in remote villages to tackle water scarcity.
- The government has initiated the work in 310 villages and intends adding 300 more villages.

Maharashtra Government increases non-creamy layer limit for backward classes to Rs 8 lakh:

- Maharashtra Government has followed in the footsteps of Central Government and enhanced non-creamy layer limit for backward classes in State to Rs eight lakh per annum.
- Earlier, the cut off limit for getting reservation for forward among the backward classes was Rs 6 lakh.
- Central Government through a notification in September this year had Accepted the demands for raising the non-creamy layer limit and that was Subsequently increased to Rs eight lakh



Shops, hotels & malls can now remain open round-the-clock in Maharashtra:

- Maharashtra Labour Minister Sambhaji Nilangekar-Patil has informed that shops, hotels and malls can now remain open round-the-clock throughout the week in Maharashtra.
- However, the law is not applied to for bars, pubs, liquor shops and discotheques.
- According to the new law that was implemented, the shops, malls and hotels on crowded places or on public places remains open 24 hrs now.
- The bill was passed by the Maharashtra legislature during its last session. The amended law says smaller establishments would not require license to run their operations but will have to register online with the authority concerned.
- It exempts small and medium-sized establishments, which have less than 10 workers, or employees working from home, or which are run as online businesses, from registering for a licence.
- At the same time, in 24 hrs shop employees will be coming in shifts. And if they will work more than 9 hrs then, it's compulsory to pay extra salary on hourly basis as per the act.

Maharashtra government launches crime portal for citizens

- Maharashtra government launched Maharashtra Police Citizen Portal, a digital platform for registration and tracking of crimes and complaints.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis launched Maharashtra Police Citizen Portal app for accessing some selected services available on the parent portal, at a programme in Nagpur.
- The parent portal offers 24 different services to citizens, seven of which will be available on the app, which can be downloaded from Google Play Store and Apple App Store.
- Among the app services are, filing of e-complaints, informing the police station about anything, tracking the status of the complaint or FIR registered, information about the accused etc.

Maharashtra government sets up 17-member development authority for Raigad fort, capital of warrior king Shivaji:

- Maharashtra government has set up a 17-member development authority for the Raigad fort, capital of warrior king Shivaji.
- It will be headed by Rajya Sabha member Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati.
- The state government, in June 2016 sanctioned 500-crore rupees development plan for the 17th century fort which is situated in Raigad district.
- Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati is a member of the former royal family of Kolhapur and King Shivaji's descendant.
- The authority will finalise a development plan for the Raigad fort and surrounding areas, including the memorial of Shivaji's mother, Jijabai.
- The authority will approve expenditures as per a detailed project report for restoration drawn up by the Archaeological Survey of India, and monitor the work.

Mumbai Metro launches 'SecuCare' app for safer commuting:

- The Reliance Infrastructure-promoted Mumbai Metro One launched the first mobile security product, "SecuCare" app to make commuters more secure.
- With the help of this app, a commuter can click pictures or make videos which will get directly transmitted to the Central Security Control Room of the Metro Corporate Centre in DN Nagar, along with the commuter's train and exact physical location.
- The control centre will immediately call the commuters and solicit details for preliminary investigations, calm and counsel him/her before alerting the security response team at the next station to handle the situation.



- Currently, Mumbai Metro One has installed baggage scanners and 700 security cameras on its premises, deployed security personnel in uniforms and plainclothes, and receives live camera feeds from the trains for safe and secure commuting.

Mumbai gets 1st AC local train:

- The first ever Air Conditioned local train was flagged off from Borivali station in Mumbai.
- BJP MP Gopal Shetty, state Education Minister Vinod Tawde, Mumbai BJP President Ashish Shelar were present on the occasion.
- The AC local will initially run only in the Churchgate-Borivili section. From January 1, it will run from Churchgate to Virar having 12 services per day.
- Initially, the AC local will operate only on the Churchgate-Borivili section.
- The train will make six trips daily (12 services per day) and from January 1 next year, it will run from Churchgate to Virar.
- The train will not operate on Saturdays and Sundays as it requires maintenance

IIT-Bombay, Canada varsity to use AI to make Pune smart city:

- IIT-Bombay and the University of Toronto in Canada will collaborate with Pune Smart City Development Corporation Ltd to use artificial intelligence (AI) to make Pune a smart city.
- The objective will be to find solutions to urban problems by tapping into technology-based smart solutions to improve economic growth and create a more sustainable and resilient region.
- Four areas have been identified for the long-term partnership — affordable housing, rural immigrants arriving in large numbers in Pune, cyber security and digital systems interoperability.

Manipur

Capital: Imphal; Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh; Governor: Najma Heptulla

Manipur University to hold Indian Science Congress in March:

- The 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be hosted by Manipur University in Imphal in March next year.
- The annual event, which is on the Prime Minister's calendar in January, was postponed for the first time in its over 100-year history after Osmania University expressed inability to organise it because of ongoing student protests.
- The changed venue was decided at an "emergency executive committee" meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).

Meghalaya

Capital: Shillong; Chief Minister: Mukul Sangma; Governor: Ganga Prasad

Meghalaya launches India's first social audit law:

- Meghalaya became the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.
- Chief Minister Mukul Sangma launched 'The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017', at a national convention in Shillong.
- The event was attended by more than 200 people from state departments, citizens from audited villages and eminent citizens associated with social audits.
- The legislation — applicable to 11 departments and 21 schemes — was passed on April 4, and was followed by pilot social audits for 26 schemes in 18 villages of the northeastern state.

Meghalaya to get its first LPG bottling facility:

- The Centre has sanctioned Rs 75 crore for setting up a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) bottling plant in Meghalaya which will help increase the clean fuel's penetration, especially in the rural areas of the state.



- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was inked between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the state government in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma in the city.

Odisha

Capital : Bhubaneswar; Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: S.C. Jamir

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Eastern India's first CNG stations:

- Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated eastern India's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations for scooters in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Pradhan inaugurated two CNG stations for scooters and three-wheelers at Chandrasekharpur and Patia area. The minister also launched CNG-run scooters.
- The CNG stations were part of GAIL's Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga and City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.
- Two more stations are being constructed in Khandagiri and Tamando area in Odisha's state capital.
- The Centre will invest Rs 5000 crore for pipeline project. From these Rs 5000 crore, Rs 2000 crore is estimated to be invested for development of human resources.
- In the first phase Rs 1,700 crore will be invested for Compressed Gas Distribution (CGD) 100-100 km Pipeline in Cuttack- Bhubaneswar.

Odisha recognized as 'Champion State' for exports:

- The Centre has recognized Odisha as a 'Champion State' for recording the highest growth in exports during 2016-17.
- This was announced during a review meeting of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the export performance of states and formulation of strategy attended by L N Gupta, MSME Additional Chief Secretary, Odisha.
- The exports from the state have increased from Rs 19,082 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 40,872 crore in 2016-17 with merchandise exports from Odisha registering the highest growth rate of 114 per cent among all the states.
- Between 2012-13 and 2016-17, in terms of USD, shipments from the state witnessed a positive growth of 17.60 per cent against the negative growth of 2.07 per cent in overall exports of India.

Odisha government to split tourism, culture dept to promote Odia language:

- The Odisha government decided to split the tourism and culture department and take a slew of measures including setting up of an Odia Language Commission to spread and popularise the state language.
- The decision was taken at the meeting of the state Cabinet, which was held for the first time at Puri, instead of the secretariat in Bhubaneswar.
- The government also decided to set up a 'Heritage Cabinet' to protect the monuments, ancient temples and take steps to preserve the state's culture, language and literature.
- After bifurcating the tourism and culture department, the government decided to rename the cultural wing as Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department.
- All shops and business establishments in the state will have to display signboards in Odia language within a stipulated timeframe for which Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishment rules, 1956 would be amended.

Annual Konark festival begins in Odisha:

- The annual Konark festival started in Odisha.
- The five-day dance festival opened near the world famous Sun Temple of Konark with Odissi recital by the dancers of Nupur Dance Academy of Bhubaneswar under the tutelage of Niranjan Rout and group.
- Ten popular Indian classical dance troupes from India and abroad are going to perform at the backdrop of the majestic Sun Temple during the festival.



- To attract more foreign tourists to the festival, Odisha Tourism included performances of two foreign dance groups from Malaysia, who will perform classical Indian dance during the festival.

Punjab

Capital : Chandigarh; Chief Minister: Amarinder Singh; Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore

Punjab Chief Minister launches app to check illegal construction:

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched a mobile app to check unauthorised construction, and also unveiled a new web portal of the housing department for online issuance of change of land use.
- While the app will enable quick action to stop any ongoing illegal construction, the web portal will facilitate easy land use change and help citizens track any such change.
- The android-based App, known as PUDA-UCIC (Unauthorised constructions and illegal colonies), opened for public use in Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) region.
- With this app, the field staff and public would be able to click pictures of any unauthorised construction from the spot and upload them for further action.
- The satellite and geo tagging based app will provide the unique details of the location, enabling the officials to take quick action to stop the ongoing illegal construction and illegal colonies on the land.

Rajasthan

Capital: Jaipur; Chief Minister : Vasundhara Raje; Governor: Kalyan Singh

Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje announces special fund for startups led by women:

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje announced a special fund for startups led by women so as to encourage them as entrepreneurs. The platform is intended to foster innovation, create jobs and facilitate investment.
- This is in addition to Rs 500 crore already set-up for startups. This initiative, iStart platform, was launched three months ago in the last Digifest held in Kota.
- She launched several e-governance initiatives for the state. She also inaugurated iStart Nest, one of a kind incubator providing end-to-end acceleration and connection with venture capitalists across the world for free, at least to Startup.

Rajasthan becomes first in country to offer e-mail IDs in Hindi:

- Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to offer free e-mail address in Hindi to its residents.
- The facility —name@rajasthan.bharat (in Devanagari script) — will lead to millions of new users who are not comfortable with English e-mail ids.
- Rajasthan is the first, and currently the only state, to have a vernacular e-mail
- The first e-mail id that was created was that of the chief minister, Vasundhara@rajasthan.bharat (in Devnagari). All the government personnel in the state will soon have an email id in Hindi too.

Rajasthan government increase age limit for applying government jobs from 35 to 40 years:

- Rajasthan government made several announcements, which included the increase in age limit while applying for government jobs from 35 to 40 years.
- Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje also announced developmental works for the district worth Rs 2,237 crore.
- The other announcements include 48-hour free treatment for victims of road accidents in government and private hospitals, free angiography of patients in government hospitals and more than one lakh government jobs in the near future.
- Co-operative land development banks in state will give loans to farmers at 5.5 per cent interest rate which at present is 6.7 per cent.

Rajasthan government approves 1% reservation for Gujjars, 4 other castes:



- The Rajasthan Government approved one percent reservation for members of the Gujjar community and four other backward castes.
- Earlier in August, the Rajasthan government decided to raise OBC reservation from 21 to 26 per cent for granting five per cent reservation to Gujjars and four other castes.
- The total reservation in the state stood at 49 per cent and this move was set to once again cross the 50 per cent legal ceiling.

Tamil Nadu

Capital: Chennai; Chief Minister: Edappadi K Palaniswami; Governor Banwari Lal Purohit

Tamil Nadu education body offers videos of classes on YouTube:

- The Tamil Nadu State Council of Educational and Research Training (TNSCERT) has a YouTube channel with videos on several school subjects such as mathematics, English, and science.
- Most of the videos, which are bilingual, are recordings of regular school classes.
- A recent spike in traffic attracted by the channel has encouraged officials to discuss its expansion

Telangana

Capital: Hyderabad; Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan

Telangana develops app to provide jobs to technicians, workers:

- The Telangana government has announced to launch a mobile application 'Urban Genie' which will enable citizens in urban areas across the state to find certified technicians and workers.
- The service will be available in over 70 municipal towns and cities.
- Job seeking technicians can also register themselves with the app, following which the government will provide training.

Tripura

Capital: Agartala; Chief Minister; Manik Sarkar; Governor; Tathagata Roy

Tripura government introduces child care leave for women employees:

- The Tripura Government has introduced Child Care Leave (CCL) for women employees with minor children for 730 days in their entire service life.
- Such employees enjoying the CCL for children's sickness or examinations would be paid leave salary equal to the pay drawn immediately before proceeding on the CCL.
- "The Child Care Leave will be granted to women employees of the state government, who have children below 18 years for a maximum period of 730 days in the entire service life,".
- The Supreme Court passed an order in 2014 that a woman employee of the central government could get uninterrupted leave for two years for child care, which would include needs like examination and sickness.

Uttar Pradesh

Capital: Lucknow; Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath; Governor: Ram Naik

Uttar Pradesh tops the list on crimes against women in 2016:

- Uttar Pradesh tops the tally of crime data of 2016 released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- For overall crimes, Uttar Pradesh's rate is 1,293, more than 10 times its Indian Penal Code (IPC) rate.
- Delhi's overall crime rate is 958, about the same as its IPC rate.
- Annual data released by NCRB for 2016 indicated that UP topped the list with rising rates of violence such as crime against women and murder.
- Uttar Pradesh recorded 16.1 per cent of murders (4,889) while Bihar recorded 2,581.
- UP recorded 49,262 cases of crimes against women, the highest among all other states.
- West Bengal occupied the second spot with 32,513 cases.

Uttar Pradesh Government to Set up Cow Sanctuaries in 75 Districts:

- Uttar Pradesh government is planning to set up cow sanctuaries in all 75 districts of the state.



- According to the chief minister, the government will limit to only providing infrastructure for these 'sanctuaries', while forming a district level committee to operate in these sanctuaries.
- The government will only provide infrastructure and would encourage formation of a district level committee.
- In the first phase, the Government have decided to start cow sanctuaries in 16 municipal corporations and seven districts of Bundelkhand.

Uttar Pradesh assembly passes bill for death penalty for illicit liquor trade:

- The Uttar Pradesh assembly passed a bill to award death penalty and life imprisonment to those dealing in spurious liquor if its consumption leads to any death.
- The Uttar Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Bill 2017 provides for death penalty, life sentence and fine to the tune of Rs 10 lakh and not less than Rs five lakh in case of death caused due to consumption of spurious liquor.
- It also provides for rigorous imprisonment up to 10 years and not less than six years in case of disability caused by consumption of spurious liquor and fine to the tune of Rs five lakh and not less than Rs three lakh.

Uttar Pradesh government launches free household power connection scheme 'Prakash hai to vikas hai':

- Uttar Pradesh government has launched a free household power connection scheme 'Prakash hai to vikas hai' for the poor in the state to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday.
- Initially the two villages Lohban and Gausana of Mathura district have been covered for 100 per cent electrification.
- Under the news scheme the government has a target of covering 16 million by the end of 2018.
- As against the target of 4 crore under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Saubhagy scheme, the state so far has provided 25 lakh household connections.
- The government has also introduced Kisan Uday Yojana, scheme for farmers in which existing 5 HP/7.5 HP submersible and coupling sets of farmers will be replaced free of cost.
- The scheme, which would cover 10 lakh farmers by 2022, would lead to 35 per cent saving on power consumption.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announces new metro projects for Agra, Kanpur:

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced new Metro projects for Agra and Kanpur in the state.
- The work for setting up an airport at Jewar near Noida has also been expedited.
- The chief minister announced two major expressways - one in Purvanchal and another in Bundelkhand - are also being planned in the state.

Uttar Pradesh's Shamli becomes 23rd district to be included in National Capital Region:

- Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district was included in the National Capital Region (NCR), making it the 23rd district to be included in the region.
- Centred upon National Capital Territory of Delhi, the NCR includes thirteen districts of Haryana, eight districts of UP, and two districts of Rajasthan. It was constituted in 1985 as an interstate regional planning area.

USEFUL INFO	
Uttar Pradesh Capital	Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister	Yogi Adityanath
Uttar Pradesh Governor	Ram Naik

Official Logo for Allahabad Kumbh Mela 2019 released in Lucknow:

- In Uttar Pradesh, the official Logo and tagline for Allahabad Kumbh Mela 2019 were released in Lucknow.
- Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that, all official documents, government advertisements and hoardings would carry the logo to remind people about the event.
- A website to facilitate tourists was also launched. The government had, earlier, announced to rename the Ardh Kumbh held every six years as Kumbh and Kumbh held every 12 years as Maha Kumbh.



USEFUL INFO

Uttar Pradesh Capital	Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister	Yogi Adityanath
Uttar Pradesh Governor	Ram Naik

West Bengal

Capital: Kolkata; Chief Minister: Mamta Benerjee; Governor: Keshari Nath Tripathi

West Bengal considers blockchain technology to protect online records:

- The government of West Bengal, a state in eastern India, is planning to implement blockchain technology to protect its online records from cyberattacks.
- The state government is also planning to partner with private firms for research and development on cybercrimes.
- It is also seeking to raise awareness about the threats of cybercrimes and measures needed to prevent the attacks.
- The efforts towards embracing blockchain technology come after some offices of the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited came under 'WannaCry' attack earlier this year.
- In addition to West Bengal, a number of other Indian states are ramping up efforts to introduce blockchain technology in their administrative processes.

West Bengal reports most human trafficking cases in 2016:

- More than 8,000 cases of human trafficking were reported in India in 2016, while 23,000 victims, including 182 foreigners, were rescued during the year, according to National Crime Records Bureau data.
- Of the total 15,379 victims in these cases, 9,034 (58%) were below the age of 18 years, according to the latest NCRB statistics on crime released for 2016.
- West Bengal topped the list in reported cases of human trafficking at 3,579, accounting for 44% of total cases in the country.
- The state had reported 1,255 (18.2%) such cases in 2015, when it ranked second only to Assam.

West Bengal announces life insurance of Rs.5 lakh each for pilgrims:

- West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee announced a life insurance of Rs.5 lakh each for pilgrims visiting the state for the upcoming Gangasagar fair, the second biggest pilgrimage fair after Kumbh.
- The premium in this regard will be borne entirely by the state government.
- Around five to six lakh pilgrims attend the Gangasagar fair on the occasion of Makar Sankranti at the confluence of the Ganges in Sagra Islands, South 24 Parganas district.
- It is scheduled for the second week of January.

Ministry Affairs

NITI Aayog to set up special Women Cell for entrepreneurs:

- NITI Aayog has announced plans to set up a special Women Cell for handholding Women Startups and entrepreneurs.
- Atal Tinkering labs will be specially setup at schools that women own to promote innovation and instil entrepreneurship among women at early stage.
- Telangana State Government also announced a series of measures to encourage women entrepreneurship in the state.

Cabinet approves Rs 9,000-crore National Nutrition Mission:

- The Cabinet has approved the setting up of the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with a three-year budget of Rs 9,046.17 crore commencing from 2017-18.



- As an apex body, the NNM will monitor, supervise, fix targets, and guide the nutrition-related interventions across ministries.
- The NNM will encourage states and Union territories to perform, and guide and supervise them, along with the line ministries, to achieve the targeted goals.

Centre to put quit line number on tobacco packs:

- The Union Health Ministry is looking to issue a new set of enhanced pictorial and text warnings and planning to make it mandatory for tobacco companies to print the national toll-free helpline number on the packets of all tobacco products.
- The National Tobacco Cessation QuitLine-1800 227787 is a dedicated toll-free number that helps tobacco users to receive free support and guidance to subdue their addiction.

Sharad Yadav, Ali Anwar disqualified as Rajya Sabha members:

- Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu disqualified rebel JD(U) leaders Sharad Yadav and Ali Anwar Ansari from the membership of the House.
- This came after Bihar CM Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) approached the Rajya Sabha chairman seeking disqualification of the two MPs for indulging in "anti-party activities", after Kumar withdrew from the Grand Alliance with RJD and Congress in Bihar.

President Ram Nath Kovind on 2 day visit to Andhra Pradesh to inaugurate Aircraft Museum:

- President Ram Nath Kovind will be on a two-day visit to Andhra Pradesh to inaugurate an Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam.
- Later, he will lay the foundation stone for the E-Classroom Complex and Incubation Centre and will declare the setting up of the Centre for Defence Studies at the Andhra University.
- After that President will present colour to the Submarine Arm of the Indian Navy.

USEFUL INFO	
Andhra Pradesh Capital	Hyderabad, Amaravati
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister	N.Chandrababu Naidu
Andhra Pradesh Governor	E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan

EPFO opens new facility for its over 4.5 crore members:

- Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has opened a new facility for its over 4.5 crore members
- This facility will allow consolidation or merger of their multiple PF accounts with the current Universal Account Number, UAN.
- Under this facility, subscribers of the EPFO can merge as many as 10 previous accounts with their UAN at one go.

USEFUL INFO	
EPFO Headquarters	New Delhi
Minister of Labour and Employment (State Independent Charge)	Santosh Gangwar

Centre to reward states and districts achieving 90 % of total immunization coverage:

- The Centre will reward the states and districts achieving 90 percent of total immunization coverage.
- Mission Indradhanush was launched with a strategy to focus on unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children in the pockets of low immunization coverage in high risk and hard-to reach areas identified through Polio micro-plans.
- More than 2.55 crore children and around 68.71 lakh pregnant women have been immunized during the four rounds of immunization spanning over two years.

Minorities Commission to study minority status to Hindus in eight states:



- National Commission for Minorities has set up a three-member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in eight states including Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.
- The other states are Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.
- The Commission chairman Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi said the committee will give its report within three months.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh asks 5 eastern states to check influx of Rohingyas:

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has asked five eastern states sharing boundaries with Bangladesh to be extra vigilant against influx of Rohingyas and illegal immigrants through the porous Indo-Bangla border.
- At a meeting of Chief Ministers and Home Ministers of West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura in Kolkata
- Rajnath Singh stated that, a border protection grid on the lines of Unified Command set up in insurgency-hit states will soon come up in these states to check illegal infiltration.

USEFUL INFO	
Minister of Home Affairs	Rajnath Singh
Constituency	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Maharashtra BJP MP Nana Patole resigns from Lok Sabha, party:

- Maharashtra BJP MP Nana Patole has resigned from the party and the Lok Sabha.
- In August, Mr. Patole criticised the BJP-led Maharashtra government for the way it was implementing the farm loan waiver scheme. He had also claimed that it was insensitive to farmers' problems.
- Mr. Patole wrested the Bhandara-Gondia Lok Sabha seat from former Union Minister for Civil Aviation and senior NCP leader Praful Patel in the 2014 general election.

Government issues GST anti-profiteering form to lodge complaints:

- The government released an anti-profiteering application form for consumers to complain against businesses which don't pass on benefits of lower GST rates.
- A complainant will have to mention product price and the applicable rates both in the pre and post-GST.
- The complaint will have to be backed by evidence like invoice, price list, and detailed working sheet.

India joins Wassenaar Arrangement after completing internal procedures:

- India joined the Wassenaar Arrangement after completing the internal procedures.
- The membership will facilitate high-technology tie-ups for country's defence and space programmes. India has become the arrangement's 42nd participating State.
- This membership is the second diplomatic success for India for the membership of export control regimes after it joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) last year.
- The plenary meeting of Wassenaar Arrangement held in Vienna decided to admit India.

Railways to offer rewards for cashless booking of tickets:

- The Indian Railways is planning to offer rewards for cashless booking of unreserved tickets in a bid to promote digitalisation.
- Some of the incentives include offering a discount and free passenger insurance for cashless ticket purchases.
- The Railways currently offers a 0.5% discount on the purchase of monthly travel pass if the payment is made through debit and credit cards.

Centre to issue universal ID cards to Persons with Disabilities:

- Union minister Krishan Pal Gurjar stated that Centre will soon issue universal ID cards to persons with disabilities which will be valid throughout India.
- At present, an identity card issued by a state is not considered valid in another state, which causes inconvenience to people with disabilities in availing benefits of various government schemes and reservation.



India's first-ever mobile food testing laboratory launched:

- Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar launched country's first-ever mobile food testing laboratory.
- Parrikar unveiled the vehicle, worth Rs 41 lakh, in presence of Goa Food and Drugs Administration minister Vishwajit Rane.
- The laboratory mounted on a bus will be travelling across the state checking food samples on the spot.
- This would be the first ever 'Food Safety on Wheel' vehicle in the entire country.

USEFUL INFO	
Goa Capital	Panaji
Goa Chief Minister	Manohar Parrikar
Goa Governor	Mridula Sinha

Union Health Minister J P Nadda launches new initiatives on Universal Health Coverage Day:

- Union Health Minister JP Nadda launched new initiatives including Laqshya-A Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative and safe delivery application at a function in New Delhi on the occasion of Universal Health Coverage Day.
- Laqshya initiative is expected to improve the quality of care that is being provided to the pregnant mother in the Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatres, thereby preventing the undesirable adverse outcomes associated with childbirth.
- This will be implemented in Government Medical Colleges besides District Hospitals and high delivery load Sub-District Hospitals and Community Health Centres.
- The goal of this initiative is to reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room.

USEFUL INFO	
Minister of Health and Family Welfare	Jagat Prakash Nadda
Member of Rajya Sabha	Himachal Pradesh

WCD Ministry launches logo & tagline contest for National Nutrition Mission:

- Women and Child Development Ministry has launched logo and tagline contest for National Nutrition Mission with prize money of one lakh rupees.
- It is an opportunity for citizens who aspire to see their design displayed on a National platform.
- Centre has approved the National Nutrition Mission to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.
- The programme targets to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth rate.

USEFUL INFO	
Women and Child Development Cabinet Minister	Maneka Gandhi
Women and Child Development Minister of State	Krishna Raj

Rajen Gohain inaugurates passenger amenities at several stations across Central & Western Railway:

- Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain has inaugurated passenger amenities at several stations across Central and Western Railway.
- Gohain unveiled 14 passenger amenities on Central Railway and eleven on Western Railway through a video link at a function held at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai.
- The amenities include Foot-Over-bridges at Currey Road, Nahur and Virar, an escalator at Titwala and lifts at Reay Road, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Chembur, Virar and Vasai Road.

USEFUL INFO



Ministry of Railways Cabinet minister	Piyush Goyal
Constituency	Maharashtra
Ministry of Railways Minister of state	Manoj Sinha, Rajen Gohain

NGT imposes complete ban on plastic items in towns located on banks of Ganga River:

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed a complete ban on use, sale, purchase and storage of plastic items such as carry bags, plates and spoons along the river Ganga in Haridwar's Har Ki Pauri and Rishikesh till upper areas of Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand.
- A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also imposed 5,000 rupees fine on those violating the order and stated that action will be taken against erring officials too.
- The move was taken to tackle and prevent pollution of the Ganga. The NGT passed the direction after noting that despite its earlier order, plastic was being used in these areas causing pollution to the river.

Railways to offer discounts like airlines:

- Just like the airlines and hotels, the railways could soon be dishing out discounts on tickets if trains are not fully booked, indicating a complete revamp of the flexi-fare scheme.
- The flexi-fare system, launched in September 2016, led to an increase of up to 50% in fares.
- Under the formula, base fares increase from 10% to 50% with every 10 per cent of berths booked.

USEFUL INFO	
Ministry of Railways Cabinet minister	Piyush Goyal
Constituency	Maharashtra
Ministry of Railways Minister of state	Manoj Sinha, Rajen Gohain

Government approves setting up of 42 Mega Food Parks:

- The government has approved setting up of a total 42 Mega Food Parks in the country to create modern infrastructure for food processing.
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal stated that nine Mega Food Parks have become functional so far and Ministry has targeted to make six more Mega Food Parks functional in this financial year and 12 by the next financial year.
- Mega Food Park has helped in creating demand for farmers' produce, better remuneration, increasing level of processing and value addition, reducing wastage and creating opportunities, directly and indirectly, befitting thousands of farmers and youths.

USEFUL INFO	
Union Minister of Food Processing Industries	Harsimrat Kaur Badal
Constituency	Bathinda, Punjab

IGNOU to launch world's first sand art certificate course in March, 2018:

- The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) launching world's first online certificate course in sand art in March, 2018.
- Shrikant Mohapatra, senior regional director of IGNOU Bhubaneshwar centre stated that, "It has to be fine-tuned as per MOOC'S (massive open online courses) norms."
- Pattnaik stated that he wanted India to become the first country across the globe to offer such training to sand artists, who, he noted, "were growing in number".

Cabinet approves Establishing India's First National Rail and Transportation University at Vadodara:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Ministry of Railways' transformative initiative to set up the first ever National Rail and Transport University (NRTU) in Vadodara to skill its human resources and build capability.



- The University will be set up as a Deemed to Be University under de novo category as per the UGC [Institutions Deemed to be Universities] Regulations, 2016.
- Government is working towards completing all approvals by April 2018 and to launch the first academic program in July 2018.

Government launches Darpan to improve level of postal services for rural customers:

- Minister of communications Manoj Sinha launched DARPAN, The Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India in New Delhi.
- The IT modernisation project aims at realising financial inclusion of un-banked rural population.
- The project has an outlay of 1400 crore rupees and intends to provide a low power technology solution to each branch postmaster.
- This will enable each of approximately 1.29 lakhs branch post offices to improve service delivery. DARPAN offers core banking services to the account holders.

USEFUL INFO	
Ministry of Communications Minister of state independent charge	Manoj Sinha
Constituency	Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh

Government to launch 'Ganga Gram' project at Ganga Gram Swachata Sammelan:

- The government formally launch the 'Ganga Gram' project at the Ganga Gram Swachata Sammelan in New Delhi.
- As part of its clean Ganga mission - Namami Gange, the Ganga Gram project is an integrated approach for the holistic development of villages situated on the banks of the holy river with the active participation of villagers.
- In August, the Centre declared all 4,470 villages on the banks of the Ganges, located in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, open defecation-free (ODF).

Government directs NGOs to open account in any designated bank within month for transparency:

- Union Home Ministry has directed all NGOs, business entities and individuals who receive funds from abroad to open accounts in any of the 32 designated banks, within a month for higher level of transparency.
- According to the ministry order, the directive to the NGOs, companies and individuals to open foreign contribution accounts in banks, which are integrated with the central government's Public Financial Management System (PFMS), came for providing a higher level of transparency and hassle-free reporting compliance.
- The central government has already decided that all banks where the FCRA registered persons and organisations have opened their foreign contribution accounts will be integrated with the PFMS for providing a higher level of transparency and hassle-free reporting compliance.

Government Plans to Connect the Small City by seaplanes before 2019:

- Before the 2019 election, the Center is decided to process a frame work for the mode of transportation, and it has decided to service under the regional connectivity scheme.
- The civil aviation minister will frame regulations for seaplanes; the shipping minister will set the norms for infrastructure of the connectivity, which include services like temporary or floating jets.

24*7 Power for all by March 2019:

- All households in the country will provide uninterrupted power supply by March 2019.
- The government has set a target of reducing the transmission and distribution losses of power from the current 21 per cent to 15 per cent by January 2019.

The Power Minister	R.K. Singh.
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Constituency	Arrah , Bihar
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GAIL awards major contracts for Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga:

- GAIL India has placed orders for another 400-km of pipeline of the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga natural gas pipeline project that will take the fuel to eastern India.
- With these awards, pipe supply orders for 2,100 km of the Jagdishpur-Haldia & Bokaro-Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline (JHBDPL) project have been placed.
- The prestigious 2,655 km long JHBDPL project, also known as the ‘Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga’ project will originate at Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh will pass through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.

Banking News

Allahabad Bank

Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India to come up with ESOP plans:

- As part of capital raising plans, public sector lenders Allahabad Bank, United Bank have initiated process to make employees stakeholders by way of issuing employee stock option (ESOP).
- Kolkata-headquartered United Bank of India and Allahabad Bank stated that they will issue such stock options for their employees.

USEFUL INFO	
Allahabad Bank Headquarters	Kolkata
Allahabad Bank Tagline	A tradition of trust
Allahabad Bank MD and CEO	Usha Ananthasubramanian
United Bank of India Bank Headquarters	Kolkata
United Bank of India Tagline	The Bank that begins with “U”
United Bank of India MD and CEO	Pawan Kumar Bajaj

Allahabad Bank ties up with NeSL:

- Allahabad Bank entered into an agreement with state-run National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing the latter’s Information Utility Services envisaged under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- NeSL, owned by the government, is the first Information Utility entity registered by Insolvency and bankruptcy Board of India under IBBI (IU) Regulations, 2017.

Bank of India

Reserve Bank of India puts Bank of India under ‘Prompt corrective action’:

- The RBI has initiated a ‘prompt corrective action’ against Bank of India for mounting bad loans, placing various restrictions on it including issuing of fresh loans and dividend distribution.
- Net NPAs, however, improved to 6.90 per cent from 7.79 per cent.
- Earlier, similar action was initiated against other lenders — Dena Bank, IDBI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and UCO Bank. The bank’s non-performing assets were reported over 6% for two consecutive years.

USEFUL INFO	
Bank of India Headquarters	Mumbai



Bank of India Tagline	Relationships beyond Banking
Bank of India MD and CEO	Dinabandhu Mohapatra

Catholic Syrian Bank

Catholic Syrian Bank to enter 2-wheeler financing from January:

- Catholic Syrian Bank, one of the oldest private sector banks in the country, intends to roll out a two-wheeler financing vertical from the New Year.
- The bank also plans to offer unique products and low interest rates to customers purchasing high-end racing bikes and super bikes.
- Besides, the bank is also planning to enter into used-car finance. Reduction in average car ownership along with low penetration of finance in used-car sales throws up ample opportunities.

USEFUL INFO	
Catholic Syrian Bank Headquarters	Thrissur
Catholic Syrian Bank Tagline	Support all the way
Catholic Syrian Bank MD and CEO	CVR Rajendran

Corporation Bank

Corporation Bank launches RuPay credit cards:

- Corporation Bank has launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards.
- Corporation Bank's RuPay credit cards are accepted at all RuPay-enabled 1.5 million plus PoS terminals and 80,000 plus e-commerce merchants in India and all ICS Partner acceptance points (POS, e-commerce merchants) globally.
- Personal accident insurance of Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh is offered on RuPay Select Credit Card and RuPay Platinum Credit Card

USEFUL INFO	
Corporation Bank Head quarters	Mangalore
Corporation Bank Tagline	A Premier Public Sector Bank
Corporation Bank MD and CEO	Jai Kumar Garg

Reserve Bank of India places Corporation Bank under 'prompt corrective action' framework:

- State-run Corporation Bank stated that the Reserve Bank of India has initiated 'prompt corrective action' for the lender over high bad loans and the need to raise capital.
- The bank had a net non-performing assets ratio of 10.24 percent as of end-September.
- The central bank has this year put several other state-run lenders under its corrective action plan, mainly due to their high bad loans.

European Investment Bank

Yes Bank, EIB to co-finance \$400 million for clean power projects:

- Yes Bank and the European Investment Bank will co-finance \$400-million funding for renewable power generation in the country.
- Of the \$400-million, the EIB will fund \$200 million, while the rest will be supported by Yes Bank, the project promoters and other financial institutions.



- Under this renewable power generation initiative, several solar projects in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka have been identified. Additional wind and solar projects are also being examined.

USEFUL INFO	
Yes Bank Headquarters	Mumbai
Yes Bank Tagline	Experience our Expertise
Yes Bank MD and CEO	Rana Kapoor
European Investment Bank Headquarters	Luxembourg
European Investment Bank President	Werner Hoyer

HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank issues 3 lakh instant credit cards within a year:

- Private sector lender HDFC Bank has issued 300,000 instant credit cards within a year of its launch.
- Launched in January this year, InstaCard is delivered to customers within an hour of applying for a credit card in quick and easy steps on net-banking.
- With InstaCard, customers can do online transactions on e-commerce websites immediately on receipt of the InstaCard, the physical card is then delivered to the customers within a few days.

USEFUL INFO	
HDFC Bank Headquarters	Mumbai
HDFC Bank Tagline	We understand your world
HDFC Bank MD and CEO	Aditya Puri

Quikr Buys HDFC Realty and HDFC Developers for Rs. 357 Crore:

- HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank by market capitalization, has announced that it has sold two of its subsidiaries — HDFC Realty and HDFC Developers, in an all stocks deal.
- Both HDFC Realty — an offline brokerage business and HDFC Developers (which runs online real estate classifieds platform HDFC RED) are 100% subsidiaries of HDFC.
- HDFC will get over 3 percent stake in Quikr India in lieu of sale of its stake in the two subsidiaries for Rs 357 crore.

USEFUL INFO	
HDFC Bank Headquarters	Mumbai
HDFC Bank Tagline	Aditya Puri
HDFC Bank MD and CEO	We understand your world
Quikr Headquarters	Bangalore
Quikr CEO	Pranay Chulet

ICICI Bank

Government ropes in ICICI Bank to enable cashless payments on e-NAM:

- The government has engaged private lender ICICI Bank to enable online payments at 470 mandis integrated with national portal of electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
- “Farmers have started trading online within mandi. ICICI Bank has been roped in as a banker for e- NAM.



- ICICI Bank will enable BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on the e-NAM portal for making cashless payments. The effort is to provide seamless experience for making online payment of trade and services undertaken on the e-NAM platform.

USEFUL INFO	
ICICI Bank Headquarters	Mumbai
ICICI Bank Tagline	Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka
ICICI Bank MD and CEO	Chanda Kochhar

ICICI Bank offers service to open PPF account online

- Private lender ICICI Bank has launched a digital service to allow customers to open a PPF account online, eliminating the need for furnishing paper documents.
- The digital service will enable customers to open a public provident fund (PPF) account instantly and in a completely online and paperless manner.
- It is the first lender in the country to introduce a fully digital and paperless procedure for opening a PPF account.
- The facility, available 24×7 and on all days, will require customers to login to their internet banking or mobile banking and apply for a PPF account.

IndusInd Bank

Reserve Bank of India imposes Rs. 3 crore penalty on IndusInd Bank:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed Rs 3 crore penalty on private sector lender IndusInd Bank for not following the central bank's rules on classification of bad loans.
- The statutory inspection of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2016 revealed, inter alia, violations of various regulations issued by RBI in the assessment of non-performing assets (NPAs) and extension of NFB (non-fund based) facilities

USEFUL INFO	
IndusInd Bank Headquarters	Mumbai
IndusInd Bank Tagline	We Make You Feel Richer
IndusInd Bank MD and CEO	Ramesh Sobti

SLCM ties up with HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank for collateral services:

- Warehouse service provider Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM) has tied up with HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank for collateral management services, which would further widen farmers' choice for availing post-harvest loans.
- SLCM already has similar partnerships with six other banks, including State Bank of India and ICICI Bank, and non-banking financial institution L&T Finance.

Karnataka Bank

Karnataka Bank to partner with fintechs in transformation journey:

- Karnataka Bank, which has embarked on a business transformation project with the Boston Consulting Group (India), sees potential in partnering with financial technology (fintech) companies and start-ups as one of the intervention areas for transformation.
- The changing landscape in the financial and technological fronts has necessitated reorienting the strategy for banks.

USEFUL INFO	
Karnataka Bank Headquarters	Mangalore



Karnataka Bank Tagline	Your Family Bank Across India
Karnataka Bank MD and CEO	M. S. Mahabaleshwara

Paytm Payments Bank

Paytm rolls out FASTag across India:

- Paytm Payments Bank is rolling out Paytm FASTag across the India, with the government mandating the use of FASTag on every new vehicle sold from December 1.
- The FASTags allow vehicles to pass through 380 toll plazas across India covering 55,000 km without having to stop.
- Each Paytm FASTtag is linked to a registered Paytm account to facilitate instant automatic deduction of toll charges.

USEFUL INFO	
Paytm Headquarters	Noida
Paytm CEO	Vijay Shekhar Sharma

PNB Bank

PNB raises bulk deposit rate by 0.5 per cent:

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) raised interest rate on bulk deposit of over Rs 1 crore by 0.5 per cent.
- The rate hike comes days ahead of RBI's fifth bi-monthly policy on December 6.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its last policy kept interest rate unchanged at 6 per cent.
- Earlier State Bank of India (SBI) announced raising interest rate on bulk deposits by 1 percentage point across select maturities.

USEFUL INFO	
Punjab National Bank Headquarters	New Delhi
Punjab National Bank Tagline	The name you can bank upon
Punjab National Bank MD and CEO	Sunil Mehta

Punjab National Bank hikes interest rate on term deposits by up to 1.25%:

- Punjab National Bank has effective January 1 hiked interest rates on domestic term deposits.
- For retail term deposits of less than Rs 1 crore, the interest rate has been revised from 4 per cent to 5.25 per cent in the maturity buckets of 7 to 29 days and 30 to 45 days.
- In the maturity bucket of 46 to 90 days, the interest rate stands revised to 6.25 per cent from 5.50 per cent.
- For the maturity bucket of 91 to 179 days, the interest rate has been revised upward to 6.25 per cent from 6 per cent.

RBI

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6%:

- The Reserve Bank of India left the key repo rate unchanged at 6%.
- In the financial year 2017-2018, five bi-monthly policies have been announced so far.
- The central bank had reduced the benchmark lending rate by 0.25% points to 6% in August, bringing it to a 6-year low, however, kept it unchanged in October and now in December.



- The central bank has raised inflation forecast to 4.3-4.7 per cent in third and fourth quarters of current fiscal and kept the economic growth forecast unchanged at 6.7 per cent.

USEFUL INFO	
Repo Rate	6%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate and Bank Rate	6.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	19.5%
USEFUL INFO	
RBI Headquarters	Mumbai
RBI Governor	Urjit Patel
RBI Deputy Governors	BP Kanungo, S S Mundra, N S Vishwanathan and Viral Acharya

RBI rationalises charges on debit card transactions

- In order to promote digital payments, RBI has come out with differentiated merchant discount rates (MDR) for debit card transactions, prescribing separate caps for small and large traders.
- MDR is the rate charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card services.
- As per the latest notification, MDR charges for small merchants with an annual turnover of up to 20 lakh rupees has been fixed at 0.4 per cent with a cap of 200 rupees per transaction by debit cards through Point of Sale (PoS) machines or online transactions.
- For accepting payments via QR (quick response) code based transactions, the charge will be 0.3 per cent subject to a cap of 200 rupees per transaction.

RBI launches campaign against fraudsters promising money:

- RBI has launched an SMS campaign and a missed-call helpline to warn people against scams promising prize money from the RBI.
- "Don't pay fees or charges to get large sums in return.
- It is also asking public to give a missed call to the helpline number, 8691960000.

Reserve Bank of India grants two more months to eWallets for completing KYC:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted them two more months (till February) to complete 'know your customer' (KYC) compliance of existing users.
- Earlier, the RBI had asked all the prepaid instruments including Paytm to complete minimum KYC of users by December 31, 2017.
- Paytm alone has over crore users on the Android platform alone, making it the biggest providers of digital wallets in India.

KKR gets Reserve Bank of India nod to start India's 1st Foreign-owned ARC:

- US buyout giant KKR & Co has become the first foreign investor to fully own an asset reconstruction company (ARC) in India as it received approval from the Reserve Bank of India at a time when lenders are fighting with a pile of bad loans that have crippled their businesses.
- KKR, one of the most aggressive investors in financial services, plans to deploy a major chunk from its record Asia fund for buying troubled assets in the country.



- ARC would be a platform that enables us to work with the banks and reach into a resolution through bilateral talks rather than getting into NCLT tribunal and related issues.

Royal Bank

Royal Bank of Scotland to shut 259 branches to expand online banking:

- Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc (RBS) will close 259 more branches across Britain in its latest round of cuts as customers shift to online banking.
- Outlets under both the NatWest and Royal Bank of Scotland brands will close in the middle of next year, resulting in about 680 job cuts.

USEFUL INFO	
Royal Bank of Scotland Headquarters	Edinburgh, UK
Royal Bank of Scotland CEO	Ross McEwan

SBI BANK

SBI changes names, IFSC codes of around 1,300 branches:

- Post the merger of its five associates, State Bank of India has changed names and IFSC codes of nearly 1,300 of its branches.
- Customers have been informed about the change in IFSC codes, but internally also the bank has mapped them to the new codes.

USEFUL INFO	
State Bank of India Headquarters	Mumbai
State Bank of India Tagline	With you all the way ,Pure banking nothing else,The nation's bank on us
State Bank of India Chairman	Rajnish Kumar

SBI GOING TO RAISE THEIR CAPITAL BY 8000 Crore :

- The country's largest lender SBI announces that it going to raise their capital as Rs 8,000 crore through different sources, like masala bonds, to meet Basel III capital norms. SBI gets target to achieve it before March 2018.
- RBI imposed deadline to achieve Basel III norms by March 2019.

SEBI

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) hikes FPI investment limit:

- Capital market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), raised the investment limit for foreign portfolio investors in central government securities to over 1.91 lakh crore from next month.
- Currently, investment limit for foreign portfolio investors is 1.89 lakh crore rupees.
- The move is part of an effort by SEBI to push inflow from overseas investors in the country's capital markets.

USEFUL INFO	
SEBI Headquarters	Mumbai
SEBI Chairman	Ajay Tyagi



CEO

Shikha Sharma

SEBI imposes Rs 6.8 lakh penalty on Skanda Aerospace:

- Markets regulator SEBI levied a fine of Rs 6.80 lakh on Skanda Aerospace for disclosure norm lapses.
- The noticee (Skanda Aerospace) had failed to make disclosures within the stipulated time under the SAST Regulations to the company (Astra Microwaves Products), BSE and the NSE in respect of change of more than 2 per cent in its shareholding in the company during the period January May 2014.

SEBI ordered Axis bank to investigate WhatsApp Case:

- Axis banks share was decreased 2% suddenly and SEBI suspects that Banks internal information may leak by WhatsApp group. So, SEBI ordered Axis bank to enquire it by forming the the internal probe .
- SEBI stated that Axis Bank has to complete the inquiry within three months and file a report to Sebi within seven days after that six month.

South Indian Bank

South Indian Bank rides the blockchain wave to complete overseas transactions:

- South Indian Bank has successfully executed overseas transactions using blockchain technology in partnership with a leading currency exchange house in West Asia.
- With this, SIB joins a niche group of banks in the global market to exchange and authenticate remittance transaction messages electronically on blockchain in real time.
- The pilot transaction was successfully executed by Forex transaction from UAE to India.

USEFUL INFO	
South Indian Bank Headquarters	Thrissur
South Indian Bank Tagline	Experience next generation banking
South Indian Bank MD and CEO	V. G. Mathew

SEBI has tightened the norms for credit rating agencies and mutual funds:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India has stricken the norms for credit rating agencies and mutual funds to reduce the conflict of interest.
- SEBI Increased the net worth of rating agencies from 5 crore to 25 crore.
- It also decided that the promoter entity should have to maintain at least 25% stake in the rating agency for a period of three years.

Syndicate Bank

Reserve Bank of India imposes Rs 5 crore penalty on Syndicate Bank:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on Syndicate Bank for non-compliance with its directions on "Cheque Purchase or Discounting, Bill Discounting, and Know Your Customer (KYC)" norms.
- According to the RBI, the penalty was imposed on December 12, 2017 after "considering the bank's reply and oral submissions made in the personal hearing".
- This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

USEFUL INFO	
Syndicate Bank Headquarters	Manipal
Syndicate Bank Tagline	A Faithful & Friendly Financial



	Partner
Syndicate Bank MD and CEO	Arun Shrivastava

United Bank of India

RBI puts United Bank of India on prompt corrective action:

- Reserve Bank of India has directed United Bank of India to raise capital, diversify credit portfolio and take cost control measures as the state-run lender is under severe stress with high sticky loans.
- The action points focus on profit retention, capital augmentation, provision coverage, diversification of credit portfolio, rationalisation of expansion and cost control.
- This is the second time in four years that UBI came under regulatory sanctions and be forced to take corrective measures for strains in financials.

USEFUL INFO	
United Bank of India Headquarters	Kolkata
United Bank of India Tagline	The Bank that begins with “U”
United Bank of India MD and CEO	Pawan Kumar Bajaj

Vijaya Bank

Vijaya Bank to raise Rs 1,300 crore via bonds in Financial Year 2018:

- Public sector lender Vijaya Bank stated that its board has approved raising Rs 1,300 crore via bonds in the current fiscal under the Basel III global capital adequacy norms.
- The board has accorded its approval for raising Rs 1,300 crore by way of additional tier 1 bonds under Basel III for the financial year 2017-18 (revised additional capital requirements amounting to Rs 1,000 crore in addition to Rs 300 crore already approved by the board)

USEFUL INFO	
Vijaya Bank Headquarters	Bangalore
Vijaya Bank Tagline	A friend You can bank upon
Vijaya Bank MD and CEO	R. A. Sankara Narayanan

Yes Bank

FundsIndia partners with Yes Bank to launch UPI on mobile for faster, easier payments:

- FundsIndia.com, has partnered with Yes Bank to launch Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on their Android app for mutual fund payments.
- Powered by Yes Bank, FundsIndia becomes the first online mutual fund distributor to support UPI for client payments.
- UPI offers the benefit of instant processing of payments and is currently the fastest way to complete mutual fund transactions, compared to Net Banking, NEFT and other payment methods.

USEFUL INFO	
Yes Bank Headquarters	Mumbai
Yes Bank Tagline	Experience our Expertise
Yes Bank MD and CEO	Rana Kapoor

Yes Bank sets up Medium Term Note programme to raise \$1 billion:



- Private sector lender Yes Bank has established a Medium Term Note programme to raise \$1 billion (over 6,400 crore) by issuing debt securities on private placement basis.
- The bank can raise money, in Indian or foreign currency through various means, including issuance of debt securities such as non-convertible debentures, MTNs, tier I/II bonds, as well as long-term infrastructure bonds.
- As per the approval from its board of directors and shareholders, the bank has permission to raise funds up to Rs 20,000 crore in one or more tranches on private placement basis from time to time.

Canara Bank

Canara Bank to raise up to Rs 3,500 crore through QIP:

- Canara Bank will raise up to Rs 3,500 crore capital through a qualified institutions placement (QIP) route.
- By issuing up to 9 crore equity shares of a face value of Rs 10 each with a premium to be decided as per the applicable guidelines/regulations for an aggregate amount not exceeding Rs 3,500 crore inclusive of such premium

USEFUL INFO	
Canara Bank Headquarters	Bangalore
Canara Bank Tagline	Together We Can
Canara Bank MD and CEO	Rakesh Sharma

IDBI Bank

IDBI Bank to terminate all rating contracts with Moody's Investors Services:

- State-owned IDBI Bank has disengaged Moody's Investors Services (Moody's) to rate its bond programmes.
- Earlier in August, Moody's had downgraded the foreign currency senior unsecured MTN programme rating of IDBI and its DIFC branch to (P)B1 from (P)Ba2.
- The global ratings firm had also downgraded the bank's local and foreign currency bank deposit ratings to B1 from Ba2 citing reasons that the lender remains significantly under-capitalised and that government's capital infusions have been insufficient to repair the bank's balance sheet.

USEFUL INFO	
IDBI Bank Headquarters	Mumbai
IDBI Bank Tagline	Banking For All, "Aao Sochein Bada"
IDBI Bank MD and CEO	Mahesh Kumar Jain

Indian Bank

S&P Ranks Indian Banks at Group 5:

- Rating agency Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC is an American financial services company which ranks india in the group 5 along with Italy, Spain, Ireland, the UAE and South Africa.

S&P Headquarters	New york
President	Douglas Peterson
Founder	Henry Varnum Poor



S&P Ranks Indian Banks at Group 5

- Rating agency Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC is an American financial services company which ranks India in the group 5 along with Italy, Spain, Ireland, the UAE and South Africa.

Others

No transaction fees on debit card payments of up to Rs. 2,000:

- The government has waived the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on all debit card, UPI, and Aadhaar-based transactions of up to Rs. 2,000 for the next two years, starting January 1, 2018.
- MDR is the rate charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card services.
- The charges will be reimbursed by the government to the banks.

Centre to introduce first tranche of Bank Recap bonds:

- The Centre will bring in the first tranche of the RS. 1.35 lakh crore bank recapitalisation bonds in the upcoming batch of Supplementary Demand for Grants slated to come before the Parliament in the ongoing Winter Session.
- The Centre is hopeful that the Rs. 2.11 lakh crore bank recapitalisation plan will propel micro, small and medium enterprises through enhanced access to markets and help finance such firms in 30 clusters.
- The Government had launched the Indradhanush scheme in 2015 to infuse RS. 70,000 crore in State-run banks over four years to meet their capital requirement in line with Basel-III global risk norms.

Complaints to banking ombudsman rose 27% to touch 1.3 lakh in financial year 2017:

- Banks need to strengthen their internal grievance redressal mechanism as the volume of complaints received in the Office of Banking Ombudsman (OBO) increased by 27 per cent in FY17, according to the OBO annual report.
- The complaints received in the OBO increased to 1.3 lakh in 2016-17 from 1.02 lakh in 2015-16, a rise of 27.45 per cent, which was higher than the 21 per cent increase in the previous year.

Indian Inflation Will Levels To 4.5 Per Cent In 2018: BofAML

- According to Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofAML), inflation risks are “comes down to its target of 4.5% in the middle of next year Present CPI inflation rate is 5.2 per cent.
- In today's press meet one of the MPC member stated that the RBI MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) to cut policy rates by 25 bps in April to signal a lending rate cut comes down.

MPC members:

1. Dr. Urjit R. Patel
2. Dr. Chetan Ghate
3. Dr. Pami Dua
4. Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia
5. Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra
6. Dr. Viral V. Acharya



Six public sector banks get Rs.7,500 crore capital from government:

- The Centre has pumped in capital of Rs.7,577 crore in various weak public sector banks.
- The government has released Rs.2,257 crore to Bank of India, which was recently placed under prompt corrective action by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The other big beneficiary of the latest capital infusion round is IDBI Bank, which has received Rs.2,729 crore.
- While Central Bank of India has got capital support of Rs.323 crore, Dena Bank has got capital support of Rs.243 crore from the government.
- UCO Bank, another weak public sector bank, has got capital support of Rs.1,375 crore. Bank of Maharashtra has received capital support of Rs.650 crore.

FE Best Banks Awards: SBI bags best Nationalised Bank award:

- India's most coveted banking awards i.e FE Best Banks Awards ceremony is taking place in New delhi.
- The chief guest for this prestigious FE Best Bank Awards was Nitin Gadkari, who is Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

USEFUL INFO	
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Nationalised Bank	State Bank of India
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Savings Bank Product	Kotak Mahindra Bank
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Mobile Banking Application	ICICI Bank
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Non- Banking Financial Institution	Ujjivan Financial Services
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Special Initiative Award	Shriram Transport Finance
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Banker of the Year	Arundhati Bhattacharya
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Lifetime Achievement Award	Uday Kotak
Best Bank Awards 2015-16: New Private Sector Bank award	HDFC Bank
FE Best Bank Awards 2015-16: Old Private Sector Bank award	City Union Bank

Airtel Payments Bank CEO Shashi Arora quits:

- Airtel Payments Bank MD and CEO Shashi Arora quits the company after UIDAI suspended the firm's e-KYC licence.
- Airtel was accused of using Aadhaar-eKYC based process to open payments bank accounts of subscribers without their consent.
- Arora has been working with Airtel in senior leadership roles since 2006 and was appointed Airtel Payments Bank's CEO on June 1, 2016.

USEFUL INFO	
Airtel Payments Bank Headquarters	New Delhi

Insurance

Apollo Munich Health Insurance launches first-of-its-kind Health Wallet Plan:

- Apollo Munich Health Insurance, a standalone health insurer, launched a novel health insurance plan 'Health Wallet' that caters not only to the customers' hospitalisation and OPD expenses, but also ensures affordability of continuing their policy in their golden years.



- On offer along with the 'Health Wallet' plan is a unique 'RESERVE' benefit that continues to grow and earn for the customers and helps them secure their retirement.
- Every year, the unused reserve amount gets carried forward and earns a 6 percent bonus.

USEFUL INFO	
Apollo Munich Health Insurance CEO	Antony Jacob

Ola offers insurance cover for driver-partners:

- Online mobility platform Ola announced the launch of a comprehensive in-trip insurance programme, customised for its driver-partners across the country.
- The programme, launched in partnership with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, is designed to benefit both driver-partners and their families.
- 'Chalo Befikar' insurance will be provided to all active driver-partners on the platform, offering a cover of Rs.500,000.

USEFUL INFO	
Ola Headquarters	Bangalore
Ola CEO	Bhavish Aggarwal

New India Assurance bags insurance cover mandate for Air Deccan:

- New India Assurance Company Ltd bagged the insurance cover mandate for Air Deccan.
- Nearly 10 years after pioneering low cost air travel model Air Deccan has come back to the sector under regional connectivity scheme.
- New India Assurance provides aviation insurance cover to all major airlines of India like Air India, Indigo, Spice Jet, Vistara and Go Air.

USEFUL INFO	
New India Assurance Headquarters	Mumbai
New India Assurance Tagline	India's premier general insurance company
New India Assurance CEO	G. Srinivasan

New India Assurance to execute health cover for 1 crore families in Maharashtra, Rajasthan:

- New India Assurance Company Limited has announced that it will execute health insurance for about one crore poor families across Maharashtra.
- India's largest non-life insurer will also extend the cover to one crore poor families across Rajasthan.
- Under the project called the Bhamasha Swasthya Bima Yojana (BSBY), about four crore people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will get health insurance benefits.

USEFUL INFO	
New India Assurance Headquarters	Mumbai
New India Assurance Tagline	India's premier general insurance company
New India Assurance CEO	G. Srinivasan

Financial & Economy Affairs

Government releases Rs.174 crore to six states for border development:

- The Home Ministry has released over Rs.174 crore to six states having an international border under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).
- The states which will be benefited under the programme include Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, and Manipur.



- The programme covers all villages which are located within 10 kilometres of the international border in 17 states.

India is the first country where AIIB has committed over \$1-billion of financing’:

- India is the first country where the Bank has committed more than \$1 billion of financing,” Vice-President and Corporate Secretary of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Danny Alexander stated in a statement
- The third annual meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB will be held in Mumbai in June next year.
- India is the largest borrower of the AIIB. They have just announced that they will finance Part 6 of the Bangalore Metro project.

USEFUL INFO	
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Headquarters	Beijing, China
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President	Jin Liqun

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces Rs 90,000 crore for improving roads, highways in Northeast:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 90,000 crore for improving roads and national highways in the Northeast in the next two to three years to facilitate better connectivity.
- The prime minister dedicated to the nation a 271-km two-lane national highway connecting Tura in western Meghalaya and Shillong.

USEFUL INFO	
Meghalaya Capital	Shillong
Meghalaya Chief Minister	Mukul Sangma
Meghalaya Governor	Ganga Prasad
Mizoram Capital	Imphal
Mizoram Chief Minister	Biren Singh
Mizoram Governor	Najma Heptulla

Power Finance Corporation helps 100 divyaang children under CSR:

- Under the Cochlear Implant Scheme of the Government of India for hearing disability hundred children under 6 years have benefited as a result of Corporate Social Responsibility initiative of the Power Finance Corporation.
- Besides, the Government of India organised more than 5890 camps for helping people with various kinds of disabilities.
- Power Finance Corporation has come forward to help the children from homes who cannot afford expensive surgeries that cost around Rs. six lakh.

Railway nod for Rs 12,000-crore upgrade of mishap-prevention system:

- The Indian Railways has cleared Rs 12,000-crore proposal to equip electric locomotives with the latest European train protection system.
- At its meeting on December 15, the Railway Board cleared the proposal to equip 6,000 electric locos with European Train Control System (ETCS) Level-II to help drivers - or pilots -- to prevent rail mishaps.
- Besides, the Board also decided to install the ETCS Level-II system on the entire 9,054 km-long Golden Quadrilateral route connecting the four metros to make it a fully accident-free corridor.
- The entire project to ensure ETCS Level-II compliance is expected to cost around Rs 12,000 crore.

USEFUL INFO	
Ministry of Railways Cabinet minister	Piyush Goyal
Constituency	Maharashtra



Ministry of Railways Minister of state

Manoj Sinha, Rajen Gohain

Airlines drop flat Rs.3,000 cancellation fee after DGCA notice:

- Indian domestic carriers have scrapped their flat Rs.3,000 cancellation fee after regulator DGCA asked the airlines to provide data on cancellation charges.
- In accordance with DGCA rules, the charges will now be Rs.3,000 or base fare plus fuel surcharge per passenger, whichever is lower.
- However, domestic travellers, whose base fare and fuel surcharges combined is more than Rs 3,000, will continue paying that as cancellation fee.

USEFUL INFO

Minister of State for Civil Aviation	Jayant Sinha
Constituency	Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

Center Approves Rs 167 Crore To 9 States For Border Development:

- Center Sanctions 167 Cr under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) for the development of infrastructure in the border regions.
- The Home Ministry approved for Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Sikkim, Tripura, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal.

Important Points:

Home Minister : Rajnath Singh

Constituency : Ghaziabad

Government allotted Rs 33,700 Cr for Swachh Bharat Mission since 2014

- The Union government has allocated over Rs 33,700 crore under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' since 2014,
- Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Uma Bharti released the distribution Rs 2,850 crore in 2013-14, Rs 6,525 crore for 2014-2015, Rs 10,513 crore 2015-16 and Rs 13,948.27 2016-17.

Finance Ministry warns about crypto currencies:

- Until RBI only warning about the crypto currency now finance ministry also join hands about the Virtual currency.
- At present Bitcoin value is in peek so our investors pool their money in it but the price of Bitcoin and other Virtual currencies is entirely a matter of fluctuation in their value.
- Crypto currencies don't have any specific value and are not backed by any kind of assets.

Government approved Rs 4,066 crore for internet in all panchayats:

- Under BharatNet project, Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha announced that government has approved Rs.4066 crore for the development of internet in all panchayats.
- The connections will be provided through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology.
- The government provided optical fiber connectivity by laying 2, 52,547 km Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) to all gram panchayats. And plans to connect all the panchayats by March 2019.
- In the 1st phase government plans to connect 1 lakh Gram Panchayats on 100Mbps.

14,500 crore generated through BHARAT 22 Exchange Traded Fund:

- An amount of Rs 14,500 crore has been raised through its BHARAT 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), which was created to benefit long-term and retail investors by providing an opportunity to purchase equity stocks of government-run companies and earn stable returns.
- The objective of BHARAT 22 ETF is to invest in constituents (22 companies) of S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index and endeavour to provide returns before expenses, which closely correspond to the total returns of the index.
- The fund comprises of 22 stocks of listed Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Strategic Holdings of Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) and Public Sector Banks (PSBs).



India moves up one spot to 68 on Global Entrepreneurship Index:

- India has moved up one place to the 68th spot on the Global Entrepreneurship Index of 2018, which is topped by the US. The list was prepared for 137 countries in the world.
- India was at the 69th position last year. The US topped the index last year also
- "Each country is ranked according to its GEI score to indicate overall entrepreneurship attitude and potential,"

Railways to accept payment through UPI at booking counters:

- Indian Railways will accept payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app for booking railway tickets from reservation counters.
- Adding that the system has currently been launched for reserved tickets
- Indian Railways is also working to develop Bharat QR code option for booking tickets.

India's GDP growth surges to 6.3% in September quarter:

- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rebound to 6.3% in September quarter from a three-year low of 5.7% in the June quarter, government data showed.
- However, the pace of growth is still below 7.5% recorded in the corresponding quarter a year ago.
- Further, the economy grew at 6.1% in Gross Value Added (GVA) terms.

15th Finance Commission holds 1st meeting:

- The first meeting of the newly constituted 15th Finance Commission held in New Delhi.
- The government had constituted the Commission last month and appointed former Secretary and ex-Member of Parliament NK Singh as its chairman.
- The 14th Finance Commission was set up in 2013 and its recommendations cover the period from 1st April, 2015 to 31st March, 2020.

Fitch cuts full-year growth forecast to 6.7%:

- Fitch Ratings has reduced the growth forecast for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018, to 6.7 per cent from 6.9 per cent.
- Simultaneously, the global rating agency has pared the FY19 forecast for the country to 7.3 per cent from 7.4 per cent.
- The Indian economy picked up in the second quarter (July-September) of 2017, with GDP growing by 6.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from 5.7 per cent in the preceding quarter.

India's GDP growth to rise to 7.5% in 2018: Morgan Stanley:

- The Indian economy is expected to witness cyclical growth recovery, with real GDP growth likely to accelerate from 6.4 per cent this year to 7.5 per cent in 2018 and further to 7.7 per cent in 2019, says a report.
- According to global financial services major Morgan Stanley, corporate return expectations and balance sheet fundamentals are improving, and a strengthening financial system should be able to meet investment credit demand.

Indian economy likely to grow by 7.2% in 2018 & 7.4% in 2019: UN report:

- Indian economy is likely to grow by 7.2 per cent in 2018 and go up further to 7.4 per cent in the following year on the back of strong private consumption, public investment and the ongoing structural reforms, says a UN report.
- The UN DESA report stated the GDP growth is projected to accelerate from 6.7 per cent in 2017 to 7.2 per cent in 2018 and 7.4 per cent in 2019.

Wholesale inflation jumps 3.93% in November:

- Inflation based on the wholesale price index rose to 3.93 per cent in November this year. This was due to an increase in the prices of onions and seasonal vegetables.
- Wholesale inflation had stood at 3.59 per cent in October this year, and 1.82 percent in November last year.
- Inflation in manufactured goods stood at 2.61 per cent in November, almost unchanged from 2.62 in October.



Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company in pact with JCB India:

- Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd (Chola) has entered into a strategic partnership with earthmoving and construction equipment maker JCB India for financing latter's entire range of products.
- Through this strategic partnership, they will aim to give them the best product and finance experience in the industry.
- Chola has relationship with several vehicle manufacturers and dealers, and is one of the leaders in the commercial vehicle financing segment.

Disney acquires entertainment assets of Fox for \$52 billion:

- The Walt Disney Company announced it will acquire 21st Century Fox's film and television studios, cable entertainment networks and international TV businesses in a deal worth \$52.4 billion.
- Popular Fox entertainment properties include X-Men, Avatar, Star India, FX Networks and National Geographic.
- Bob Iger will remain the Chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company through 2021.

Customs duty on smartphones, TVs hiked:

- The government raised the customs duty on television sets, mobile phones to 15% from the existing 10%.
- Similarly, the duty on monitors, projectors, water heaters and hair dressing instruments has been doubled to 20%.
- Earlier in October, the government had increased the customs duty on polyester fabric to 20% from the existing 10%.
- The rise in tax from 10 percent to 15 percent on handsets will make imports of phones - including most of Apple's iPhone models.

I&B ministry approves merger of Dish TV and Videocon d2h:

- Zee group-owned DTH operator Dish TV has received the final approval from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry for closing its merger with Videocon d2h.
- The new entity will be called Dish TV Videocon and will serve nearly 29 million subscribers.
- As of September, Dish TV and Videocon d2h had 24% and 20% market share respectively.
- Currently, there are six private DTH firms — Dish TV India Ltd, Reliance Digital Ltd, Tata Sky Ltd, Videocon d2h Ltd, Sun Direct TV Pvt. Ltd and Bharti Telemedia Ltd.

Aircel to shut operations in 6 circles from January 30:

- Telecom operator Aircel will shut operations in six circles, including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, from January 30.
- "Aircel Ltd and Dishnet Wireless Ltd (both collectively referred to as Aircel Group) informed the surrender of Licence in six licensed service areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh (West) with effect from sixty days from the date of notice of surrender i.e. December 1, 2017.
- Aircel has set sun set date of January 30, 2018 for discontinuation of mobile services in the six circles.

Edelweiss to acquire Religare's securities business:

- The Edelweiss Group announced the acquisition of Religare Enterprises Ltd's securities business, which includes securities and commodities broking and depository participant services.
- As part of the deal, Edelweiss Wealth Management will take on pan-India distribution of around 1,250 points of presence, including over 90 branches, over 1 million clients and the employees of Religare.

Government Mint launches first home-grown high purity gold reference standard:

- India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard - the Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201) - was launched at the India Government Mint, Mumbai.



- BND-4201, which is the reference material for gold of ‘9999’ fineness (gold that is 99.99 per cent pure), will be beneficial to the consumers and public at large to ensure purity of gold.
- The measurement of the high purity BND-4201 is traceable to SI units (International System of Units)

BPCL SBI Card offers 70 litres of free fuel every year:

- SBI Card and Bharat Petroleum have announced the launch of the BPCL SBI Card, claimed to be the ‘most rewarding fuel co-branded credit card in the country.’
- Launched on the Visa platform, the card offers 2,000 bonus points worth Rs.500 on payment of joining fee.
- The annual membership fee is Rs.499, which will be reversed on annual spends of Rs.50,000 or more Apart from savings of up to five per cent on fuel purchases
- The BPCL SBI Card will offer up to 70 litres of free fuel per year to cardholders.

Indian economy may reach 7% growth in 2018: Assocham:

- The Indian economy may reach a 7 per cent growth in 2018 while recovering from the lingering effects of demonetisation and GST, industry chamber Assocham reported.
- “After ‘disruptions’ from the lingering effects of demonetisation and GST roll-out, the Indian economy may reach a 7 per cent growth in 2018 with government policies tilting towards the stress-ridden rural landscape in the penultimate year before the Lok Sabha elections,” according to the industry body’s “Year-Ahead Outlook”.

USEFUL INFO	
Assocham Headquarters	New Delhi, India
Assocham President	Sandeep Jajodia

India’s GDP to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2018: Nomura report:

- Indian economy is expected to witness sharp recovery in the January-March quarter and its GDP growth likely to be around 7.5 per cent for 2018, according to Nomura report.
- According to Japanese financial services major Nomura’s Composite Leading Index (CLI), some growth consolidation is likely in the Q4 (October-December), followed by a sharp recovery in Q1 (January-March) 2018 due to ongoing remonetisation and improving global demand.

USEFUL INFO	
Nomura Group Headquarters	Tokyo, Japan
Nomura Group CEO	Koji Nagai

Government extends deadline for pasting stickers reflecting new MRP:

- The government has allowed companies till March next year to paste price stickers on unsold packaged products to reflect new MRP post GST.
- This was stated by Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi. In last GST Council meeting, rates of GST have been reduced for about 200 items, so the Ministry has decided to extend the December deadline to further three months.

Government cuts small saving interest by 0.2 present:

- The government cuts the interest rate on small savings schemes such as public provident fund (PPF), national savings certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra, by 0.2 percentages for the January-March quarter.
- But the savings Account Interest remains at 4% and Senior citizen Saving scheme also remains same as 8.3%
- Term deposits for 1 to 5 years will fetch lower interest rate of 6.6-7.4%, while the five-year recurring deposit is interesting at 6.9%.

Schemes	%
Public Provident Fund (PPF),	7.6%
national savings certificate (NSC)	7.6%
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.3% (11 months maturity)



Senior Citizens Savings Scheme	8.3%
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GST Cess hike to 25% for luxury cars:

- The Lok Sabha passes a bill to hike cess on luxury vehicles from 15 per cent to 25 per cent on today's session.
- The funds collected by this hike will be used to compensate for revenue loss on account of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Apple Gains \$151 profit per handset:

- Global tech giant Apple's gains \$151 (over Rs.9,600) profit per handset in the July- September quarter, this count is five times more than that of Samsung.

Profit generated by mobile segments:

1. Apple – 60%
2. Samsung – 26%
3. Hauwei – 4.9%

P2P lending marketplace platform launched:

- Rajiv Ranjan, a former Infoscion along with Ambar Kasliwal, a Mumbai-based Chartered Accountant, has launched a fully-owned P2P lending marketplace platform.
- Called PaisaDukan.com, it is a part of BigWin Infotech, a government recognised start-up and it aims to start operations from January 2018.
- The startup is among a few who have applied for an NBFC ((non-banking financial company)-peer-to-peer (P2P) licence after RBI's revised guidelines.

Finance Ministry cuts the I-T exemption to cooperative banks:

- Until now there is a I-T exemption for the co-operative banks but it also making profit equal to the commercial banks. So finance ministry cuts the IT exemptions for the co operative banks from 1st Jan 2018.

Finance Minister	Arun Jaitley
Constituency	Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat.

Ripple becomes world's second largest cryptocurrency:

- Bitcoin's rival cryptocurrency Ripple has surpassed Ethereum as the world's second largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation.
- The price of Ripple rose to as much as \$2.84, climbing more than 90% in 24 hours.
- The market capitalisation of Ripple reached more than \$110 billion and the cryptocurrency has surged over 47,200% year-to-date.

International News

Indo-UK combined military exercise begins in Bikaner:

- A 14 day long Combined Military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior- 2017' between India and the UK begins near Bikaner.
- The exercise will take place in the Mahajan Field Firing Range near Bikaner of Rajasthan.
- The objective of this exercise is to increase mutual cooperation and coordination between the two countries. Both armies will learn and share from each other's experiences.

USEFUL INFO	
UK Capital	London
UK Currency	Pound Sterling
UK Prime Minister	Theresa May

IMF approves new 88 billion US dollar credit line for Mexico:



- The International Monetary Fund today approved a new 88 billion US dollar credit line for Mexico, replacing the existing line.
- The two-year flexible credit line boosts Mexico's ability to immediately deal with a potential need for liquidity, without having to request an IMF loan.
- The country considers the funds precautionary and does not intend to draw on them, although the IMF notes increasing risks from the potential changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

USEFUL INFO	
Mexico Capital	Mexico City
Mexico Currency	Mexican Peso
Mexico President	Enrique Pena Nieto

Pikachu named cultural ambassador for Japanese city:

- Hello Kitty and Pokemon's Pikachu have been named cultural ambassadors for the Japanese city of Osaka, Foreign Minister Taro Kono has announced.
- The move is aimed at winning the bid for hosting the World Expo 2025, which is held every five years.
- In November 2018, the host of the 2025 expo will be announced between the four contenders.

'Populism' is Cambridge dictionary's word of the year:

- The word "populism" has been announced as the Cambridge Dictionary 2017 Word of the Year
- Based on the criteria that the word should not only be the most searched-for words but is also reflected in spikes — occasions when a word is suddenly looked up many more times than usual on or around a particular date.
- The dictionary defines populism as "political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want".

UN seeks record \$22.5 billion in humanitarian aid for 2018:

- The United Nations is appealing for a record 22.5 billion Dollar to provide humanitarian assistance to 91 million victims of conflict and natural disasters in 2018.
- The money will also be used to provide aid to victims of typhoons, hurricanes and other natural disasters. Yemen, Syria and Democratic Republic of Congo - homes of the world's three biggest crises - will receive most of the aid.

USEFUL INFO	
United Nations Headquarters	New York, USA
United Nations Secretary	António Guterres

Japan to host ministerial meeting of UNSC on 15th December:

- Japan announced that it will host a ministerial meeting of the UN Security Council on the 15th of this month.
- The meeting will focus on finding peaceful ways to pressure North Korea to halt its nuclear and ballistic missile tests and denuclearise the Korean peninsula.
- Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is expected to brief the council.

USEFUL INFO	
Japan Capital	Tokyo
Japan Currency	Japanese Yen
Japan Prime Minister	Shinzo Abe

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani inaugurates 1st phase of Chabahar port in Iran:

- The first phase of the Chabahar port in Iran was inaugurated by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.
- It has opened a new strategic transit route between Iran, India and Afghanistan.
- Minister of State for Shipping Pon Radhakrishnan represented India at the inauguration of the Phase-1 of the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar.

USEFUL INFO	
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Iran Capital	Tehran
Iran Currency	Iranian Rial
Iran President	Hassan Rouhani

Nepal to host international conference on climate change:

- Nepal will hold an international conference to draw attention on climate change and its adverse effects on people in the Hindu Kush mountain range.
- President Bidya Devi Bhandari will inaugurate the four-day long conference aimed at developing solutions for a sustainable future for Asia that could withstand the impacts of climate change.
- The main objective of the event, held with the support of Nepal's Ministry for Environment, is to develop solutions for resilience building, promoting regional cooperation and reducing the data gaps for sustainable mountain development

USEFUL INFO	
Nepal Capital	Kathmandu
Nepal Currency	Nepalese Rupee
Nepal Prime Minister	Sher Bahadur Deuba

China tests 'jellyfish shredder' to save aircraft carriers:

- China has tested its "jellyfish shredder" weapon aimed at protecting its fleet of aircraft carriers
- The system, towed by a tugboat ahead of the aircraft carrier, destroys jellyfish by chopping them into thousands of pieces.
- Jellyfish often get sucked into ships' water intake pipes and clog their cooling systems, bringing the vessels to a complete halt.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

Venezuela to launch new virtual currency:

- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced the creation of a new virtual currency in a bid to ease the country's economic crisis.
- He stated that Petro would be backed by Venezuela's oil, gas, gold and diamond wealth.
- Venezuela's economy has been hit by falling oil revenue and the plummeting value of its existing currency, the Bolivar.

USEFUL INFO	
Venezuela Capital	Caracus
Venezuela Currency	Venezuelan Bolívar
Venezuela President	Nicolás Maduro

South Korea, US launch largest air exercise:

- South Korea and the United States launched their largest-ever joint aerial drills.
- The exercise comes after a week after North Korea tested its most advanced missile as part of a weapons programme that has raised global tensions.
- The annual US-South Korean drill, called Vigilant Ace, will run until this week end, with six F-22 Raptor stealth fighters to be deployed among the more than 230 aircraft taking part.

USEFUL INFO	
South Korea Capital	Seoul
South Korea Currency	South Korean Won
South Korea President	Moon Jae-in
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.



USA Currency	United States Dollar
USA President	Donald Trump

China launches land exploration satellite:

- China launched a land exploration satellite into a preset orbit, designed for remote sensing exploration of land resources.
- The satellite was launched on a Long March-2D rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in China's northern Gobi Desert.
- The satellite is mainly used for remote sensing exploration of land resources.
- This was the 257th mission of the Long March rocket series.

South Korea launches special 'decapitation unit' against North Korea:

- The South Korean military has launched a special 'decapitation unit' as part of its 'Beheading Operation' that aims to target the North Korean leadership in case of a conflict.
- The unit includes 1,000 soldiers belonging to the army's Special Forces command.
- This comes amid tensions on the Korean Peninsula over North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programme.

USEFUL INFO	
North Korea Capital	Pyongyang
North Korea Currency	North Korean Won
North Korea President	Kim Jong-un

Saudi Arabia, Qatar FMs attend round-table talks ahead of regional Gulf summit

- The Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia and Qatar attended round-table talks yesterday ahead of a regional Gulf summit, in their first such encounter since Riyadh cut all ties with Doha.
- The meeting is being held to prepare the agenda for the GCC annual summit in Kuwait City.
- Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, all Gulf Cooperation Council members, as well as Egypt on June 5 severed all political and economic relations with tiny gas-rich Qatar.

USEFUL INFO	
Saudi Arabia Capital	Riyadh
Saudi Arabia Currency	Saudi Riyal
Saudi Arabia King	Ali Salman Ahmed Salman
Qatar Capital	Doha
Qatar Currency	Qatari Riyal
Qatar President	Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

UAE to open new consular offices in India:

- Boosting bilateral engagement with India, the United Arab Emirates will open several new consular centres in India and invest \$75 billion of its sovereign wealth fund in the country.
- The announcement on expanding consular footprint of UAE came even as diplomatic sources confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Abu Dhabi in February 2018.

USEFUL INFO	
UAE Capital	Abu Dhabi
UAE Currency	United Arab Emirates dirham
UAE President	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

UAE participate in joint military exercises with US, UK and France:

- UAE Armed Forces along with the UK, US and French armies are participating in joint exercises in Abu Dhabi.
- The drill code-named as "Flag4". The two-week exercise is part of the effort to consolidate multilateral relations, and to increase co-ordination between the UAE Armed Forces and participating nations.



USEFUL INFO	
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.
USA Currency	United States Dollar
USA President	Donald Trump
UK Capital	London
UK Currency	Pound Sterling
UK Prime Minister	Theresa May
France Capital	Paris
France Currency	Euro, CFP franc
France President	Emmanuel Macron

China proposes creating 'mega regional market' with India:

- China proposed the idea of creating a "mega regional market" with India to increase prospects of cooperation between the two countries.
- There is a huge potential in creating market demand as both nations have a population of over 1 billion.
- Both the nations further agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade and investment.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

Lebanon's Saad Hariri withdraws resignation:

- A month after announcing that he was quitting as the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Saad al-Hariri officially withdrew his resignation.
- Hariri had announced his resignation in a televised broadcast from Saudi Arabia, citing Iranian-backed Hezbollah's meddling in regional affairs as the main reason.
- He had already suspended his resignation two weeks ago after returning to Lebanon.

USEFUL INFO	
Lebanon Capital	Beirut
Lebanon Currency	Lebanese Pound
Lebanon President	Michel Aoun

India, China and Russia to hold trilateral meeting:

- The External Affairs Ministry informed that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov will visit India for a trilateral meeting.
- The meeting is expected to review global and regional issues of mutual interests and discuss trilateral exchanges and activities.
- This will be the first high-level visit from China to India after the Doklam standoff.

USEFUL INFO	
Russia Capital	Moscow
Russia Currency	Russian Ruble
Russia President	Vladimir Putin

Britain & EU reach historic deal on terms of Brexit divorce:

- Britain and the European Union reached a historic deal on the terms of the Brexit divorce.
- Theresa may expect a formal agreement to be approved at the summit.
- The agreement paves the way for EU leaders at a summit on 14th and 15th of this month to open the second phase of Brexit negotiations, covering trade talks and a transition period.

USEFUL INFO	
Britain Capital	London
Britain Currency	Pound Sterling



Britain Prime Minster	Theresa may
European Union Capital	Brussels
European Union Headquarters	City of Brussels, Belgium

World's 1st robot citizen calls for Saudi women's rights:

- The humanoid robot Sophia who became the world's first robot citizen in October this year after receiving Saudi Arabia's citizenship has called for women's rights in the kingdom.
- Notably, women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to marry, divorce, travel or get a job without permission from their male guardians as per the country's law.

USEFUL INFO	
Saudi Arabia Capital	Riyadh
Saudi Arabia Currency	Saudi Riyal
Saudi Arabia President	Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud

Iraq declares war with Islamic State is over:

- Iraq has announced that its war against Islamic State is over.
- Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told a conference in Baghdad that Iraqi troops are now in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border.
- The border zone contained the last few areas IS held, following its loss of the town of Rawa last month.

USEFUL INFO	
Iraq Capital	Baghdad
Iraq Currency	Iraqi Dinar
Iraq President	Fuad Masum

UN rejects US recognition of Jerusalem as Israeli capital:

- UN has rejected US recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.
- The decision was taken at a special United Nations Security Council meeting.
- The UN move is expected to set off alarms about the risk of escalating conflict in the West Asia.

UAE launches astronaut programme:

- UAE has launched its first astronaut programme dedicated to selecting and training four Emirati astronauts on various space missions so they can head to the International Space Station within the next five years.
- Launched by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE Astronaut Programme is the first of its kind in a series of projects in the country dedicated to developing advanced sciences in order to empower future generations.

USEFUL INFO	
UAE Capital	Abu Dhabi
UAE Currency	United Arab Emirates dirham
UAE President	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Sri Lanka formally hands over Hambantota port to China:

- Sri Lanka formally handed over the southern Hambantota Port to China on a 99-year lease and received \$292 million out of the \$1.12-billion deal.
- The port will play a key role in China's One Belt One Road initiative by linking ports and roads between China and Europe.

USEFUL INFO	
Sri Lanka Capital	Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
Sri Lanka Currency	Sri Lankan Rupee
Sri Lanka President	Maithripala Sirisena

World's biggest floating solar plant goes online in China:



- China-based firm Three Gorges Group has started producing power from part of a 150-megawatt floating solar plant in east China, the largest of its kind in the world.
- The construction of the project started in July with an investment of about 1 billion yuan (\$151 million).
- The entire facility is expected to come online by May 2018.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

Iraq and Iran sign Kirkuk oil swap deal:

- Iraq has agreed to swap up to 60,000 barrels per day of crude produced from the northern Iraqi Kirkuk oilfield for Iranian oil.
- The agreement signed by the two countries provides for Iran to deliver to Iraq's southern ports, on the Gulf, "oil of the same characteristics and in the same quantities" as those it would receive from Kirkuk.
- The pipeline could replace the existing export route from Kirkuk via Turkey and the Mediterranean by pipeline.

USEFUL INFO	
Iran Capital	Tehran
Iran Currency	Iranian Rial
Iran President	Hassan Rouhani
Iraq Capital	Baghdad
Iraq Currency	Iraqi Dinar
Iraq President	Fuad Masum

Qatar signs \$8-bn deal to buy 24 Typhoon fighters from Britain:

- Qatar has signed a multi-billion-dollar deal to buy 24 Typhoon fighters from Britain, its second major defence agreement in a week.
- The \$8-billion deal was signed yesterday in Doha by Qatar's Defence Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah and his visiting British counterpart, Gavin Williamson.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed by the two countries for this Typhoon contract in September.

USEFUL INFO	
Qatar Capital	Doha
Qatar Currency	Qatari Riyal
Qatar President	Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani
Britain Capital	London
Britain Currency	Pound Sterling
Britain Prime Minister	Theresa May

World's largest automated container terminal opens in Shanghai:

- China started trial operations of the world's biggest automated container terminal – the Shanghai Yangshan Deep Water Port – in Shanghai.
- Located at the south of Donghai Bridge, phase 4 of the Yangshan Port covers 2.23 million square metres and has a 2,350-metre shoreline.
- Once it enters full operation, the fourth phase of the Yangshan Port will initially be able to handle 4 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

In Saudi Arabia cinemas will be allowed from early 2018:

- Saudi Arabia government stated that public cinemas would be allowed in the conservative kingdom and the first cinemas were likely to open early next year.
- "As the industry regulator, the General Commission for Audiovisual Media has started the process for licensing cinemas in the Kingdom.
- We expect the first cinemas to open in March 2018.



USEFUL INFO	
Saudi Arabia Capital	Riyadh
Saudi Arabia Currency	Saudi Riyal
Saudi Arabia King	Ali Salman Ahmed Salman

EU to restore political relations with Thailand:

- The European Union agreed to restore political relations "at all levels" with Thailand, more than three years after putting them on hold in protest against the coup by the Thai military.
- Developments in Thailand, including the adoption of a new constitution and announcement to hold elections next year, meant it was "appropriate" to resume ties.

USEFUL INFO	
European Union Capital	Brussels
European Union Headquarters	City of Brussels, Belgium
Thailand Capital	Bangkok
Thailand Currency	Thai Baht
Thailand Prime Minister	Prayut Chan-o-cha

Russia to build Egypt's first nuclear power plant:

- Russia and Egypt signed a deal to build Egypt's first nuclear power plant.
- The preliminary agreement between the two countries was signed in 2015 and the project is expected to be completed by 2028-2029.
- Russia would cover 85% of the construction costs and service the plant's four reactors for 60 years.

USEFUL INFO	
Russia Capital	Moscow
Russia Currency	Russian Ruble
Russia President	Vladimir Putin
Egypt Capital	Cairo
Egypt Currency	Egyptian Pound
Egypt President	Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council:

- India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation under a category that represents nations with the largest interests in international sea borne trade.
- India was re-elected to the body under Category B at an assembly of the organisation at its headquarters.
- Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Y K Sinha, represented India at the assembly where India secured the second-highest number of votes (144) from member-countries, just after Germany's 146 and ahead of Australia's 143.
- The other countries to make the cut included France (140), Canada (138), Spain (137), Brazil (131), Sweden (129), The Netherlands (124) and the UAE (115).

USEFUL INFO	
International Maritime Organisation Headquarters	London, UK
International Maritime Organisation Head	Kitack Lim

India allows 1,300 Buddhists from Myanmar's Rakhine state to enter Mizoram:

- The Indian government has allowed over 1,300 tribal Buddhist refugees from Myanmar's Rakhine region to enter Mizoram.
- The refugees left their homeland because of the ongoing war between the Myanmar Army and the Arakan Army, made up of Buddhist insurgents.



- This comes nearly a month after the Union Home Ministry had directed the northeastern states to take strict measures to prevent Rohingyas -- who are Muslims -- from entering Indian territory despite persecution by the Myanmar regime.
- The new group of refugees, belonging to the Chin and few other communities of Myanmar, have come to four villages in Lawngtlai district.

USEFUL INFO	
Myanmar Capital	Naypyidaw
Myanmar Currency	Burmese Kyat
Myanmar President	Htin Kyaw

ISA to become treaty-based International intergovernmental organization:

- India's global initiative, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will become a treaty-based international intergovernmental organization.
- The ISA aims at increasing solar energy deployment in member countries.
- The organisation headquartered in India, has its secretariat located in the campus of the National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana.
- The initiative was jointly launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then President of France Francois Hollande on 30th November 2015 in Paris, on the sidelines of UN Climate Conference COP-21.

4.5 Lakh Indians Got Foreign Citizenship:

- As per information of the union government Since 2014 , 4.5 lakh Indians migrated to foreign countries.
- According to the 2016 yearbook of immigration statistics published by the U.S. The highest number of Indians were Coming to California (10,298), followed by New Jersey (5,312), Texas (4,670) and New York (2,954), the Minister said.

India, Japan and Australia agree to greater collaboration on maritime security:

- India, Japan and Australia have "growing convergences" in the Indo-Pacific region, stated by the officials of the three countries after meeting for a trilateral in New Delhi.
- The three sides stressed the need for greater collaboration on maritime security and domain awareness and disaster response capabilities.
- India is hosting a commemorative ASEAN-India summit in Delhi on January 25, while all 10 ASEAN-nation leaders will be the chief guests at the coming Republic Day parade.

USEFUL INFO	
Japan Capital	Tokyo
Japan Currency	Japanese Yen
Japan Prime Minister	Shinzo Abe
Australia Capital	Canberra
Australia Currency	Australian Dollar
Australia Prime Minister	Malcolm Turnbull

Sri Lanka becomes 163rd nation to accede to landmine ban treaty:

- Sri Lanka has become the 163rd nation to accede to the anti-personnel mine ban convention, fulfilling the pledge it made last year to join the international community in supporting the ongoing landmine clearance programme.
- Sri Lanka's Permanent Mission to the UN Rohan Perera deposited the Instrument of Accession to the Convention of the Prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.

USEFUL INFO	
Sri Lanka Capital	Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte



Sri Lanka Currency	Sri Lankan Rupee
Sri Lanka President	Maithripala Sirisena

Electric car sharing launched in Singapore:

- Singapore launched an electric car-sharing service, the latest transport innovation aimed at encouraging people away from owning vehicles and keeping gridlock at bay in the space-starved city-state.
- BlueSG, a subsidiary of France's Bolloré Group, rolled out the scheme with 80 cars and 32 charging stations — which serve as drop-off and pick-up points — and plans to expand its fleet more than 10-fold in coming years.

USEFUL INFO	
Singapore Capital	Singapore
Singapore Currency	Singapore Dollar
Singapore President	Halimah Yacob

Israel eases visa procedure for Indians:

- To encourage more Indians to visit Israel, Tel Aviv has simplified its visa application procedures for visitors from the Sub-continent.
- The relaxed visa rule involves less documentation for Indians who have availed of visas of Schengen countries, the US, Canada, Australia or Israel and have completed their travel to these countries.
- Israel has witnessed 31 per cent growth in tourist arrivals from India with 55,000 Indians travelling to the holy country from this year till November.

USEFUL INFO	
Israel Capital	Jerusalem
Israel Currency	Israeli New Shekel
Israel President	Reuven Rivlin

Dubai opens world's first camel hospital:

- A \$10.9 million (approximately Rs.70 crore) hospital exclusively for camels, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, has recently opened in Dubai.
- The Dubai Camel Hospital features operating theatres, state-of-the-art medical equipment and a mini race track.
- The hospital intends to help in the research and development of camel medicine

USEFUL INFO	
UAE Capital	Abu Dhabi
UAE Currency	United Arab Emirates dirham
UAE President	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Norway becomes first country to end national radio broadcasts on FM:

- Norway completed its transition to digital radio, becoming the first country in the world to shut down national broadcasts of its FM radio network despite some grumblings.
- The transition which allows for better sound quality, a greater number of channels and more functions, all at a cost eight times lower than FM radio, according to authorities.
- The transition concerns only national radio channels.

USEFUL INFO	
Norway Capital	Oslo
Norway Currency	Norwegian Krone
Norway Prime Minister	Erna Solberg

Iran opens first museum dedicated to female artist exiled for decades:

- Iran has opened its first museum dedicated to a solo female artist — Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, who has received widespread international attention during decades of exile.



- The nonagenarian doyenne of Iranian art and friend of Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, had her first US solo museum exhibition at the Guggenheim in New York in 2015.
- The Monir Museum opened in Tehran at the historic Negarestan park gardens. It displays 51 works, including her signature mirror mosaics, abstract monotypes and reverse glass paintings, inspired by geometric patterns germane to ancient Iranian architecture, particularly those seen in mosques.

USEFUL INFO	
Iran Capital	Tehran
Iran Currency	Iranian Rial
Iran President	Hassan Rouhani

World's steepest funicular railway line opens in Switzerland:

- The world's steepest funicular railway line opened 1,300 metres above sea level in Switzerland.
- The \$52.6 million train climbs 743 metres over a span of 1,738 metres along gradients as steep as 47.7°.
- Its barrel-shaped carriages can adjust their floors so passengers can stand upright along steep gradients.

USEFUL INFO	
Switzerland Capital	Franc
Switzerland Currency	Swiss Franc
Switzerland President	Doris Leuthard

Saudi women will be allowed to drive bikes, trucks:

- Saudi Arabian women will be able to drive trucks and motorcycles, after three months the kingdom announced a historic decision to end a ban on women driving.
- Women involved in road accidents or who commit traffic violations will be dealt with at special centres that will be established and run by women.
- Saudi Arabia was the only country in the world to impose a ban on women driving and its maintenance was seen around the world as a symbol of repression in the Gulf kingdom.

USEFUL INFO	
Saudi Arabia Capital	Riyadh
Saudi Arabia Currency	Saudi Riyal
Saudi Arabia King	Ali Salman Ahmed Salman

WHO certifies Gabon as polio free:

- The World Health Organisation has declared Gabon a "polio-free country", given the lack of new reported or suspected cases in the central African country.
- Cases of polio have decreased by 99 per cent since 1988, when polio was endemic in 125 countries and 350,000 cases were recorded worldwide.
- Now the disease is endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the WHO recorded four cases this year -- two in each country. Last year, there were 37 cases globally.

USEFUL INFO	
Gabon Capital	Libreville
Gabon Currency	Central African CFA franc
Gabon President	Ali Bongo Ondimba

India, Sri Lanka complete 2nd phase of joint oceanographic survey:

- Indian Navy in collaboration with its Sri Lankan counterpart has successfully completed the second phase of the joint oceanographic survey conducted off the South Western Coast of Sri Lanka.
- The survey commenced on 26 October with the arrival of Indian Naval Ship Sutlej in Sri Lanka. The Indian side handed over the survey charts to the Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy.
- The first phase of the survey was conducted from 29 March to 11 May this year and the third phase is scheduled to be carried out next year



USEFUL INFO	
Sri Lanka Capital	Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
Sri Lanka Currency	Sri Lankan Rupee
Sri Lanka President	Maithripala Sirisena

China plans world's biggest carbon market to curb emissions:

- The world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, China, has launched the world's biggest ever mechanism to reduce carbon, in the form of an emissions trading system.
- China's top governmental bodies gave their approval to plans for a carbon trading system that will initially cover the country's heavily polluting power generation plants, then expand to take in most of the economy.
- Notably, China is the world's biggest polluter.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

France imposes world's 1st ban on oil and gas production:

- France's parliament has approved a law banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within the country and its overseas territories.
- Under that law that passed a final vote, existing drilling permits will not be renewed and no new exploration licenses will be granted.
- The French government claims the ban is a world first.

USEFUL INFO	
France Capital	Paris
France Currency	Euro, CFP franc
France President	Emmanuel Macron

India, Myanmar signs MoU for development of Rakhine:

- India and Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at developing Myanmar's Rakhine state.
- The MoU comes in the backdrop of massive migration of Rohingya refugees from violence-wracked Rakhine to Bangladesh.
- Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar signed the MoU on India's behalf in the presence Myanmar's Minister for Social Welfare Win Myat Aye.

USEFUL INFO	
Myanmar Capital	Naypyidaw
Myanmar Currency	Burmese Kyat
Myanmar President	Htin Kyaw

IMF approves \$2 billion loan instalment for Egypt:

- The International Monetary Fund has approved the third instalment of a USD 12 billion, three- year loan for Egypt, bringing the total released to date to just over USD 6 billion.
- The IMF board approved the latest USD 2 billion disbursement under the deal signed in November 2016, after a fund team last month praised Cairo's progress on "bold" economic reforms.
- In order to obtain IMF approval for the loan, the country has implemented a set of drastic reforms, adopting a value- added tax, cutting energy subsidies and floating its pound.

USEFUL INFO	
International Monetary Fund Headquarters	Washington, D.C., United States
International Monetary Fund CEO	Christine Lagarde



Egypt Capital	Cairo
Egypt Currency	Egyptian Pound
Egypt President	Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

India, China holds 20th Special Representatives level talks:

- The 20th Special Representatives level talks between India and China was held in New Delhi.
- The National Security Adviser and the Special Representative of India Ajit Doval participated in the talks with the Special Representative of China Yang Jiechi on the Boundary Question.
- The meeting assumes significance in the wake of disengagement of troops at Doklam.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

India signs agreement with Switzerland to allow automatic sharing of tax related information:

- India has signed an agreement with Switzerland that would allow automatic sharing of tax-related information from 1st of next month.
- The agreement was signed by CBDT chairman Sushil Chandra and Swiss ambassador to India Andreas Baum at the North Block in New Delhi.
- A joint declaration for the implementation of Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) was signed last month between the two sides here and it provided that both countries would start collecting data in accordance with the global standards in 2018 and exchange it from 2019 onwards.

USEFUL INFO	
Switzerland Capital	Franc
Switzerland Currency	Swiss Franc
Switzerland President	Doris Leuthard

UK passports to change from burgundy to blue after Brexit:

- The UK will switch from burgundy to blue coloured passports after the country leaves the European Union.
- British passports issued after October 2019 will be dark blue and gold, replacing the burgundy model required under EU membership.
- The British passport is redesigned every five years, and the new version will come into production next autumn when the current contract expires
- The new passport will be one of the world's most secure travel documents.

USEFUL INFO	
UK Capital	London
UK Currency	Pound Sterling
UK Prime Minister	Theresa May

India commits \$25 million to develop Myanmar's Rakhine state:

- India has sanctioned \$25 million to help develop Myanmar's violence-hit Rakhine State.
- The Myanmar Army's crackdown on Rohingya militants in Rakhine State had caused over 6 lakh Rohingya refugees to flee to Bangladesh this year.
- This comes after both nations signed an agreement on restoration of normalcy and development of the Rakhine State.
- Under this MoU, Government of India proposes to take up, among others, a project to build prefabricated housing in Rakhine State so as to meet the immediate needs of returning people.

USEFUL INFO	
Myanmar Capital	Naypyidaw
Myanmar Currency	Burmese Kyat
Myanmar President	Htin Kyaw



India, Russia hold talks to firm up economic & cultural relations:

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is holding meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation with visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin.
- The meeting will enable the two sides to review the progress achieved by various Working groups and Sub-groups under the IRIGC-TEC and also discuss new areas of cooperation that could strengthen bilateral trade and investment.

USEFUL INFO	
Russia Capital	Moscow
Russia Currency	Russian Ruble
Russia President	Vladimir Putin

Cuban President Raul Castro to step down in April 2018:

- Cuban President Raul Castro will step down in April 2018 straight after elections same month to choose his successor.
- According to a vote in the island state's National Assembly, the vote pushed back the date of the general elections, which were initially to be held at the end of February, because of disruption caused by a hurricane in September.
- The elections will now take place on April 19. Castro, 86, will hand over power shortly afterward to the president-elect.

USEFUL INFO	
Cuba Capital	Havana
Cuba Currency	Cuban convertible Peso, Cuban Peso
Cuba President	Raúl Castro

Trilateral talks of Foreign Ministers of China, Afghanistan & Pakistan start in Beijing:

- Pakistan, China and Afghanistan have agreed to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism at the first trilateral dialogue.
- The first Trilateral China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Minister's Dialogue was held in Beijing to discuss development, connectivity, security and counter-terrorism.
- Chinese Foreign Minister stated that Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to increase cooperation and address their differences appropriately.
- The dialogue is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's initiative for strengthening of relations and developing cooperation between the three countries.

USEFUL INFO	
Afghanistan Capital	Kabul
Afghanistan Currency	Afghan Afghani
Afghanistan President	Ashraf Ghani
Pakistan Capital	Islamabad
Pakistan Currency	Pakistani Rupee
Pakistan Prime Minister	Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

Singapore's Deputy PM to join Sushma Swaraj at ASEAN-India PBD in Singapore:

- Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean will join India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj for a two-day ASEAN-India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Singapore next month.
- Apart from Swaraj, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Assam, N Chandrababu Naidu and Sarbananda Sonowal, will also attend the function on 6-7 January, 2018.



- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India.

USEFUL INFO	
Singapore Capital	Singapore
Singapore Currency	Singapore Dollar
Singapore President	Halimah Yacob

North Korea preparing to launch satellite:

- North Korea is preparing to launch a satellite, as outside observers warn that the nuclear-armed regime's space programme is a fig leaf for weapons tests.
- The North Korea has completed a new satellite and named it Kwangmyongsong-5. North Korea's plan is to put a satellite equipped with cameras and telecommunication devices into orbit.
- Pyongyang launched their Kwangmyongsong-4 satellite in February 2016, which most in the international community viewed as a disguised ballistic missile test.

USEFUL INFO	
North Korea Capital	Pyongyang
North Korea Currency	North Korean Won
North Korea President	Kim Jong-un

China successfully launches remote sensing satellites to conduct electromagnetic environmental probes:

- China successfully launched remote sensing satellites to conduct electromagnetic environmental probes.
- The satellites were launched on a Long March-2C carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite launch center in the southwest Sichuan province.
- The satellites have entered its preset orbit and the launch was proclaimed a success, without disclosing the number of satellites launched.
- The launch was the 260th mission of the Long March rocket family.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

UK eases rules student to work visas:

- Overseas students studying in UK got the good news that they can get the working visas (Tier-2) immediately after finishing their courses. According to present norms they have to wait for the receiving of degrees.
- This scheme is likely to introduce from January 11 2018.

Important Points:

Capital of UK – London

Prime minister – Theresa May.

Currency – Pound Sterling.

India and Afghanistan launch air cargo route:

- India and Afghanistan launch second air cargo route, which is connecting Kabul and Mumbai first was laid between Kabul to New Delhi.
- Afghanistan has so far exported 1,640 tons fresh and dried fruits, carpets and medical herbs in 56 flights to India.

Afghanistan Capital	Kabul
Currency	Afghan Afghani
President	Ashraf Ghani

Government Impose Anti-Dumping Duty On Chinese Antibiotic:

- Commerce ministry decided to levy of up to 9.48 dollar per kg for the Chinese antibiotics to India.



- The domestic industry is suffering from material injury because of this dumping. The authority said, it necessary to recommend imposition of the duty on the imports for a period of three years only.

UK celebrated 2017 as the Greenest Year:

- UK Celebrating 2017 as its greenest year. From June power obtained from the wind, nuclear and solar power is higher than gas and coal combined.
- Britain is one of the leading countries in the world to control the carbon emission. At present Britain is 4th cleanest power in Europe and seventh in the world.

UK Capital	London
Currency	Pound sterling
President	Theresa May

US, Russia agree to work on diplomatic solution to North Korea crisis:

- The United States and Russia have agreed to continue to work towards a diplomatic solution to achieve a denuclearized Korean peninsula.
- S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke over the phone on Tuesday and discussed concerns related to the North Korea's destabilizing nuclear programme.
- Both sides agreed that they will continue to work toward a diplomatic solution to achieve a denuclearized Korean peninsula.

USEFUL INFO	
Russia Capital	Moscow
Russia Currency	Russian Ruble
Russia President	Vladimir Putin
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.
USA Currency	United States Dollar
USA President	Donald Trump
North Korea Capital	Pyongyang
North Korea Currency	North Korean Won
North Korea President	Kim Jong-un

Nepal rejects India's offer to jointly re-measure Mount Everest:

- Nepal has rejected India's offer to jointly re-measure the height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest following the massive earthquake in 2015 and will carry out the exercise on its own.
- Nepal will, however, seek help from India and China for getting crucial data for the exercise.
- India was the first country under Sir George Everest's leadership as the Surveyor General of India to have declared the height of Mount Everest and establish it as the highest peak in the world in the year 1855

India AND Jordan MOU ff Cooperation Agreements

- Indian foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and his Jordan counterpart Ayman Safadi will sign cooperation agreements in the mineral, textile, renewable energy, ICT and infrastructure fields, to enhance the trade exchange between Jordan and india.
- They mainly discussed on regional developments, mainly the Palestinian issue, the Syrian crisis, the war on terrorism

Jordan CAPITAL	AMMAN
CURRENCY	DINAR



Prime Minister	Hani Al-Mulki
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Former football player George Weah is set to become next President of Liberia:

- George Weah was appointed as the next president of Liberia. It is Liberia's first independently run election since the end of its back-to-back civil wars.
- Weah is the former football player played for Chelsea and PSG as a striker.

Liberia CAPITAL	Monrovia
CURRENCY	Dollar
Current President	Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

China opens 1st wireless charging systems highways:

- China unveils another innovative by opening its 1st wireless charging system highways. With the presence of this system electric vehicles and other sensors for drones can charge easily without the use of wire.
- The tested segment of highway can generate 817.2 kilowatts of power and is expected to generate 1 million kilowatt hours of electricity each year.
- The electricity generated through this will be connected to China's national power grid.

China Capital	Beijing
Currency	Renminbi
President	Xi Jinping

Israel formally notifies UNESCO of its withdrawal from organization:

- Israel has formally notified the UN's culture and education body UNESCO of its withdrawal from the organisation.
- UNESCO chief, Audrey Azoulay said she was officially notified that Israel would leave on December 31, 2018.
- The 195-member body is best known for producing a list of World Heritage sites that have become tourist favourites.

USEFUL INFO	
Israel Capital	Jerusalem
Israel Currency	Israeli New Shekel
Israel Prime minister	Benjamin Netanyahu

Turkey, Russia signs S-400 missile system loan deal:

- Turkey and Russia have inked a loan agreement in Ankara for purchase of the S-400 missile defence system worth \$2.5 billion.
- Russia will provide Turkey with four batteries of S-400 surface-to-air missile system under the deal and the latter will pay 45 per cent of the cost up front with Moscow providing loans to cover the remaining 55 per cent.
- The two countries had reached an agreement for the purchase, but have been discussing on a loan provided by Russia.

USEFUL INFO	
Turkey Capital	Ankara
Turkey Currency	Turkish Lira
Turkey President	Recep Tayyip Erdoğan



Russia Capital	Moscow
Russia Currency	Russian Ruble
Russia President	Vladimir Putin

Appointments

National Appointment

Designation	Person
UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India	Dia Mirza (Actress) Useful info: She has been recognised by the United Nations for her contribution to environment conservation. The actor has joined the prestigious list of UN Environment Goodwill Ambassadors, which includes Hollywood stars such as Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Angelina Jolie, Katy Perry and Emma Watson.
Delhi Chief Secretary	Anshu Prakash (IAS Officer) Prakash had earlier served as an additional secretary and a financial advisor in the rural development ministry.
Infosys CEO and Managing Director	Salil Parekh Parekh will join Infosys from Capgemini, where he was a member of the Group Executive Board Vishal Sikka as interim CEO and Managing Director, will step down from that role effective January 2, 2018 and will continue as Chief Operating Officer and a whole-time Director of the Company.
Prasar Bharati chief	Surya Prakash The Union Ministry for Information and Broadcasting said in an order that the President, on recommendation of the selection committee has appointed Prakash to head the Prasar Bharati board till February 8, 2020, when he will turn 70. The three-member selection committee that recommended his reappointment is headed by the Vice-President
One 97 Communication's director	Kabir Misra (from soft bank) As per the filing to the Corporate Affairs Ministry, Misra was appointed as an additional director in a resolution passed at the companys board meeting on November 7.
Indian National Congress party	Rahul Gandhi Rahul Gandhi has been elected unopposed as Congress president, party's central election authority head Mullappally Ramachandran announced.
Dvara Trust Vice-Chairman	Samir Shah (MD and CEO of NCDEX) Shah's tenure with NCDEX will end on February 20. He was appointed as NCDEX MD and CEO in 2013 for three years.
Vodafone India CFO	Manish Dawar Mr. Dawar will replace Thomas Reisten, who after completing a four-year stint with Vodafone India, will be moving to a new senior role within the Vodafone Group. Vodafone India CEO - Sunil Sood Vodafone India HQ – Mumbai



Women Fighter Pilot Indian Air Force	Pratibha (Rajasthan) Shivangi (Varanasi) Indian Air Force Headquarters – New Delhi Marshal of Indian Air Force - Arjan Singh
officiating chief of National Green Tribunal	Justice UD Salvi The government has appointed Justice U D Salvi as officiating chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) following the superannuation of Justice Swatanter Kumar
NARI chief	Samiran Panda Dr Samiran Panda, a tropical medicine specialist who has played a key role in supporting AIDS programmes, takes charge as director of the Pune-based National AIDS Research Institute (NARI).
Gujarat Chief Minister	Vijay Rupani Gujarat Capital- Gandhi Nagar Gujarat Governor- Om Prakash Kohli
General Manager, Cricket Operations.	Saba Karim(Former Wicket Keeper)
Himachal Pradesh CM	Jairam Thakur Himachal Pradesh Capital- Shimla, Dharamsala(Second Capital in Winter) Himachal Pradesh Governor- Acharya Dev Vrat
Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).	Senior IPS officer Abhay He is at present working in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment to the post till November 18, 2019. The post was lying vacant after R.R.Bhatnagar took over as DG of CRPF in April 2017.
Director-General of NCC	Lt.Gen.B S Sahrawat The General Officer is a third generation army officer. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He has been awarded the Sena Medal during the floods of Kosi River in Bihar in 2008.
Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru	M. Subbarayudu Peru Capital- Lima Currency- Sol
Resigned from the post of Airtel Payments Bank CEO	Shashi Arora Airtel Payments Bank is the first Payments Bank in India.
Retired from National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairperson	Justice Swatanter Kumar The first chairperson of the tribunal was Justice Lokeshwar Singh Panta, who was appointed on October 18, 2010. The tribunal's principal bench is located in New Delhi.
Director of National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad	R Hemalatha Hemalatha is a medical graduate of Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad.
New secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).	Dhammapiya Buddhist monk (Tripura) He was elected to the post at the second general assembly of the IBC. The IBC is a global Buddhist forum for preservation and



	development of heritage sites of the religion in India and other parts of the world.
BARC India Chairman	Nakul Chopra (President of AAI and Senior Advisor, Publicis Communications) Nakul succeeds Viacom18 Group CEO Sudhanshu Vats. Nakul will be the third Chairman of BARC India. He had joined the BARC India Board in September 2016.
RBI Executive Director	Uma Shankar RBI established in- 1935, Headquarters- Mumbai. 24th and Current Governor of RBI- Dr. Urjit Patel.
President Para Sports Foundation	Sarvesh Tiwari The announcement was made at the National Award for Divyangjan 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Para Sports Foundation is a non-profit organization working towards the social welfare of persons with disabilities.
Next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan	Azar A.H.Khan Turkmenistan Capital- Ashgabat, Currency- Turkmenistan manat.
New CEO of Online food delivery start-up Swiggy (Bundl Technologies Pvt. Ltd)	Vishal Bhatia Sriharsha Majety- CEO & Co-founder of Swiggy
Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment	Ellie Goulding (singer) Ellie is also backing UN Environment's #CleanSeas campaign. UN Headquarters- New York, United States UN Secretary-General- Antonio Guterres.
New President of the National Restaurant Association of India	Rahul Singh The appointment was made unanimously after Riyaz Amlani, CEO & MD, Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality resigned from his duties due to health reasons
DGOF and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board	S K Chourasia He was appointed by Indian Ordnance Factories Service Officer (IOFS) Previously, he was Member, OFB and was in charge of Material & Components division.

International Appointment

Designation	Person
New prime minister of Poland	Mateusz Morawiecki Poland Capital – Warsaw Poland Currency – Zloty Poland President - Andrzej Duda
Head of Asia Pacific analytics (Hired by CITI Bank)	Zoher Karu Zoher, who will report to Anand Selva, Head of Asia Pacific Consumer Banking, will have oversight of Citi's data and analytics capabilities as well as customer insights across the banking business in Asia Pacific. His role will cover 17 out of Citi's 19 consumer banking markets worldwide.



	CITI Bank Head Quarters - USA CITI Bank Head - Barbara J. Desoer
Chile's president	Sebastian Pinera Chile Capital – Santiago Chile Currency- Chilean Peso
Honduran President	Juan Orlando Hernandez Honduras Capital – Tegucigalpa Honduras Currency - Honduran lempira
Next Secretary General of Amnesty International	Kumi Naidoo Amnesty International Headquarters- London, United Kingdom Present Amnesty International Secretary General - Salil Shetty Amnesty International Motto - It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.
Female envoy to Saudi Arabia	Dominique Minuer from Belgium Saudi Arabia Capital- Riyadh Saudi Arabia Currency- Saudi Riyal Saudi Arabia King- Ali Salman Ahmed Salman Belgium Capital- City of Brussels Belgium Currency- Euro Belgium Prime Minister- Charles Michel
New Liberian President	George Weah (Former Football player) He succeed Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Liberia Capital- Monrovia, Currency- Liberian dollar.
President of African Conservation Group	Prince Harry As per the environmentalist organisation, Prince Harry will contribute to its effort to protect Africa's natural heritage and support both wildlife and communities.
First International Ambassador	Deepak Parekh (London Mayor) Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan- named Indian businessman, Deepak Parekh- as 'International Ambassador'.
President of Kenya	Uhuru Kenyatta Kenya Capital- Nairobi, Currency- Kenyan shilling.
Recently resigned Pakistan Law Minister	Zahid Hamid Pakistan PM- Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Capital- Islamabad.

Awards and Honors

Name of the Person/Field /Place	Fields	Award / Places in Magazines	Useful Info
Salman Khan and Priyanka Chopra	Actor	Variety's list of 500 'influential business leaders	The list also includes directors Karan Johar, Aditya Chopra, producer Ekta Kapoor, and the Ambani brothers, Sidharth Roy Kapur, Punit Goenka, Kishore Lulla, Uday Shankar and Subhash Chandra.
Yuvraj Singh	cricketer	doctorate degree in	The institute awarded the Doctorate to Yuvraj for his



		Philosophy	“extraordinary sporting prowess and as a catalyst of change with great integrity and humility.”
Miss Korea Jenny Kim	model	Miss Supranational 2017	Tica Martinez of Colombia and Bianca Tirsin of Romania were named the first runner-up and second runner-up respectively
Rajkummar, Irrfan, Vidya	Actor	Star screen awards	Rajkummar Rao was named Best Actor (Critics Choice) for ' Newton ' while Irrfan Khan won the Best Actor award for ' Hindi Medium '
Dipak Das	driver	Manush Sanman award	Kolkata-based driver Dipak Das will be felicitated with the Manush Sanman award for not honking in the past 18 years.
Mohamad Al Jounde	16 year old refugee	International Children's Peace Prize	Al Jounde received the prize from Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai who had won the prize in 2013 for her activist work in education.
Kamala Harris	Indian-American senator	topped the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers'	Indian-origin stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj has also made it to the list which recognizes a remarkable range of individuals who have found ways to exert enormous influence, often in unexpected ways, on a wide range of issues.
Pramila Jayapal	Indian-American Congress woman	Politico's Power List	Jayapal, 52, ranked fifth on 18, is the only Indian-American to figure in the Politico's power list.
Narendra Modi	Prime Minister of India	Most Followed Indians	Cricket legend, Sachin Tendulkar, who ranked eighth in the list , saw a growth of 56 per cent in his follower base on Twitter this year.
Mohammed bin Salman	Politician	Saudi Crown Prince	Last year, Indian PM Narendra Modi won the poll while US President Donald Trump won the title.
Dangal	film	Best Asian Film at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards (AACTA) 2017	The Amitabh Bachchan starrer ' Pink ' was also nominated in the category.
Trump, Modi	Politician	Famous in twitter	first and second "most tweeted about world leaders" for the year 2017.
Kumbh Mela	India's largest religious festival	UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage status	The decision to include the festival in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was taken at the ongoing meeting of the organisation's World Heritage Committee in South Korea.
Irrfan Khan	Actor	Honorary Award at the 14th edition of the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF)	He was awarded for the " incredible body of work of more than 80 films in India as well as his work in British films and Hollywood"
Narendra Modi	Politician	Yahoo India's Most Searched	Virat Kohli tops list of Yahoo's Most Searched Sportsperson in 2017



		Personality in 2017	
Taj Mahal	Heritage Site	2nd best UNESCO world heritage site	UNESCO Cultural and Natural heritage sites best rated by travellers around the globe.
Italy's pizza toss	Heritage Site	UNESCO 'intangible heritage'	The art of pizzaiuolo – which has been handed down for generations in Naples, southern Italy
Shah Rukh Khan	Actor	Internet Movie Data Base (IMDb).	Aamir Khan and Salman Khan occupied the second and third spots respectively
Ultra Violet	Color	2018 Colour of the Year	"According to the Institute, the meaning behind the hue is multi-fold: purple conjures images of mindfulness and mysticism , and it also often represents experimentation, non-conformity, and artistic brilliance
Surana family in Chennai	home	ISO 9000 certified home	If you're visiting the Suranas, you will most likely be termed ' temporary customers ' and will be served a customer feedback form along with your cup of tea, wherein you can respond with the level of satisfaction with the hospitality and the food.
Priyanka Chopra	Actor	Mother Teresa Memorial Award	The award was received by her mother Dr Madhu Chopra .
12-foot-tall statue of Diego Maradona	statue	1986 World Cup-winning captain holding the trophy he helped Argentina win.	The 57-year-old also gave out cheques to 11 cancer patients at the event, which was attended by around 1,000 people .
Six diplomats	Social Activist	'Power of One' award	The awards were presented on the occasion of the first anniversary of the US Postal Service's issuing of a forever Diwali stamp last year .
KC Rekha	Fisher Woman	licensed fisherwoman	A native of Kerala, she has also been felicitated by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) earlier this year.
Jitesh Singh Deo	Model	winner of the 2017 Mr India pageant	Indian footballer Prathamesh Maulingkar won the title of Mr India Supranational and will compete at Mr Supranational 2018.
Three space station astronauts	astronauts	spending 139 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS)	53rd set of crew members , NASA's Randy Bresnik , ESA's Paolo Nespoli , and Roscosmos' Sergey Ryazanskiy have landed in Kazakhstan.
Wajib	Palestinian film	Suvarna Chakoram	Thai filmmaker Anucha Boonyawatana won the Rajatha Chakoram (Silver Crow Pheasant) award for the best director for the film Malila - The Farewell Flower .
'Youthquake'	word	word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries	Youthquake is defined by Oxford Dictionary as " a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people ".
England's women cricket team	cricket team	BBC Team of the Year Award	Overseas Sports Personality of the Year - Roger Federer Lifetime Achievement - Jessica Ennis-Hill Coach of the Year - Benke Blomkvist, Stephen Maguire and Christian Malcolm
Jayaprakash	Photogra	National	Selected from over 11,000 entries , a photo of an



Joghee Bojan	pher	Geographic Nature photographer of the Year	orangutan crossing a river in Indonesia , captured by Jayaprakash Joghee Bojan of Singapore has won him the 2017 National Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year carrying a \$10,000 cash prize .
Mamang Dai, Ramesh Kuntal	Literates	Sahitya Akademi award	Mamang Dai will get the award in English language for his novel The Black Hill . Ramesh Kuntal Megh has won the award in Hindi for his literary criticism work Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar .
United Kingdom	country	best countries for business in 2018	The list ranks 153 countries the UK is followed by New Zealand and the Netherlands, while India was ranked 62nd on the list .
Municipal Administration and Urban Development	department of State	SKOCH award	Capital - Hyderabad Chief Minister –Chandrasekhar Rao Governor -E.S LaNarasimhan
Virat Kohli	cricketer	Forbes Top 100 Indian Celebrity List	India skipper's tally reads Rs 100.72 crore, putting him in third place in the 100 celebrities list , behind Bollywood actors Salman Khan (Rs 232.83 crore) and Shah Rukh Khan (Rs 170.5 crore)
Patanjali	Product Brand	India's most trusted FMCG Brand	Patanjali has been ranked as India's most trusted FMCG Brand in a study covering 11000 brands across 16 cities by The Brand Trust Report India Study 2017 .
IndiGo	Budget carrier	first Indian carrier to operate 1,000 daily flights	Notably, IndiGo is India's largest passenger airline currently with a market share of 39.4% as of November.
ICAN	organization	Nobel Peace Prize at ceremony held in Oslo, Norway	ICAN, a coalition of 468 grassroots non-governmental groups has been in forefront of pushing for end to use of nuclear weapons through United Nations.
Mamta Kalia	Hindi scholar and writer	Vyas Samman 2017	Renowned Hindi scholar and writer Mamta Kalia (77) was chosen for Vyas Samman 2017 for her novel "Dukkhm Sukkham"
Cristiano Ronaldo	footballer	2017 Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball)	Real Madrid and Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo was awarded the 2017 Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) for world player of the year in Paris, France for the fifth time.
Time	magazine	The silence breakers	It was referring to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment
Joy Gousami	Bengali Poet	31 st Moorthi devi award.	First time that the award given for Bengali poet
Rekha	Actress	Smitha patil memorial award	Her contribution towards cinema ,national award winner .
Anushka sharma	Actress	PETA 2017 person of the year	Anushka Sharma has taken the title for her wide-reaching work for animals, from helping to protect dogs from fireworks to advocating for horses who are forced to pull carriages in Mumbai .



MoU and Agreements

DCI, NHAI ink MoU for sand supply:

- Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have signed an MoU for facilitating supply of sand for highways construction work.
- As per the pact, business intermediaries will ship and store the sand at various ports in India and market it here.
- NHAI will facilitate the process by displaying the availability of sand at various stockyards at the ports.
- As per the MoU, DCI will dredge at South East Asia locations to generate large volumes of sand. This dredging will be done for the purpose of obtaining sand.

Tata group, GE partner to make aircraft engine components in India:

- Tata group and General Electric Co. (GE) have signed an agreement to build a new factory in Hyderabad to make engine parts for passenger jets.
- The components made here will go into the LEAP engine used in the new fuel-efficient Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX planes.
- Under the strategic partnership, GE Aviation and Tata Sons' subsidiary, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), will manufacture, assemble, integrate and test aircraft component.
- At its aerospace hub in Hyderabad, Tata group already builds aero structures for Sikorsky helicopters, Pilatus trainers and the Lockheed Martin C-130 tail.

MMRDA signs agreement with DMRC for complete implementation of Metro-6 corridor:

- Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, MMRDA has signed an agreement with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, DMRC for the complete implementation of Metro-6 corridor.
- As per the agreement, DMRC will execute the project, on behalf of MMRDA.
- It will invite bids and assign contracts for execution of civil work and for procurement of systems and services required for the project.
- The entire 14.5-kilometer long Metro-6 corridor, costing about 5,490-crore rupees will have 13 stations.

MoHUA inks agreement with German firm GIZ for technical cooperation in transport projects:

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has signed an agreement with German firm GIZ for technical cooperation in the implementation of transport projects in Coimbatore, Bhubaneshwar and Kochi.
- An official release stated that, the agreement has been signed by the ministry's officer on special duty Mukund Kumar Sinha, and GIZ Country Director Wolfgang Hanning in the presence of Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The main objective of the agreement is to improve planning and implementation of sustainable urban transport.

USEFUL INFO	
Germany Capital	Berlin
Germany Currency	Euro
Germany President	Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Summit & Conference

11th Annual MedTech Summit was organised in New Delhi:

- Under Bio Design Programme, XIth Annual MedTech Summit was organised in New Delhi.
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has implemented a Bio Design Programme to develop innovative and affordable medical devices to cater to the clinical needs of the country.
- It has been implemented by the Department of Biotechnology at AIIMS and IIT Delhi in collaboration with international partners.

India to host Southeast Asia connectivity summit:



- Keeping with India’s initiative of connectivity with Southeast Asia under its Act East Policy, New Delhi will host an Asean-India Connectivity Summit (AICS) on December 11-12.
- The event comes ahead of the visit of the leaders of the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) here next month for the commemorative summit of 25 years of the India-Asean dialogue partnership.
- In a historic first, the 10 leaders will collectively be the chief guests at next year's Republic Day celebrations in India.
- The Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

USEFUL INFO	
Theme of the summit	Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century

President inaugurates Indian Economic Association (IEA) summit held in Hyderabad:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Indian Economic Association (IEA) summit at the Acharya Nagarjuna University in Hyderabad.
- He inaugurated the AP Fibre Grid project. Kovind is also inspect the Real-Time Governance Centre at the Andhra Pradesh secretariat.

The dreams of a new India by the year 2022:

- Indian President Ram Nath Govind inaugurating the centenary conference of Indian Economic Association (IEA).
- In the conference he stated that India commemorates the 75th Independence day by the resolution of “insufficient access to health care, education, housing and civic amenities have to be addressed to achieve the dreams of a new India by the year 2022”

1st International exhibition and Conference on AYUSH & Wellness sector begin in New Delhi:

- The first International exhibition and Conference on AYUSH and Wellness sector- AROGYA 2017 begin in New Delhi.
- The four day event inaugurated by Ayush Minister Shripad Yesso Naik.
- The objective of the event is to showcase the strength and scientific validation of Indian System of Medicine in the global context.
- It will also facilitate International promotion, development and recognition of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy.

USEFUL INFO	
Theme of the Conference	Enhancing the global potential of Ayush

President Ramnath Kovind to attend World Telugu Conference in Hyderabad:

- President Ramnath Kovind would be the chief guest at the valedictory function of the World Telugu Conference to be organised in Hyderabad by the Telangana government from December 15 to 19.
- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu will be the chief guest for the inaugural session of the Conference.

Three-day media workshop on climate change reporting in Himalayas gets underway at Kohima:

- A three-day media workshop on climate change reporting in the Himalayas got underway at Kohima in Nagaland.
- The workshop is jointly organised by the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India in collaboration with Nagaland Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Centre for Media Studies.



- Nagaland Chief Conservator of Forest and State Nodal officer for Climate Change, Supongnukschi presented the Nagaland state action plan on Climate change.

USEFUL INFO	
Nagaland Capital	Kohima
Nagaland Chief Minister	T. R. Zeliang
Nagaland Governor	Padmanabha Balkrishna Acharya

Three-day gems & jewellery exhibition begins in Surat:

- A three-day gems and jewellery exhibition by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) started in Surat.
- Surat Sparkle Gems and Jewellery Exhibition, 2017, held at International Exhibition and Convention Hall in Sarsaana.
- Around 1,200 stalls have been booked till now for exhibitors from different states.

Exhibition of rare coins starts in Pune:

- The International Collectors Society of Rare Items, an exhibition of special interest for collectors and connoisseurs of rare coins, is coming to Pune with 'Coinex Pune 2017' from December 15-17.
- The exhibition will be open for people free of cost at Sonal Hall, Karve Road, Pune from 10 am to 7 pm.
- This year's lifetime achievement award will be presented to two well-known coin collectors, Pune's Arvind Athavale and Lucknow's Ran Vijay Singh.

International film festival begins in Chennai:

- The 15th edition of the Chennai International Film Festival was inaugurated by actor Aravind Swamy.
- The festival, which will take place till December 21, will showcase 140 films across 50 countries.
- The films will be presented under the categories of world cinema, country focus, retrospective, contemporary German films, Indian panorama and the Tamil film competition.
- To commemorate 100 years of actor-politician MGR, two of his films will be screened.

Third World Telugu Conference begins in Hyderabad:

- The third World Telugu Conference begins in Hyderabad.
- The aim of the Conference is to promote Telugu and its literature besides helping the present generation learn more about Telugu language and its rich culture and heritage.
- Telangana Government has put in place elaborate arrangements for the 5-day event for which about eight thousand Telugu speaking delegates from 40 countries all over the globe will be taking part.

USEFUL INFO	
Telangana Capital	Hyderabad
Telangana Chief Minister	K Chandrasekhar Rao
Telangana Governor	E.S Lakshmi Narasimhan

India to host meeting of some WTO members in February:

- Commerce and India Minister Suresh Prabhu has stated that India will call a meeting of some WTO members in February to muster support for food security and other issues.
- It would be like a mini-ministerial meeting. Although the contours of the meeting would be worked out later, the aim was to bring like-minded nations together and explain to them the country's position as well as concerns over issues of common interest.
- India has been keenly pushing agriculture issues at the WTO. It has also been raising its voice against bringing new issues, especially those which are not directly linked to trade, on the negotiating table.

USEFUL INFO	
World Trade Organization Headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland
World Trade Organization Director General	Roberto Azevêdo

Three day 'All India Young Writers' Festival begins in New Delhi:



- The SAHITYA Akademi is organising a three-day All India Young Writers' Festival from December 22 to 24.
- Prof Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, president, Sahitya Akademi, present the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2017 to 24 awardees in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque for Rs 50,000.
- The programme will include poetry readings by poets from various Indian languages.
- The festival held at Randhawa Auditorium, Punjab Art Council, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

India host International Coffee Festival in January 2018:

- After a gap of four years, Bengaluru will host the seventh edition of India International Coffee Festival (IICF) in January 2018.
- This gains significance as India has bagged the chance to host World Coffee Conference of International Coffee Organisation (ICO) in 2020.
- This edition of IICF is unique as it also aims to promote coffee tourism in the State.

Vice President inaugurates Centenary celebrations of Yoga Institute in Mumbai:

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Centenary celebrations of the Yoga Institute in Mumbai.
- The institute was founded by Shree Yogendraji Mani Haribhai Desai, the disciple of Paramahans Madhavadasji in 1918. It helps spread yoga practices.
- Naidu lauded the practice of Yoga as a holistic way of life leading to physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.
- He appealed to everyone to give up what he called narrow mindedness of associating yoga with particular religions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Delhi Metro's Magenta line:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a section of the Magenta Line of Delhi Metro. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath is also attending the opening ceremony.
- A 12.64-kilometer stretch on the line reduces the travel time between Delhi's Kalkaji Mandir and Noida's Botanical Garden from 52 minutes to less than 20 minutes.
- The Magenta line is equipped with communication-based train control technology, which allows trains to be operated without drivers.

President to participate in annual Convocation of NIMHANS, Bangalore:

- President Ram Nath Kovind participated in the 22nd Annual Convocation of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences "NIMHANS" in Bengaluru.
- During the convocation programme the President will dedicate 50 crore rupees worth 125 bed, Dr. R.M.Varma Sub Speciality Block for Neurosciences at NIMHANS.
- He will also dedicate 50 crore rupees Medical Cyclotron Facility and 100 crore worth Intraoperative MRI with three operation theatres.

74th anniversary of 1st Flag Hoisting Day celebrates in Andaman, Nicobar Islands:

- The 74th anniversary of First Flag Hoisting Day is being celebrated in Andaman and Nicobar Islands today.
- Lieutenant Governor Admiral DK Joshi hoisted the National Flag at the main function held at the Gymkhana Ground in Port Blair.
- It was on this day Netaji Subash Chandra Bose had hoisted the National Tri-colour for the first time at the Gymkhana Ground in Port Blair in 1943.

USEFUL INFO	
Andaman and Nicobar Island Capital	Port Blair
Andaman and Nicobar Island Lieutenant Governor	Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi



‘Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival’ inaugurated in New Delhi:

- Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju will inaugurate 7th edition of three day ‘Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival’ in New Delhi.
- Kathakar is the only oral storytelling festival in India and is a part of Ghummakkad Narain- the Travelling Literature Festival which was started under the aegis of UNESCO in 2010.
- The Festival is an attempt not only to preserve the art form but also create new audiences for the same.
- This year festival will be hosted in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida and Mumbai.

Mobile App and Web Portal

Petition website for Aadhaar-linking complaints launched:

- A petition website, “Speak For Me”, has been launched for complaints against receiving continuous Aadhaar-linking calls and texts.
- The portal allows users to select the recipient like banks and mobile operators and directly send the petition in the form of an email.
- Other than the service providers, the consumer can send the complaint mail to Members of Parliament as well.

Online platform for employees to access all service details:

- Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh launched the electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) as the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions observed Good Governance Day.
- With launch of e-HRMS, employees will be able to not only see all their details with respect to service book, leave, GPF, salary, etc. but also apply for different kind of claims/reimbursements, loan/advances, leave, leave encashment, LTC advances, tour etc. on a single platform.
- The e-service book, which carries all service-related details of an employee, launched for the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in March will also be integrated into the e-HRMS.

USEFUL INFO	
Minister of State for Personnel	Jitendra Singh
Constituency	Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir

India’s First Bitcoin Trading App Launched by Pluto Exchange:

- At the same time of government warns about crypto currencies, Pluto exchange launched India’s 1st Bitcoin trading App.
- The Pluto Exchange mobile app gives a solution to the coordination problems between payment processors, financial gateways and banks.
- By using a four-digit personal identification number (PIN), users can now trade Bitcoin by a mobile number.

Defence News

IAF jet conducts first aerial refuelling exercise successfully:

- An Embraer transport aircraft with Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system successfully carried out air-to-air refuelling (AAR).
- This capability would give the aircraft capacity to fly for longer duration, beyond the aircraft’s stated endurance.
- This is also the first time that air-to-air refuelling has been carried out on the Embraer platform.
- The "Probe and Drogue" air-to-air refuelling methodology practiced by IAF pilots requires exceptional flying skills as the receiving aircraft has to accurately insert the receptacle probe into the basket shaped drogue trailing behind the fuel tanker aircraft.



USEFUL INFO	
Indian Air Force Headquarters	New Delhi
Marshal of the Indian Air Force	Arjan Singh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inducts first made-in-India Scorpene class submarine, INS Kalvari:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned India's first indigenous Scorpene-class submarine, Kalvari, into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- Kalvari is a potent Man o' War capable of undertaking offensive operations spanning across the entire spectrum of Maritime Warfare.
- The overall length of the submarine is 67.5 metres and is about 12.3 metres in height. The construction of the submarine, designated as MDL Yard 11875 commenced in December 2006.
- Kalvari is the first Indian Naval vessel to be built using the modular approach of construction.

INS Trikand & INS Teg to sail into port of Abu Dhabi:

- As a part of comprehensive strategic relationship and to strengthen defence cooperation between India and the United Arab Emirates, two ships of the Indian Navy - INS Teg and INS Trikand will make port of call in Abu Dhabi.
- The ships are scheduled to arrive on December 23 and depart on 26 December. The visit will provide opportunity of cooperation between the friendly Navies of the two countries.
- It will also showcase India's impressive achievements in the Maritime capabilities.
- The current visit seeks to underscore India's peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly countries in the Gulf and strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between India and UAE.

USEFUL INFO	
UAE Capital	Abu Dhabi
UAE Currency	United Arab Emirates dirham
UAE President	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

India successfully test-fires supersonic interceptor missile:

- India's indigenously developed supersonic Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor successfully destroyed an incoming hostile Prithvi missile over the Bay of Bengal during its third test-fire this year.
- The interceptor, positioned at Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal, destroyed the target at a 30-kilometre altitude.
- This was the second successful test of ballistic missile defense, this year.

8th India-Maldives joint military exercise "Ekuverin" concludes:

- The Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF) have been carrying out a joint military exercise in Belgaum.
- The two-week long exercise, focused on counter-terrorism operations conducted by small teams in a semi-urban setting.
- The eighth edition of the exercise is named 'Ekuverin', which means 'friends' in Maldivian language.
- The seventh edition of the exercise was held at Kadhdhoo on Lammu Atoll in the Maldives in December 2016.

USEFUL INFO	
Maldives Capital	Male
Maldives Currency	Maldivian Rufiyaa
Maldives President	Abdulla Yameen



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT-KGP researchers generate electricity from onion peels:

- IIT Kharagpur and South Korea-based researchers have developed biodegradable energy harvesters from onion skin waste.
- The nanogenerators based on piezoelectric effect convert mechanical energy to electrical and can generate power with body movements like tapping of fingers and throat vibrations.
- The team claims that electricity generated from six peels could charge a laptop or a mobile phone.

Google launches Dataly app to let users control data usage:

- Technology giant Google has launched Dataly app that lets users control and monitor their data usage in real-time.
- The app which is available to all Android users, lets users turn on the 'Data Saver' tab to block background data usage for the same purpose.
- The app also helps users save data by notifying them about nearby public Wi-Fi connections.

USEFUL INFO	
Google Headquarters	California, United States
Google CEO	Sundar Pichai

3D-printed bacteria ink that may help treat burns made:

- Swiss researchers have developed a biocompatible ink based on hydrogels for 3D printing using living bacteria.
- The team used the bacteria *P. putida* and *A. xylinum* where the former can break down the toxic phenol produced in the chemical industry, while the latter secretes nanocellulose.
- The nanocellulose with moisture-retaining and pain-relieving properties could be used in the treatment of burns.

Scientists develop graphene 'tweezers' to grab molecules

- US-based scientists have developed electronic "tweezers" using graphene, a 2D form of carbon, that can efficiently grab biomolecules floating in water.
- Graphene, being single atom thick, can trap nanoparticles using much lesser voltage than conventional methods that lack "sharpness".
- The team showed the tweezers could be used for trapping nano-diamond particles and even DNA molecules.

Google brings 'Two-wheeler' mode to Maps in India:

- Google has launched the 'Two-wheeler' mode on Maps in India, a feature which will show the fastest route and directions to two-wheeler riders to reach their entered destination.
- The feature will be available alongside the 'Drive', 'Train or Bus', and 'Walk' options.
- The 'Two-wheeler' mode is currently available on Android smartphones.

USEFUL INFO	
Google Headquarters	California, United States
Google CEO	Sundar Pichai

Scientist making CO2-absorbing plants wins \$3 million prize:

- American biologist Joanne Chory has been awarded the 2018 Breakthrough Prize, which includes a \$3 million cash award, for "deciphering how plants optimise their growth to transform sunlight into chemical energy".
- Chory and her colleagues at Salk Institute are developing plants that can adapt to climate change and store large amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the ground for long durations.

US scientists develop gel to temporarily seal eye injuries:

- California-based researchers have developed a temperature-sensitive temporary seal that changes from a fluid to a semi-solid when applied to the eye as the patient awaits surgery.
- On availability of medical services, the seal can be removed by adding cold water.
- The portable hydrogel may even have potential for temporarily treating gunshot wounds



ISRO to launch Chandrayaan-II in Q1 2018:

- Indian Space Research Organisation is planning to launch Chandrayaan-II in the first quarter of next year.
- The space agency's second indigenous mission to the earth's satellite will be equipped with upgraded domestic space technology.
- Chandrayaan-II will have a controlled descent of a rover which will perform in-situ lunar surface observations for 14 Earth days and the data will be relayed back for further analysis.

USEFUL INFO	
ISRO Headquarters	Bangalore
ISRO Chairman	A. S. Kiran Kumar

US lab makes the world's strongest superconducting magnet:

- US-based MagLab has successfully tested the world's strongest superconducting magnet, producing 32 teslas (a unit of magnetic field strength), 33% stronger than the previous record.
- Superconductors conduct electricity with high efficiency unlike copper, in which electrons encounter a lot of friction.
- They usually work in extremely cold environments and stop working in fields over 25 tesla.

UK scientists find bacteria living in deep polar ice:

- UK-based scientists have directly observed bacteria living deep inside Arctic and Antarctic ice, an environment once considered sterile.
- The study revealed that the composition of gases trapped in ice cores may have been affected by bacteria when the snow was compressed into ice.
- The finding offers new perspectives on whether icy planets in the universe can sustain life.

US researchers print 'self-healing' flexible metal circuits:

- US-based scientists have developed a technique for directly printing metal circuits to create stretchable electronics.
- Instead of ink, researchers used metal alloys having melting points of 60°C.
- The circuit's conductivity was unaffected even after being bent 1,000 times and stretched to 70% of tensile strain.
- Further, in case of damage, the circuits could be "healed" by heating.

USEFUL INFO	
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.
USA Currency	United States Dollar
USA President	Donald Trump

China launches land exploration satellite into preset orbit for remote sensing operations:

- China launched a land exploration satellite into a preset orbit for remote sensing operations.
- It was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the Gobi.
- A Long March-2D rocket carried the satellite into space.
- The satellite is mainly used for remote sensing exploration of land resources.
- The launch was the 259th mission of the Long March rocket series.

USEFUL INFO	
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Renminbi
China President	Xi Jinping

SpaceX sets record for most rockets launched in one year:

- SpaceX has completed its 18th launch in 2017, marking a record year for the private space company.
- It's the most rockets SpaceX has launched in a single year, beating its previous best by ten missions.
- The recent launch was for client Iridium, delivering 10 satellites to low Earth orbit for its Iridium NEXT communications constellation.
- This is the fourth such mission that SpaceX has flown for the company, and the rocket used for this mission was a flight proven Falcon 9 that previously flew in June for the second Iridium mission.
- Iridium was also the client for SpaceX's first mission of 2017 back in January – its first flight following a pre-launch accident last September that cost it its rocket and the payload, a Facebook internet satellite.



USEFUL INFO	
SpaceX Headquarters	California, United States
SpaceX CEO	Elon Musk

Facebook says over 40 lakh Indians pledged for blood donation:

- After choosing India to pioneer its blood donation feature, Facebook has stated that over 40 lakh Indians have signed up as blood donors on the site.
- The feature, which connects the needy with the nearby blood donors, will be launched in Bangladesh next year.
- The feature also allows organisations to create voluntary blood donation events and notify nearby donors.
- Facebook had in October launched a new blood donations feature, starting in India, to make it easier for people to donate blood.

Gravitational wave detector to be built in India by 2025:

- A new LIGO gravitational wave detector to measure ripples in the fabric of space and time is set to be built in India by 2025, in collaboration with universities from across the globe.
- The new Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) detector will add to the two already operational in the US.
- The LIGO detectors discovered the first gravitational waves produced by two giant merging blackholes last year. The research won a Nobel Prize in Physics this year.
- The LIGO India partnership is funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) through its Newton-Bhabha project on LIGO.

India's First Runway on 'Sea Bridge' to be built at Agatti Airport:

- India is all set to get its first runway on a 'sea bridge' soon, as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been given a nod to extend Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport.
- The task will be carried out by building an RCC platform on the beach and shallow area which will allow bigger ATRs to operate to the island.
- Notably, the AAI had earlier planned of linking two adjacent islands for the purpose of extending the runway. Agatti could be India's first runway-on-sea bridge.
- The same plan was considered for Juhu airport in Mumbai and Kullu but, could not be initiated as it wasn't found suitable.

Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik attempts world record with 'biggest' Santa Claus face on Puri beach:

- Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik claims to have created the 'world's biggest' sand Santa face with message "World Peace" on Odisha's famous Puri beach.
- Pattnaik claimed he has created the 25 feet high and 50 ft wide sand Santa face with an aim to give the creation a place in the Limca book of World record.
- A sand sculpture of Jesus Christ has also been created in front of the Santa face on the beach, 600 tonne of sand including coloured sand had been used for creating the huge structure.

India going to launch its 1st POD taxi called PRT:

- Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is a dream project of Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. PRT is a public transport system by using an advanced automated electric pod cars to serve like a taxis to a small groups of peoples and for pollution free journey.
- Much awaited PRT pod cars are going to design the safety measures in US standards estimated on Rs.40000 Cr.
- At initial it is going to execute it on Delhi-Gurgaon pilot corridor (12.30 km) from Delhi-Haryana border to Rajiv Chowk in Gurgaon.



Ranking and Indexes

Most-Instagrammed Indian cities of 2017:

- New Delhi was the most Instagrammed Indian city of 2017, the photo-sharing app has revealed.
- It was followed by Mumbai and Bengaluru at second and third place respectively, while Hyderabad and Pune completed the top five.
- Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Jaipur were among the other cities featuring in the top ten.

Delhi, Mumbai fare poorly in 2017 global safe cities index

- Delhi and Mumbai have been ranked 43 and 45 in the Safe Cities Index 2017, a detailed study by The Economist on urban safety.
- The report, released in October, ranks 60 cities across the globe on 49 indicators which include digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security.
- In the overall ranking, Tokyo was ranked the safest city with a score of 89.8 on a 100 point index.
- While Singapore (89.64) came a close second, Osaka (88.87), Toronto (87.36), Melbourne (87.30), Amsterdam (87.26), Sydney (86.74), Stockholm (86.72), Hong Kong (86.22), and Zurich (85.20) complete the top 10 list of safe cities.

India tops list of migrants living abroad at 17 million: UN

- India has topped the list of people living abroad at 17 million with about 5 million Indians residing in the Gulf region alone.
- Mexico, Russia, China, Bangladesh, Syria, Pakistan and Ukraine also have large migrant populations living abroad, ranging from 6 to 11 million each.
- According to the International Migration Report of the UN, the number of migrants from India now reside in multiple destination countries, including the UAE at 3 million, the US and Saudi Arabia at 2 million each.

India Overtakes China To Become Largest Importer Of LPG

- India surpass the chain to become number one importer of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) LPG imports to India will touch 2.4 million tons in December, and it overtakes world largest LPG importer on 2.3 million tons.

Important Points to Take:

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

President: Xi Jinping

BOOKS and AUTHOR

Gauri Lankesh Book Launch: A Call for Unity:

- A book launch was organised by Navayana, for 'The Way I See It — A Gauri Lankesh Reader'.
- The book is a collection of essays and editorials written by the Bengaluru-based journalist, who was shot dead on September 5.
- JNU scholars Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar Khalid, Lawyer Karuna Nundy and Dr. Manisha Sethi were among the speakers at the launch.

Journalist Vinita Deshmukh's new book Grieving to Healing released:

- Journalist, RTI activist and author Vinita Deshmukh recently released her book — Grieving to Healing — in Pune.
- The book is part autobiographical, and part prescriptive — a chapter in the book is dedicated to what helped me overcome my grief," she stated.
- She has written two non-fiction books — To the Last Bullet and The Mighty Fall.



- First was the story of Assistant Commissioner of Police Ashok Kamte who was martyred during the 26/11 terrorist attacks.
- The Mighty Fall, meanwhile, was based on Deshmukh's investigations related to then President Pratibha Patil's post-retirement home 'scam' and Dow Chemicals setting up an illegal manufacturing unit in Pune under the garb of a research centre.

Book on Gauri Lankesh's writings launched:

- A book containing selected writings by late journalist Gauri Lankesh was launched at the Mumbai Press Club.
- The book, The Way I See It — a Gauri Lankesh Reader, has been edited by writer and sociologist Chandan Gowda.
- The six sections of the book comprise Lankesh's early reportage in various publications and selected articles she wrote for the Kannada language Gauri Lankesh Patrike, which she edited.

Sports News

ARCHERY:

Indian archers bag 3 gold, 4 silver & 2 bronze medals at Asian Championship:

- Indian archers produced an impressive performance, grabbing three gold, four silver and two bronze medals at the Asian Championships in Dhaka.
- Two Indian boys and girls also booked quota places for the 2018 Youth Olympics. The tournament also serves as the precursor to 2018 Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires.
- India also bagged two gold medals in the non-Olympic compound discipline.

India's Deepika bags bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup:

- Indian archer Deepika Kumari defeated Sayana Tsyrempilova of Russia 7-3 in the women's recurve bronze play-off to win India's solitary medal at the Indoor Archery World Cup in Bangkok.
- Korean second seed Kim Surin shattered the former world number one's gold medal dream with a thrilling 6-5 win in the shoot-off and Deepika had to settle for third place.

ATHLETICS:

Getachew Besha wins full Pune International Marathon:

- Getachew Besha from Ethiopia won the Full Marathon with the timing of 2 hours, 15 minutes and 15 seconds.
- Zelalem Lemmalemu claimed the second spot, with Deveje Kasaw finishing third.
- Amongst the Indian runners, Karan Singh stood first, followed by Kishor Gavane and Babasaheb Khillare.
- In Womens Half Marathon, Tisausa Basazin also from Ethiopia stood first with the timing of 1 hour, 23 minutes and 40 seconds. Her compatriot Ager Blew was second, while Das Gepkogel of Kenya came third.

Usain Bolt gets stone statue in native of Jamaica:

- Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness unveiled the Usain Bolt statue at Independence Park as a tribute to the world's greatest sprinter.
- The unveiling of his statue was scheduled to be followed by a reception where Jamaica's track and field athletes who participated in this year's World Championships were invited along with several notable figures in local and international sports.

Grigor Dimitrov beats Simona Halep to win Balkan athlete of year:

- Bulgaria's world number three tennis player Grigor Dimitrov has been named Balkan Athlete of the Year.
- Dimitrov, who won the biggest title of his career when he captured the season-ending ATP Finals in London last month, became the first Bulgarian to scoop the prize after female wrestler Stanka Zlateva in 2010.



- The 26-year-old, who has claimed three more titles on the tour this year and also reached the semi-finals at Roland Garros, beat another tennis player – Simona Halep, the first Romanian to reach the summit of the women's rankings.

BADMINTON:

India wins first-ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship:

- India has won the first-ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship.
- In the title clash played in Guwahati, India defeated Nepal, 3-0.
- The Indian team, which came into the Final without losing a single match, continued their good run with Aryaman Tandon drawing first blood in the boys' singles competition. He defeated Dipesh Dharmi 21-9, 21-15.
- Ashmita Chaliha continued the Indian juggernaut as she danced her way to a 21-9, 21-6 win over Rashila Maharjan in the Girls' singles event.

Sindhu wins silver at year-ending World Superseries Finals:

- World number three and Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu settled for a silver at the year-ending World Superseries Finals in Dubai.
- She lost to Japan's 20-year-old world number two Akane Yamaguchi 21-15, 12-21, 19-21 in the final.
- Sindhu was aiming for her fourth title of the year, after having won Syed Modi International, India Open and Korea Open.

Dalmia Bharat Group Owners Delhi Dashers In PBL 3 :

- Dalmia Bharat Group has become the new owners of the Delhi Dashers franchise for the third edition of the Premier Badminton League (PBL)
- The Delhi team, names Delhi Acers in the last two editions, was officially renamed to Delhi Dashers this season.

Indian shuttler PV Sindhu launches her own mobile app:

- Rio Olympic medalist PV Sindhu has launched her mobile app titled 'PV Sindhu Official App'.
- Fans will be able to interact with her through the app and will also get access to exclusive content from the shuttler.
- The app, available both on Android and Apple devices, will also allow fans to create their communities and communicate with each other.

BOXING:

Mary Kom resigns as national observer for Indian boxing:

- Five-time world champion M C Mary Kom has resigned as the national observer for Indian boxing.
- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had recently made it clear that active sportspersons will not be considered for the position.
- Mary Kom claimed her fifth Asian Championships gold medal last month.

India finishes 1st at junior boxing championship in Germany:

- The Indian junior boxing contingent finished at the top of the medal tally after the boxers clinched six gold, four silver, and one bronze medal at the fifth International Sven Lange Memorial Tournament in Germany.
- Boxer Bhavesh Kattamani, who won a gold in the 52kg category, was chosen as the tournament's best boxer.
- India was named the tournament's best team.

USEFUL INFO	
Other gold-medallists	Vijeydeep (63kg), Akshay (60kg), Ish Pannu (70kg), Lakshay Chahar (80kg) and Vinit (75kg)



Silver-medallists	Anil (48kg), Swapnil Shinde (50kg), Aman (54kg) and Satender
Bronze- medallist	Aakash (66kg)

Vijender Singh defends 2 titles with his 10th successive win:

- Indian professional boxer Vijender Singh defeated Ghana's Ernest Amuzu at the Rajasthan Rumble to defend his WBO Oriental and Asia Pacific Super middleweight titles.
- With his 10th successive victory, the 2008 Olympic medal winner maintained his 100% win record in professional boxing.
- Out of his 10 victories, four have come in India while remaining six took place abroad.
- With this victory, Vijender has now won 10 pro bouts on the trot and retains twin titles.

Indian boxers bags three gold medal at Kazakh tournament:

- Indian boxers dominated the ring at the Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, claiming three gold, a silver, and a bronze medal at the event.
- Three-time King's Cup gold-medalist and a reigning national champion from the Railways K Shyam Kumar (49kg), world youth championships' bronze-medalist Naman Tanwar (91kg) and Asian Games bronze-medalist Satish Kumar (+91kg) claimed gold medals.
- The silver medal came through national champion Manish Kaushik in 60kg, while Mandeep Jangra accounted for the Bronze in the 75 kg category after going down in the semi finals.
- The 19-year-old Tanwar was also adjudged the best boxer of the tournament.

CHESS:

Saudi Arabia hosts world chess games:

- Saudi Arabia is hosting a world chess tournament for the first time nearly two years after the country's top cleric issued a religious edict against playing the board game.
- The tournament, called the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships, runs until week end.
- It includes around 240 players both men and women from 70 countries. There are 16 players from Saudi Arabia.
- The world's top three chess players from Norway, Armenia and Azerbaijan are participating in the tournament. There is also a women's chess tournament taking place alongside the open championship.

Viswanathan Anand wins bronze at World Blitz Chess Championship:

- Indian chess champion Viswanathan Anand clinched a bronze medal at the World Blitz Chess Championship in Riyadh.
- The bronze medal follows Anand's gold-winning performance in the World Rapid Chess Championship a couple of days back.
- Classical World Champion Magnus Carlsen won the tournament, while Russian grandmaster Sergey Karjakin finished second in the tournament.

CRICKET:

Prithvi Shaw named India's captain for U-19 World Cup:

- Mumbai batsman Prithvi Shaw was named as the captain of India's squad for the upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup.
- Shaw, who notched up three centuries and two half tons for Mumbai in five Ranji Trophy matches will lead the 16-member Indian team in the tournament next year in New Zealand.
- "The All-India Junior Selection Committee has picked the India U19 team for the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2018. The 16 -team event will be held in New Zealand from 13th January to 3rd February 2018,"



USEFUL INFO	
U-19 World Cup venue 2018	New Zealand
U-19 World Cup venue 2020	South Africa
U-19 World Cup venue 2022	West Indies

Virat Kohli becomes first Indian captain to complete 1,000 runs in a calendar year twice:

- Kohli is the first Indian captain to complete 1,000 runs in a calendar year twice. With 1009 runs (average - 77.61) in ten Tests in 2017
- Last year, he had totalled 1215 runs at an average of 75.93 in 12 Tests.
- Apart from Kohli, two Indian captains have achieved the distinction.
- Sachin Tendulkar in 1997 and Rahul Dravid in 2006.

Ajay Kumar Reddy to lead Indian team at ODI World Cup for the Blind:

- Ajay Kumar Reddy of Andhra Pradesh will lead a 17-member Indian squad at the 5th ODI World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind to be held in January.
- The squad was announced by Samarthanam and the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI).
- The World Cup will be held in Pakistan and Dubai from January 7 to 21.
- Apart from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia and South Africa will also play in the tournament

India to host 2023 World Cup, Champions Trophy in 2021:

- India will host the One Day International World Cup in 2023 as well as the Champions Trophy in 2021, the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed in its Special General Meeting (SGM).
- This is the first time India would be hosting an ODI World Cup completely.
- India has previously co-hosted ODI World Cup on three occasions (1987, 1996 and 2011).
- India has won the tournament twice (1983 and 2011) since its inception in 1975.

USEFUL INFO	
One Day International World Cup 2019 Venue	England
One Day International World Cup 2023 Venue	India
Champions Trophy 2021 Venue	India

India becomes 1st ever team to register 100 300+ ODI totals:

- India has become the first-ever team to register 300+ totals 100 times in ODIs, after posting 392/4 against Sri Lanka in Mohali.
- This was also the 25th instance of India scoring 350+ in an ODI innings, second-most by a team after South Africa (26).
- India were driven by Captain Rohit Sharma's 208*, his record third ODI double hundred.

Rohit Sharma is the first batsman to hit three ODI double hundreds:

- Rohit Sharma became the first-ever player in ODI history to hit three double hundreds, slamming his third in the Mohali ODI against Sri Lanka.
- Rohit hit his first double hundred in 2013, before making the highest-ever ODI score (264) against Sri Lanka in 2014.
- Rohit has scored a century in every ODI series he has played this year.
- He is the only cricketer to scored three double centuries in ODIs and two of them have come against the same opponent — Sri Lanka.

ICC lays down guidelines for four-day Test, each day to have minimum 98 overs:

- South Africa and Zimbabwe will play the first ever four-day Test match and the International Cricket Council has laid down the template for the match.



- The board has decided that every day, a minimum of 98 overs will be bowled that means a total of 392 overs in four days.
- In a five-day game, a total of 450 overs are bowled. Also, a five-day game has six-hours from start to finish but the four-day game will be stretched to six-and-a-half hours.
- Another big change is the playing rules are that follow-on was reduced from 200 runs to 150 runs. This gives a better chance to teams who play aggressive cricket to force a result.

USEFUL INFO	
ICC Headquarters	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
ICC Chair person	Shashank Manohar
ICC CEO	Dave Richardson

Kings XI Punjab name Brad Hodge as head coach:

- Former Australia batsman Brad Hodge has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) for a three-year term.
- Hodge, 42, held a similar role with Gujarat Lions for the last two seasons and will now report to KXIP's mentor-cum director of cricket, Virender Sehwag.
- KXIP's head coach's job was informally held by Sehwag after India team's batting coach Sanjay Bangar resigned in December 2016.

India beat Sri Lanka to win their 8th straight ODI series:

- India won their record eighth straight bilateral ODI series after beating Sri Lanka by eight wickets, claiming the three-match ODI series.
- With the win, India also denied SL their first-ever bilateral ODI series win in India, having played 10 series till now.
- The last time India failed to win an ODI series was in January 2016 in Australia.

Australia wins its 33rd Ashes, has more wins than England:

- Australia won the Ashes for the 33rd time after defeating England by an innings and 41 runs to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the ongoing five-Test series.
- With the win, Australia now has more Ashes series wins than England.
- Meanwhile, with its seventh straight away loss, England equalled its longest losing streak outside home in Test cricket.

Kerala Kings beat Punjabi Legends to win 1st-ever T10 title:

- Kerala Kings thrashed Punjabi Legends by 8 wickets at Sharjah to become the first-ever T10 Cricket League champions.
- Chasing 120 runs in the final, skipper Eoin Morgan along with Paul Stirling added 113 runs for the second wicket to hand Kings the victory with 12 balls remaining.
- The inaugural edition of the tournament saw participation from various international cricketers.

Mithali Raj, Bisht, Harmanpreet selected in ICC teams of the year:

- India captain Mithali Raj was named in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year while left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht was the lone cricketer to find a place in the both the ODI and T20 Teams of the year announced by the world body.
- Besides the duo, Harmanpreet Kaur has found out a place in the ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year.
- The ICC announced the women's ODI and T20I teams of the year with England's Heather Knight named as captain of the 50-over side and Stafanie Taylor of the West Indies appointed skipper of the 20-over side.
- Bisht is the only cricketer to feature in both the ODI and T20I teams of the year.

Rohit Sharma hits fastest T20I century for India off just 35 balls:



- Indian opener Rohit Sharma smashed the joint-fastest T20I hundred, off 35 balls, against Sri Lanka in the second T20I.
- He joined South African batsman David Miller, who had hit a century off 35 balls, against Bangladesh in October this year.
- Rohit also became first Indian to score two tons in T20Is. Rohit's century is the fastest by an Indian across all formats in international cricket.

18 year old Sundar becomes youngest T20I debutant for India:

- Spinner Washington Sundar became the youngest debutant for India in T20Is after appearing in the final T20I against Sri Lanka.
- Sundar is the 72nd T20I player to feature for India. He is the eleventh youngest cricketer in T20 Internationals all over the world.
- Sundar, who played his debut match aged 18 years and 80 days, picked up both his maiden T20I and ODI wickets in his second over of his T20I and ODI debut.

First ever 4-day day-night Test ends within 2 days:

- South Africa defeated Zimbabwe by an innings and 120 runs after picking up 16 wickets on the second day of the first-ever four-day day-night Test at Port Elizabeth.
- Zimbabwe were dismissed for 68 in the first innings, the lowest total in Tests in 2017.
- This was the first time a four-day Test was hosted since 1973.

The Telangana Government presented 1crore and house for Mithali Raj:

- Telangana Government honors Mithali Raj who had led the Indian team to the Women's World Cup 2017 final by presenting 1crore and a house worth 600 square-feet.
- They also presented Rs 25 lakh to Mithali Raj's coach RSR Murthy.

FOOTBALL:

Cristiano Ronaldo wins fifth Ballon D'Or, equals Lionel Messi's record:

- Cristiano Ronaldo won his fifth Ballon D'Or, equalling arch-rival Lionel Messi's record for clinching the prestigious title the most number of times.
- Ronaldo's goals helped Real Madrid to the Spanish League title and a second consecutive UEFA Champions League win.
- He also was instrumental in Portugal's successful 2018 World Cup qualification campaign.
- He collected the trophy in a glitzy ceremony at the Eiffel Tower in the French capital, presented by former France player David Ginola.

Messi receives awards for top scorer, best player in La Liga:

- Barcelona star Lionel Messi has received La Liga's top scorer and best player awards for the 2016-2017 football season.
- The Argentine striker scored 37 goals in league action last season to earn his fourth Pichichi award.
- Messi overtook Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo to win his record fifth Alfredo Di Stefano Trophy, given to the best footballer in the league.

Indian Football Team ends year on 105th in FIFA Rankings:

- The Indian men's football ended the year at 105th spot in the FIFA rankings, unchanged from last month.
- India began the year at the 129th spot and broke into top 100 by occupying 96th -- the second best ever after the 94th of February 1996 -- in July.
- Among Asian countries, the Indian team is in the 15th spot, just below Qatar, but ahead of the likes of Jordan, Bahrain and North Korea.



- Iran (overall 32nd) leads the rankings among Asian countries, followed by Australia (38th) and Japan (57th).

Ranveer Singh partners with Premier League in India:

- The English Premier League has formed an official partnership with Indian film actor Ranveer Singh.
- The Bollywood star is a passionate football fan and will help promote the Premier League to fans in India and globally.
- Singh, famous for his lead roles in films such as Bajirao Mastani and Befikre, is a lifelong supporter of Arsenal FC and closely follows Premier League action throughout the season.
- In this ambassadorial role, he will be working to support the League's community initiatives across India, promote fan events and share his passion for the game.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins Globe Soccer Award:

- The Portuguese player Ronaldo wins the Globe Soccer best player of the year award by defeating Barcelona's Messi.
- Zinedine Zidane of the Real Madrid was voted the best coach of the year award.
- Real Madrid won the best team of the year award by defeating Manchester United

GOLF:

World Cup of Golf returning to Australia's Sandbelt in 2018:

- The World Cup of Golf will be played in Australia's Sandbelt for the third consecutive time, with the PGA Tour announcing the Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne will host the tournament next November.
- The tournament, which has been held 58 times across 25 countries since 1953, will feature 28 two-person teams representing their countries from November 21-25 2018
- The highest-ranked player in each team will get to select his playing partner.
- The 2018 event will feature the same format as 2016, including two days of foursomes and two days of fourballs.

Shubhankar Sharma bags Tour Championship:

- Shubhankar Sharma rallied to snatch the Rs 1.5 crore McLeod Russel Tour Championship 2017 in Kolkata to sign off the season with three wins.
- The 21-year-old from Chandigarh, who recently became the youngest Indian to win on the European Tour, prevailed over Delhi's Rashid Khan by one shot in a thrilling finish at the PGTI season-ending championship at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club.

HOCKEY:

India beat Germany to win bronze in Hockey World League

- India won the Bronze medal in the Hockey World League Final tournament.
- In the third-place playoff match at Bhubaneswar, they beat Germany 2-1.
- SV Sunil and Harmenpreet Singh scored for India, while Mark Appel scored for Germany.
- In the pool stage, India had lost to Germany.

Australia beat Argentina to win gold in Hockey World League final

- Australia defeated Rio Olympics champions Argentina 2-1 in the final of the Hockey World League Final to win gold at Bhubaneswar.
- Goals from Blake Govers and Jeremy Hayward helped the defending champions beat Argentina at Kalinga Stadium.
- Australia and Argentina were tied 1-1 after three-quarters of the match.



- Australia scored first through Hayward in the 17th minute while Argentina equalised through Agustin Bugallo.
- Govers scored the winner from a penalty corner with just three minutes left in the game.

India men's hockey team ends year on 6th, women 10th on latest ranking:

- The Indian men's and women's hockey teams remained static at sixth and 10th positions in the latest rankings released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- India's third place finish at the recently-concluded Men's Hockey World League Final in Bhubaneswar though helped them reduce the gap with fifth place Germany significantly, they failed to topple them.
- Meanwhile, the Indian women's team, who started the year at the 12th spot, jumped up two places to 10th. Their Asia Cup win last month helped them gain two positions, leapfrogging Spain and Japan.

India's Prasad, Shaikh to officiate in 2018 Hockey World Cup:

- India's Raghu Prasad and Javed Shaikh were named in the panel of umpires for next year's Hockey World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar.
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) today announced that 25 officials representing 19 countries from all five continents will officiate at this prestigious event taking place at the Kalinga Stadium from November 28 to December 16.

USEFUL INFO	
Men's Hockey World Cup 2018	Bhubaneswar, India
Women's Hockey World Cup 2018	London, England

IOC bans 11 Russians for life over alleged Sochi Games doping violations:

- Sochi luge silver medallists Albert Demchenko and Tatyana Ivanova are among a group of 11 Russians disqualified for doping and handed lifetime bans by the International Olympic Committee.
- The announcement comes following hearings by an IOC commission into allegations of state-sponsored doping by hosts Russia at the 2014 Winter Games.
- Demchenko and Ivanova were punished along with two speed skaters, three cross country skiers, two bobsledders and two ice hockey players.
- However, athletes who prove themselves to be clean have been told by the IOC they can compete under strict conditions, and under a neutral flag.

USEFUL INFO	
International Olympic Committee Headquarters	Lausanne, Switzerland
International Olympic Committee President	Thomas Bach

LUGE SPORT:

Shiva Keshavan wins gold in Asian Luge Championships:

- India's Shiva Keshavan retained his gold medal at the Asian Luge Championships in Germany.
- The sole Indian participant and defending Asian champion retained his title with a time of 55.60 seconds.
- This is his fourth gold in the tournament's history, with his total tally including four silvers and two bronze medals since 2005.
- Keshavan, a five-time Winter Olympian, is India's only professional luger and holds the Asian speed and time records in the sport.

SHOOTING:

Rathore visits Madya Pradesh shooting academy and lays stone for extension work of 50 Meter range:

- Union minister of states for Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore visited the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy and laid the stone for the extension work of the 50 Meter range.



- He stated that our target is that our players achieve as many medals as possible.
- Government will provide all required training and facilities to the players. He also visited various academies of Sports Authority of India (SAI) and spoke to the players.

Chandigarh shooter Arjun Babuta wins silver in Asian Airgun Championship 2017:

- Chandigarh shooter 18-year-old Arjun Babuta made his way to his second international medal of the year when he shot a final round score of 249.7 to win the silver medal in the junior category in the 10 M Air Rifle event in the 10th Asian Airgun Championship 10 M Rifle/Pistol being held at Wako City, Japan.
- Babuta, who had won a historic bronze medal in last year's ISSF Junior World Cup in Azerbaijan, missed the gold medal by a whisker as Yukun Liu of China won the gold medal with a junior world record score of 249.8 in the final.

Jitu Rai, Heena Sidhu win medals at 10th Asian Championship in Japan:

- Pistol aces Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu bagged a bronze each to continue India's medal charge at the 10th Asian Championship 10m Rifle/Pistol in Wako City, Japan.
- Jitu won an individual bronze in the men's 10m Air Pistol, which also helped the Indian team comprising Shahzar Rizvi and Omkar Singh besides Jitu, to bag the Team gold in the event.
- Heena claimed an individual bronze in the women's 10m Air Pistol. Her effort, along with teammates Shri Nivetha Paramantham and Harveen Srao, helped the Team clinch a silver.

India bags 21 Medals at Asian Championship and 4 Youth Olympic Games quotas:

- India bagged 21 medals at the 10th Asian Championship 10m Rifle/Pistol at Wako City Japan and also booked 4 Youth Olympic Games quotas.
- Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker booked quota places for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) by winning a gold and a silver each.
- Chaudhary won both the individual as well as the Team gold in the men's 10m Air Pistol Youth event, while Bhaker clinched a silver in the women's 10m Air Pistol Youth.
- India claimed another silver in junior women's 10m Air Pistol.
- In all, India added four medals to their kitty on the final day of the competition to finish with a total haul of 21 medals over four days, including six gold, eight silver and seven bronze, besides four Youth Olympic Games quotas.

Anjum Moudgil wins women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions title to bag fifth gold medal:

- Anjum Moudgil continued her impressive run at the 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions, winning the individual and team gold medals in the women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event in Thiruvananthapuram.
- On competition day five at the National Games Shooting Range, Anjum, representing Punjab, shot 457.6 in the eight-woman final to beat Jammu & Kashmir's Shreya Saksena who shot 452.9 for the silver medal.
- Raj Chaudhary of the Army won the bronze with a score of 439.5.
- Having won the women's Rifle Prone and Mixed team titles earlier in the competition, This two gold medals made it a total of five yellow metals for Anjum from the 61st NSCC so far.

Anisa Sayyed wins women's 25m pistol gold with new national record:

- Haryana shooter Anisa Sayyed won the women's 25m pistol gold with a new record at the ongoing 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions (61st NSCC), in Trivandrum.
- Anisa shot a new finals national record score of 33 to prevail over the Maharashtra duo of Shital Shivaji Thorat and Rahi Sarnobat, who won the silver and bronze medals respectively at the National Games Shooting Range.
- Shital shot 30 in the eight-woman final to also claim a new finals national record while Rahi finished with 28.

SWIMMING:



26-year-old wins India's 1st World Para Swimming Championship gold:

- Nagpur's Kanchanmala Pande became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the World Para Swimming Championship, taking place in Mexico.
- Pande, who won gold in the 200-metre medley event in the S-11 category, missed a podium finish in the 100-metre freestyle event and finished fifth in the 100-metre breaststroke and backstroke category at the championship.

Official emblems for Beijing 2022 Winter Games unveiled:

- The emblems of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named "Winter Dream" and "Flight," respectively.
- The emblem launching ceremony was held at the National Aquatic Center, which staged the swimming events during the Beijing 2008 Games.
- In 2022, this venue will be transformed into an ice rink for curling games.
- The chief designer of the two emblems is Lin Cunzhen, deputy dean of China Central Academy of Fine Arts' Design School.

USEFUL INFO	
2018 Winter Olympic Games Venue	Pyeongchang, South Korea
2022 Winter Olympic Games Venue	Beijing, China

TENNIS:

Rafael Nadal, Garbine Muguruza named ITF world champions:

- Spaniards Rafael Nadal and Garbine Muguruza were named as the International Tennis Federation (ITF) world champions
- The first time in 19 years the awards have gone to players from the same country.
- Nadal, who claimed the honour for the third time, made a sensational comeback from an injury-plagued 2016, winning a 10th French Open title and the U.S. Open to take his grand slam haul to 16, three behind Roger Federer who also won two of the year's majors after returning from injury.
- Muguruza won the ITF award for the first time after capturing the Wimbledon title and ascending to the world number one ranking for the first time.

WEIGHT LIFTING:

Lifter Gurdeep creates three national records in IWF Championships:

- Gurdeep Singh created three new senior national records in +105 Kilogram weight category in the just-concluded IWF World Weightlifting Championships at Anaheim in USA.
- Singh finished 13th overall with a total lift of 388kg (172 + 216) but created national records in snatch, clean and jerk, and the total lift.
- In snatch, he bettered his own earlier national record of 171kg by one kilogramme.
- In the total lift also, Gurdeep bettered the earlier national record of 384kg.

WRESTLING:

Sushil Kumar, Sakshi Malik strike gold at Commonwealth Wrestling Championship:

- Sushil Kumar and Sakshi Malik won gold in their respective categories.
- Double Olympic medallist Sushil defeated New Zealand's Akash Khullar's in the final of the men's 74 kilogram freestyle category to win his first medal in international wrestling since his gold medal in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



- Earlier, India won nine gold, seven silver and four bronze medals on the second day of the Commonwealth Wrestling Championship in South Africa's Johannesburg.

Sakshi Malik named in Indian women's wrestling team:

- Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik was named in the Indian women's wrestling team for next year's Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia, after a selection trail held in Lucknow.
- Apart from Sakshi, who is in the 62kg category, other women grapplers who booked their berths for the 2018 Commonwealth Games are: Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Babita Kumari (54kg), Pooja Dhanda (57kg), Divya Karan (68 kg) and Kiran (76kg).
- The selection trial was held in six weight categories at the Sports Authority of India Training Center in Lucknow.
- The six freestyle wrestlers will also represent the country in the 2018 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

OTHERS:

Russia banned from 2018 Winter Olympics:

- Russia has been banned from competing in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang in an historic decision by the International Olympic Committee
- Although some Russian athletes will be allowed to compete under a neutral flag
- The IOC also handed a lifetime ban to the country's deputy Prime Minister, Vitaly Mutko, preventing him from having any involvement in the Olympic Games

USEFUL INFO	
2018 Winter Olympics Venue	Pyeongchang, South Korea
2018 Winter Olympics Venue	Beijing, China

Rathore Announces Partnership with Japanese University:

- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced a sports tie-up between Lakshmi Bai University of Physical Education and a Japanese university.
- A talk with Japan about the growth of sports in India is on.
- Lakshmi Bai University of Physical Education is now partnering with a university in Japan to promote sports, Rathore stated in the commemorative ceremony of the Japan-India sports exchange programme.

India wins 10 medals in Wushu Sanda Asian Cup:

- India bagged as many as 10 medals in the first Wushu Sanda Asian Cup that concluded in Guangzhou, China. The medals include five Silver and five Bronze.
- The Silver medal winners were: Praveen in 48kg, Mukesh Chaoudhary in 70kg, Rajender Singh in 90kg, Arunpama Devi in 60kg and Vishakhaptnam Malik in 70kg.
- The bronze medals were won by Uchit Sharma in 52kg, L Budhdhachandra Singh in 56kg, Rajani Deori in 75kg, Y Sanathoi Devi in 52kg, and Pooja Kadian in 65kg.
- Rajvir Singh was the coach of the Indian contingent.

India finished runners-up at SAFF U15 Women's Championship:

- India finished runners-up after going down 1-0 to Bangladesh in the final of the SAFF U15 Women's Championship in Dhaka
- In a closely contested game, Shamsun Nahar's strike in the 41st minute sealed the issue in Bangladesh's favour.
- After blanking out Bhutan and Nepal, India lost to Bangladesh in the group stages, as the hosts bagged the title.



OBITUARY

Name	Field
Adarsh Sein Anand	Former Chief Justice of India
Sreerupa Mukherjee	Former India woman cricketer
Saraswati Tripathy	Freedom fighter
Shashi Kapoor	Actor
Ali Abdullah Saleh	Former Yemeni President
Michael I	Romania's former king
Aadhithyan	Music director
Simeon Booker	Journalist
Bhagavatula Seetharama Sharma	Musical Artist
Neeraj Vora	Actor-director
C.V. Karthik Narayanan	industrialist
Banwari Lal Joshi	Former Uttar Pradesh governor
Bruce McCandless	NASA astronaut
Bengali film actor	Partha Mukhopadhyay
Menzies-Urich	Actor
Bob Givens	The creator of Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd

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