

## Current Affairs Pocket PDF – January 2018

**SSC CHSL**  
**2018 – TIER 1**  
MOCKS - SECTIONAL TEST - GK - VIDEOS

**FLAT 50% OFF**  
USE COUPON CODE: **ACCHSL**

\*APPLICABLE ON ALL SSC CHSL PACKAGES ONLY  
**CLICK HERE**  
OFFER VALID FOR FIRST 100 LEARNERS ONLY!

### INDIAN AFFAIRS

- On January 2, 2017, Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman cleared two proposals to procure Barak Missiles for the Indian Air Force from Russia. 1) 131 Barak missiles and from Israel's Rafael Advance Defence Systems Ltd at a cost of Rs 460 crore 2) 240 precision guided bombs from M/s JSC Rosonboron Exports, Russia at a cost of Rs 1254 crore
- On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, the Puducherry government launched a special police force to safeguard tourists with special blue colour head gears. They will also wear blue badges with police emblem. This wing was launched by Director General of Police S K Gautam.
- On January 3, 2018, Union Cabinet approves setting up of new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) will be set up at cost of Rs.1351 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- On January 2, 2018, Indian Parliament passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017 as it was passed by Rajya Sabha.
- On January 2, 2018, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017, was passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote.
- ii. On January 2, 2018, Lok Sabha passed the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill 2017 that permits government to take up infrastructure projects within the 100 metre prohibited area around protected monuments.
- On January 2, 2018, Greater Hyderabad was declared an open defecation free (ODF) city by the Centre and thereby became second major city (after Mumbai) with over 1 crore population to attain this status. Swachh Bharat Mission Directorate of the Ministry of Urban Development grants ODF certificate to a city only if not a single person is found defecating in the open.
- Minister of State for Defence, Subhash Bhamre has informed Lok Sabha that Central Government has identified Delhi and six other cantonments for introducing 'smart solutions' and upgrading civic amenities.
- In a bid to promote cruise tourism in India, Central Government has announced that cruise tourists with e-visas will be exempted from the requirement of biometric enrolment till December 31, 2020. Due to this immigration clearance of cruise passengers will become faster and passengers will have more time to spend on shore.
- On January 4, 2018, Union Defence Ministry approved procurement of simulated training solutions for Indian Navy's P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft and electronic warfare systems for the Army. Total cost involved in these deals is Rs. 2420 crore.. It will come along with 10 year comprehensive maintenance service.
- On January 4, 2018, Lok Sabha passed a bill to hike the salaries of judges of Supreme Court and 24 high courts. The bill proposes to raise the monthly salary of Chief Justice of India to Rs 2.80 lakh from the present Rs. one lakh per month. The salary of judges of the high courts, from Rs. 80000 per month now, to Rs 2.25 lakh per month.
- On Jan.4 2017, Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport has become the 5th airport in India having CAT III B landing system runway 01R. It enables flights to land even when visibility is 50 metres with decision height of 15 meters.
- 'New Delhi World Book Fair 2018' began on January 6, 2018 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. 'Environment and Climate Change' is the main theme of New Delhi World Book Fair 2018. This fair is being jointly organised by the National Book Trust (NBT) and India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO).

- On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Atal Pension Yojana's (APY) subscriber base reached a mark of 80 lakhs. The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is run by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA).
- On January 5, 2018, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Jai Ram Thakur announced setting up of 24X7 'Gudiya helpline' for reporting crimes against women. 'Gudiya' is a nickname given to the 16-year-old victim of rape and murder in Kotkhai town. The incident took place in 2017.
- On January 6, 2018, Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Indian Railways has finalised a plan to equip nearly 8500 railway stations across India (including those in rural and remote areas) with Wi-Fi facilities at an estimated cost of Rs 700 crore.
- Central Government has sanctioned the construction of 14460 individual and community bunkers at a cost of Rs 415.73 crore for people living along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu & Kashmir.
- On January 7, 2018, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd launched "Solar City Initiative", aimed to maximize rooftop solar power use in south and west Delhi. This initiative has been launched in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) PACE-D and Indo-German Collaboration (GIZ).
- On January 8, 2018, Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal launched a first common mobility card for rides on public buses and the metro in Delhi.
- On January 3, 2018, Central Government notified the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017. Certain provisions of this amendment act will ease the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016. As per Section 53 of the Companies Act, 2013 companies were prohibited to issue shares at a discount.
- Central Government has sanctioned the raising of a Territorial Army (TA) battalion for cleaning River Ganga. This battalion will comprise only of ex-servicemen of the army.  
This battalion will be raised in February 2018 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, as a Composite Ecological Task Force (CETF) battalion of Territorial Army (TA).
- Union Cabinet has approved a number of amendments in the existing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and to provide ease of doing business in India.
- Cabinet has approved proposal to amend Section 4(1) and Section 5(1) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.
- On January 9, 2018, India and Indonesia held their first bilateral security dialogue in New Delhi. During the dialogue, India and Indonesia agreed on operational cooperation in security and counter-terrorism.
- From financial year 2018-19, Union Health Ministry will roll out a National Programme for Control of Viral Hepatitis, with a focus on Hepatitis C. Under the programme, an anti-viral treatment for Hepatitis C will be provided free at all government health set-ups.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the central government insisted people not to use national flag made of plastic, ahead of Republic Day celebrations. An advisory from the Union Home Ministry has said that, since plastic flags are not biodegradable like paper flags, they do not decompose for a long time.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the UIDAI launched 'Virtual ID', which an Aadhaar-card holder can generate from UIDAI website. This virtual ID that can be generated from UIDAI website can be used for purposes like SIM verification, instead of sharing the actual 12-digit biometric ID.
- On January 10, 2018, Committee of Governors submitted a report, titled 'Rajyapal — Vikas Ke Rajdoot: Catalytic Role of Governors as Agents for Change in Society' to President Ram Nath Kovind. The report outlines best practices that have been adopted by offices of Governors, issues and an action-outcome framework to deal with them.
- A sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) looking into the issues of girl education in India has recommended free and compulsory education for girls up to post-graduate level across India. This sub-committee of CABE was formed by Union Human Resources Development (HRD) Ministry in February 2017.

- On January 1, 2018, Bhopal station has become the first railway station in the country to have Sanitary napkin Vending Machine. This machine has been named 'Happy Nari'. It was installed by the Railway Women Welfare Association of Bhopal division with help from a local NGO 'Arushi'.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley while presenting the General Budget 2017-18 said that the Government has prepared an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar by 2017. Kala-azar also known as black fever, and Dumdum fever is a slow progressing indigenous disease caused by a single-celled parasite of the Leishmania family.
- On January 12, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 22<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Festival, a five-day event being held at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh through Video conferencing from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. Theme of 22<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Festival is 'Sankalp Se Siddhi'.
- The Election Commission has formed a 14-member panel to study the usage of social media and other digital platforms before elections and to suggest modifications in the Model Code of Conduct. Umesh Sinha, Deputy Election Commissioner, will be the head of the panel.
- As per data collected through National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4) conducted among more than 6 lakh households in 2015-16, Delhi is the richest state while Bihar is the poorest.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the 'Bhogali Bihu' also called as 'Magh Bihu' festival began in Assam. The Bhogali Bihu is a harvest festival celebrated in Assam. The festival kick-started with the burning of traditional Meji and Bhelaghar made from thatch and fire woods. People offered prayers to God Agni.
- 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme, began in Karnataka on January 14, 2018. This event will continue till January 20, 2018. This event is being organised by Union Ministry of Culture. Under this programme, Karnataka is paired with Uttarakhand.
- On January 14, 2018, President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 'Economic Democracy Conclave' at Thane, Maharashtra. This conclave has been organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.
- On January 13, 2018, Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) launched India's internationally benchmarked Forest Management Certification Standard (FMCS). The FMCS enlists measures to be taken for responsible utilisation of natural resources and trade of forest products.
- On January 15, 2018, Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDRI) which was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in New Delhi.
- Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) has launched a month-long 'Saksham-2018' campaign. Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is an annual flagship event of PCRA aimed at creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) approved authentication based on facial recognition in combination with fingerprint or iris scan for Aadhaar users. The facial recognition-based authentication will come into act from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.
- Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) a professional body under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has launched a one of its kind Intellectual Property (IP) Competition, 'IPrism' for college and university students. Winning teams will be awarded cash prizes worth INR 4 lacs.
- West Bengal, Kerala and Odisha have opted out of the Central Government's Transformation of Aspirational Districts scheme. In context of this scheme, aspirational districts refer to selected 115 backward districts that are lagging on specific development parameters.
- Bar Council of India (BCI) has announced that it has formed a seven-member delegation that will meet honourable judges of the Supreme Court and will try to bridge their differences with the incumbent Chief Justice of India (CJI), Dipak Misra.
- On 16th January 2018, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union minister for minority affairs, announced that, the government has withdrawn the subsidy given for Haj pilgrims.

- On 17th January 2018, the government lowered the additional borrowing requirement for the current fiscal year to Rs 20,000 crore from the previously estimated Rs 50,000 crore. The government has lowered additional borrowing requirements considering revenue receipts and expenditure pattern.
- On 16th January 2018, the Supreme Court stated that, attacking any adult man or woman opting for inter-caste marriage, by khap panchayats is “absolutely illegal”. The bench consisted of Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud.
- Central Government has sanctioned projects worth over Rs. 10000 crore in the North East for better network connectivity. Union Telecommunication Minister Manoj Sinha has stated that most of these projects will be completed during 2018.
- On January 16, 2018, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, cleared procurement of 72400 assault rifles and 93895 carbines to meet their immediate requirement of Defence Forces deployed in border areas.
- The government has planned to form a Cyber Warrior Police Force (CWPF) to combat cyber-crimes like cyber threats, child pornography, online stalking etc. This would function under the National Information Security Policy and Guidelines wing of the Cyber and Information Security (CIS) division of the Union home ministry.
- On January 17, 2018, Minister of State for Textiles, Ajay Tamta inaugurated 60<sup>th</sup> edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was on a six-day official visit to India starting from January 14, 2018. It is to be noted that Mr. Netanyahu is the second Israeli Prime Minister after Ariel Sharon to visit India in the last 25 years of India-Israel diplomatic relationship.
- On January 19, 2018, Minister of State, Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep S Puri announced names of nine new cities selected under the Smart Cities Mission. The nine cities that have been selected have proposed an investment of Rs. 12824 crore.
- J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has stated that antenatal check-ups under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) has crossed one crore mark.
- PMSMA programme was launched in 2016 with an objective to ensure comprehensive and quality antenatal checkups to pregnant women across India.
- Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) and Blockchain Education Network (BEN) have planned to jointly set up Kerala Blockchain Academy at Technopark campus, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- On January 19, 2018, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S Puri, announced commencement of the Liveability Index Programme in 116 Indian cities. This programme would be funded by the World Bank.
- On January 19, 2018, Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology. KJ Alphons launched Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative. Objective of this initiative is to spread awareness about cybercrime and to train and prepare Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT staff of all government departments to effectively deal and neutralise cyber threats.
- On January 19, 2018, Union Minister for External Affairs, Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) at Karaikal in the Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry. Objective of this initiative is to ensure wider coverage of passport related services.
- On January 20, 2018, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched ‘Bharat Ke Veer’ graphic novel series on Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) martyrs, ‘Bharat Ke Veer’ anthem and a short film on India’s bravehearts.
- On Jan 19 2017, during the occasion of ‘National Conference on Improving Accessibility’, Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched 100 accessible websites for Divyangs to empower the disabled persons in all over the country.
- Ministry of Science & Technology has confirmed that 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Environment ministry issued a notification that the use and sale of imported petroleum coke has been banned in the National Capital Region (NCR) by the environment ministry in order to control air pollution.



## Online Test for RBI Grade B 2018

[www.OliveBoard.com](http://www.OliveBoard.com)

- The DefExpo India 2018 will be hosted by Chennai for the first time from April 11 to 14 at a temporary expo centre on East Coast Road near Mahabalipuram. DefExpo India is the largest event of India's defence sector. It is held once in 2 years.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind approved disqualification of 20 MLAs of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for , being parliamentary secretaries, they held office of profit and they should be disqualified as MLAs of the Delhi Assembly.
- S S C Sheno, Director of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has stated that India will function the own new ocean data acquisition system (called automated moorings) in April 2018.
- On January 21, 2018, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched the Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT), Under this scheme, poor people of Manipur will be provided cashless treatment at government hospitals, health centres and other empanelled selected private hospitals.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018, 'Kachra Mahotsav 2018', India's first garbage festival was organised by the Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh. Kachra Mahotsav's aim was to increase awareness, utilise the waste accumulated in a creative way, and to display various techniques for reusing things that are branded as garbage.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur unveiled a state-level nutrition scheme for HIV-positive children, at a campaign conducted by Himachal Pradesh AIDS Control Society on the eve of National Youth Day, in Shimla.
- As per the survey and the accompanying report (titled 'Reward Work, Not Wealth') released by the international rights group Oxfam, richest 1 per cent in India amassed 73 per cent of the wealth generated in the country last year.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 ,Government of Japan has committed JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Official Development Assistance loan for Yen 45 billion for Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3) (I).
- On January 24, 2018, Central Government launched four new schemes to promote young scientists and researchers in India to focus on empowering, recognising and motivating youth.
- Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE) Scheme , Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship scheme, Distinguished Investigator Award scheme, Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR) scheme.
- Union Health Minister, J P Nadda has stated that his ministry is working to increase the number of AMRIT pharmacy stores by four times (from the existing 111 outlets) by the end of 2018.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Central Government sanctioned the establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Raichur, Karnataka. Prakash Javadekar, Union Human Resource Development Minister, said that, the required funds for IIIT-Raichur will be allocated in the 2018 Budget.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018, India and Vietnam launched the first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to highlight the bilateral ties between them. The theme of these stamps is 'ancient architecture'.
- On January 27, 2018, India and Cambodia inked four pacts , post comprehensive talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Visiting Cambodian Prime Minister, Samdech Hun Sen.
- Jammu & Kashmir Student Exchange programme 'Maitreyi Yatra' concluded on January 26, 2018 in New Delhi. Student Exchange Programme is organized by Ministry of Human Resource development with an objective to acquaint the youth of Jammu & Kashmir with culture, language and development of different parts of India.
- Union Home Ministry is coordinate with state governments to set up Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), an apex centre to deal with cyber crimes such as financial frauds, circulation of pornographic and communal contents.

- On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the first Khadi Haat of India was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), in Connaught Place, New Delhi. The Khadi Haat was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Giriraj Singh.
- Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry has decided to set up a social media communication (SMC) hub for keeping a tab on trending news in districts and gather feedback on the Central Government's flagship schemes. Rs 17 crore (in this fiscal year) has been sanctioned for setting up 707 SMC hubs.
- On January 27, 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Pulse Polio programme for 2018 from Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, by administering polio drops to children below five years.
- The Assembly session will start from 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Assam budget will be presented in a digital form by Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi released a postage stamp in memory of eminent football player Dr. Talimeren Ao at Sports Authority of India (SAI) complex playground in Paltan Bazar, Guwahati, Assam.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched Zero Budget Natural Farming project, at Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalay in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched 'Stree Swabhiman', an initiative by CSC (Common Services Centres) in New Delhi to develop a model for providing adolescent girls and women access to affordable sanitary products.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Airports Authority of India (AAI) chairman Guruprasad Mahapatra said that, AAI has allocated Rs 3400 crore for upgradation of airports in the North East region.
- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has issued an order to provide quota in Central Government jobs to people with autism, mental illnesses, intellectual disability and victims of acid attacks.
- 19th India International Watch and Clock Fair "Samaya Bharati 2018" was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra from January 25, 2018 to January 28, 2018. The fair was inaugurated by Amruta Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Vice President of Axis Bank.

## **STATE WISE NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Andhra Pradesh**

- On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, year 2018 was declared as Telugu promotion year by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the 29th edition of Annual Book Exhibition of Vijayawada which is inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah .

### **Assam**

- As per Supreme Court directive, first draft NRC for Assam has to be published on or before December 31, 2017. Registrar General of India, Sailesh has stated that it contains names of 1.9 crore applicants.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'Chah Bagichar Dhan Puraskar Mela 2017-18' at a function held at Sarbananda Singha auditorium in Tinsukia, Assam. . Under this scheme people belonging to tea community who opened bank accounts during demonetisation will be credited Rs 2500 in their accounts.
- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched nearly 249 skill development centres throughout Assam. These centres aim to improve skilled manpower in Assam. These centres provide vocational training to the youth of Assam and help them to be financially independent.

### **Arunachal Pradesh**

- On December 31, 2017, Arunachal Pradesh was declared as the second state in the Northeast (after Sikkim), to be declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Arunachal has attained ODF status much before the national deadline of October 2, 2019.

- Jitendra Singh announced that Central Government will set up second Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Arunachal Pradesh. Objective behind setting up FTII in Arunachal Pradesh is to tap the potential of India's North Eastern region.
- On January 21, 2018, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the World War II Memorial Museum in state's Changlang district. World War II Memorial Museum in Changlang has been built by the Union Culture Ministry at a cost of Rs 2.25 crore.

### **Bihar**

- On January 6, 2018, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated and laid foundation stones of around 750 projects, worth more than Rs 500 crore, in Begusarai and Khagaria districts. These projects were launched during Nitish Kumar's state-wide "Vikas Samiksha Yatra" which began on December 28, 2017.  
Bihar State Government has imposed a ban on manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, display and advertisement of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) across the state.. The ban also applies to online sale and purchase of e-cigarettes which are handheld battery-run devices which are smoked just like a conventional cigarette.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched schemes worth over Rs.200 crore during his state-wide "Vikas Samiksha Yatra". He inaugurated and laid foundation stones for schemes valued at more than Rs. 200 crore.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Bihar cabinet allocated funds worth Rs 105 crore for Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission, which formulates and implements schemes for the most backward sections among the Scheduled Castes.

### **Chhattisgarh**

- Chhattisgarh High Court has issued a directive to all trial courts in the state to mandatorily obtain Aadhaar Cards of accused persons and sureties before issuing release warrant of a prisoner/accused. The order is an attempt to curb the rampant practice of obtaining bail on the basis of forged revenue papers or by impersonating the real surety.

### **Goa**

- 21st India International Seafood Show (IISS) opened in Margao, Goa on January 27, 2018. This event was inaugurated by Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. Focal theme of 21st IISS is 'Safe & Sustainable Seafood from India'.
- Third edition of the Science Film Festival of India will be held between 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 in Goa. This festival has been titled SCI-FFI Goa and being jointly organized by the Goa-based Vidnyan Parishad, Entertainment Society of Goa, Goa's Department of Science and Technology and the Goa College of Art.
- On January 20, 2018, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri along with the Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar launched the 'Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities' in Goa. This seven star-rating system has been developed by the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban. Under this system, cities will be assessed on multiple cleanliness indicators for solid waste management.

### **Gujarat**

- Gujarat Animal Husbandry department has banned all voluntary animal care and NGOs working under 'Karuna Abhiyan' to function in residential areas during the 2018 Uttarayan festival. Because of Usage of abrasive thread for flying kites during Uttarayan festival injures a lot of birds in January 2017 and a Gujarat High Court order issued in 2017.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the International Kite Festival started at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The International Kite Festival was inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. Gujarat Governor O. P. Kohli was also present at the occasion.
- Dev Information Technology Ltd has announced the setting up of "DevX", an Accelerator Center for startups in Gujarat. Entrepreneurs can develop, test and commercially release their ideas at DevX. DevX will be Gujarat's largest accelerator.

### **Haryana**

- On January 2, 2018, Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar directed the state irrigation department to implement the integrated solar-based micro irrigation scheme in all districts of

### Haryana.

- On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, Haryana tourism department announced that Uttar Pradesh is the theme state for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Surajkund International Crafts Mela, to be held at Surajkund, Faridabad, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018. It projects Indian handicrafts, handloom, cultural heritage and prosperity of India at global level.
- The Haryana government has mandated installation of Solar Photovoltaic Power plant in new buildings as per specified norms. This has been done in a move to conserve electricity and use it efficiently.
- On Jan 5 2017, The residents of Bhanakpur village in Faridabad district plan to begin their day by listening to the national anthem at 8am. This village becomes first in Haryana and second in India to introduce the system. Jammikunta become the first village has implemented this system.
- On January 16, 2018, Haryana State Government took a decision to form a non-banking financial company (NBFC), Haryana State Financial Services Limited. It will be established as a limited company under the Companies Act and will be registered as NBFC with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Jammu and Kashmir

- On January 3, 2018, Union Cabinet approves Rs 6809-cr Zojila tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh which remains cut-off from the rest of the world during winters due to heavy snowfall.
- Border Security Force (BSF) has launched "Operation Alert" along 200 km long International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir to prevent infiltration attempts by terrorists from the Pakistani side.
- Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Government has announced to launch 'Muhafiz' scheme, a major welfare initiative for providing institutionalized socio-economic security to workers in the unorganised sector of the state. Under this scheme, 3 lakh workers registered with Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB), will be provided accidental, life and disability insurance cover
- With an objective to empower the Kashmiri youth, the Indian Army has established a Skill Training Centre at sector 10 Headquarters of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir. Initially, this centre will offer courses in Food Processing and Information Technology.
- On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed grants of horticulture department for 2018-19, for Rs 528.33 crore. Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Minister Syed Basharat Ahmad Bukhari said the horticulture sector is a key source of employment opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir.
- The Jammu and Kashmir government has formed a committee to study the scope and definition of horticulture in Government of India and other states. The committee is headed by the chief secretary of Jammu Kashmir Bharat Bhushan Vyas.

### Jharkhand

- On December 31, 2017, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das launched 'Saubhagya Yojana', aimed at providing electricity to all the 29376 villages across the state and all such households will get 24X7 electricity supply by December 2018.
- On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das launched 'Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat' at Balijore village, in Dumka district of Jharkhand. Jharkhand is the first state in India, where beneficiaries are provided stoves along with gas connections.

### Karnataka

- On January 1, 2018, Karnataka State Government announced to procure 40 electric buses, 100 four wheelers and 500 three wheelers electric vehicles under the Central Government's Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) Scheme.
- On January 8, 2018, Supreme Court of India stayed a Karnataka High Court order quashing 85% pictorial warnings on packets of cigarettes and other tobacco products.
- Karnataka State Government will hold a 'Blockchain Hackathon for Governance' from 19th – 21st January, 2018 at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru. Karnataka is the third Indian State (After Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) that has announced plans to adopt blockchain for governance.



### **Madhya Pradesh**

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India to completely implement door-to-door garbage collection in all areas under urban bodies.

### **Maharashtra**

- Maharashtra government has imposed a spot fine of Rs 500 for open defecation. Also spot fine is levied for littering, spitting and urinating in public places. The municipal corporations and councils have power to issue spot fines on people and institutions as per the Solid Waste Management Act, 2016.
- On January 5, 2018, Maharashtra State Education Minister, Vinod Tawde stated that Maharashtra State Government has decided to form an international education board for non-English medium schools.
- On January 17, 2018, Maharashtra State Cabinet approved one per cent reservation for orphans in government jobs under general category.
- On January 17, 2018, Maharashtra State Government approved Rs 4000 crore - Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna. It is aimed at promoting climate-resilient agriculture in 5142 villages across 15 districts of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra State Government will soon start a system to issue daily district-wise weather advisory to farmers across the State. Objective behind this initiative is to help farmer to minimise their crop losses due to adverse weather conditions.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Maharashtra government announced that, it has banned the sale of tobacco at stores that sell Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) items. The ban has been implemented to prevent youngsters getting addicted to tobacco products.
- Maharashtra State Government has framed a comprehensive helipad policy which lays down strict guidelines for helipads, their location and other procedures to be followed. This policy has been framed by the aviation department of Maharashtra Government's General Administration Department.
- Maharashtra State Government's General administration department under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has proposed a Performance-linked marking system for 7.5 lakh state government employees. The new 100-point performance marking system, will take into account subjective as well as objective evaluation of an employee's performance during the year.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Maharashtra state cabinet approved the introduction of Asmita (dignity), a scheme to provide sanitary pads to 7 lakh girls in government schools for Rs 5 a pack to girls in the age of 11 to 19 years. This scheme will be launched on 8<sup>th</sup> March on the World Women's Day.

### **Nagaland**

- Union Home Ministry has declared entire state of Nagaland as "disturbed area" for six more months (till June 2018) under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act – AFSPA due to killings, loot and extortion have been going in various parts of Nagaland, making it necessary to grant special powers to armed forces in tackling such incidences.

### **Odisha**

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, the Dhanu Yatra festival held in Bargarh district of Odisha came to an end. The Dhanu Yatra festival was held for 11 days. It began on 23 December 2017. This festival is based on Krishna Leela and Mathura Vijay.
- Mankidia, a tribe of Odisha, was denied habitat rights inside the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha. Mankidia is one among the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in Odisha. On January 12, 2018, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 12th International Film Festival on Art and Artist in Bhubaneswar. This three-day festival has been organised by Bhubaneswar-based Jatin Das Centre of Art (JDCA). Short film stories written by eminent writers Manoj Das and Gourahari Das will also be presented by Jatin Das Centre of Art (JDCA).
- On January 15, 2018, Odisha State Government announced 'Mukshyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana' (MMKSJ), under which artists from across the state will get a monthly assistance of Rs 1200. Around 50000 artists across Odisha will be benefited from this scheme.
- The Odisha government has planned to commission Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) in coastal areas of 6 districts by March 2018. This project aims to provide foolproof communication

## Online Test for IBPS SO 2017

[www.OliveBoard.com](http://www.OliveBoard.com)

system for providing information to the local people about disasters like cyclone and tsunami.

- On January 19, 2018, Odisha State Government launched Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS), an online platform which hosts all clinical parameters of patients and reporting of performance criteria of hospitals.

### Punjab

- On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched the 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' to help the distressed sections of the society socially, economically and psychologically.

### Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government has started to digitise 10,000 pages every day, in order to preserve administrative and historical records of Rajputana's princely states. This has been done in a move to protect old and fragile documents.
- On 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Bikaner camel festival was organised by the Department of Tourism, Art and Culture in Rajasthan. The Bikaner camel festival is celebrated every year in Rajasthan to honour camels. During the festival, camel dances, camel races, camel rides etc. were also held.
- On January 16, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the commencement of the work of an oil refinery in Rajasthan's Barmer district. It is the first such refinery in entire Rajasthan and being set up by HPCL-Rajasthan Refinery Ltd (HRRL).

### Tamil Nadu

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, 'e-Governance policy 2017 booklet' was released by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy to help public, government and commercial establishments avail all services through digital medium.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017, the 171<sup>st</sup> Araadhanai Music Festival started in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu. The Araadhanai Music Festival of musician Thyagaraja was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- On January 5, 2018, Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar released All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) report 2016-2017. Among all states, Tamil Nadu topped in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education. Tamil Nadu recorded 46.9% GER.
- 8th edition of biennial 'National Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise' between ships and aircraft from the Indian and Japanese Coast Guards commenced on January 16, 2018 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

### Telangana

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, Telangana government formed Minorities Commission with Mohammed Qamaruddin as its Chairman. Rajarapu Pratap was made vice chairman.
- On January 5, 2018, Telangana Municipal administration and Urban Development Minister K.T. Rama Rao inaugurated India's first National Park for differently abled people in Hyderabad. The park has speech therapist, vocational training instructors and physiotherapist for the differently-abled children.
- 'Sammakka Saaralamma Maha Jathara', a tribal festival, will begin on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018, in Eturunagaram, Telangana. The tribal people worship the tribal goddess 'Sammakka' during the festival.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh State Government has directed all District Collectors and Superintendents of Police to take action against unauthorized loudspeakers and public address systems installed at religious and public places.
- On January 15, 2018, Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser of NITI Aayog inaugurated the first Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN) course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing

and Geographic Information System (GIS) at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur's outreach centre at Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- On January 20, 2018, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Amit Shah launched "Yuva Udghosh programme" in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. 'Yuva Udghosh programme' focuses on enrolling youths, above 17 of age, who will eligible for voting in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.
- On January 23, 2018, Uttar Pradesh State Cabinet approved 'one district, one product' scheme to promote products indigenous to every district. Under this scheme, one product indigenous to every district of Uttar Pradesh would be showcased at the three-day UP Diwas event beginning from January 24, 2018.
- On January 25, 2018, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stone for several projects in Uttar Pradesh with a combined investment of Rs 6517 crore.
- International bird festival is to be held for 3 days starting from 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018, at Dudhwa National Park, in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh to promote eco-tourism in Dudhwa and to gain a distinct international identity.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Mahesra Bridge at Sonauli-Gorakhpur National highway.
- On January 30, 2018, Uttar Pradesh State Cabinet launched 'Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojna Grameen', a new scheme to construct houses in rural areas.

### **Uttarkhand**

- On Jan.5 2017, Uttarkhand government banned the entry of "unauthorised persons/ reporters". On December 27 Uttarkhand Chief Secretary Utpal Kumar Singh has referred that "Entry of unauthorised persons/ reporters to the sections/ offices (of government departments) must be completely prohibited," in a three page order

### **West Bengal**

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the implementation wing of National Ganga Council has approved five projects worth Rs. 295 crore. Out of the five projects, three projects pertain to sewage management in West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs 278.6 crore.
- On January 29, 2018, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted a 'Day at Sea' event for children of fishing hamlets at Frazerganj in South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal as part of its initiative for close interaction with the fishing community of coastal areas. Frazerganj is a fishing harbour on Bay of Bengal coast at the southern tip of West Bengal.
- On Jan.4 2017, The Centre has approved a logo as the state's symbol which is designed and conceptualized by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.i. The logo highlighting the "Biswa Bangla" theme with Ashoka Pillars.

## **SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**

### **Conference/Summit in National & International News**

No.	Name of Summit/Conference	Place	Facts about the summit /conference
1	Conference on Transformation of Aspirational Districts	New Delhi	It was held at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, in .and was organized by NITI Aayog
2	18th All India Whips' two-day Conference	New Delhi	It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Ananth kumar in Udaipur, Rajasthan. e-Sansad and e-Vidhan are Government of India's projects under Digital India
3	Annual Conference of DGPs and IGPs at the BSF (Border Security Force) Academy	Tekanpur, Madhya Pradesh	Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in the Annual Conference

4	4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference	Bihar	President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference on "State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions" at Rajgir in Nalanda district
5	'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' conference	New Delhi	It will come out with a ranking of 115 aspirational districts by April 2018.
6	Two-day International Dam Safety Conference – 2018	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Dam safety conferences are organized every year under the Dam Safety Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).
7	7th edition of the Asia Steel International Conference	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	This conference will be organised by Tata Steel and Indian Institute of Metals.
8	Conference on 'Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Election Process'	New Delhi	Conference was organized under the VoICE.NET platform.
9	India-UK Createch Summit	Mumbai	It will be held by United Kingdom's (UK's) Department for International Trade (DIT). Objective of this summit is to celebrate and explore the convergence of creativity and technology, 'Createch'
10	Bengal Global Business Summit 2018	Kolkata	The theme of Bengal Global Business Summit 2018 was: "Bengal Means Business."
11	ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit	New Delhi	Theme of this Summit was "Shared Values, Common Destiny".
12	World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 2018	Abu Dhabi, UAE	Indian Government's plans to set up \$ 350 million solar development fund for financing solar projects.

### Other conference/Summit

- GAIL India will now be setting up 'coal to synthesis gas' conversion plants in Odisha. Announcement was made by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan while addressing the FICCI conference on Unleashing India's Domestic Exploration and Production Potential in New Delhi on January 11, 2018.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Bharat-ASEAN Maitri Park in Delhi a day before the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted a two-day event, 'International Solar Alliance Forum' during 17-18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at the in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Indian Government's plans to set up \$ 350 million solar development fund for financing solar projects

### Committee/Meeting in National & International News

Committee/Meeting	Head person	place	Purpose
Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	New Delhi	Approval for implementation of the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) at a cost of Rs 5369 crore towards capacity augmentation of navigation on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW-1)



Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	New Delhi	approval for mandatory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in the jute material for the Jute Year 2017-18
12-member inter-ministerial committee to recommend changes in the existing law of playing of the national anthem	B.R. Sharma		committee to recommend changes in the existing law of playing of the national anthem in cinema halls and public places.
9th meeting of High Powered Review Board (HPRB) of Brahmaputra Board	Nitin Gadkari	Kaziranga in Assam	Rs. 237 crore project for protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion has been ratified.
3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of Council of Trade Development and Promotion	Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry	New Delhi	
5th Bilateral Technical Meeting		New Delhi	on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between Government of India and Malaysia was conducted
4th ASEAN-INDIA Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry	Co-chaired by Union Minister Radha Mohan Singh and Grisada Boonrach	New Delhi	ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry will be held in Brunei Darussalam in 2019
65th meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)		New Delhi	CABE is the highest advisory body to advise the Central and State Governments in the field of education
14 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers		New Delhi	during the meeting included the status of clearance of Ken-Betwa Link Project, Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Projects
25th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council	Arun Jaitley	New Delhi	Highlight of the 25 <sup>th</sup> GST Council meet was the reduction of tax rates on 29 goods and 53 categories of service
16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting	Dharmendra Pradhan	New Delhi	This event will be hosted by Government of India and co-hosted by the Government of China and South Korea
annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF)		Davos, Switzerland	This year's theme is "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World". Shah Rukh Khan received Crystal award for raising awareness

#### Other Committee or Meeting in National & International News

- On January 3, 2018, Central Government formed a ministerial committee headed by Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley to take a decision on old, pre-existing projects in ports, which have become unviable.
- Union Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA's) decision on closure of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited (TSPL) and disposal of its immovable assets.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval to continuation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) till the term of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission i.e. till March 31, 2020.

- On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Kerala government gave permission to prisoners in Kerala jails to donate organs to their close relatives. This decision was taken at the cabinet meeting chaired by Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala Chief Minister.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, India attended a meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for the first time, in Beijing, China. India joined SCO in 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Major General Ajay Seth.

## RANKINGS & REPORTS

### India in Rankings

Index/Report/Field	Position	Points to be noted
Manufacturing Index released by World Economic Forum (WEF).	30	Japan has topped in this report. As per 'Readiness for the future of production report', related to Global Manufacturing Index
74 emerging economies on the annual 'Inclusive Development Index 2018'	62	It is to be noted that, in 2017, India ranked 60th among 79 developing economies on this index
Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI)	81	Out of 119 countries. This marks an improvement as compared to 92nd rank in 2017
Environmental Performance Index 2018	177	Out of 180 countries. This marks a drop from 141st position in 2016.
Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Global Democracy Index 2017	42	Norway topped the index with an overall score of 9.87 while North Korea is ranked the lowest at 167th. This marks a drop by 10 spots as compared to 32nd rank last year.

### Indian states or Cities in Rankings

State or City	Index/Report/Field	Position	Points to be noted
Gujarat	Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index	1	this index was released by Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Suresh Prabhu at the third meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion

### Other Rankings in National & International News

- The annual survey of Gallup International has placed Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 3<sup>rd</sup> rank among world leaders. The survey was conducted with people from 50 countries. The survey has ranked German chancellor Angela Merkel as number 1 world leader with a score of 21.
- On January 4, 2018, Indian government commenced Swachh Survekshan - 2018. It is being dubbed as the world's largest cleanliness survey. Under Swachh Survekshan 2018, all 4041 cities and towns in India will be rated and ranked on various parameters of sanitation and cleanliness.
- As per a survey by travel app 'ixigo', Kozhikode railway station in Kerala was ranked the best railway station in India by travellers in terms of cleanliness. Hazrat Nizamuddin (one of the five main stations in Delhi) was given the lowest ratings. Among trains, Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani has been rated as the cleanest train while Karnataka Express was given lowest ratings.
- ISB, which was ranked 27th in 2017 slipped to 28 in 2018, while IIM Ahmedabad, which was at 29th position last year, is now at 31 in this year's Financial Times London's Global MBA Ranking 2018.
- As per a survey by GoBankingRates, a personal finance platform, India is the second cheapest country to live or retire among 112 countries. The survey assessed countries on four key affordability metrics viz. local purchasing power index, rent index, Groceries index, and Consumer price index.

## Online Test for SBI Clerk 2018

www.OliveBoard.com

### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time on food, clothes, electronics, gasoline, phone, water, electricity bills, hotel reservations, etc. Most of the goods and services are levied 5% tax. Medical treatment, financial services and public transport also excluded from VAT.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018, India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities on January 1 every year under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations at New Delhi and Islamabad. This is the 27th consecutive exchange of nuclear installations.
- In a bid to reduce accidents and make mountaineering safer, Nepal has brought in new regulations that prohibit solo mountaineers, double amputee and blind climbers from attempting to scale its mountains including Mt. Everest. In case of double amputee and blind climbers, prohibition applies only to those without a valid medical certificate.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has entered the "bird language" of Black Sea villagers (in northern Turkey) in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. This whistle language has been traditionally passed on through generations - from grandparent to parent, from parent to child.
- On January 1, 2018, California became the sixth U.S. state to permit the sale of cannabis for recreational use. Other Five U.S. states are Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Nevada. Besides, it can be sold only to adults 21 years and older.
- China has developed a new underwater surveillance network which will help its submarines to accurately track target vessels and will protect its interests in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. The network has been developed by South China Sea Institute of Oceanology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands joined the United Nations Security Council as non-permanent members. The council has 15 members in total. On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, Egypt, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay left the United Nations Security Council.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, the central bank of Pakistan approved the usage of Chinese currency, Yuan, for bilateral trade with China. This decision has been taken one day after US President Donald Trump announced stopping of all aid to Islamabad.
- India has excluded Pakistan from the list of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of-the-art National Knowledge Network (NKN). NKN is a multi-gigabit pan-India network aimed at providing a unified high speed network backbone for educational institutions in India.
- From January 1, 2018, a new law has come to force in Iceland, under which it has become illegal to pay men more than women for the same work. Iceland has thus become first country in the world to legalise equal pay. All companies and government departments/agencies employing at least 25 people will have to obtain government certification of their equal-pay policies.
- On Jan. 5 2017, The US has suspended more than USD 1.15 billion security assistance to Pakistan, accusing Islamabad of harbouring terror groups like the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network within its border.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Himalayan Hydro Expo began at the Exhibition Hall of Bhrikutimandap, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The expo was inaugurated by Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal. The objective of the expo is to project the hydro power potential of Nepal and to bring together all the stakeholders at one place.
- According to a South China Morning Post (SCMP) report, China is planning to build its second foreign naval base in Pakistan. This will be China's second foreign naval base after Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa in Indian Ocean.

- As per data released by Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, India continued to be Sri Lanka's top source of tourists in 2017. As per the data, India accounted for 384628 tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka in 2017, which marks 7.8 per cent growth as compared to previous year.
- 34th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival, world's largest ice festival opened on January 5, 2018 in Harbin ,north-east China. The festival will continue through late February.
- Iran has banned English from being taught in primary schools across the country after its Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said that teaching English will lead to Western cultural invasion.
- On January 8, 2018, Turkish government announced plans to extend the ongoing state of emergency for the sixth time.State of emergency was first imposed in July 2016 after a failed coup to overthrow incumbent Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
- North Korea has agreed to conduct talks with South Korea to reduce military tensions, to send a delegation to the upcoming Winter Olympics 2018 in Pyeongchang, South Korea. This outcome has come after officials from North and South Korea met for the first time in more than 2 years in Panmunjom, North Korea.
- On January 10, 2018, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Health Organisation (WHO) agreed to collaborate for accelerating action to curb environmental health risks. The agreement was signed between Erik Solheim, head of UNEP and Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO.
- Shanghai has set up the world's first 3D-printed bus stops in Fengjing, Shanghai. The bus stops have a closed loop design, accommodating two-round stools inside the structure. The outer portion is a grey coloured rectangle frame.
- On January 12, 2018, Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lyonpo Damcho Dorji jointly unveiled the 'Special logo' for the Golden Jubilee celebrations in New Delhi and Thimphu through video-conference.
- Sri Lanka has removed a 38-year long ban on selling alcohol to women and employing them in places where alcohol is produced and sold. Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera signed the notification removing the ban on those things, in order to ensure gender equality and promote tourism.
- Government of South Australia has given approval to build a major solar thermal plant in the state which, on completion would be the largest of its kind ever built. The plant will be developed by a US company, Solar Reserve at an estimated cost of Australian Dollar 650 million.
- Saudi Arabia's first motorshow for women customers was held in Jeddah on January 11, 2018. In context of this news, it is important to note that in September 2017, Saudi King Salman had ordered an end to the ban on women drivers by June 2018.
- On January 12, 2018, American and Japanese military forces launched 13th annual Iron Fist joint exercises in California, US. Around 500 U.S. Marines and sailors and about 350 members of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force are participating in this exercise wherein they will be trained in fire support operations and amphibious assaults.
- China will provide financial support to construct a counter-terrorism base in Badakshan province of northern Afghanistan that would prevent cross-border infiltration of the Chinese Uyghur militants.
- On January 12, 2018, India contributed USD 50000 to the United Nations' youth mission. Office of United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres' Envoy on Youth works to raise international awareness and bring attention to youth issues across the world. Paulomi Tripathi, a First Secretary in India's UN Mission, handed over the contribution to the UN Youth Envoy, Jayathma Wickramanayake.
- Indian peacekeepers in UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have re-built a key bridge in record time in strife-torn South Sudan's Akoka village.In June 2017, heavy rains washed away a 300-metre-long road segment across a river in Akoka village.
- On January 11, 2018, Ecuador's Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa announced that the country has granted citizenship to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.
- On January 15, 2018, Bangladesh, India and Nepal agreed upon operating procedures for trans-border movement of passenger vehicles under Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) motor



vehicles agreement. It is aimed to facilitate seamless flow of passenger and cargo traffic in the sub-region.

- On January 13, 2018, Iranian government lifted restrictions on the use of the Internet, including Instagram and the messaging app Telegram across the country.
- As per World Economic Forums's (WEF's) Global Risks Report 2018, published on January 17, 2018, extreme weather events and natural disasters have been identified as the likeliest global risks to occur in 2018.
- China has set up an experimental air purifying tower, considered the world's biggest air purifier at a height of 100 meters (328 feet), in Xian, Shaanxi province. The tower produces 10 million cubic metres of clean air every day.
- On January 19, 2018 India formally became the 43rd member of the Australia Group (AG). Australia Group is a cooperative and voluntary group comprising countries that are working to prevent the spread of materials, equipment and technologies that could be used to develop or acquire chemical and biological weapons (CBW).
- Divers of Great Maya Aquifer Project have discovered world's largest known underwater, flooded cave in Mexico. This cave system is located near the beach resort of Tulum on the Yucatan Peninsula.
- Maitre-2, a second passenger bus to Kolkata via Dhaka was flagged off from Agartala, Tripura on January 19, 2018. The bus was flagged off by Tripura MLA Ratan Das and Tripura Road Transport Corporation Chairman Rajendra Reang.
- On 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the 10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) was held in Berlin, Germany. The theme of the 10th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture was "Shaping the Future of Livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently".
- On January 21, 2018, World Bank approved USD 300 million loan to Nepal for undertaking reconstruction work post April 2015 earthquake. Since then, only 10% homes have been rebuilt. Nepal is currently facing USD 1.2 billion shortfall in reconstruction funds.
- According to Sanctum Wealth Management report, India will overtake China to be the fastest growing large economy in 2018. In the current global scenario where developed economies are posting 2-3% growth, Indian economy is on the track to cross the 7.5% growth mark.
- On January 20, 2018, Valletta, the capital of Malta was officially inaugurated as the European Capital of Culture. Every year, the European Union (EU) designates a European city/cities as European Capital of Culture for a period of one calendar year.
- The Sri Lankan government has announced that, from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, vehicles without airbags and seat belts for the driver and front passenger, Anti-Locking Breaking System (ABS) standards, below the emission levels as per Euro IV standard and three-point seat belts at the back portion will not be permitted for import.
- The UK government has announced the formation of a dedicated national security unit to counter fake news and disinformation. The dedicated national security unit to counter fake news and disinformation will be led by the UK Cabinet Office.
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) of Ghaziabad was announced as one of the champions of the United Nations' initiative on Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
- China has decided to establish three international courts to deal with disputes related to its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). BRI is Chinese Government's development strategy that focuses on road connectivity and maritime cooperation between Eurasian countries.
- Oxford Dictionaries has declared 'Aadhaar' as the Hindi Word of the Year for 2017 at the Jaipur Literature Festival on January 27, 2018.
- According to a report by New World Wealth, India is sixth wealthiest country with total wealth of USD 8230 billion. As per the report, United States is the wealthiest country in the world with total wealth of USD 64584 billion in 2017.
- On 30th January 2018, United States lifted its ban on refugees from 11 "high-risk" countries.
- US has lifted its ban on refugees from the high-risk countries but people aiming to enter US will face very tough assessments.

- On 29th and 30th January 2018, the Syrian National Dialogue Congress was held in Sochi, Russia. . The Syrian National Congress was organized by Russia, Iran and Turkey

## BANKING & FINANCE

### RBI in News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated prompt corrective action (PCA) against Allahabad Bank owing to its high net non-performing assets (NPA) and a negative Return On Assets (ROA) for two years in a row. Allahabad Bank is the 11th bank to face PCA in last eleven months.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon issue Rs.10 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series with signature of Dr. Urjit R. Patel, the current Governor of Reserve Bank of India. It will have motif of Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse side. Base colour of these new notes will be Chocolate Brown, while dimension will be 63 mm x 123 mm.
- RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has approved Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd (TIHCL) to register and function as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC). B Yerram Raju, TIHCL's advisor and director stated that, TIHCL will be the first State promoted and co-financing NBFC
- According to a study by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), housing loans in up to Rs. 2 lakh slab had the highest level of non-performing assets (NPAs). In last two financial years, public sector banks (PSBs) reported higher NPAs in Housing Loan segment as compared to housing finance companies (HFCs).

### Technology in Banking

Name of Entity	Technology implemented	Points to be noted
Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)	first desktop ATM	operationalised at Kasibugga in Mandi Bazar in Warangal, Telangana. It is specifically meant for rural customer who typically has small cash needs.
Nearby Technologies Private Limited has tied up with Yes Bank	PayNEARBY- to provide Aadhaar-enabled cardless and pinless ATM service	A retailer can now become an Aadhaar ATM/Aadhaar Bank branch for cash withdrawals and deposits by a customer by using PayNEARBY mobile application on a smart phone.

### Loans issued by banks/others

Loan issued by	Received by	Amount	Points to be noted
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)	Rs 372.51 crore	for irrigation and rural bridge projects
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Mahindra Renewables Pvt. Ltd, Acme Group and global private equity fund Actis Llp	\$440 million	to build the Rewa solar park in Madhya Pradesh
State Government of Uttarakhand	World Bank	120 million dollar	for Uttarakhand Water Supply Program for Peri-Urban Areas.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Indian Government	USD 250 million	loan agreement for construction of all-weather roads in five Indian states under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

### MoU/Agreements in Banking & Finance

- State Bank of India (SBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have signed an agreement with five NGOs for the promotion of 2500 joint liability groups (JLGs) in select districts of West Bengal.

- On January 2, 2018, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed an agreement for research support and the training of IPPB employees in the area of payment banking.
- On January 23, 2018, public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank announced that it made an agreement with the National Housing Bank (NHB) for implementation of the Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHSS) to provide subsidy for loans to households in rural areas for undertaking construction and modification activities under Union Ministry of Rural Development.

### **Schemes and Launches in Banking & Finance News**

- On January 2, 2017, rating agency Crisil launched Crisil FPI Index, an index to measure the performance of investments of foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in the fixed-income market. This index is expected to serve as benchmark for performance of FPI investments in government securities and high rated corporate bonds with maturity greater than three years.
- On January 12, 2018, YES Foundation (social development arm of YES Bank) launched fifth edition of 'YES! i am the CHANGE' (YIAC). The selected entities will receive a grant of Rs 7.5 crore, for scaling up and capacity building.
- AGTech and Paytm have announced the launch of Gamepind, a mobile platform offering social and casual games. Gamepind will be available through Paytm app and also as an independent app.
- On January 29, 2018, Axis Bank launched the fourth edition of 'Evolve', an annual multi-city knowledge series for its Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) customers. This edition of 'Evolve' has been titled "Transform your Family Business into your dream company".
- On January 2, 2018, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley outlined the basic contours of the electoral bonds scheme including their denominations, eligibility and validity during the 2017-18 Union Budget. This scheme will serve as an alternative to cash donations and is thereby an attempt to make political funding more transparent.

### **Other Important Banking & Finance News**

- On January 1, 2017, India's large bank, State Bank of India, reduced its base rate by 30 basis points. Post this reduction, SBI's base rate is 8.65%. It will cut benefit of those borrowers who availed floating rate loans, including home loans, before April 2016 and have not migrated to marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) regime.
- Subhash Chandra, Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs under Ministry of Finance, has tweeted that new subscription to GoI Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2003 would now bear 7.75 per cent interest rate as compared to 8% earlier.
- As per a report by HSBC, India economy is expected to grow at 6.5 per cent in this fiscal (FY 2017-18) while in FY 2018-19 it will register 7.0 per cent growth. For FY 2019-20, HSBC has forecasted that Indian economy will grow at 7.6 per cent.
- Private housing finance company, Indiabulls Housing Finance has raised Rs 1000 crore by selling the India's first "Social Bonds". Social Bonds are debt instrument, issued to raise funds which is to be deployed in financing/re-financing eligible social projects such as affordable housing, water supply, sanitation, transport etc.
- Rajiv Kumar, Secretary of Financial Services under Union Finance Ministry has stated that from January 1, 2018, customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments made through debit card, BHIM app and Aadhaar-enabled payment systems for up to Rs 2000.
- HDFC Bank has entered into a partnership with Rajasthan State Government to promote and nurture the start-ups in the state. Under this agreement, HDFC Bank will provide end-to-end solutions like current accounts, credit cards and other solutions to start-ups in Rajasthan.
- Bank of Cyprus has selected Gemalto, an international digital security company to supply world's first biometric payment card for both chip and contactless payments. These cards will use fingerprint recognition instead of a personal identification number (PIN) to authenticate the cardholder.
- Paytm Payments Bank has announced a partnership with IndusInd Bank under which, its customers' account balance exceeding Rs. 1 lakh at the end of day will be automatically converted to a fixed deposit (FD) with IndusInd Bank.



- Central Statistics Office (CSO) has announced the first advance estimates of National Income 2017-18 and stated that growth in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2017-18 is estimated at 6.5% as compared to 7.1% in 2016-17. This has been the slowest growth in past four years.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is planning to issue its first US dollar-denominated bond by June 2018. Soren Elbech, Treasurer of AIIB has stated that the minimum size of the issuance will be one billion dollars. It has received three top-notch ratings from the S&P Global Ratings, Fitch and Moody's.
- According to the 2018 Global Economics Prospect released by the World Bank on January 9, 2018, Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.3% in 2018 and 7.5% in next two years. Chinese economy grew at 6.8 per cent in 2017. For 2018, its growth rate is projected at 6.4 per cent.
- On January 10, 2018, IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards in the Indian market in 2018. The new IndusInd bank card will have multiple buttons which will allow consumers to pay in multiple ways viz. through credit points or monthly instalments
- India has become the top borrower from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans in 2017. Indonesia is in the second position with USD 600 million worth loans. India is also the second largest share holder in AIIB. China is the largest shareholder of AIIB.
- Mukesh Ambani – led Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd is planning to create its own cyptocurrency, 'JioCoin'. Mukesh Ambani's elder son Akash Ambani is expected to lead the 'JioCoin' project.
- On January 13, 2018, Bombay Stock Exchange's (BSE's) India International Exchange (India INX) listed Indian Railway Finance Corporation's (IRFC's) green bonds on its debt listing platform, Global Securities Market (GSM). IRFC's Green bonds have an annual yield of 3.835 per cent.
- On January 22, 2018, Paisabazaar.com, became India's first major online marketplace for Loans and Credit Cards announced to offer direct Mutual Fund plans to retail customers and has thereby to come up with such offering. Broadly speaking, Mutual Fund plans are available in two variants – 'Regular' and 'Direct'.
- In its January 2018 update of the World Economic Outlook: Brighter Prospects, Optimistic Markets, Challenges Ahead, IMF has forecasted that in FY 2018-19, India will reclaim fastest growing economy tag as China's growth will slip to 6.6% against India's 7.4%.
- Bhopal-based Prodigee Finance Limited has received Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC-ND) license from Reserve Bank of India (RBI). 'ND' indicates Non-Deposit accepting NBFC. By attaining the NBFC licence, Prodigee Finance will now be able to extend loans to Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) as part of their services.
- On January 24, 2018, Government provided details about the recapitalisation plan for Public Sector Banks (PSBs) that was announced in October 2017. In a bid to revise growth of PSBs, Government will infuse Rs. 88139 crore capital in 20 public sector banks (PSBs) before March 31, 2018.
- In a bid to strengthen the existing channels of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) distribution, Government has allowed Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks to sell APY to their customers. As of now banks will get an incentive of Rs. 120-150 for each APY account.
- Rating agency CRISIL has upgraded its outlook on 18 Indian public sector banks (PSBs) from "negative" to "stable". This upgrade by CRISIL was on account of PSB recapitalisation plan unveiled by Government on January 24, 2018.
- On January 29, 2018, Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley tabled the Economic Survey 2017-18 in Parliament. This year, the colour of the Economic Survey document is Pink. As per Economic Survey 2017-18, Indian economy is expected to grow between 7 per cent and 7.5 per cent in the next fiscal year i.e. April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019.



## ECONOMY

- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced a 40 percent increase to the minimum wage with effect from January 2018. In recent times, Venezuelan economy has witnessed world's fastest inflation.
- On January 3, 2017, At a Cabinet meeting chaired by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan decided to impose 50 paise cess on per litre of petrol and diesel for developing and strengthening road infrastructure across Madhya Pradesh and for laying the metro railroad in Bhopal and Indore.
- On January 4, 2018, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Singh informed Lok Sabha that government-owned airline, Air India has tied up three international banks UAE-based First Abu Dhabi Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and Mashreq Bank to avail short-term loans for acquiring three Boeing 777 aircrafts.
- Central Government has successfully divested 2.52 % of paid-up capital in National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) for an amount of Rs. 1200 crore (approx). Post this divestment, Government of India's shareholding in NMDC has dropped down to 72.42% from 74.94%.
- As per data released by global aviation body, International Air Transport Association (IATA), India topped the worldwide growth chart of domestic air passenger traffic for the month of November 2017. For the month of November 2017, domestic air passenger traffic in India grew by 16.4 per cent, highest in the world.
- R V Deshpande, Karnataka Minister for Large, Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development has stated that Karnataka has topped among all states with investment intentions of Rs. 1.49 lakh crore till October 2017 while addressing the third meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion at New Delhi. It accounts for 43 per cent of India's total investment intentions.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has borrowed Rs 4,000 crore from ICICI Bank for a period of one year to acquire government's 51.11 % stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL)

## BUSINESS

- The 'Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE), considered the "largest" B2B travel event in India, will be held for 3 days in Bengaluru, from February 28, 2018.
- On January 1, 2018, GAIL India Ltd announced that it has commissioned India's second largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh. This plant has been installed at GAIL's petrochemical complex at Pata in Uttar Pradesh.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) announced that, it has commissioned and achieved design throughout of the world's largest refinery off the gas cracker at Jamnagar.
- Indian biotechnology company, Bharat Biotech, has received Pre-Qualification tag from the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Typbar TCV or Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine. Bharat Biotech has spent Rs. 150 crore to develop this vaccine over a period of 12 years.
- On January 6, 2018, Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman announced that a Defence Innovation Centre would be set up by CODISSIA in Coimbatore, to assist small industries in manufacturing components for the defence sector.
- On January 9, 2018, Flipkart-owned payments platform PhonePe announced a strategic tie-up with leading Wallet player FreeCharge to enable over 45 million users to link their existing FreeCharge Wallets to the PhonePe app. This will make PhonePe, India's first open payments platform, through which customers can use any and all payment instruments for executing transactions.
- On January 9, 2018, an official delegation from South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for co-operation between South Korea and industries in Gujarat. The MoU focuses on cooperation in automobile, defence and textiles sectors.

- IndiGo airlines of India, has been named the fourth most punctual 'mega carrier' in the world, in OAG's list of the world's most punctual 'mega carriers'. The Punctuality League 2018 was an annual review conducted by OAG.
- Kazakhstan has surpassed Iraq as the biggest oil over-producer in the pact between Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies to control oil output. Kazakhstan's oil output in November and December 2017 was nearly 1,30,000 barrels a day more than the target decided with OPEC.
- Kerala StartUp Mission (KSUM) has introduced 'Kerala Accelerator Program', a virtual accelerator program for 3 months, to promote startups in the early revenue stage. The Kerala Accelerator Program has been launched by Kerala StartUp Mission (KSUM) in collaboration with Zone Startups India.
- On January 14, 2018, Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister, Arun Jaitley launched India's First Agri-commodity Options in Guar Seed on National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX) platform in New Delhi. Guar seed will prove to be a useful tool for farmers in hedging the price fluctuation risk.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Maharashtra Health department and Johnson and Johnson signed a MoU to train rural midwives and social health activists regarding tuberculosis and maternal and infant mortality. The MoU was signed in the presence of Deepak Sawant, Maharashtra Health Minister.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) announced that, it has partnered with DP World to develop an investment platform for ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India. This platform will invest \$3 billion of equity to acquire assets and develop projects.
- On January 19, 2018, Mercedes-Benz unveiled India's first Bharat Stage BS-VI-compliant car produced at its Pune facility in presence of Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ixigo, has launched AR Coach Position feature, India's first augmented reality (AR) feature on its trains app. Using the AR Coach Position feature, train travellers can locate their coach positions exactly, for more than 13,000 passenger trains at nearly 7,000 railway stations in India.
- India has been adjudged as the 5<sup>th</sup> most attractive market for investments in a survey of CEOs conducted by consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). US topped in the list followed by China in second position.
- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) has become the first Indian company to cross the Rs. 6-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation as its share price touched a 52-week high of Rs. 974.5 on January 22, 2018.
- On January 24, 2018, Central Government awarded 325 more routes to airlines as well as helicopter operators under its regional connectivity scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik).
- On January 25, 2018, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SME Corporation Malaysia for cooperation in development of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India and Malaysia.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, inaugurated the floating market located at Lake Patuli on the eastern part of Kolkata. The floating market will accommodate nearly 114 boats. Each boat will accommodate two shops.
- Bengaluru-based Alpha Design Technologies Ltd., has signed a Rs. 45-crore deal with Union Ministry of Defence to supply to Indian Army, indigenous simulators for gunnery and missile firing from BMP II vehicles. BMP II is a Soviet-origin amphibious infantry fighting vehicle.
- On January 19, 2018, Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an agreement with Department of Civil Aviation of Lao PDR, for providing SkyRev360 which is a comprehensive e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system.
- On January 29, 2018, Infosys Foundation, the philanthropic arm of IT company Infosys, announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation for a grant to create a child-friendly village for improving children's health, providing education and creating a non-violent environment.

- Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi automakers alliance has overtaken Volkswagen as the world's biggest seller of light vehicles in 2017. During 2017, Nissan Motor Co's sales hit a record high of 5.82 million, Renault reported sales of 3.76 million and Mitsubishi's sales came in at 1.03 million.
- As per a report by World Steel Association, India has overtaken the US to become the world's third largest crude steel producer. India's crude steel production stood at 101.4 million tonnes (MT). This is 6.2 per cent higher as compared to 95.5 MT in the previous year.
- On January 30, 2018, Prime Minister-appointed Group of Infrastructure, headed by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari constituted a high-level committee to look into procedures for sharing of infrastructure for utilities like water pipes and telecom cables.
- On January 30, 2018, Indian Government and World Bank signed a \$100 million loan agreement to promote rural economy in across 26 districts of Tamil Nadu (TN).
- On January 31, 2018, Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL) and the World Bank signed USD 30 million loan agreement to develop solar power plants in Rewa and Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Name of Awards	Award Winner	Field	Points to be noted
Arab Football Player of the Year 2017	Mohamed Salah	Football	Syria's Omar Khribin secured the second position and another Syrian player Omar Al-Soma came third.
"Samudra Manthan-Caring Organisation of the Year"	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)		The objective of this award is to create healthy competition in the maritime sector.
Best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018 by UK-based magazine, The Banker	Ravi Menon	Bank	
first Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award	Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar	Probity in Public Life	This award to mark the death anniversary of Mufti M Sayeed for Probity in Public Life at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium in Jammu.
Best police station in India in SMART Police Stations initiative of Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).	R.S. Puram Police station in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu		R.S. Puram Police Station House Officer T. Jothi, received the award from Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on January 6, 2018 .
"Legion of Honour" award	Soumitra Chatterjee		This award is considered as the highest order of merit in France. The award will be presented by French culture minister Francoise Nyssen
Kalam Innovations in Governance Award (KIGA)	Andhra Pradesh IT minister Nara Lokesh		
'Yash Chopra Memorial Award'	Asha Bhosle		This award is instituted by T. Subbarami Reddy's TSR Foundation in remembrance of producer and director Yash Chopra
honorary Doctorate of Literature (D.Litt)	Malayalam actor Mohanlal and athlete P. T. Usha		Award by Kerala Governor and Calicut University Chancellor P. Sathasivam, in Kozhikode, Kerala

IhsanDoğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize by the World Health Organisation	Dr Vinod Paul, Member of NITI Aayog		first Indian to receive this award at the World Health Assembly in May 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland.
Geospatial World Excellence Award-2018	Odisha		Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences and Technology, YS Chowdary presented the Geospatial World Excellence Award

### 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018:

Award	Awardee
Best Film	Hindi Medium
Critics' Award for Best Film	Newton
Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female)	Vidya Balan for 'Tumhari Sulu'
Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male)	Irrfan Khan for 'Hindi Medium'
Critics' Award for Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Trapped'
Critics' Award for Best Actor (Female)	Zaira Wasim for 'Secret Superstar'
Best Director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
Best Debut Director	Konkona Sensharma for 'A Death in the Gunj'
Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Meher Vij for 'Secret Superstar'
Best Dialogue	Hitesh Kewalya for 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan'
Best Screenplay	Shubhashish Bhutiani for 'Mukti Bhavan'
Best Original Story	Amit Masurkar for 'Newton'
Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film	Jackie Shroff for 'Khujli'
Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film	Shefali Shah for 'Juice'
People's Choice Award for Best Short Film	'Anahut'
Best Short Film (Fiction)	'Juice'
Best Short Film (Non Fiction)	'Invisible Wings'
Best Music Album	Pritam for 'Jagga Jasoos'
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Arijit Singh for 'Roke na ruke naina' – 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania'
Best Playback Singer (Female)	Meghna Mishra for 'Nachdi phira' – 'Secret Superstar'
Best Lyrics	Amitabh Bhattacharya for 'Ullu ka pattha' – 'Jagga Jasoos'
Lifetime Achievement Award	Mala Sinha and Bappi Lahiri
Best Choreography	Vijay Ganguly and Ruel Dausan Varindani for 'Galti se mistake' – 'Jagga Jasoos'
Best Background Score	Pritam for 'Jagga Jasoos'
Best Action	Tom Struthers for 'Tiger Zinda Hai'
Best Cinematography	Sirsha Ray for 'A Death In The Gunj'
Best Editing	Nitin Baid for 'Trapped'
Best Production Design	Parul Sondh for 'Daddy'
Best Sound Design	Anish John for 'Trapped'
Best Costume	Rohit Chaturvedi for 'A Death In The Gunj'



## Online Test for RBI Grade B 2018

www.OliveBoard.com

### Other Awards and Recognition

- 75th Golden Globe Awards ceremony was held in California, US on January 7, 2018. The ceremony was hosted by talk show host Seth Meyers. These awards honoured excellence in film and American Television for the calendar year 2017.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Matunga suburban station of Mumbai on the Central Railway (CR) appeared in the Limca Book of Records for comprising all-woman staff. This station became the first railway station in India to be operated by an all-woman staff in July 2017.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Jeff Bezos, Amazon CEO, made a new record in terms of amount of wealth owned by a single person, with net worth of \$105.1 Billion, as per Bloomberg's Billionaire Tracker. Jeff Bezos has become the richest person of all time. Earlier, this position was held by Bill Gates, Microsoft founder.
- "Sachin: A Billion Dreams", a biopic on Sachin Tendulkar, has won two awards at the 11th Tehran International FICTS Festival 2018, in Iran. Helmer James Erskine won the the Best Director of a Long Documentary trophy. Producer of "Sachin - A Billion Dreams" Ravi Bhagchandka won the Special Award for the Best Film in the Long Documentary section.
- Rachel Morrison has become the first female cinematographer to be nominated for Oscar awards. Rachel Morrison has been nominated for Oscar awards 2018 in the category of cinematographers for her work in the movie Mudbound.

On January 25, 2018, Government announced Padma Awards 2018. This year, President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has approved conferment of 85 Padma Awards. For 2018, 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri Awards have been announced.

#### Padma Vibhushan

Name	Field	State
Shri Illaiyaraja	Art-Music	Tamil Nadu
Shri Ghulam Mustafa Khan	Art-Music	Maharashtra
Shri Parameswaran Parameswaran	Literature and Education	Kerala

- A 10-year-old Indian-origin boy in the UK named Mehul Garg has become the youngest applicant in to achieve the highest score in the Mensa IQ test. In the Mensa IQ Test, Mehul scored 162, which is two points higher than Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.
- Maharashtra State's tableau has been adjudged as the 'Best Tableau' at the 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day parade held at Rajghat, Delhi on January 25, 2018. The award for best tableau was presented by Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on January 28, 2018. Assam and Chhattisgarh won the second and third prize respectively.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle was announced as recipient for the 'Yash Chopra Memorial Award'. This award is instituted by T. Subbarami Reddy's TSR Foundation in remembrance of producer and director Yash Chopra.
- 60th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony for honouring the best recordings, compositions and artists was held on January 28, 2018 at Madison Square Garden in New York City, US. Jay-Z was credited with maximum nominations (in 8 categories), while Bruno Mars won maximum awards (in 6 categories, including top categories of album, record and song of the year).
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was named the best marching contingent in the paramilitary and auxiliary forces category at the Republic Day celebrations, in New Delhi. It was led by Assistant Commandant Akshay Deshmukh.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Tableau of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for Republic Day 2018 was selected as the best Tableau in the Tableaux of the Ministries/Departments category. Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Trophy and Certificate for best Tableau to Rahul

Bhatnagar, Secretary (Sports) at an event in New Delhi.

- On January 29, 2018, Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) announced Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for last five years. Names for the award were shortlisted by a committee headed by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

National			
Name	Appointed as	Entity/Place	Points to be noted
Shailendra Kumar Joshi	Chief Secretary	Telangana	
T S Tirumurti	Secretary (Economic Relations)		External Affairs Ministry. T S Tirumurti replaces Vijay Keshav Gokhale
Vijay Keshav Gokhale	foreign secretary	India	He is current secretary (economic relations)
Rajinder Khanna	Deputy NSA	National Security Adviser (NSA)	Rajinder Khanna is a former chief of RAW (Research and Analysis Wing)
Pankaj Jain	Managing Director	India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).	Pankaj Jain is currently Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and also a 1990 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
Devika Shah	Managing director and CEO	Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd (ICCL)	has worked in several areas like regulatory and business
Kookhyun Shim	Managing Director and CEO	Kia Motors India which is a subsidiary of Hyundai Motor India Ltd.	
Hanne Birgitte Sorensen	additional and independent director	Tata Motors	Hanne Birgitte Sorensen is former CEO of Damco, a supply chain firm.
Sivan K	Chairman	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	Mr. Sivan K is currently the Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. He will succeed A S Kiran Kumar as the Chairman of ISRO.
Om Prakash Rawat	Chief Election Commissioner	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	Om Prakash Rawat replaces AK Joti as Chief Election Commissioner
O P Singh	DGP (Director General of Police)	Uttar Pradesh	He has been relieved from the post of Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (DGCISF)
Srikumar Menon	Ambassador	India to the Republic of Angola	Srikumar Menon is currently the Ambassador of India to South Sudan.

Dilip Chenoy	Director General	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)	Secretary-general of FICCI is Sanjaya Baru
S Somanath	Director	Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre	S Somanath replaces K Sivan as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. S Somanath is currently the Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Sudeep Lakhtakia	Director General	National Security Guard (NSG)	He will replace SP Singh as DG (Director General) of National Security Guard.
Rajesh Agarwal	Ambassador	Republic of Niger from India	Rajesh Agarwal is currently the Counsellor, High Commission of India, Port Moresby.
Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan	Director General	Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army	Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan replaces Lt General A K Bhatt
Salman Khan	the brand ambassador	Emami Group	Salman Khan will work with Amitabh Bachchan in promoting Emami's edible oil brands
AB Mathur	interlocutor	United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)	former special secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
Gopal Guru	Editor	Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)	Gopal Guru is a professor and political scientist. He currently works at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi
B. Rajendran	chairperson	Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (REAT) for Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands	B Rajendran is a former High Court judge
Akshay Kumar	partner with	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)	
Dilip Asbe	Managing Director (MD) and CEO	National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	
Karen Bradley	Secretary	Northern Ireland	Karen Bradley replaces James Brokenshire as Northern Ireland secretary.
Sita Ram Mardi	Director General of Police (DGP)	Himachal Pradesh	He replaces Sanjay Kumar.
Rajesh Ranjan	High Commissioner of India	to Botswana	
AR Rahman	brand ambassador	Sikkim	
Allu Arjun	brand ambassador	Parle Agro Frooti	
Rajiv Prasad	President	JK Tyre	

Lieutenant General Yenduru Venkata Krishna Mohan	13th Corps Commander	Rising Star Corps.	He replaced Lt Gen S K Saini as Corps Commander of the Rising Star Corps (9 corps).
Sunny Verghese	Chairman	World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	He is the Co-Founder and the CEO of Olam International Limited
V J Mathew	Chairman	Maritime Board	He is a legal consultant of Vizhinjam International container terminal company. He is also Co-President of Indian Maritime Association.
Anil Khanna	Chairman	Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)	
Tsewang Namgyal	Ambassador of India	Republic of Poland	He is at present the Ambassador of India to Cuba
Hemant Kumar Sharma	Divisional Commissioner	Jammu & Kashmir	
Dr V Narayanan	Director	ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre	He replaces S Somanath as Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
Priyanka Chopra	global brand ambassador	Harman International 's JBL and Harman Kardon audio	
Usha Ananthasubramanian	Chairman	Indian Banks' Association (IBA)	first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA)

#### International wise

Name	Appointed as	Entity/Place	Points to be noted
Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga	Prime Minister	Mali	He replaces Abdoulaye Idrissa Maiga
Jerome H Powell	Chairman	Federal Reserve, United States	Jerome H Powell replaces Janet Yellen as Chairman of Federal Reserve.

#### Resignations

- On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Chief Minister of Balochistan, resigned before a no-confidence motion was taken against him in the provincial assembly. Nawab Sanaullah Zehri's resignation was accepted by Balochistan Governor Mohammad Khan Achakzai.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Paul Romer resigned from his position as the World Bank's chief economist after he made a controversial statement on Chile's rankings in 'Doing Business' annual report by World Bank.

#### Other Appointments

- Retired Justice Shiv Narayan Dhingra has been appointed as head of a new committee to re-investigate 186 closed cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Other two members of the committee are retired IAS officer Rajdeep Singh and IPS officer Avishek Dullar.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Mukesh Kumar, President, Judo Federation of India, has been made the Chairman of the Games Technical Conduct Committee for National Games. Pawan Deep Singh Kohli, was appointed as the Chairman of the Medical Commission.
- Actress Kajol has become an advocacy ambassador for Swachh Aaad Swachh Bharat initiative. Kajol has been an active supporter of eradicating preventable deaths from hygiene-related issues.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Supreme Court collegiums recommended Indu Malhotra as the first



woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of Supreme Court. Also, K M Joseph, Uttarakhand High Court Chief Justice, has also been recommended to the judge position in Supreme Court.

- On January 12, 2018, Yara International, a Norwegian chemical company announced the completion of its acquisition of Tata Chemicals Ltd's 1.2 million tonnes per annum production capacity urea plant, located at Babrala in Uttar Pradesh.
- On January 13, 2018, boards of directors of IDFC Bank (a private sector bank) and Capital First (a non-banking financial firm) approved a merger of Capital First with IDFC Bank. The merged entity will have assets under management of Rs 88000 crore, customer base of over 5 million and branch network of 194.
- The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has named Pramod Agarwal as its new chairman. Colin Shah has been appointed as the vice-chairman of GJEPC for the year 2017-19. Pramod Agarwal replaces Praveenshanker Pandya. Pramod Agarwal is also the chairman of Derewala Group based in Jaipur.
- Finland's incumbent President, Sauli Niinistö won his second six-year term with an overwhelming 62.7% of the vote. Mr. Niinistö is a lawyer by training. He was Finland's finance minister in the 1990s. He is best known for adopting austerity measures following Finland's recession.

## ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

- On January 12, 2018, Yara International, a Norwegian chemical company announced the completion of its acquisition of Tata Chemicals Ltd's 1.2 million tonnes per annum production capacity urea plant, located at Babrala in Uttar Pradesh. This acquisition deal is valued at Rs 2682-crore deal and marks the first foreign direct investment (FDI) in India's highly regulated urea sector.
- On January 13, 2018, boards of directors of IDFC Bank (a private sector bank) and Capital First (a non-banking financial firm) approved a merger of Capital First with IDFC Bank.
- The merged entity will have assets under management of Rs 88000 crore, customer base of over 5 million and branch network of 194. As per the deal, IDFC Bank will issue 139 shares for every 10 shares of Capital First.
- On January 20, 2018, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) announced acquisition of government's entire 51.11 per cent stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). ONGC will pay Rs 473.97 per share for 77.8 crore shares of HPCL held by government. Thus, the deal value stands at Rs 36915 crore.

## MoUs

### MoU between Countries

No.	MoU between	Field
1	India and Myanmar	Agreement based on Land Border Crossing such as regulation of the existing free movement rights for people residing in the border areas of both countries
2	India and Italy	Cooperative institutional relationship to facilitate technical bilateral cooperation in renewable energy sector
3	India and Israel	Envisages promotion of investments in each other's countries, technology transfer and Research & Development in energy sector such as Oil & Gas
4	India and Belgium	Cooperation in sharing of best practices in the areas of Information Communication Technology and Electronics (ICT&E), e-Governance, e-Public Service Delivery, exchange of experts and cyber security.
5	India and Canada	Mechanism to foster scientific cooperation between Research & Development (R&D) and academic institutions of India and Canada

## Online Test for IBPS SO 2017

www.OliveBoard.com

6	India and United Kingdom	The return of illegal Indian migrants within a month of their detection by UK authorities
7	India and Vietnam	Cooperation in the field of Information and Broadcasting and space based on principles of equality and in accordance with their national laws and regulations
8	India and Sri Lanka	Signed four agreements for collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector, connecting of National Knowledge network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics and setting up of e-office system.

### MoU – States wise

No	State	MoU with	Field
1	Odisha	Software Technology Park of India (STPI), philanthropist Sushmita Bagchi, and IIT Bhubaneswar in Bhubaneswar	To setting up an incubator for promoting research with these entities , Odisha.As per the above agreement ,The Centre of Excellence for Virtual & Augmented realityâ” (varcoe) will be set up at the campus of IIT
2	Andhra Pradesh	sister-state agreement Canton of Zurich, Switzerland	Both states will collaborate in various areas through exchange of experience and information, industry-specific programmes and projects, establishment of joint work groups and regular expert-level consultations.
3	Andhra Pradesh	NITI Aayog	To create an online dashboard for the 115 most backward districts of India, in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.
4	Telangana	Clean Authority of Tokyo	For municipal solid waste incineration facilities.

### Other MoUs

- On January 3, 2018, Union Cabinet has approved signing and implementation of the MoU between Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and ‘Transport for London’ to improve Public Transport in India.
- On January 3, 2018 ,Union Cabinet has approved the revised model concession agreement for public private partnership (PPP) projects in major ports.
- On January 27, 2018, India and Seychelles signed a revised agreement that will allow India to build military infrastructure on Seychelles’ Assumption Island. This agreement was signed in 2015 during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Indian Navy has signed MoU with the Cochin Port Trust (CPT) for increasing the berthing capacity of naval ships in Kochi. Under the MoU, Cochin Port Trust has leased 228 metres of berths at Mattancherry Wharf to Indian Navy for a period of five years.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Jammu and Kashmir government signed a MoU named 'School Education Transformation Roadmap' to create normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir by means of education reforms. This MoU will facilitate nearly 9,000 Jammu & Kashmir students to take part in an exchange programme.
- On January 10, 2018, Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ‘Transport for London’ (TFL) in New Delhi. Under this MoU, expertise

of TFL will be used to revamp the public transport system in India.

- A MoU on Technology Mission for Indian Railways (TMIR) was signed on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 by the ministries of railways, human resource development (HRD), and science and technology to accomplish the Technology Mission for Indian Railways.
- Union Water Resources Ministry released central assistance amounting to Rs 734.7 crore for 26 irrigation projects. Rs 246.9 crore is for nine prioritised projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Rs 487.80 crore is to be utilised for Command Area Development (CAD) works for 17 projects.
- National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd for construction of the 14.150 km long Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced that, Saudi Arabia has approved India's plan to ferry Haj pilgrims through sea route to Jeddah during the annual Haj agreement between India and Saudi Arabia was signed in Mecca.
- India has extended financial assistance of USD 45.27 million to Sri Lanka for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour) into a commercial port. Agreement was signed by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance and Export and Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) on January 10, 2018.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mobile Apps/Portal	Launched by	Purpose
'TrackChild' and 'Khoya-Paya'	Ministry of Women and Child Development	The 'trackchild' in joint association with stakeholders like Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Railways, State Governments, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, National Legal Services Authority, etc. The 'Khoya-Paya' has been developed as a citizen corner on the 'trackchild' portal
MyGov platform	Central Government	To improve citizen-government interface. Officials stated that to implement this, several rules and regulations have to be reformed.
'Shakti' app	Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur	Features a panic button, for the safety of woman, in Himachal Pradesh. Jai Ram Thakur also launched the 'GUDDIYA' helpline number 1515 and 'Hoshiyar Singh' helpline number 1090.
GeM 3.0	Indian Government	For standardised and improved catalogue management, powerful search engine, demand aggregation, user rating and analytics.
'311 app'	Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal	To increase involvement of citizens in resolving grievances and improving civic services in Delhi.

### Other Science and Technology News of National & International

- In 2018, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will launch Parker Solar Probe to explore Sun's outer atmosphere. Under this mission, the spacecraft will fly through Sun's atmosphere as close as 6.2 million kilometres. The objective of this mission is to trace how energy and heat move through the solar corona.

- On January 1, 2018, Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare launched the Allied and Healthcare Professionals' database portal in New Delhi. The portal will serve as a robust data repository of healthcare workers in India.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister of Women and Child Development inaugurated NARI, launched to provide women easy access to information on government schemes and various initiatives for women.
- Union Health Ministry has launched India's first online oncology tutorial series, aimed at training doctors to detect and diagnose early signs of cancer. The tutorial series has been designed in collaboration with Tata Memorial Centre and will be available across India, through state governments.
- On January 5, 2018, Indian Coast Guard Ship C-161 (ICGS C -161) was commissioned on Friday at Porbandar in Gujarat. ICGS C – 161 has been built by Bharati Defence and Infrastructure Limited.
- The Income Tax Department has launched an on-line chat service on [www.incometaxindia.gov.in](http://www.incometaxindia.gov.in), its official website. The on-line chat service has been launched to help taxpayers get their queries solved.
- Different labs of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) have decided to put joint efforts for developing eco-friendly firecrackers and arriving at a cost-effective technology to make e-crackers (electronic-crackers).
- US space agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced that it would launch two missions – GOLD and ICON – during 2018 to explore the little-understood area of 96 km above Earth's surface.
- Haryana has become the first State in India to launch High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal which helps in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases, ensures timely referral of such cases to the civil hospitals for further management and delivery by specialists.
- Indian Railways has announced that it will start using drone Cameras (UAV/NETRA) for various railway activities, especially project monitoring and maintenance of tracks and other railway infrastructure.
- Acer has launched new Acer Swift 7 laptop, which it claims to be the world's thinnest laptop. The new Acer Swift 7 will be available in the US from March 2018.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018, SpaceX launched a secretive US government payload named Zuma. Maker of the payload is Northrup Grumman. He said that the payload was for US government. He added that it would be delivered to low-Earth orbit.
- Central Government has announced that under Phase-I of BharatNet Project, one lakh gram panchayats have been provided with hi-speed broadband connectivity. BharatNet Project, formerly known as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) was launched with an aim to deploy high-speed optical fibre cables across rural areas of India.
- On January 8, 2018, Union Minister for Science and Technology, Harsh Vardhan inaugurated 'Pratyush', India's fastest 'multi-petaflops' supercomputer. Petaflops is a measure of a computer's processing speed.
- Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), Ministry of Railways' research unit, has launched "New Online Vendor Registration System". The New Online Vendor Registration System has been launched to make systems and procedures digital and transparent.
- On January 9, 2018, a state-of-the-art patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard, 'Charlie-435', was commissioned at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Puducherry. 'Charlie-435' is equipped with modern navigation and communication systems. Its presence would strengthen coastal security between Chennai and Kanyakumari.
- Indian Railways has decided to introduce modern Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Kiosk Machines for fast and easy printing of tickets booked through UTS App. Western Railway has become the first railway zone to introduce the OCR Kiosk Machines in Mumbai.
- Ministry of Railways has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for monitoring and managing freight business through Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard.



- The Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) has set up its first food testing lab in IIT Kharagpur campus. The National Accreditation Board for Calibration and Testing Laboratories (NABL) accreditation received by the agricultural and food engineering department's Analytical Food Testing Laboratory enabled IIT Kharagpur to certify food items based on nutritional value and perform adulteration checks.
- On January 12, 2018, Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSL-C40 successfully lifted off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018, China became Nepal's second internet service provider, ending India's position as Nepal's only internet service provider. China Telecom Global (CTG) has tied up with Nepal Telecom to provide alternate cyber-connectivity to Nepal.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018, "Rizhao", a new missile frigate, was commissioned by the People's Liberation Army Navy in a naval port in Dalian, China. The missile frigate Rizhao is 140 metres long and 16 metres wide. Rizhao has a displacement of nearly 4,000 tonnes.
- On January 11, 2018, Indian Navy decommissioned warships INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. INS Nirbhik has served Indian Navy for 30 years while INS Nirghat has served for 28 years.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018, China successfully launched two BeiDou-3 satellites aimed to provide navigation and positioning services to countries along the Belt and Road initiative. The Long March-3B carrier rocket took off from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern province of Sichuan, China.
- On January 20, 2018, Larsen Toubro Shipbuilding Ltd. launched 'Vijaya', the second offshore patrol vessel (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard. 'Vijaya' has been indigenously built at L&T Shipbuilding Ltd's Kattupalli Shipyard in Tamil Nadu.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, unveiled the Management Information System (MIS) portal <http://icds-trg.nic.in> for Anganwadi Services Training Programme, in New Delhi.
- The new upgraded version of SARAS aircraft developed by National Aeronautics Laboratories (NAL) completed a successful first flight on January 24, 2018. The 14-seater SARAS PT1N flew in the skies for nearly 40 minutes.
- Chinese scientists have created two monkeys named Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua through cloning for the first time in the world. This is the first time, researchers have cloned and created two healthy monkeys.
- Rotavac vaccine, developed by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Limited has been "pre-qualified" by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and has thus become first vaccine that has been entirely developed in India to have passed this test.
- A new thermal spray coating technology used for gas turbine engine in spacecraft developed by Dr. Satish Tailor has gained the attention of NASA scientist James L. Smialek. The technology developed by Dr. Satish Tailor, a scientist from Rajasthan, was published in the journal Ceramics International and Thermal Spray Bulletin.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Union Environment Minister Harshvardhan launched 'Mihir', a 2.8 PetaFlops capacity high-performance computer system in Noida. It is capable of predicting weather and climate accurately.
- On January 31, 2018, Indian Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba's wife Reena Lanba launched the third Scorpene class submarine Karanj at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

## DEFENCE

- On January 12, 2018, American and Japanese military forces launched 13th annual Iron Fist joint exercises in California, US. Around 500 U.S. Marines and sailors and about 350 members of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force are participating in this exercise wherein they will be trained in fire support operations and amphibious assaults.

- 8th edition of biennial 'National Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise' between ships and aircraft from the Indian and Japanese Coast Guards commenced on January 16, 2018 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
  - On January 29, 2018, armies of India and Vietnam began 'VINBAX', a six day-long military exercise in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. i. Vietnam – India Bilateral Army Exercise (VINBAX) is the first military exercise between India and Vietnam.
  - On January 3, 2018, Pakistan Navy successfully conducted a test fire of a naval cruise missile named 'Harba'. The test was conducted from Pakistan's newly commissioned Fast Attack Craft, PNS Himmat, off Karachi in the North Arabian Sea.
  - On January 4, 2018, Union Defence Ministry approved procurement of simulated training solutions for Indian Navy's P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft and electronic warfare systems for the Army. Total cost involved in these deals is Rs. 2420 crore.. It will come along with 10 year comprehensive maintenance service.
- Union Home Ministry is coordinate with state governments to set up Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), an apex centre to deal with cyber crimes such as financial frauds, circulation of pornographic and communal contents.

## ENVIRONMENT

- A new frog species named "Nyctibatrachus mewasinghi" species, named after Mewa Singh, a wildlife scientist has been discovered from Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kozhikode, in Kerala. The study has been published in The Journal of Threatened Taxa.
- Scientists have said that, more than a quarter of Earth's land area will become drier even if we manage to reduce global warming to two degrees Celsius. If the average global warming is reduced to 1.5 C, the drying will be limited to about one tenth. This was stated in a study published in Nature Climate Change.
- A new endangered flowering plant species named 'Primula Zhui' has been discovered by scientists in Yunnan Province of China. Primula Zhui is known in Chinese as Zhu Hua Baochun. It has been named after Zhu Hua, a Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) researcher.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forests has refused to permit captive breeding of Chiru (Tibetan Antelope) whose underfur is used to make shahtoosh shawls. Chiru has been declared as 'Near Threatened' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature 2017.
- A new moth species named 'Elcysma Ziroensis' has been discovered in the Talle Wildlife Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. This discovery has been published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa. It would be commonly called Apatani Glory. This has been named after a local tribe called Apatani.
- A new population of red handfish has been discovered in Tasmania making their population double now. The red handfish was considered extremely rare and they were confined to a small reef in Frederick Henry Bay near Hobart in south-east Tasmania.
- As per Airpocalypse II, a report by environmental Non-governmental organization (NGO) Greenpeace India, 47% of the population in India is living in areas where there is no airquality monitoring.

## SPORTS

Sports/Tournament/title	Winner	Points to be noted
Royal Cup golf tournament at the Phoenix Gold Golf and Country Club in Pattaya, Thailand	India's Shiv Kapur	He was handed a trophy and cheque of \$90,000
WTA Auckland Open Tennis title	Julia Goerges	Held in Auckland, New Zealand.
Hopman Cup title	Roger Federer and Belinda	Held in Perth, Australia.

	Bencic	
Kolkata Open 2018	Aditya Mehta	Also won the International Invitation Snooker Championship at the Hindustan Club, in Kolkata
the Swedish Open Junior International Series 2018	Siddharth Pratap Sing	Held in Uppsala, Sweden.
106th edition of the Australian Open tennis	Roger Federer win the Men's Singles title and Caroline Wozniacki win the Women's Singles title	tournament took place at Melbourne, Australia from 15 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Newport Beach Challenger event	Leander Paes and James Cerretani have won the men's doubles	held at California, United States.
11Even Sports Senior Table Tennis Nationals, in Ranchi, Jharkhand	Sharath Kamal	Held in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

- On December 30, 2017 Vidarbha has won the Ranji Trophy title for the first time by defeating Delhi in the final match at Holkar Stadium in Indore. During Ranji Trophy final match, Vidarbha's Rajneesh Gurbani took a hat-trick against Delhi.
- G Sathyan has become India's highest ranked player in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings and scored 49<sup>th</sup> position at the world level. He is followed by Sharath Kamal who is at 51<sup>st</sup> world rank.
- Meghalaya has signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to host the 39th National Games in 2022. . Meghalaya sports director Matsiewdor W Nongbri announced that the masterplan of the 39th National Games will be submitted by January 2019.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, Colin Munro of New Zealand became the first batsman to score three hundreds in T20 internationals. He achieved this mark by scoring 104 off 53 balls including 3 fours and 10 sixes in the final T20 match against West Indies at Mount Maunganui, New Zealand.
- Ricky Ponting has joined head coach of Delhi Daredevils. Ponting was earlier associated with Indian Premier League champions Mumbai Indians. Ponting will replace Rahul Dravid, who is the coach of the Indian under-19 team, had withdrawn due to conflict of interest.
- On Jan 4, 2017, Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) appointed former captain Hasan Sardar as the new chief head coach of the national team. Pakistan will appear in three major hockey events this year including the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Cup for the year 2018.
- On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Elite Women's National Boxing Championship, began in Haryana. The Elite Women's National Boxing Championship is considered as selection trials for the upcoming Common Wealth Games and the Asian Games.
- Philippe Coutinho has moved from Liverpool to Barcelona team for 160 million Euros (\$192 million) making this the second most expensive transfer in the world soccer history.
- On January 5, 2018, Union Minister of State ( I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore launched Vibrant Khelo India logo at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Three-stroke Khelo India logo has been designed by Ogilvy India.
- On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Neel Joshi lost in the finals of the British Junior Open squash in U-15 category at Birmingham, England.. Sam Todd won the U-15 British Junior Open squash title.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has suspended cricketer Yusuf Pathan for five months for doping violation. But he is allowed to play from 15 January 2018 as the ban was backdated to August.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, in February 2018. Harjinder Singh is at present the General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018, India's Aanchal Thakur from Manali became the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing, by winning a bronze medal in the Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup. The Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup was organised by Federation International de Ski (FIS) at the Palandoken Ski

## Online Test for SBI Clerk 2018

[www.OliveBoard.com](http://www.OliveBoard.com)

- Centre, in Erzurum in Turkey.
- On January 12, 2018, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Football Delhi, governing body for football in Delhi signed a MoU for the development of the sport in the Capital.
- Sarjubala Devi has won gold medal and the best boxer trophy in the National Women's Boxing Championship, in Rohtak, Haryana. This is her second consecutive national title. She is a former world silver-medallist.
- Kagiso Rabada, South African fast bowler, has become the number-one ranked bowler in the MRF Tyres ICC Test Player Rankings. In the MRF Tyres ICC Player Rankings for Test Batsmen, Australian Steve Smith has secured the first position.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018, Hockey Haryana became champions of the 8th Hockey India Sub Junior (Women) National Championship 2018 (A Division) against Madhya Pradesh, in Haryana.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018, Ethiopia's Solomon Deksis won the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Mumbai Marathon with a time of two hours, nine minutes and 33 seconds. India's Gopi Thonakal won the Indian Men's Elite category. Amane Gobena won the top spot in the International Women's Elite Category.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018, International Cricket Council) has announced that, 2018 Women's World T20, will be hosted by Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and St Lucia of West Indies from 9 – 24 November, 2018.
- Manav Thakkar has become the first Indian to obtain the world No.2 position in the boys' under-18 category of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. Number 1 is occupied by Li Hsin-Yang of Chinese Taipei
- On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018, Rakhi Halder made a new national record by lifting 128kgs in the clean and jerk, in the 63kg women's category, in the 33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships, in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Delhi won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Eden Gardens, in Kolkata. Delhi defeated Rajasthan by 41 runs in the finals and won their first Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Sandeep Lamichhane became the first Nepal cricketer to get IPL contract after he was bought by Delhi Daredevils at the 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL) Auction.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Saina Nehwal was defeated by Tai Tzu Ying in the finals of the Indonesia Masters.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the Pledge for Khelo India at the Khelo India School Games Carnival in Delhi. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore took the Khelo India pledge at the event.

### BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Other Information
"Majuli: Resources and Challenges"	Edited by Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti	Appreciates the beauty and challenges of Majuli, in Assam. It was published by Authorspress.
'Imperfect'- Autobiography	Sanjay Manjrekar	It was released by Dilip Vengsarkar and published by Harper Collins
'The Heartfulness Way'	Kamlesh Patel	He widely known as Daaji, the fourth Global Guide of Heartfulness, and Joshua Pollock, a heartfulness trainer and practitioner
"Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After 1998"	Sheila Dikshit	It has been published by Palimpsest Publishers



'Staniya Svasasan Mei Addhi Aabadhi'	Dr. Sadhana Pandey	Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book in New Delhi
--------------------------------------	--------------------	---

## OBITUARY

Name of the person who passed away	Field	Points to be noted
Ananta Ojha	Odia playwright, actor and director	Passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
Anwar Jalalpur	Urdu poet	Died in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
R Margabandu	Former Rajya Sabha member	
Madhukarrao Kimmatkar	Former Maharashtra Minister	Passed away in Nagpur.
Radha Viswanathan	Carnatic singer	Daughter of M S Subbulakshmi in chennai
Vasant Davkhare	Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader	Passed away in Mumbai
Shrivallabh Vyas	Actor	Passed away in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Shrivallabh Vyas had acted in more than 60 Hindi films.
Saksham Yadav	Powerlifting world champion	Died in New Delhi.
Shashikant Bhagwat	Senior sports journalist	Passed away due to heart attack in Pune, Maharashtra
Kapil Mohan	Chairman of Mohan Meakin Ltd	Passed away due to cardiac arrest, at his home, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
Satyendra Kushwaha	BJP MLC (Member of the Legislative Council)	Passed away in Patna, Bihar
Baldev Raj	Director of National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)	Passed away in Pune
Sukhchain Singh Cheema	Wrestler and Asian Games bronze medalist	Died in a car accident in Patiala, Punjab
Bindu Lal	Former BJP MLA	Died due to cardiac arrest, in Uttar Pradesh.
Doodhnath Singh	Hindi writer	Passed away following a cardiac arrest in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
KK Ramachandran Nair	Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) legislator	Passed away at Apollo hospital, in Chennai
Gnani Sankaran	Tamil writer and journalist	He was the editor of Dheemtharikida, a Tamil magazine
Sarod maestro Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta	Pandit	He is a recipient of Padma Bhushan award. He was also awarded Sangeet Mahasamman and Bangabibhusan awards.
Raghunath Jha	Former Union minister	Passed away at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, in Delhi
NK Trikha	Journalist	He had worked with the newspaper Navbharat Times. He was also the editor of Navbharat Times' Lucknow edition

Narayan Sadashiv Pharande	Senior BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) leader and former MLC	Died in Pune, Maharashtra
W.B. Rao	Cinematographer	
Ava Mukherjee	Actress	Passed away in Mumbai
Leslie Harding Pde	Khasi author	Died in Shillong, Meghalaya
Manjit Singh	Akali leader and former chief secretary of the SGPC of Calcutta	Passed away in Amritsar, Punjab
Kashinath	Kannada actor	Kashinath was a director and actor in the Kannada film industry
Chandi Lahiri	Cartoonist	His cartoons were published in several English and Bengali newspapers and magazines.
Peter Wyngarde	British television and stage actor	Passed away in London.
Shriniwas Tiwari	Former Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh	Passed away in a hospital in New Delhi. Tiwari, popularly known as "White Tiger".
Sulaiman 'Dik' Abed	Former South Africa all-rounder	Passed away in The Netherlands
Anindya Sengupta	Senior journalist and Indian Journalists	
Ursula K. Le Guin	Science fiction author	Ursula K. Le Guin is an award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer.
Honsen Lyngdoh	Philanthropist of Meghalaya	He had received the National Citizens Award in 1992
Yashwant Chavan	Veteran Communist leader	
Supriya Devi	Bengali actress	Passed in South Kolkata
Chandrashekhar	Kannada actor	Passed away in Canada
Gurcharan Singh Kalkat	Agricultural scientist	Died in Chandigarh, Punjab
Daya Nath Singh	Senior journalist	Passed away in Assam
Dinesh Nandan Sahay	Chhattisgarh's first Governor	Passed away in Madhepura, Bihar
Dr Sonam Dawa	Chief Executive Councilor (CEC) of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)	
Chintaman Wanaga	Senior BJP MP from Maharashtra	
<b>International wise</b>		
Ambalavaner Sivanandan	Novelist of Sri Lanka	
Air Marshal Asghar Khan	First native commander-in-chief of Pakistan Air Force	
Jerry Van Dyke	Comedian and actor	Died at his home in Arkansas, US
Tatsuro Toyoda	Former president of Toyota	
John Young	American astronaut	Died at Houston, US

Peter Sutherland	Director general	Former World Trade Organization (WTO)
Jo Jo Whit	Basket Ball player	
Roy Bennett	Zimbabwean opposition leader	
Jimmy Armfield	England football player	
Hugh Masekela	Jazz trumpeter of South Africa	He was called the "the father of South African jazz".
Francisco Nunez Olivera	World's oldest man"	Passed away in Bienvenida village, Spain

### IMPORTANT DAYS

Observed date/week	Day	Other information
4 <sup>th</sup> January	World Braille Day	To mark the birthday of Louis Braille, inventor of Braille system
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)	To mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in development of India
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Raising Day of Army Air Defence	Every year all over India
10 <sup>th</sup> January	World Hindi Day	
12 <sup>th</sup> January	National Youth Day	To mark the birthday of Swami Vivekananda
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Indian Army Day	To honour Indian soldiers
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Opinion Poll Day	To mark the historic poll in 1967 event, Goa celebrated the as Asmitai Dis (Identity Day).
18 January to 24 January 2018	Girl Child Week	
19 <sup>th</sup> January	13th Raising Day	
24 <sup>th</sup> January	National Girl Child Day	
25 <sup>th</sup> January	National Voters' Day	The theme for National Voters' Day 2018 was: 'Accessible Elections'. 25th January is the foundation day of the Election Commission of India.
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	48th Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh	
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Republic Day	
26 <sup>th</sup> January	International Customs Day	Slogan for International Customs Day 2018 is "A secure business environment for economic development."
27 <sup>th</sup> January	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	The theme of 2018 is: "Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility".
28 <sup>th</sup> January	World Leprosy Day	World Leprosy Day 2018 aims to attain Zero Disabilities and Zero Leprosy in the world.

### Other important days

- Central Government will be declaring 2018 as the 'national year of millets'. Request for declaring 2018 as the 'national year of millets' has been made by Karnataka. It is to be noted that Karnataka is India's leader in the millet sector.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Football Delhi announced that, Indian football Captain Sunil Chhetri's birthday will be celebrated as Delhi's Football Day. Sunil Chhetri's birthday is 3<sup>rd</sup> August.
- On January 29, 2018, Journalists and social activists in Agra celebrated Hicky's Day paying tributes James Augustus Hicky, the founder of journalism in India. A seminar was organised as a part of celebration Theme of this seminar was "Social Media emerging as a challenge to conventional media?"