MARUTHI SCHOOL OF BANKING

IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS - JANUARY - (2018)

Organizations		Purpose
HDFC Bank	Rajasthan Govt.	Under this partnership, HDFC Bank will team up with the state government to provide end-to-end solutions like current accounts, credit cards and other solutions to startups under its SmartUp programme.
Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)	India Post Payments Bank	Under the agreement, IICA has been entrusted with the key responsibility of capacity building of IPPB through training of its officials/employees
(SBI) jointly signed an N	NoU with non-government	elopment (Nabard) and State Bank of India torganisations (NGOs) from West Bengal s), or informal credit group of farmers.
National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)	SME Corporation Malaysia	For exchange of information and cooperation in areas such as policies to aid development of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the two countries.
Axis Bank	NGO Srijan	The bank partnered through an initiative called Buddha Fellowship Programme to help nurture talent for the development sector.
AU Small Finance Bank	Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India	The bank will offer Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) under the agreement.
Bank of Baroda	Invoicemart	Tie up is to discount invoices for MSMEs. Buyers and sellers registered on the marketplace will now be able to access funding from Bank of Baroda.
Yes Bank	Amplus Energy Solutions	The pact is for strategic tie-up to co- finance projects in the solar energy space in India.
Federal Bank	Hedge Equities Ltd	Partnership for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.
Punjab National Bank	National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)	They tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).
Paytm Payments Bank	IndusInd Bank	To introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds Rs. 1 lakh at the end of day in Paytm Account
Nearby Technologies	Yes Bank	To provide Aadhaar- enabled cardless and pinless ATM service called PayNEARBY by which customers can deposit or withdraw money at retailers' place.

Appointments and Resignations

Security Adviser (NSA) India He will replace S. Jaishankar	Name	Post	Institution/Other Info
Security Adviser (NSA)	Rajinder Khanna	Deputy National	
NSA Foreign Secretary of India He will replace S. Jaishankar		1 2	
AB Mathur AB Mathur AB Mathur AB Mathur AB Mathur AB Mathur Central Government has appointed AB Mathur as the interlocutor on their behalf to hold talks with the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA). External Affairs Ministry, India External Affairs Ministry India Affairs Ministry, India External Affairs Ministry External Affairs Ministry India Affairs			
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as the interlocutor on their behalf to hold talks with the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA). T S Tirumurti Secretary (Economic Relations) Anandiben Patel Governor of Madhya Pradesh Om Prakash Rawat Chief Election Commissioner (ECC) of India S Selvakumar Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Usha Ananthasubramanian Chairman Cha	<i>3</i>		He will replace S. Jaishankar
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Sauli Niinisto President Finland	Soumeylou Maiga		
	Sauli Niinisto	President	Finland

George Weah	President	Liberia.
		He is a retired footballer

Awards and Recognitions

Award Name	Person/Institution	Extra Knowledge
24th Crystal Award at the World	Shah Rukh Khan	
Economic Forum (WEF)		
"Samudra Manthan – Caring	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust	
Organisation of the Year" award		
UNESCO Award of Merit	Srirangam Ranganathaswamy	
	temple in Tiruchirapalli,	
	Tamil	
	Nadu	
First Mufti Mohammad Sayeed	Bihar Chief minister Nitish	
Award for Probity in Public Life	Kumar	<u> </u>
First Ladies Award	Aishwarya Rai Bachchan	Titled the 'First Ladies' awards, it was an initiative of the Ministry of Women
		and Child Development to honour
		women who are the first to set a
	_	milestone in
		their respective fields.
'Ideal Chief Minister' award	Odisha Chief Minister Naveen	
	Patnaik	
Yash Chopra memorial award	Asha Bhosle	She will be the fifth winner of the
		award.
US Documentary Grand Jury Award	Kailash Satyarthi	He got the award for his documentary,
		titled 'Kailash'.
Janakavi P Sawlaram award	Actor Sudhir Dalvi	

RECOGNITIONS:

- Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has reached a record high in terms of the amount of wealth owned by a single person. The net worth of Bezos reached a whopping \$105.1 Billion, as per Bloomberg's Billionaire Tracker. This ranks Jeff Bezos as the richest person of all time.
 - Previously, the spot was held by Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who has been left behind by the Amazon genius for the third time now.
- The first all-women station in India, Matunga on Central Railway (CR) in Mumbai, manned by a staff of 41 women, has entered the Limca Book of Records.
- Ravi Menon, the Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), has been named the best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018 by UK-based magazine The Banker.
- Calicut University conferred honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt) on actor Mohanlal and athlete PT Usha at a special convocation ceremony.
- Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee was presented France's highest civilian award, Legion d'Honneur.

Grammy Awards 2018

- Album Of The Year: Bruno Mars
- Song of the Year: Bruno Mars', That's What I Like
- Record Of The Year: Bruno Mars, 24K Magic
- Best Pop Solo Performance: Ed Sheeran, Shape of You
- Best Pop Vocal Album: Ed Sheeran, Divide
- Best Dance Recording: LCD Soundsystem, Tonite
- Best Music Film: The Defiant Ones
- Best Children's Album: Feel What U Feel, Lisa Loeb
- Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media: La La Land
- Producer of the Year, Classical: David Frost

63rd Filmfare Awards 2018

- 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 Vii 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 ShortFilm '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'

Conference and Summits

Summit	Place	Extra Knowledge
16th International Energy Forum Ministerial meeting	New Delhi, India	To be held in April, 2018
First summit of the International Solar Alliance	India	To be held in March, 2018
World Economic Forum Summit	Davos, Switzerland	
India-ASEAN business and investment conference	New Delhi	
Bharat Parv	Red Fort, Delhi	The prime objective of the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to ensure wider participation of the general public.
First Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference	New Delhi	

Informal WTO Ministerial gathering	New Delhi	Will be held in March 2018
Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)	New Delhi	
3rd edition of the geo-political conference, 'Raisina Dialogue'	New Delhi	
26th World Book Fair	New Delhi	Main Theme: Environment and Climate Change
India International Seafood Show (IISS)	Goa	
Science Film Festival of India	Goa	The festival is titled SCI-FFI Goa.
KachraMahotsav2018,India's firstGarbage Festival	Chhattisgarh	
International Conference on Wild Silk Moths	Guwahati, Assam	
Asia Steel International Conference	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	To be held in February, 2018
First International Dam Safety Conference-2018	Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)	
First ever international martial arts games	Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir	To be held in October, 2018
India-Israel Business Summit	Mumbai	
India-UK Createch Summit	Mumbai	To be held in February, 2018
19th India International Watch & Clock Fair "Samaya Bharati 2018"	Mumbai	
International Dharma- Dhamma conference	Rajgir, Bihar	
18th All India Whips' Conference	Udaipur, Rajasthan	
Global Forum for Food & Agriculture	Berlin, Germany	

International News

- The central bank of Pakistan gave its green signal to using the Chinese currency, Yuan, for bilateral trade with China. The decision came just a day after US President Donald Trump vowed to stop all aid to Islamabad.
- Unescohas accepted the Turkey's endangered "birdlanguage" of Black Sea villagers as an endangered part of world heritage in need of urgent protection.
- Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time.
- Israel has filed notice to withdraw from the UNESCO alongside the United States. Israel has blasted UNESCO in recent years over the organisation's criticism of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and its decision to grant full membership to Palestine in 2011.
- A new law making it illegal to pay men more than women has taken effect in Iceland. The legislation makes Iceland the first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men and women.
- On the occasion of the 69th Republic Day, the Indian Mission in Nepal handed over 30 ambulances and six buses to various hospitals and non-profit charity organisations.
- In a bid to safeguard the world from hackers and growing data breaches especially from nationstates — the World Economic Forum (WEF) announced a new Global Centre for Cybersecurity. Headquartered in Geneva, the centre will become operational from March.
- $Valletta, the capital of Malta officially named European Capital of Culture 2018. \ Valletta will a constraint of Culture 2019. \ Valletta will be a constraint of Culture 2019. \ Val$ sharethetitle with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.
- Underwater archaeologists and divers in Mexico have announced that they found a passage connecting two underwater caves, creating what they say is the world's largest flooded cave.

- According to official data released, China's economy grew a forecast-beating 6.9 per cent in 2017, picking up steam for the first time since 2010 despite its battles against a massive debt and polluting factories.
- In an attempt to fight air pollution, China has constructed an experimental air purifying tower, touted to be the world's biggest at a height of over 100 meters (328 feet).
- India, for the first time, took part in a meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Beijing, China, since joining the bloc last year.
- India has extended a fresh financial assistance of USD 45.27 million for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour in northern Sri Lanka into a commercial portand strengthening the country's efforts tobecome aregional maritime hub.
- India has contributed \$50,000 to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals.
- The world's largest solar-thermal power plant has been given development approval by the South Australian government. Construction on the 150-megawatt Aurora plant, to be built by utilityscale solar power company SolarReserve, will begin in 2018 at an estimated cost of \$509
- Iran has banned teaching the English language in primary schools, calling the subject a "cultural invasion".

National News

- Keen to strengthen bilateral relations "even more", Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived on a six- day visit along with the largest business delegation that has ever accompanied an Israeli premier on an overseas tour.
- India has missed the 2017 deadline that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced for elimination of Kala Azar (black fever) in his Budget speech last year. In fact, endemic blocks have increased from 61 to 68 in 17 districts of Bihar and Jharkhand.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has developed web portals "TrackChild" and "Khoya-Paya" to track the missing and found children. The Track Child Portal is implemented in association with various stakeholders including Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Railways, State Governments/UT Administrations, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, National Legal Services Authority, etc. and the "Khoya-Paya" has been integrated as a citizen corner on TrackChild portal.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi launched a web portal, NARI, which will provide information on all government schemes for women. Users can log on to www.nari.nic.in to access information on different programmes offered by various state governments as well as the Centre. Gandhi also unveiled a website for NGOs called e-SAMVAD, an interactive portal allowing NGOs to contact the ministry and share their feedback, suggestions, grievances and their best practices.
- Union Government has launched the Cyber Surakshit Bharat Yojna to strengthen cyber security. It will be operated on the three principles of awareness, education and enablement.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaa warch and Gehlot launched 100 accessible websitesfor Divyangs. These 100 government websites are now divyang friendly.
- The Centre has sanctioned projects over 10,000 crore rupees in the North East for better network connectivity. 2 MoUs have been signed to cover the uncovered areas in the North East including Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has launched month long Saksham 2018 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav).
- The Union Health Ministry launched the nation's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series,

- which aims to train doctors across the country in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers.
- Union Information Technology and Electronics Ministry launched the Stree Swabhiman Initiative to ensure and maintain perfect health for Women and maintain Health Hygiene. Under this initiative, Common Service Centres (CSC) will provide access to affordable, reliable and modern (eco-friendly) sanitary napkins (menstrual pads) to adolescent girls and women in rural areas.
- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has planned to set up a 'Social Media Communication Hub' that would help it keep a tab on trending news in districts and gather feedback on the Centre's flagship schemes.
- People with autism, mental illnesses, intellectual disability and victims of acid attacks will now get quota in central government jobs.
- Government has sought views and suggestions of people from all walks of life to move ahead on the idea. The government has launched MyGov platform where it invites citizens, members of civil society, journalists, students, teachers, police officers, government employees, Parliamentarians, academics experts, bureaucrats, social media influencers, think tanks and all other interested people to give their considered view on the subject.
- Environment Minister Harshvardhan launched a 2.8 PetaFlops capacity high-performance computer system 'Mihir'
 - in Noida. The system will be able to predict weather and climate accurately.
- Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer to the nation in Pune. The supercomputer named as 'Pratyush' meaning the Sun, is established at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.
- Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekarreleased the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for the year 2016-17 in New Delhi. According to this survey, the number of students enrolling for higher education in India saw a marginal 0.7 per cent increase in 2016-
- India has excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of- the-art National Knowledge Network (NKN) for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.
- India and Vietnam released first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to mark the longterm friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries.
- India has offered to enhance rural connectivity in fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations during the ASEAN- India Commemorative Summit. PM Modi proposed the ASEAN countries declare 2019 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism.
- India has joined the Australia Group export control regime and has become the 43rd Member of that Group. It is an informal forum which seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical orbiological weapons.
- Government announced the list of nine new Smart Cities, which have emerged winners in Round 4. These nine cities are, Silvassa in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Erode in Tamil Nadu, Diu in Daman and Diu, Bihar Sharif in Bihar, Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.
- The Hindi Word of the Year as announced by Oxford Dictionaries for 2017 is 'AADHAAR'. 'Aadhaar' also becomes the first Oxford Dictionaries Hindi Word of the Year.
- For the first time, a vaccine conceived and developed from scratch in India has been "pre-qualified" by the World Health Organisation. The Rotavac vaccine, developed by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Limited last year, was

- included in India's national immunisation programme.
- Maitre-2 a second passenger bus to Kolkata via Dhaka is started from Agartala, Tripura, to give a boost to the trans- border relationship between India and Bangladesh.
- The 'I4Fund Call for Proposal' was announced with the joint launch of the website and the unveiling of the brochure bythetwoPMs (Narendra Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu). The "India-Israel Industrial R&DandTechnological Innovation Fund (I4F)" was announced in July, 2017.
- The Jewish community marked Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Mumbai visit with the launch of
 - 'Namaste Shalom', a regular monthly magazine on bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) decided to enable 'Face Authentication' in fusion mode on registered devices by July 1, so that people facing difficulty in other existing modes of verification such as fingerprints, iris, and one-time-password (OTP) could easily authenticate.
- According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), recently released by the ministry of health and family welfare, Jains are the wealthiest religious community in India. Dethi and Punjab are the richest states. Bihar is the poorest.
- The central government has advised the nation not to use a national flag made of plastic and asked all the states and union territories (UTs) to ensure strict compliance of the Flag Code in view of the Republic Day celebration ahead.
- Inmajorchanges liberalising foreign direct investment in key sectors, the Union Cabinet approved 100 percent foreign investment in single brand retail trading (SBRT) and construction development and decided to open up Air India for FDI up to 49 per cent.
- In a major digital initiative to help plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations, Railways have launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation and Real Time Information, SFOORTI, App for freight managers.
- In an attempt to address security and privacy concerns around leakage of Aadhaar numbers and data, the Unique Identification Authority of India introduced two new measures - virtual ID and limited KYC.
 - The virtual identity or virtual ID will be a random 16-digit number mapped to the Aadhaar number of a citizen, and will come with an expiration date. The VID will not be duplicable by agencies performing authentication of Aadhaar number, and hence will ensure safety of the Aadhaar number.
- External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj and Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lyonpo Damcho Dorji on Friday jointly unveiled the 'Special logo' for the Golden Jubilee celebrations in New Delhi and Thimphu through video-conference.
- In a first in independent India's history and a first for the Supreme Court of India, four judges addressing the media, appealed to the nation to save their institution if they wanted democracy in the country to survive.
- Airpocalypse II, a report by environmental NGO Greenpeace India shows Delhi to be the most polluted and Hassan in Karnataka to have the cleanest air.

State News

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu declared 2018 as Telugu promotion year.
- The Andhra Pradesh Government and the Canton of Zurich have signed a letter of intent, to promote mutual prosperity and development.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the e-Pragati CORE platform, which will be a common portal for all citizen services online.
- The Andhra Pradesh Government and the NITI Aayog have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Amaravati to develop an online dashboard for the 115 most backward districts in the country.

Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh has been declared Open Defecation Free. It has become the second state in the North East after Sikkimto achieve the status with the declaration of Upper Subansiri, Siang, and Changlang districts as officially Open Defecation Free.
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the World War II Memorial Museum in the state's Changlang district bordering Myanmar.

Assam

- In a bid to add more dynamism to Assam government's initiatives of financial inclusion and bringing all sections of the people under the ambit of banking sector and cashless transaction, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal ceremonially launched the Chan Bagichar Dhan Puraskar Mela 2017-18.
- Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi released a postage stamp on legendary footballer Dr Talimeren Ao during his birth centenary. Ao was instrumental in popularising football in Assam. He was captain of the Indian football team in their first official match in the 1948 London Olympics.
- In Assam, Uruka was being celebrated on 13th January 2018 on the eve of Bhogali Bihu, the post-harvest festival.

Bihar

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar laid foundation stones for more than 100 projects worth Rs 700 crore in Nalanda district as part of his state-wide 'Vikas Samiksha Yatra'.
- Bihar government has banned manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, display, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes in the state. Anyone violating the ban will attract a jail term of up to 3 years, the government notification stated.

Chhattisgarh

The Union Government sanctioned Rs 696 crores to eight Naxal affected districts of Chhattisgarh for three years under its Special Central Assistance Scheme.

Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu attended a ceremony at the Teen Murti Memorial in Delhi to mark the renaming of Teen Murti Chowk as Teen Murti Haifa Chowk.
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched a common card for rides on public buses and the metro. Delhi is the first city in the country to have a common mobility card.
- Mobile App 311 was launched by Delhi's Lt Governor Anil Baijal. It is a mobile application of the three municipal corporations of Delhi (MCD) that was launched in a bid to enhance engagement of citizens in resolution of grievances and improvement of civic services in the city.

Gujarat

- The Animal Husbandry department of Gujarat government has banned all voluntary animal care and non-government organisations working under the 'Karuna Abhiyan' to operate in residential areas during the Uttarayan festival this year.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, who is on a visit to India, have inaugurated the iCreate centre in Ahmedabad's Deo Dholera Village.
- Gujarat has topped a perception-based index of mobility of goods and efficiency of logistics chain, closely followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

Haryana

- The Haryanatourism department disclosed that Uttar Pradesh would be the theme state for the 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela, which would be organized at Surajkund, Faridabad from February 2 to 15. Apart from all other states, about 24 countries would also participate in it.
- The Haryana government has decided to form a non-banking financial company (NBFC)—Haryana State Financial Services Limited—to act as an in-house treasury manager for efficient management of surplus funds of State public enterprises and autonomous bodies.
- Haryana has achieved the distinction of becoming the first state in the country to launch high-risk pregnancy portal.

Himachal Pradesh

- Cabinet approved the establishment of an AIIMS facility in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, at a cost of Rs 1,351 crore.
- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the 'Shakti' app, which comes with a panic button, for women's safety here. The app was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Himachal Pradesh government.
- In a significant decision after taking over as Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Jai Ram Thakur announced setting up of a 24×7 helpline, called Gudiya, for women. He said special women cells would be created in all three police ranges in the state to deal with crime against women.

Jammu Kashmir

Cleared the Rs 6,808.69 crore strategic Zojila Tunnel project to provide all-weather connectivity to Kargil and Lehin Jammu and Kashmir which remain cut off from the rest of the country during the winter season.

Jharkhand

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das launched "Saubhagya Yojana", a programme that would provide electricity to all the 29,376 villages in the state.

Karnataka

- The Karnataka government announced that Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE) will be held from February 28, billing it as the "largest" B2B travel event in the country.
- According to a survey conducted by Amazon India's Annual Reading Trends Reports for 2017, Bengaluru has emerged as the most well read city in India, while Mumbai and Delhi stands at second and third position, respectively.

Maharashtra

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

Odisha

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched an online platform, Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS), to provide efficient and hassle-free health services to the public.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana' (MMKSJ) an assistance scheme for Artists in the state. Around 50,000 artists will be benefited from this.
- The 12th International Film Festival on Art and Artist began in Odisha where Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik called upon filmmakers to come forward to work on documentaries and biopics on the literary souls.
- India's first plant to convert coal to synthetic gas is to be set up in Odisha under the supervision of state-rungas transmission utility GAIL.

Punjab

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

Rajasthan

- The third edition of international spice conference will be held at Jaipur, Rajasthan from February 4-7.
- Minister of State (IC), for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone for Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modilaid the foundation stone of the Rs 43,129 crore big-ticket refinery projectin Barmer and said it will change the economic landscape of Rajasthan.

Tamil Nadu

Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the Centre's plan to set up a defence manufacturing innovation centre in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Telangana

- The Telangana government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Clean Authority of Tokyo in connection with municipal solid waste incineration.
- Telangana government has inaugurated country's first National Park for people with special needs in Hyderabad.

Uttar Pradesh

- A three-day international bird festival will be held at the Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh from February 9 with nearly 200 leading ornithologists expected to attend.
- Agra Municipal Corporation has released a logo of Smart City Agra, showing the Taj Mahal and a peacock feather.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the long-awaited Mahesra over bridge at Sonauli-Gorakhpur National highway (NH80). The bridge would connect Gorakhpur and other east UP districts to Nepal.

West Bengal

- The West Bengal government launched its official emblem, conceptualised and designed by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The state emblem – the "Biswa Bangla" logo with Ashoka Pillar of the national emblem – would be used in all the official works and documents of the Bengal government from now on.
- The ninth edition of Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival is set to host multifarious sessions on various critical issues in the country after 70 years of its Independence. Theme - 'India @70'.
- Kolkata is now witness to a floating market, the first of its kind across any metro. The market, as the name suggests, will be located on a water-body with boats doubling up as shops.

Finance and Banking News

- Customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments through debit card, BHIM app and other payment made for up to Rs 2,000 from January 1, 2018. The merchant discount rate (MDR) will be borne by the government for two years with effect from January 1,2018 by reimbursing the same to banks.
- Public sector Allahabad Bank said the Reserve Bank has put the lender under prompt corrective action (PCA) framework post an on-site inspection of high NPAs and negative return of assets for fiscal 2016-17.
- Seeking to perk up public sector banks that have been hit by huge non-performing assets (NPAs), the government announced plans to infuse over Rs. one lakh crore including Rs 80,000 crore through recap bonds and Rs 8,139 crore as budgetary support during the current fiscal.
- The Central government has announced that the "Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks" will now offer social security scheme Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to their subscribers.
- Leading Public Sector Bank (PSB), Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Housing Bank for implementation of the Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHISS) of the Ministry of Rural Development. IOB is one of first major public sector bank to execute the MoU to implement the scheme.
- According to a census by the Reserve Bank, Mauritius was the largest source of foreign investment in India, followed by the US and the UK.
- State Bank of India (SBI) amounced signing of a Information Utility (IU) agreement with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL), the first information utility registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), to share financial and security information under IBBI (IU) regulation 2017
- India's most-valued lender HDFC Bank Ltd crossed Rs5 trillion market capitalisation for the first time, making it only the third Indian company and first Indian Bank to achieve this milestone.
- All the 14 designs of Rs 10 coin are valid and legal tender for transactions, the Reserve Bank amid reluctance by certain traders to accept the coins.
- India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline.

RBI unveils new Rs 10 banknotes

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday unveiled banknotes of Rs 10 denomination under the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.

The new 63 mm x 123 mm notes are embossed with the signature of RBIG overnor Dr Urjit Patel and have the motif of the Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.

- While the base colour of the note is chocolate brown, it comes with other designs, geometric patterns aligning with the overall colour scheme, both at the obverse and reverse.
- The obverse side of the note contains a see-through register with denominational numeral 10 and the same in Devnagari script.
- It contains a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at the centre, with the micro letters 'RBI', 'INDIA' (in both English and Hindi) and '10'. There is also a windowed demetalised security thread with inscriptionsBharat(inHindi)andRBI.

Business News

- Technology giant Apple acquired a Vancouver-based mobile iteration platform, Buddybuild, with an aim to make it easier for developers to create and iterate their apps for its platforms.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has got the consent for acquiring controlling stake in fellow PSU Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd(HPCL).
- NBFC firm Capital First will merge with IDFC Bank, subject to subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals.
- Facebook has acquired a biometric ID verification startup named Confirm that specialises in remotely verifying IDs like drivers licenses.
- Tech giant Google has announced the closure of a USD 1.1 billion deal with smartphone maker HTC, following which the former is set to acquire the latter's design talent.
- India's largest mobile-first financial services platform Paytm has announced launch of 'Paytm for Business' appon Android Play Store.
- Facebook has launched its 'Marketplace' to buy and sell used goods and services across categories such as electronics, entertainment, and housing in India.
- Paytm has announced that it has set up 'Paytm Money Limited', a wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications to build Investment and Wealth Management products for its users.
- Chinese gaming and entertainment company AGTech Holdings Limited has entered a joint venture with Paytm to launch Gamepind, a mobile gaming platform with social and casual games that include rewards.
- Google has introduced a new app named "Bulletin" that allows anybody to submit stories for and about their communities.

Economy News

- According to a Sanctum Wealth Management report, India will overtake China to be the fastest growing large economy in 2018 and the country's equity market will become the fifth largest in the world.
- As per latest statistics, the banking sector posted a double digit growth of 10.7 percent year-on-year (YoY) growth in December 2017, up from 7.2 percent in October last year.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have commended the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for its remarkable progress in strengthening banking supervision.
- The government will borrow only Rs 20,000 crore extrain the last quarter of the current fiscal against Rs 50,000 crore announced in December, indicating an improvement in government finances that should calm fiscal worries.
- India will set up a \$350-million fund to finance solar projects.
- According to the Economic Survey for the current fiscal 2017-18, the Indian IT industry grew 8 per cent to \$140 billion (Rs 8,91,700 crore) in fiscal 2016-17 from \$129 billion (Rs 8,256 crore) in the previous fiscal (2015-16).
- India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2018-19 has been projected at 7 to 7.5 percent as per the Economic Survey 2017-18.

- Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has announced that the 8 per cent GoI savings bond is not closed but has been replaced by 7.75 per cent scheme.
- According to an HSBC report, India's GDP growth rate is expected to accelerate to 7.0 per cent in 2018-19 from 6.5 per cent in this fiscal and improve further to 7.6 per cent by 2019-20.
- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has predicted that India's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow at 7.1 per cent in FY19.
- World Bank has projected India's growth rate at 7.3% in 2018 and 7.5% for the next two years.
- Rating agency Crisil revised upwards the outlook on 18 state-run banks to 'stable' from 'negative' and also reaffirmed their ratings following the Rs 88,139-crore capital infusion by government.
- According to the Economic Research Department of State Bank of India (SBI), the GDP FY 18 estimates are likely to grow at 6.5 percent compared to the growth rate of 7.1 percent in FY17.
- According to Central Statistics Office (CSO) data, in line with the earlier official estimate of the country's GDP growth in the last fiscal, India's gross domestic product during 2016-17 grew at 7.1 per cent.
- According to State Bank of India (SBI) Ecowrap report, the gross value added (GVA)—the total value of goods and services produced — estimate for 2017-18 is expected to trend higher at 6.3-6.4 per cent from the projected 6.1 per cent.
- Parliament has passed the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017 with the Rajya Sabha approvingit. The Bill seeks to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981. The Bill allows the central government to increase the authorised capital of the Bank from 5 thousand crore rupees to 30 thousand crore rupees.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has successfully commissioned its refinery off-gas cracker (ROGC) complex of 1.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity along with downstream plants and utilities in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The company said that it is the world's first ROGC.
- According to the estimate of national income for 2017-18 released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the Indian economy is expected to grow at a slower 6.5 per cent in 2017-18 compared to the 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.
- India Inc expects the country's 2017-18 economic growth to be above the 6.5 per cent-mark due to a favourable base effect.
- To make India attractive to cruise passengers and to promote cruise tourism, the Central Government has exempted cruise tourists arriving with e-visas from the requirement of biometric enrolment for a period of three years till December 31, 2020.
- After years of no show on the global annual survey, for the first time, three cities from India have featured amongst the top world order as a part of the 'Emerging World Cities' group. This was revealed in JLL's latest research entitled World Cities: Mapping the Pathways to Success, which shows that amongst the Emerging World Cities category, Delhi and Mumbai are deemed Megahubs while Bengaluru ishigh Enterprisers city.
- ICICILombard General Insurance has launched a health insurance app-'IL TakeCare' in collaboration with Practo, the leading healthcare platform. This one-of-its-kind solutions covers Outpatient expenses of all its customers.
- Reliance Industries (RIL) become the first Indian company to cross the \Box 6-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation as its shares touched a 52-week high of \square 974.5.
- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) 's India International Exchange listed the first bond on its an exchange (BSE) 's India International Exchange (Global Securities Market.
- The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX) unveiled India's first agri-commodity options in guar seed designed as a hedge for farmers to safeguard against price risks.

Defence News

- 'VINBAX' -- Exercise among Armies of India and Vietnam held in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. It is the first military exercise between the two countries.
- India has successfully test fired its indigenously developed intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni-V—the most potent and with the longest range in the Agni series-thatcanreachtargets as far as Beijing.
- The Indian Naval Ships Nirbhik and Nirghat have been decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, after a glorious 30 and 28 years respectively in the service of the nation.
- The third indigenously-built diesel-electric Scorpene-class submarine, INS Karani, has been launched at the Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) in Mumbai.
- The Pakistan Navy demonstrated its ability to respond to any aggression by conducting a test fire of a cruise missile
 - Harba Naval Cruise Missile, which is a surface-to-surface anti-ship missile, from its newly commissioned Fast Attack Craft (Missile), PNS Himmat, off Karachi in the North Arabian Sea.
- Indian Coast Guard Ship C-161 was commissioned at Porbandar in Gujarat. The induction is a part of ongoing efforts by the Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security.
- `Vijaya', the second off shore patrol vessel (OPV) built by the Larsen and Toubro Shipyard for the IndianCoast Guard has been launched.
- Vikrant, India's first home-made aircraft carrier, will be feady for induction by 2020. The Indigenous Aircraft Carrier has been named Vikrant after the first aircraft carrier that India had — INS Vikrant, which was HMS Hercules for the British Royal Navy before India bought it after it was decommissioned by the UK.

Science & Technology

- NASA has launched Global-scale Observations of the Limb and Disk, or GOLD, mission to to study the dynamic region where space and Earth's uppermost atmosphere meet. It is the first NASA science mission to fly an instrument as a commercially hosted payload. The mission will fly aboard SES-14, a commercial communications satellite.
- India successfully launched its 100th satellite 'Cartosat-2 Series' from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra, Pradesh's Sriharikota Island. For the mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) used PSLV-C40 launch vehicle, which is carrying 31 satellites, including three from India and 28 from six other countries.

Sports News

Tournament	Winner	Runner Up
Ranji Trophy	Vidarbha	Beat Delhi
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy	Delhi	Beat Rajasthan
Swedish Open Junior International Series (Badminton)	Siddharth Pratap Singh	
Blind Cricket World Cup	India	Beat Pakistan
Hockey India Sub Junior (Women) National Championship 2018 (A Division)	Haryana	Beat Madhya Pradesh
Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018 (B Division)	Assam	Beat Rajasthan
Premier Badminton League championship	Hyderabad Hunters	Bengaluru Blasters
Kolkata Open International Invitation Snooker Championship	Aditya Mehta	

Sports

- Vice President Venkiah Naidu conferred Badminton Association of India (BAI) Lifetime Achievement Award to 1983 World Championship medallist Prakash Padukone.
- Celebrating the game, Football Delhi honoured the Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri, announcing his birthday to be celebrated as Delhi's Football Day. Chhetri's birthday falls on August 3.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Vikram Singh Sisodia as the Chef de Mission for the 21st Commonwealth Games to be held at Gold Coast in Australia.
- Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col Rajyavardhan Rathore has launched the vibrant Khelo India logo, reflecting the freshness, agility and vitality of New India. The three-stroke Khelo India logo, designed by Ogilvy India. The logo conveys an impression of fitness and competitiveness.
- India skipper and run-machine Virat Kohli has won the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Cricketer of the Year 2017 as the International Cricket Council announced the men's individual award winners of 2017.
- Anu Kumar of Uttarakhand grabbed the first gold medal of the Khelo India School Games in 1500 metres at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- Sharath Kamal beattop-seeded Anthony Amalraj to win the men single stitle for the eighth time, equalling the feat of Kamlesh Mehta in the 79th edition of the 11Even Sports Senior Nationals in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore unveiled the mascots (Vijay the tiger and Jaya the black buck) and launched the anthem "Aurkhelnachahtehainhum...Khelmeinhimastihai....khelse abaadhongehum".
- Indian all-rounder Yusuf Pathan has been suspended for five months for failing a dope test during a domestic match last season.
- Aanchal Thakur made history by winning India's first-ever international medal in skiing in Turkey.
- G Sathiyan has surpassed the legendary Sharath Kamal to become India's highest-ranked player in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings, which also have an unprecedented nine players in the top- 100.
- Former world silver medallist Sarjubala Devi representing Manipur claimed the gold in 48 kg category in the National Women's Boxing Championships in Rohtak, Haryana.
- Shooter Shahzar Rizyi won the Men's 10m Air Pistol Gold at the 61st National Shooting Championship (NSCC), at the Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi.
- Gilles Simon of France has lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy. The tournament is India's only ATP event.
- Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.
- Australia is going to host ICC World T20 2020. It was announced that Australia's largest stadium Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) will host the final of both the men's and women's ICC World Twenty20 in 2020.
- The Asian Champions Trophy 2018 will be hosted by the Oman Hockey Association in Muscat between October 18 and 28, confirmed the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).
- 2018 ICC Women's World Twenty20 will be hosted in the West Indies from 9 to 24 November 2018
- Sandeep Lamichhane has become the first cricketer from Nepal to land a deal an IPL contract.
- The Indian men's football team have climbed three spots to be placed 102nd in the latest Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rankings. 1st - Germany.
- Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho has retired from football, although he has not played a game since 2015.



South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada has become the number-one ranked bowler in the MRF Tyres ICC Test Player Rankings, after he helped his team to a 72 run victory over India in the first Test at Newlands

Australian Open 2018

- Men's Singles Roger Federer (Switzerland)
- Women's Singles Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)
- Men's Doubles Oliver Marach (Austria), Mate Pavic (Croatia)
- Women's Doubles Kristina Mladenovic (France), Tímea Babos (Hungary)
- Mixed Doubles Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada), Mate Pavic (Croatia)

Committee

Head of Committee	Purpose
Umesh Sinha	The Election Commission has set up a 14-member panel under Deputy
	Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha to study how social media and other
	digital platforms are used ahead of polls and make suggestions on how to adapt
	the Model Code of Conduct
	to these changes.
B.R. Sharma	The Union Home Ministry has appointed a 12-member inter-ministerial
	committee to
	take a call on the playing of the national anthem in cinema halls and public
	places.
Arun Jaitley	The government formed a ministerial committee headed by finance minister
	Arun
	Jaitleytodecide what to do with old, pre-existing projects in ports, which have
	become unviable.

Rankings

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
Global Talent Competitiveness Index	81st	1st – Switzerland
Environmental Performance Index	177th	1st – Switzerland
(EPI) 2018		
Global Manufacturing Index	30th	1st – Japan
		Index by World Economic Forum (WEF)
Global Democracy Index	21st	1st – Norway
In the list of cheapest country to live	2nd	1st –South Africa
orretire(survey by GoBankingRates		
ranked nations)		
In the list of wealthiest countries	6th	1st – USA
(report given by New World Wealth)		
In terms of attractive market for	5th	1st – USA
investments and the optimism over		
global economic growth		

l Norway is ranked first among advanced		
economies in inclusive development.		
Among emerging economies, Lithuania has		
secured the first rank.		

According to a recent report published by World Steel Association (WSA), India overtook the US to become the world's third-largest steel producer in 2018. 1st - China

Loans from Banks

From	To	Amount	Purpose
NABARD	Odisha	Rs 372.51 crore	Assistance under the Rural Infrastructure Development
			Fund (RIDF) towards irrigation and rural bridge projects
			for the last quarter of this fiscal.
Japan	India	Rs 2,587 crore	For Phase 3 (I) of the Bengaluru Water Supply and
			Sewerage Project
World Bank	India	\$100 million	To promote rural enterprises, facilitate their access to
			finance, and create employment opportunities for youth,
			particularly women, in selected blocks of Tamil Nadu
World Bank	India	\$120 million	To help increase access to improved water supply in the
			peri-urban areas of Uttarakhand.
Asian	India	\$250 million	To finance the construction of 6,254 kilometres all-
Development			weather rural roads in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh,
Bank (ADB)		A	Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal under the
			Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY).

The UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Indian government signed a \$168million pact to sustainably raise incomes and food security for tribal farming households in northeast India.

Books

Book	Author	Other Info
The Tall Man Biju Patnaik	Sundar Ganesan	Biju Patnaik was the former Chief
		Minister of
		Odisha.
Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After	Sheila Dikshit	Book offers an engrossing narrative about
1998		the
		journey of India's capital city
		and its evolution over the
		centuries.
The Heartfulness Way	Kamlesh Patel	It is a book on heartfulness techniques
		and
		principles
Imperfect	Sanjay Manjrekar	The book is the autobiography of Sanjay
		Manjrekar. He has played 37 Test
		matches.

Obituaries

Name	Profession	Other Info
Radha Vishwanathan	Carnatic vocalist	
Anwar Jalapuri	Urdu Poet	
Doodhnath Singh	Hindi Author	
Ananta Ojha	Odiya jatra actor, director	
Shrivallabh Vyas	Bollywood Actor	
Supriya Devi	Bengali actress	
Krishna Kumari	Telugu Actress	
Chandrashekhar	Kannada actor	
A.E. Manoharan	1 -	He was popularly known as 'Ceylon Manohar' has passed away. He was best known for the song Surangani.
Ava Mukherjee	Bollywood Actress	•
Charu Rohatgi	Actress	117
W. B. Rao	Cinematographer	
Chintaman Wanaga	Politician	2 DY
Khagen Das	Politician	
Dinesh Nandan Sahay	4 O)	He was first governor of Chhattisgarh and former governor of Tripura
Raghunath Jha	Politician	Former Union minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
Leslie Harding Pde	Author	Former Meghalaya bureaucrat and renowned Khasi author
Saksham Yadav	Indian Powerlifting world champion	
Baldev Raj	Nuclear Physicist	
Buddhadev Dasgupta	Sarod maestro	
NK Trikha	Journalist	
Gnani Sankaran	Journalist	
Anindya Sengupta	Journalist	
Shashikant Bhagwat	Sports journalist	
Gurcharan Singh Kalkat	Agricultural scientist	
Chandi Lahiri	Cartoonist	
John Young	Astronaut	First shuttle commander US astronaut
Jo Jo White	American basketball player	
Sulaiman 'Dik' Abed	South Africa all-rounder	
Ursula K Le Guin	American Novelist	
Honsen Lyngdoh	Meghalaya's noted philanthropist	
Connie Sawyer	Actress (American)	Hollywood's oldest working actress

Hugh Masekela	South African jazz	
	musician	
Vladimir Yankilevsky	Russian painter	
Dharmasena Pathiraja	Sri Lankan filmmaker	

Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
4 January	World Braille Day	
10 January	World Hindi Day	
12 January	National Youth Day	
15 January	Indian Army Day	
24 January	National Girl Child Day	
25 January	National Voters Day	Theme: "Accessible Elections"
26 January	Republic Day	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
26 January	International Customs Day	
27 January	International Holocaust	Theme: "Holocaust Remembrance and
	Remembrance Day	Education: Our Shared Responsibility"
28 January 2018	World Leprosy Day	
30 January	Shaheed Diwas	
31 January	Raising Day of National	
	Disaster	
	Response Force (NDRF)	

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