



IBPS Guide

Complete Guide for Bank & SSC Exams

GK and Current Affairs Capsule January (15days) 2018

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IMPORTANT DAYS

Jan 1	Global Family Day
Jan 4	Braille Day
Jan 10	World Laughter Day
	World Hindi Day
Jan 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
Jan 12	National youth Day
Jan 15	Army Day
Jan 23	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary
Jan 25	International Customs Duty Day
	Indian Tourism Day
	Indian Voters Day
Jan 26	Republic Day
Jan 28	Birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai
Jan 30	World Leprosy Eradication Day
Jan 31	World Leprosy Eradication Day

IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS

RBI

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

- US buyout giant KKR & Co has become the first foreign investor to fully own an asset reconstruction company (ARC) in India as it received approval from the Reserve Bank of India at a time when lenders are fighting with a pile of bad loans that have crippled their businesses.

Reserve Bank of India bonds scheme not closed:

- The Finance Ministry stated that RBI Bonds Scheme has not been closed but the interest rate on such papers lowered to 7.75 per cent.
- Earlier the government notified that the 8 per cent GOI Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2003 "shall cease for subscription with effect from the close of business on January 2, 2018."

Reserve Bank of India puts Allahabad Bank under prompt corrective action:

- The Reserve Bank has put the lender under prompt corrective action framework post an on-site inspection of high NPAs and negative return of assets for fiscal 2016-17.



- The RBI inspection has revealed high net NPAs (non performing assets) and negative ROA (return on assets) for two consecutive years.

Reserve Bank of India to issue new Rs 10 note in chocolate brown colour:

- India's central bank will soon issue a new Rs 10 note in chocolate brown colour.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has already printed 1 billion pieces of the new note. Further, the new note will bear the picture of **Konark Sun Temple**.

Size	63*123
Design in Reverse side	Konark Sun Temple.
Colour	chocolate brown colour
Lines	There is no lines in Rs. 10 Note

RBI Ordered Banks to Recalibrate ATMs With Rs.200:

- Indian apex bank RBI orders all the banks to recalibrate ATM to install new Rs.200 for the more circulation of the denomination.
- RBI introduced New Rs.200 Note in 25th August 2017

Image on Backside	Sanchi Stupa
Dimensions	66 X 146 mm ²
Colour	bright yellow

SBI

SBI cuts base rate by 30 basis points:

- Nations largest lender **State Bank of India** brings down its base rate 30 percent it will come to effect from **January 2, 2018**.
- The base rate becomes 8.65 per cent for existing customers from 8.95 percent,
- The benchmark prime lending rates is down from 13.7 per cent, to 13.4 per cent.
- MCLR** stands unchanged at **7.95 per cent**.

SBI and NABARD Joins to Promote Joint Liability Groups in West Bengal:

- Country's largest lender **State Bank of India** and Agri house **NABARD** have signed an agreement with five NGOs in West Bengal for the promotion of 2,500 **joint liability groups (JLGs)**.

Indian Railways debit cards, in tie-up with SBI:

- Indian Railways is set to launch its own co-branded debit card and also hold monthly lottery draw to give 100% cash-back to 10 lucky passengers.
- The debit card will be launched in association with the country's biggest lender State Bank of India and the transporter's arm **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**.



SBI collected Rs 1771 crore as charges from below minimum balance accounts in April-November:

- The State Bank of India had collected whopping Rs 1,771 crore during April-November 2017 as charges from below minimum balance accounts.
- The charges were slapped on customers who did not maintain their minimum **monthly average balance (MAB)** in their accounts, according to reports.

State Bank of India may cut minimum balance limit in savings a/c's to 1,000:

- India's largest lender SBI is planning to bring down the minimum balance limit for savings accounts to 1,000 from the current 3,000 balance in metros.

State Bank of India to raise \$2 billion for overseas expansion:

- **State Bank of India** will raise up to **\$2 billion** — about 12,700 crore at current exchange rates — over the next two fiscal years to fund its overseas expansion. India's largest lender intends to raise the amount through a public offer and/or the issue of bonds in US dollars or any other convertible currency.

PNB

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

- **New Delhi based Punjab National Bank** has effective January 1 hiked interest rates on domestic term deposits.
- For **retail term deposits of less than Rs 1 crore**, the interest rate has been revised from 4 per cent to 5.25 per cent in the maturity buckets of 7 to 29 days and 30 to 45 days.
- In the maturity bucket of **46 to 90 days**, the interest rate stands revised to **6.25 per cent from 5.50 per cent**.
- For the maturity bucket of **91 to 179 days**, the interest rate has been revised upward to **6.25 per cent from 6 per cent**.
- For **domestic bulk term deposits of Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crore**, the interest rate stands hiked to **4.8 per cent from 4 per cent**.
- In the maturity bucket of **1 year**, interest rate has been hiked from **5 per cent to 5.5 per cent**.
- For maturity bucket of above **1 year to 3 years**, the interest rate has been hiked from **5 to 5.5 percent**. In the maturity bucket of greater than **three years to ten years**, interest rate has been increased from **5 per cent to 5.25 per cent**

Punjab National Bank sells MF stake to JV partner Principal Financial Group:

- **Punjab National Bank** has signed an agreement with **Principal Financial Group** to sell its stake in mutual fund joint venture for an undisclosed amount.
- Punjab National Bank had 21.38 per cent stake in Principal PNB AMC. Principal PNB Mutual Fund has asset of Rs. 5,825 crore under management as of September quarter-end.



Punjab National Bank signs MoA with NSFDC:

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).

YES BANK

Indiabulls Housing Finance raises Rs 1,000 crore from Yes Bank for affordable housing bond sale:

- Mortgage lender Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBHF) has raised Rs 1,000 crore from Mumbai based private sector lender Yes Bank in the country's maiden social affordable housing bond sale.
- Money raised through the sale of the **five-year bonds** will be used exclusively for financing the affordable housing sector.
- It can be noted that the government has set a target of ensuring that there is **housing for all by 2022**

Yes Bank, Nearby Tech bring cardless-pinless ATM service:

- Fintech startup Nearby Technologies has tied up with Yes Bank to provide Aadhaar-enabled cardless and pinless ATM service by which customers can deposit or withdraw money at retailers' place.

Foreign start-ups enter India's fintech segment with Yes Bank:

- Yes Fintech, a startup accelerator of Yes Bank, has launched its second cohort with eight start-ups, including three international firms.
- The cohort, a 15-week innovation programme, will help these start-ups, chosen out of nearly 500 applicants across 10 countries to work on their products, understand its value in the market and get wider access to global audience.

INDUSIND BANK

IndusInd Bank to roll out battery-powered payment cards:

- Mumbai based IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc announced plans to introduce the **first battery-powered, interactive payment cards** in the Indian market in 2018.

IndusInd Bank raises Rs 3,193 crore from overseas lenders to expand business:

- Mumbai based IndusInd Bank has raised \$500 million (about Rs 3,193.75 crore) term loan from overseas lending bodies to expand its business.
- The private sector bank has concluded the syndicated term loan facility from a group of overseas investors. The fund raising, along with the funds raised during the ongoing financial year from



- Earlier in June, IndusInd Bank had raised **\$225 million** (about Rs 1,445 crore) from the **US government funding agency Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)** for lending to small and medium enterprises.
- And in September, the bank had raised **\$200 million** (about Rs 1,282 crore) loan from **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to serve low-income women borrowers in rural areas.

OTHER BANKING NEWS

Bandhan Bank to raise over Rs. 2,500 crore via IPO:

- **Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank** filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India for its **initial public offer (IPO)** to raise an estimated amount of over **Rs. 2,500 crore**.

Bandhan Bank Headquarters	Kolkata, West Bengal,
Bandhan Bank CEO	Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
Tagline	Aapka Bhalai, Sabki Bhalai

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

- The Centre has pumped in capital of **Rs.7,577 crore** in various weak public sector banks.

Bank Of India	2,257
IDBI	2729
Central Bank Of India	323
Dena Bank	243
UCO	1375
Bank Of Maharashtra	650

HDFC Bank And Rajasthan Govt joins to Promote Startup Culture:

- **HDFC Bank** joins to **Rajasthan** government to develop and strengthen startup companies in the state. HDFC Bank will provide end-to-end solutions like current accounts, credit cards and other solutions to startups under its Smart Up programme.

Bank	CEO	Headquarters	Tagline
HDFC Bank	Aditya puri	Mumbai	We understand your world.

Pakistan State Bank Allows Bilateral Trade of Yuan:

- For facilitate Chinese exporter **Pakistan** allowed Chinese Yuan for the financial transaction. From today Chinese Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan.

NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017:



- Parliament has cleared the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to amend the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.
- According to the bill the authorized capital is raised to 30000 Cr from 5000 Cr in future it may also increase with consultation of RBI.
- At present, Union government has the 99.6% share in the bank rest with RBI.

AP Grameena Bank unveils desktop ATM in rural India:

- Warangal based Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) has operationalised it's first desktop ATM at Kasibugga in Mandi Bazar of Warangal in Telangana.
- The mini ATM, within the branch premises, will facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts.

Indian Bank hikes FCNR (B) rates:

- Chennai based Indian Bank has raised the interest rates on foreign currency non-resident (banking) term deposits from January 1.
- For FCNR (B) deposits in US dollar terms, the rate has been fixed at 2.89 per cent for deposits of one year and above but less than two years, from 2.77 per cent now.

Bank	Headquarters	CEO	Tagline
Indian Bank	Chennai	Mr. Kishor Kharat	Your Tech-friendly bank

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) For Employee Training:

- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed an agreement for the training of employees of the latter in the area of payment banking.

Oriental Bank of Commerce hikes interest rates on FCNR accounts:

- Oriental Bank of Commerce has hiked interest rates for deposits in foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) accounts.
- The bank has revised the interest rates on FCNR (Banks) deposits with effect from January 4, 2018.
- For the USD FCNR (B) deposits of one year and less than two years, the interest rate has been revised upwards to 3.06 per cent from existing 2.78 per cent.

Paytm Payments Bank, IndusInd tie-up for fixed deposit facility:

- Noida based Paytm Payments Bank has partnered with IndusInd Bank to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds Rs 1 lakh at the end of day

Federal Bank ties up with Hedge Equities:

- Federal Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Hedge Equities Ltd for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.



- Federal Bank is authorised by the RBI to issue permission letter to NRIs on behalf of the RBI to transact in secondary market.

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL & ECONOMY AFFAIRS

Future Group Acquires Snapdeals Vulcan Express,

- Future group one of the India's largest retailers buys the Snapdeals logistic firm Vulcan Express for 50Cr.
- Vulcan Express is one which manages about half of Snapdeals deliveries and shipments.
- The company, currently operational in more than 100 cities, offers logistics and supply chain solutions for retail and consumer companies

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

- An amount of Rs 14,500 crore has been raised through its BHARAT 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), which was created to benefit long-term and retail investors by providing an opportunity to purchase equity stocks of government-run companies and earn stable returns.
- The objective of BHARAT 22 ETF is to invest in constituents (22 companies) of S&P BSE Bharat 22 Index and endeavour to provide returns before expenses, which closely correspond to the total returns of the index.

E-commerce sites must show MRP:

- E-commerce players like **Flipkart, Amazon and eBay** will have to display maximum retail price (MRP), expiry date and other important details about the products up for sale on their sites.
- a notification under which sellers on all e-commerce sites would have to disclose the actual MRP of the product January 1 onwards. The e-commerce sites were given a six-month window to comply with the order.

CRISIL launches index to track FPI investments in fixed markets:

- **Mumbai** based Rating agency **CRISIL** launched an index to measure the performance of investments of **foreign portfolio investors (FPI)** in the fixed-income market.
- The CRISIL FPI index would serve as benchmark for performance of FPI investments in government securities, and '**AAA**' as well as '**AA**' rated corporate bonds with residual maturity greater than three years.

No charges on debit card transactions up to Rs. 2,000:

- 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.



- Union Cabinet approved a proposal that government will bear the **merchant discount rate (MDR)** charges on transactions up to Rs 2,000 made through debit cards, BHIM UPI or Aadhaar-enabled payment systems to promote digital transactions.
- 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.

HSBC Predicts India's GDP as 6.5% in FY18:

- London based **HSBC** predicts India's growth rate is to be expected around **6.5 percent** in 2017-18.
- It is slowly improve to **7 percent** by 2018-19. It will reach **7.6 percent** by 2019-20.

SRL becomes 1st Indian diagnostic firm to hit Rs. 1000 crore revenue:

- Diagnostics chain **SRL Diagnostics** had become the first Indian diagnostics company to surpass **1,000 crore** in revenue in 2017.
- SRL treats over 15 million patients annually in 600 cities across India.

Air India ties up with three banks for loans for 3 B777 planes:

- State-owned **Air India** has tied up with **UAE-based First Abu Dhabi Bank** as well as **Standard Chartered Bank** and **Mashreq Bank** to avail short-term loans for acquiring three Boeing 777 aircraft.

India's GDP can clip at 6.7% average for next 5 years: Fitch:

- Rating agency **Fitch** has stated that India has the potential to grow at an average **6.7%** rate over the **next five years**.
- This puts India ahead of the 5.5% growth estimated for China and Indonesia, who are joined at the second fastest rank.

Government introduces a new 10-year benchmark bond at a coupon of 7.17%:

- The government introduced a new **10-year benchmark bond** at a coupon of **7.17 per cent** — much lower than the existing 10-year bond that closed at 7.29 per cent.

TIHCL gets Reserve Bank of India nod to operate as NBFC:

- **Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd (TIHCL)**, a State government initiative, has got RBI clearance to register and function as a non-banking finance company (NBFC).

Ethereum replaces Ripple as second largest cryptocurrency:

- Bitcoin's rival cryptocurrency **Ethereum** has surpassed Ripple to become the world's second largest cryptocurrency.
- The cryptocurrency hit a record high of \$1,267, climbing more than 16% in 24 hours.

World Bank projects growth rate of 7.3% for India in 2018:



- The **World Bank** has projected India's GDP growth rate at **7.3%** for 2018 and **7.5%** for the next two years.

PhonePe inks pact with mobile wallet firm FreeCharge:

- Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe has partnered mobile wallet company FreeCharge to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- According to the deal terms, PhonePe has now enabled its over 45 million users to link their existing FreeCharge wallets to the PhonePe app.

Paytm sets up investment and wealth management unit for its users:

- Mobile-first financial services platform **Paytm** announced the setting up of yet another company, '**Paytm Money Limited**'. It's wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications, the firm that owns the Paytm brand, to build investment and wealth management products for its users.

Kotak Mint its own Bitcoin KodakCoin:

- The partnership with **Wenn Digital** for **KodakCoin** is part of a broader initiative called **KodakOne**.
- This platform will enable both amateur and professional photographers to sell their work on a secure blockchain network and receive payment immediately using KodakCoin.

Cabinet approves number of amendments in FDI Policy:

- The Cabinet gave its approval to a number of amendments in the Foreign Direct Investment, FDI Policy.
- It will lead to larger FDI inflows contributing to growth of investment, income and employment.
- Currently, FDI, upto 49 per cent is allowed under automatic route but any investment beyond the limit require government approval.
- Government has decided to permit 100 per cent FDI under automatic route for SBRT.
- Approval also has been given for 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in Construction Development.
- Foreign airlines have been allowed to invest up to 49 per cent under approval route in Air India.

BSE's India International Exchange lists IRFC's first green bond:

- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)'s India International Exchange listed the first bond on its Global Securities Market.
- The bonds issued by Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC) are one of the highest credit rated bonds issued by an Indian corporate and has been IRFC's first foray into the Green Bond market.

Ola acquired 100% stake in Foodpanda India for \$31.7 million:

- Cab aggregator Ola acquired Foodpanda India from Germany-based Delivery Hero Group for \$31.7 million (nearly ₹ 202 crore).



- Delivery Hero reportedly invested \$27.3 million (₹ 174 crore) in Ola, acquiring 1% stake in the ride-hailing company, as part of the deal.
- The acquisition marked Ola's return to the Indian online food delivery space after Ola Cafe shut down in March 2016.

IMPORTANT STATE WISE NATIONAL NEWS

Andhra Pradesh

Capital – Amaravati; CM – Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - Ekkadu Srinivasan Lakshmi Narasimhan

Hyderabad gets its own 'Art District':

- At the entrance of MS Maqtha is the sign in black and white about the Art District.
- It is a colourful makeover for one of the most neglected parts of the city. It is Blue Chowk, Yellow Gully, Pink Gully at the MS Maqtha abutting Necklace Road station.

India's 1st park for differently abled inaugurated in Hyderabad:

- India's first park for people with special needs was inaugurated by Telangana Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao in Hyderabad.
- The park has a speech therapist, a physiotherapist, and vocational training instructors for differently-abled children.

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital – Itanagar; CM – PremaKhandu; Governor - B D Mishra

Arunachal Pradesh declared Open Defecation Free:

- Arunachal Pradesh emerged as the second state in the Northeast, after Sikkim, to be declared Open Defecation Free.
- The three remaining districts – Upper Subansiri, Siang and Changlang — were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) officially.
- Arunachal has 21 districts and the state attained the feat much before the national deadline of October 2, 2019.

USEFUL INFO	
Arunachal Pradesh Capital	Itanagar, Guwahati (Judiciary)
Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister	Pema Khandu
Arunachal Pradesh Governor	BD Mishra



Assam

Capital – Dispur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor - Prof. Jagdish Mukhi

Assam recognises 19 million as citizens in first NRC draft:

- The Assam government published its first draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that includes the names of 1.9 crore people out of the 3.29 crore total applicants, recognising them as legal citizens of India.

Bihar

Capital – Patna; CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor – Satya Pal Malik

Bihar Government bans electronic cigarettes

- Bihar State Government has imposed a ban on manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, display and advertisement of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) across the state.
- E-cigarettes are handheld battery-run devices which are smoked just like a conventional cigarette. However the ingredient (in liquid form) may differ.

Gujarat

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

Gujarat tops logistics performance index chart

- Report related to this index was released by Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Suresh Prabhu at the third meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion on January 8, 2018.

Haryana

Capital – Chandigarh; CM Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor - Kaptan Singh Solanki

Haryana makes solar power plants mandatory for new buildings:

- All new residential buildings built on a plot size of 500 square yards and above falling within limit of municipalities, including Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) sectors, would have to install Solar Photovoltaic Power plant with a capacity of minimum 1 kilo watt in the houses which have sanctioned load up to 20 KW.
- The owners would have to install a plant with a capacity of five per cent of the sanctioned electricity load, if the building has higher power consumption than of 20 KW.

Haryana government gives power subsidy to micro, small industries:

- Haryana government announced power tariff subsidy of Rs 2 per unit for micro and small enterprises.
- The relief will be given to the industries situated in C and D category blocks in terms of industrialisation for three years from the date of release of power connection.

Haryana records its highest sex ratio at birth in 2017:

- Haryana has recorded its highest sex ratio at birth with 914 girls per 1,000 boys in 2017.



- Of the 5.09 lakh children born last year in the state, 2.6 lakh were boys and 2.4 lakh were girls.
- Haryana had recorded the worst sex ratio at birth in the 2011 Census with 834 girls per 1,000 boys.

USEFUL INFO	
Haryana Capital	Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister	Manohar Lal Khattar
Haryana Governor	Kaptan Singh Solanki

Himachal Pradesh

Capital – Shimla; CM – Jai Ram Thakur; Governor - Acharya Dev Vrat

Union Government Plans to open AIIMS in Himachal Pradesh:

- The Union Cabinet approved for AIIMS in Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh with an outlay of Rs. 1,350 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY).
- The new AIIMS which will have 20 specialty and super specialty departments including 15 operation theatres will be completed in 48 months.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister announces 'Gudiya' helpline to fight crime against women:

- Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced setting up of 24x7 'Guddia' helpline for safety of women.
- The helpline will work directly under the supervision of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and action will have to follow mandatorily within 48 hours.

Maharashtra

Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Vidyasagar Rao

Open defecation in Maharashtra to invite Rs 500 fine now:

- Open defecation in Maharashtra will now invite a spot fine of Rs 500, according to rules framed by the state government.
- The government has also fixed `spot fine rates for littering, spitting and urinating in public places.

Maharashtra to form its own international school board:

- The Maharashtra government has announced it will form its own international school board in the state.
- The Maharashtra International Education Board (MIEB) will be an autonomous body which will design curriculum for schools and conduct examinations.

Maharashtra plans quota for orphans aspiring to take competitive exams:

- The Maharashtra government is planning to introduce a separate category for orphans appearing for various competitive exams.



- In the current system, there is no provision to categorise orphan children who are not aware of their parents' identities.
- Maharashtra government has decided to evolve a special act to accommodate orphan students under special category reservation.

Maharashtra may ban plastic banners, containers:

- After banning certain types of plastic bags, the Maharashtra government is now planning to ban plastic banners, containers and hoardings, among others, by March 2018.
- Plastic used for packing and packaging will be exempted from the ban.
- The state environment department has directed the authorities to ensure strict implementation of the proposed ban.

Madhya Pradesh

Capital – Bhopal; CM - Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor – Om Prakash Kohli

Bhopal railway station 1st to get sanitary napkin dispenser:

- Bhopal railway station in Madhya Pradesh has become India's first railway station to have a sanitary napkin vending machine.
- The machine named 'Happy Nari', installed by the Railway Women Welfare Association of Bhopal, dispenses two sanitary napkins for Rs. 5.

Rajasthan

Capital – Jaipur; CM – Vasundhara Raje Scindia; Governor - Kalyan Singh

Rajasthan to digitise all historical records:

- The Rajasthan government is digitising 10,000 pages daily to preserve administrative and historical records of Rajputana's princely states.
- The move will further boost the state government's effort to use technology to improve the lives of people.

Telangana

Capital – Hyderabad; CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao; Governor – Ekkadu Srinivasan Lakshmi
Narasimhan

Telangana government rolls out 24-hour free-electricity supply for farming sector:

- Telangana government rolled out 24-hour free-electricity supply for farming sector.
- About 23 lakh agricultural pumpsets across 31 districts of the state began getting uninterrupted electricity supply from zero hours on January 1 2018.
- With this, one of the assurances, to provide round the clock free electricity to farming sector, given by Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao during last elections has been fulfilled.



All police stations to have social media accounts in Telangana:

- All police stations in Telangana will have social media accounts in the New Year for communicating with people on a daily basis.
- All police stations will maintain a Facebook page and a Twitter handle to keep communicating with the community and reporting the activities to the respective community on a daily basis.

Tiger census likely in Telangana in January 2018:

- The tiger census is expected to be taken up in Telangana next month. This would be the first census of the striped animals in Telangana after the formation of the state.
- The last such count was carried out in 2013-14 in the undivided Andhra Pradesh.

(It will be taken up) mostly in third week or fourth of January, the field exercise (of the census) will be (for) five days.

Telangana government to distribute new Pattadar passbooks to all agriculture landowners:

- The Telangana government will distribute new Pattadar passbooks to all agriculture landowners in the state on a single day on 11th March.
- The new passbooks will have enhanced security features and will be issued to over 71 lakh farmers based on the findings of a special drive held last year to verify land records.

Uttarakhand

Capital – Dehradun, Nainital (Judiciary); CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat; Governor - Krishna Kant Paul

Uttarakhand madrasas to take up Sanskrit as a subject:

- Madrasas in Uttarakhand are reportedly planning to teach Sanskrit to students, in a bid to make them acquire skills related to Ayurveda and Yoga.
- The Madrasa Welfare Society has written to CM Trivendra Rawat seeking his nod to appoint Sanskrit teachers.

Uttar Pradesh

Capital – Lucknow; CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Ram Naik

GAIL Commissions India's 2nd largest Roof top solar plant in UP

- State-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd has commissioned the country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh.
- It was opened in petrochemical complex at Pata in Uttar Pradesh by this we can produce 5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak)
- 1st place goes to Punjab.



Uttar Pradesh education board to help Nepal conduct school exams:

- Nepal has approached Uttar Pradesh education board seeking support and guidance for its newly established National Examination Board of Nepal in conducting high school and intermediate exams.

Karnataka

Capital – Bengaluru; CM – Siddaramaiah; Governor - Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala

Karnataka to buy 640 electric vehicles under central govt's Fame India scheme:

- The Karnataka state government will purchase 640 electric vehicles under the Central government's FAME India subsidised scheme.
- A subsidy of up to 60% will be provided with funds to set up infrastructure to charge the vehicles across Bengaluru.
- The electric vehicles will include 40 buses, 100 cars and 500 three-wheelers.

Karnataka host largest B2B travel event KITE

- The Karnataka government announced the country's largest B2B travel event 'Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE) on February 28.
- In the three-day event there are 400 delegates participating from 25 countries.

Karnataka Chief Minister launches Mysuru's Indira Canteens:

- Mysuru's first Indira Canteen was launched on the premises of Command Area Development Authority (CADA) office near the Mysuru Palace.
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the canteen and also savoured the inaugural breakfast – Upma and Kesaribath.
- 11 canteens will be operated across Mysuru city, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner at subsidised costs.

Kerala

Capital – Tiruvananthapuram; CM – Pinarai Vijayan; Governor – P. Sadasivam

MGR Memorial Home in Vadavannur, Kerala:

- The childhood home of late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran will be renovated and converted it into a memorial house which is located in Vadavannur village, near Palakad in Kerala.
- MGR's father Maruthur Gopala Menons native is Nalleppilly village. Though he was born in Sri Lanka, he and his family shifted to Vadavannur after his father retired as the Magistrate of Kandy.

Supreme court issues notice to Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan:

- The Supreme Court on Thursday issued a notice to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the corruption case involving three hydel power projects in the state.



- The Case is for the corruption made while he was a Power minister of kerala.

West Bengal

Capital – Kolkata; CM – Mamta Benerjee; Governor - Keshari Nath Tripath

Kolkata to get its first floating market:

- Kolkata is set to get its first floating market, named 'The Floating Market of Patuli', which is likely to be open for public in January.

Kolkata airport gets CAT III B technology, becomes 24×7 functional:

- Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport has become the 5th airport in India having CAT III landing system.
- Kolkata has operationalised CAT IIIB landing system on runway 01R. It enables flight operation up to runway visual range of 50 meters with decision height of 15 meters.

Mamata unveils official emblem of West Bengal government:

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unveiled the official emblem of the state government, which was recently approved by the Centre.
- The logo highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of "Biswa Bangla" at the centre. Banerjee has also contributed to the design of the emblem.

West Bengal government launching water ATMs in city, districts:

- West Bengal state government has launched a water ATM project to provide bacteria-free drinking water in schools.
- The government is setting up water ATMs in the city and suburbs and the machines are made in Germany.

Other National News

No India Pakistan match till Pakistan stops terrorism:

- On the reflect of continuous terrorist attack in India Pakistan border Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj has stated that there will be no bi-lateral series between India and Pakistan till Pakistan stops the terrorist attack.
- But in case of big tournaments India and Pakistan have been meeting each other means it is possible.

India has laid road map for Electrical vehicle in 15 Years:

- The Niti Aayog policy document on EVs, which defined a 15-year roadmap to attain complete electrification.
- As a 1st step government of India ordered to implement 10000 electric vehicles in top 11 cities in the country which worth 2000 Cr.



- Since the cost of BS-VI Vehicle is comparably high Electric vehicle take place in maximum 5 years.

Deliveroo enters into India:

- UK-headquartered online food delivery giant Deliveroo going to start its service in India soon.
- Deliveroo is also in the process of on boarding a full-fledged team in the country. Once it enters the Indian food delivery space, the company will be one of the biggest compete to other companies like food panda.
- They planned to invest 2 billion in India.

Nine days before youth festival, venue moved from Jaipur to Noida:

- Just nine days before the opening ceremony of the 22nd National Youth Festival, the Centre has decided to move the festival venue from Jaipur to Noida.
- The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), the government organisation which conducts the annual festival, stated that: "Now we are looking at Noida as the alternate venue considering that there is little time for arrangements." The event opens on January 12.

Uber re-launches auto rickshaw service in India:

- Uber is re-launching its 'Auto' service in India, almost two years after shutting down the offering in March 2016.
- The service, which will be available initially in Bengaluru and Pune starting this month, will allow booking auto-rickshaw rides through 'AUTO' option on its app.

Matunga Railway station enters Limca Book of Records for having all-women staff:

- The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway of Mumbai division has figured in the Limca Book of Records 2018 for having an all-woman staff.
- The achievement comes six months after Matunga became the first railway station in the country to be run by an all-woman staff.

LG unveils robot to deliver meals in hotels, airports:

- South Korean electronics company LG has unveiled a hospitality robot at CES 2018 designed to deliver food and drinks to travellers in hotels and airport lounges.
- The Serving Robot, which is part of a range of concept robots called CLOi, has a built-in sliding tray for serving.

IMPORTANT MINISTRY AFFAIRS

Home ministry Exempt biometric for cruise tourist till 2020:

- Union government exempt biometric for the cruise tourist till 2020 a period of three years to promote cruise tourism in the country.



- Cruise tourism means the travelers who travel for their leisure time
- At present E-Visa has been in place in the five major ports of Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin and Chennai.

Home Minister	Rajnath Singh
Constituency	Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

CCEA approves construction of bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA approved construction, operation and maintenance of 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel with Parallel Escape Tunnel on Srinagar-Leh section in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It will provide all-weather connectivity to strategically important Leh region. The total capital cost of the project is over 6 thousand 800 crore rupees.

CCEA nod for implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has given its nod for implementation of the Jal Marg Vikas Project, JMVP for capacity augmentation of navigation on National Waterway-1 at a cost of over 5 thousand 370 crore rupees with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank.

Health Ministry and Tata Memorial Centre Launches India's First Digital Online Oncology Tutorial

- Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) launched the country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry.

Government launches Swachh Survekshan 2018:

- The government announced the launch of cleanliness survey for this year as part of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The Swachh Survekshan 2018 will rank 500 cities on national level which have more than 1 lakh population, while 3,541 cities with less than 1 lakh population will have State and Regional ranking.

Smriti Irani chairs Consultative Committee meeting of I&B Ministry:

- Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani has chaired the meeting of Consultative Committee of her Ministry to discuss the efforts taken in organizing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2017 and the steps to be taken to improve the next edition of IFFI.
- She apprised the members of the various steps and initiatives taken by the Ministry in IFFI 2017.

USEFUL INFO	
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Cabinet Minister)	Smriti Irani



Member of Rajya Sabha	Gujarat
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Minister of State)	Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

Indian Railways to equip all 8,500 stations with Wi-Fi:

- All railway stations nearly 8,500 across the country, including those in rural and remote areas will be equipped with Wi-Fi facilities at an estimated cost of Rs 700 crore (\$110 million).

USEFUL INFO	
Ministry of Railways (Cabinet minister)	Piyush Goyal
Member of Rajya Sabha	Maharashtra
Ministry of Railways (Minister of state)	Manoj Sinha, Rajen Gohain

Defence Innovation Centre to be set up in Coimbatore:

- Defence Minister Nirmala Seetharaman stated that a Defence Innovation Centre will be set up in Coimbatore to assist small industries in manufacturing components for the defence sector.
- The Defence Ministry will release 20 crore rupees as an initial funding to the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA) to set up the innovation centre.

Cabinet approves CCEA decision on closure of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited:

- The Cabinet approved the implementation of the CCEA decision on closure of Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, TSPL regarding disposal of its immovable assets.
- It also provides for getting the name of the company struck off from the Registrar of Companies after setting balance liabilities of TSPL.

Cabinet approves continuation of MPLAD Scheme till March 31, 2020:

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to continuation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, MPLADS, till the term of the 14th Finance Commission which is 31st March 2020.

Railways cuts cost of booking tours through IRCTC by 10%:

- Railway board Chairperson Ashwani Lohani has directed for reduction in the service charge for booking tour packages with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) by 10%.
- IRCTC offers various tour packages, and previously levied 25% service charge for it.
- The move aims to improve the competitiveness of the packages with consequent positive impact on tourism.

USEFUL INFO	
Ministry of Railways (Cabinet minister)	Piyush Goyal



Member of Rajya Sabha	Maharashtra
Ministry of Railways (Minister of state)	Manoj Sinha, Rajen Gohain

Information and broadcasting ministry plans to merge film units:

- The information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry plans to merge its various film units, a move aimed at realigning its resources to enhance efficiency.
- Last month, the ministry had integrated its three departments — Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP), Song and Drama Division (S&DD) and Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP).
- Now the ministry is planning to merge its film units — National Film Development Corp (NFDC), Children’s Film Society India (CFSI), Directorate of Film Festivals (DIFF) and Films Division of India.

USEFUL INFO	
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Cabinet Minister)	Smriti Irani
Member of Rajya Sabha	Gujarat
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Minister of State)	Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Nepal Bans Solo Climbing on Mount Everest

- Nepal has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in a bid to reduce accidents.

India and Pakistan exchange list of nuclear installations:

- India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between the two countries.
- The exchange took place through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.

USEFUL INFO	
Pakistan Capital	Islamabad
Pakistan Currency	Pakistani Rupee
Pakistan Prime Minister	Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

Saudi Arabia, UAE introduce VAT for first time:

- Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have introduced Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time.



- The 5 per cent levy is being applied to the majority of goods and services. Petrol and diesel, food, clothes, utility bills and hotel rooms all now have VAT applied.

USEFUL INFO	
Saudi Arabia Capital	Riyadh
Saudi Arabia Currency	Saudi Riyal
Saudi Arabia King	Ali Salman Ahmed Salman
UAE Capital	Abu Dhabi
UAE Currency	United Arab Emirates dirham
UAE President	Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Venezuela raises minimum wage 40 %, stoking world's fastest inflation:

- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has announced a 40 percent increase to the minimum wage.
- To counter price increases, Maduro has been raising the minimum wage, but quickening inflation coupled with a depreciating bolivar currency has plunged millions into poverty.

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

Germany set to start enforcing hate speech law:

- Germany is set to start enforcing a law that demands social media sites move quickly to remove hate speech, fake news and illegal material.
- Sites that do not remove “obviously illegal” posts could face fines of up to 50 million euros.

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

China Strong Underwater Servilance Network In Indian Ocean:

- Since the panic of war against indo-china, china strong the underwater surveillance system for their submarine attacks and to prevent their nation.
- The project was conducted by the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).



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

'Whistled language' spoken in Turkish village entered in UNESCO list:

- The 'whistled language' used as a means of communication in Turkish village Kuskoy has entered the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

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

Border Hotline Reopens

- North Korea said it would reopen a long-closed border hotline with South Korea for the talk regarding winter Olympics across the border in Pyeongchang and Trumps statement of Nuclear weapon.
- The border was opened at one hour after announcement of bigger and more powerful" nuclear button than Kim Jong Un state by US.

North Korea Capital	Pyongyang
Currency	won
President	Pak Pong-ju

Iceland becomes the first country to make it illegal to pay men more than women:

- As the law is being enforced, both government offices and private business – which employ more than 25 staff – will have to obtain a special government certification on the equal pay policies, failing which, they could be fined.
- Although similar provisions are available in places such as Switzerland or the US state of Minnesota, Iceland becomes the first country to make it compulsory.

USEFUL INFO	
Iceland Capital	Reykjavik
Iceland Currency	Icelandic króna
Iceland President	Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson



World's largest ice festival kicks off in China:

- The Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival, the world's largest ice festival has kicked off in China.
- The festival's 34th edition features various landmarks from around the world, including Moscow's Red Square and Bangkok's Temple of the Emerald Buddha.
- Nearly 2 lakh cubic metres of ice and 1.5 lakh cubic meters of snow were used to build the sculptures.

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

Saudi Arabia gives green signal to India's proposal to revive sea route for Haj pilgrimage:

- Saudi Arabia has given green signal to India's proposal to revive option of Haj pilgrimage through sea route.
- The practice of ferrying Haj pilgrims between Mumbai and Jeddah by waterways was stopped from 1995.

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

Srilanka lifts the ban for Liquor Drinking Women:

- The Sri Lankan government on Wednesday said that it would allow women over the age of 18 to buy alcohol legally for the first time in more than 60 years.
- The government added that it was amending a 1955 law terming it "discriminatory against women".

Srilanka Capital	Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte(Administrative) Colombo (Commercial)
Currency	Rupee
Prime Minister	Ranil Wickremesinghe

World's largest solar thermal plant to be built in South Australia:



- 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 utility-scale solar power company SolarReserve, will begin in 2018 at an estimated cost of \$509 million.
- The facility will power 90,000 homes with eight hours of full load storage.

USEFUL INFO	
Australia Capital	Canberra
Australia Currency	Australian Dollar
Australia Prime Minister	Malcolm Turnbull

India, Bhutan jointly unveils 'Special logo':

- Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan is being celebrated.
- To mark the launch of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan Damcho Dorji jointly unveiled the 'Special logo' for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in New Delhi and Thimphu through video-conference.

USEFUL INFO	
Bhutan Capital	Thimphu
Bhutan Currency	Indian Rupee, Bhutanese Ngultrum
Bhutan Prime Minister	Tshering Tobgay

India gives \$45.27 million aid to develop KKS harbour in Sri Lanka:

- An agreement for Indian financial assistance for \$45.27 million (LKR 6.9 billion) for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour
- The agreement was signed in New Delhi by David Rasquinha, Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India and RHS Samarathunga, Secretary to Treasury of Sri Lanka.

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

Saudi allows women to visit country without a male companion:



- Women aged 25 and above will now be allowed to visit Saudi Arabia alone, without being accompanied by a male companion.
- The move is a part of Saudi Arabia's broader plans to issue tourist visas.
- Saudi's promotion of tourism is aimed at diversifying its source of revenue generation.

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

Turkmenistan bans women from driving:

- Turkmenistan has banned women from driving in the country.
- President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov issued the order at the request of Interior Minister Isgender Mulikov who claimed that women drivers were responsible for the majority of car accidents in the country.
- Officials have reportedly started seizing the licences of female drivers and impounding their cars.

USEFUL INFO	
Turkmenistan Capital	Ashgabat
Turkmenistan Currency	Turkmenistan Manat
Turkmenistan President	Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow

APPOINTMENTS

National Appointments in Jan 2018 (1st to 15th)

Designation	Person
Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).	Pankaj Jain
chief secretary to the Himachal government.	Vineet Chowdhary
Om Prakash Singh	Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh
Vinay Sahasrabuddhe	President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations.
Salil Parekh	CEO of Infosys
Vijay Keshav Gokhale	Foreign Secretary Of India
Rajinder Khanna	next deputy National Security Advisor
Secretary (Economic Relations) in the External	T S Tirumurti



Affairs Ministry	
President Of JK Tyre	Rajiv Prasad
9th chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	K.Sivan
the 'Chef De Mission' for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games	Harjinder Singh

International Appointments in Jan 2018 (1st to 15th)

Designation	Person
World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).	Sunny Vargese

AWARDS AND HONORS

Awards	Winners
British royal Knighthood honour award	Pratibha Laxman Gai
Sangita Kalanidhi	N Ravikiran
Samudra Manthan Award	The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust
1st Mufti Mohammed Sayeed Probity in Politics and Public Life Award	Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar
World's most oppressive leader	Donald Trump
the Lifetime Achievement award by Nandi Fine Arts and KAPRI	S.P. Balasubrahmanyam

IMPORTANT MOU AND AGREEMENTS

India and UK ties up for the improvement of public transportation:

- The Centre approved a MoU between India and London's transportation authority to improve public transport in the country.
- This pact will help improve the road transportation of India.

UK Capital	London
Currency	Pound sterling
President	Theresa May



Cabinet approves Indo-Myanmar agreement on land border crossing:

- Cabinet has approved the Agreement between India and Myanmar on Land Border Crossing.
- The Agreement will facilitate regulation and harmonization of already existing free movement rights for people ordinarily residing in the border areas of both countries.

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

MoU between India and Israel on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector Approved

- Cabinet has approved the signing of **MoU between India and Israel** on cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector.
- The cooperation envisaged under the agreement will facilitate promotion of investments in each other's countries, technology transfer, R&D, conducting joint studies, capacity building of human resources and collaboration in the area of Start-ups.

MoU between India and Canada:

- India and Canada signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology.
- The MoU will provide a mechanism and help to foster scientific cooperation between R&D and academic institutions of India and Canada.

Canada Capital	Ottawa
Currency	Dollar
Prime Minister	Justin Trudeau

Gujarat and South Korea MoU for Business Cooperation:

- South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) signed a MoU for the development of industries in Gujarat.
- The main objective of the MoU is to help Gujarat-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to explore opportunities through joint ventures with South Korean firms, especially in areas of automobile, defence and textiles.

Gujarat Capital	Gandhinagar
CM	Vijay Rupani
Governor	Om Prakash Kohli.

South Korea Capital	Seoul
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Currency	Won
Prime Minister	Lee Nak-yeon

India, UK sign pact on return of illegal immigrants:

- India has signed an MoU with the UK to enable the return of illegal Indian immigrants within a month of their detection.
- Both the countries also agreed to share criminal records. Indians constitute the largest number of illegal immigrants living in the UK, as per reports.

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

IMPORTANT SUMMIT & CONFERENCE

105th Science Congress to start at Manipur University in Imphal on March 16:

- The 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be held from March 16 to 20 at Manipur University in Imphal.
- The dates were finalised at a meeting of officials of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) and the Manipur government in Imphal. Chief Minister Biren Singh completes one year in office on March 15.

Sushma Swaraj 5-day visit to three countries:

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj going to 5-day visit to three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

Thailand:

On her 1st visit he goes to Thailand will hold an official meeting with Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Don Pramudwinai.

Thailand Capital	Bangkok
Currency	baht
PM	Prayut Chan-o-cha

Indonesia:

On the second leg she visit to Indonesia, Ms Swaraj will going to attend the 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.

Indonesia Capital	Jakarta
Currency	rupiah



President	Joko Widodo
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Singapore

In Singapore, the External Affairs Minister will inaugurate the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries.

She will have bilateral meetings with the leaders in Singapore.

Singapore Capital	Singapore
Currency	dollar
PM	Lee Hsien Loong

India Ruled Pakistan from SAARC:

- India has removed 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.

SAARC Headquarters	Katmandu
CEO	Arjun Bahadur Thapa

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three day International Dharma- Dhamma conference:

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated three day International Dharma- Dhamma conference in RAJGIR in Bihar.
- The conference is on State and Social Order in Dharma -Dhamma Traditions.
- This conference has been jointly organised by India Foundation, Nalanda University, Ministry of External Affairs, Asean India and Vietnamese Buddhist Sangha.

Seventh edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav begins in Karnataka:

- The seventh edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix, begins in Karnataka.
- The event, organised by the Ministry of Culture, will continue till the 20th of this month. The state paired with Karnataka is Uttarakhand.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure organized by National Disaster Management Authority in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT MOBILE APP AND WEB PORTAL

Maneka Gandhi inaugurates online portal NARI:

- Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated an online portal NARI in New Delhi for the empowerment of women.



- Developed by the Ministry, the portal will provide easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
- The portal – nari.nic.in summarise over 350 government schemes and other important information

New helpline for income tax e-filing:

- The Income Tax Department notified a new helpline number for taxpayers who e-file their returns and conduct other tax-related businesses online.
- The department issued an advisory: “Attention taxpayers: e-Filing help desk number has been changed. New Help desk number is: India Toll Free- 18001030025, Direct Number- +918046122000.”

Indian Railways extends SMS delay alerts to 1,400 trains:

- Indian Railways extends its SMS alerts for departure delays of over an hour to cover about 1,400 trains, including premium, superfast and express trains.
- So far, such alerts were sent only to passengers of premium trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi, and were restricted to people boarding at the departure station.

Income Tax Department launches on-line chat service:

- Income Tax Department has launched an on-line chat service on its national website www.incometaxindia.gov.in.
- This is aimed at facilitating the taxpayers resolve their queries.
- A customer support executive having expertise in tax-related matters helps the users in resolving their queries on-line.
- The facility is available on all working days from Monday to Friday between 10 AM and 6 PM.
- The module can also be accessed through a mobile application called ‘AayakarSetu’ on Android phone.

Indian Railway Launches SFOORTI Application:

- Railway Ministry has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for Freight Managers that provides facilities for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views.

Union Railway Minister	Piyush goyal
Constituency	Maharashtra (Rajasabha)

Punjab rolls out e-Raktkosh web portal in all 45 government blood banks:

- Punjab has rolled out e-Raktkosh web portal in all the 45 government blood banks.
- The web portal provides the guidelines and streamlines the workflow of blood blanks and storage centres across the nation and interconnects all blood banks with a single network.



IMPORTANT DEFENCE NEWS

India deals with Russia and Israel:

- Defense minister signed two deals one with Russia and another with Israel.
- India-Russia: procurement of 240 bombs, at a cost of 1 thousand 254 crore rupees from M/s JSC Rosonboron Exports, Russia
- India-Israel: procurement of 131 Barak Missiles and associated equipment, under option clause from M/s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Limited.

Pakistan test-fires naval cruise missile 'Harba':

- The Pakistan Navy successfully test-fired the indigenously developed 'Harba' naval cruise missile after launching it from a newly commissioned fast attack vessel.
- The missile is capable of hitting its target from surface to surface and ground assault.
- The indigenously-built missile was launched from PNS Himmat and it successfully hit the target.
- The missile accurately hit its target signifying the impressive capabilities of Harbah Naval Weapon System.

USEFUL INFO	
Pakistan Capital	Islamabad
Pakistan Currency	Pakistani Rupee
Pakistan Prime Minister	Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

India Cancels Israel's Defence Deal:

- India cancelled a \$500 million deal to develop Spike anti-tank guided missiles and expressed regrets over this decision.
- India had planned to acquire the ATGMs for the Army at a cost of \$500 million.
- The Indian defence ministry has been strongly pushing for transfer of technology in procuring various weapons and other platforms from foreign defence majors.

ISRO launches its 100th satellite into space:

- India successfully launched weather observation satellite Cartosat 2 Series and 29 other spacecraft onboard its dependable Polar rocket.
- The successful orbiting of the satellites by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV C-40 comes four months after the Indian space Research Organisation's mission to launch backup navigation spacecraft IRNSS-1H onboard PSLV-39 ended in a rare failure.

USEFUL INFO	
ISRO Headquarters	Bangalore
New ISRO Chairman	Sivan K



Warships Nirbhik, Nirghat decommissioned:

- Warships INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat were decommissioned in Mumbai, after serving the Navy for 30 and 28 years respectively.
- The warships were decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval Dockyard, a Defence.

IMPORTANT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMS

171st Araadhanai Music Festival begins In Thiruvaiyaru:

- The Governor of TamilNadu Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated 171st Araadhanai Music Festival begins in Thiruvaiyaru Thyagaraja temple.
- The main highlight of the festival is the choral singing of Thyagaraja's five kritis in Ghana ragas which will be held on its last day of five day festival.

Center Unveils Electoral Bonds' scheme:

- As our Finance Minister announced the idea of electoral bonds in his Budget 2017-18 made on February 1, 2017. He unveiled such Bonds today.
- In action to clean election financing, the government unveils contours of the new electoral bonds that donors can buy from SBI and said receiving political parties can get money only through a designated bank account.
- The electoral bonds, which are being got as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties, will be available at specified branches of State Bank of India (SBI) for 10 days each in months of January, April, July and October.

Namami Gange Projects Worth Rs. 295 crore Approved by NMCG

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved five projects worth Rs. 295.01 crore.
- Three projects pertain to sewage management in West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs 278.6 crore, one relates to sewage management in Uttarakhand at an estimated cost of Rs 4.68 crore and one project worth Rs 11.73 crore is related to *ghat* improvement works in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

IESA to hold India's 1st energy storage startup competition:

- The India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) is set to hold the country's first startup competition focused on energy storage, electric vehicles & charging infrastructure, and micro-grids.

IMPORTANT RANKING AND INDEXES

World Bank projects growth rate of 7.3% for India in 2018:

- The World Bank has projected India's GDP growth rate at 7.3% for 2018 and 7.5% for the next two years.



USEFUL INFO	
World Bank Headquarters	Washington, D.C., United States
World Bank President	Jim Yong Kim
World Bank CEO	Kristalina Georgieva

Trump named world's most oppressive leader on press freedom:

- US President Donald Trump has been named the world's most oppressive leader towards press freedom by New York-based non-profit organisation Committee to Protect Journalists.

US Asks its people to avoid J&K, travel India ranked Level-2:

- The US has issued a new travel advisory in such statement India has been ranked Level 2 (exercise increased caution) while Pakistan has been places in Level 3 (reconsider travel).
- However, it asks Americans not to travel to Jammu and Kashmir, except for eastern Ladakh and Leh and not to venture within 10 miles of the India-Pakistan border due to the "potential for armed conflict".

Narendra Modi named Number 3 world leader, ahead of Trump, Putin:

- Gallup International in its annual survey — Opinion of Global Leaders conducted across 50 nations —rated PM Modi among world's top three leaders.
- The top spot went to French President Emmanuel Macron (net score 21), followed by German chancellor Angela Merkel (net score of 20). PM Modi is ranked at number three (net score 8).

Bihar poorest state in India, Delhi richest: National survey

- National Family Health Survey on around 6 lakh households in 2015-16 has revealed that Bihar is India's poorest state, while Delhi is the richest.
- The survey classifies all households into five wealth quintiles, according to which Bihar has more than half of its households in the bottom quintile, while Delhi has over 60% households in the top quintile.

WEF ranks India 30th on global manufacturing index:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index.
- In its first "Readiness for the future of production" report, Japan has been found to have the best structure of production and is followed by South Korea, Germany, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, the US, Sweden, Austria and Ireland.



IMPORTANT BOOKS AND AUTHORS

AAP leader launches his second book:

- Senior leader and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson Dilip Pandey presented his book Call Centre, written along with writer Chanchal Sharma, at the Delhi Book Fair at Pragati Maidan.
- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia launched the book, which is a fiction on stories revolving around a call centre.
-

IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS

GOLF

Indian golfer Shiv Kapur wins third Asian Tour title of 2017:

- Indian golfer Shiv Kapur produced a dramatic turnaround in the closing stages to win the Royal Cup and end the year on a high note by claiming his third Asian Tour title of 2017.
- The 35-year-old, who had just one win in almost 11 years till April this year, has now won three times in last eight months.

CHESS

Viswanathan Anand wins bronze at World Blitz Chess Championship:

- Indian chess champion Viswanathan Anand clinched a bronze medal at the World Blitz Chess Championship in Riyadh.
- The bronze medal follows Anand's gold-winning performance in the World Rapid Chess Championship a couple of days back.

CRICKET

ICC rates MCG pitch as 'poor':

- International Cricket Council Reports that Melbourne cricket club pitch was very poor at the 4th Ashes test. Both Australia and England players complained about pitch after the match.
- The main reason is nature of the pitch did not change over the five days and there was no natural deterioration

India is most successful team since 3 years:

- Since January 2015, Indian team is considered as most successful winning team of the world.
- India have played 135 matches since 2015 in all formats, among that 87 won, loosed 36 and nine matches are drawn and three matches resulted in no-results. India has a winning percent of 64.44.
- At present India is No. 1 in Tests, second in ODIs and third in T20.

New Zealand's Colin Munro 1st batsman to hit 3 T20I hundreds



- New Zealand opener Colin Munro became the first cricketer to hit three centuries in T20I cricket after smashing a 47-ball ton against West Indies.
- Munro scored 104 runs off 53 balls to help New Zealand post their highest-ever T20I total of 243/5.
- The ton was the fastest by a New Zealand cricketer in T20Is.

TABLE TENNIS

G Sathiyam Becomes India's Highest-Ranked Player in ITTF

- G Sathiyam has become India's highest-ranked player in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. He overcomes his competitor Sharath
- OVTCHAROV Dimitrij the Germany player topped the list.

G Sathiyam	49
Sharath Kumar	51

Tennis

Gilles Simon wins inaugural Tata Open title:

- Gilles Simon of France has lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy.
- In the summit clash at Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune, the unseeded French player humbled big-serving second seeded Kevin Anderson in straight sets 7-6, 6-2.

OTHERS

Aanchal Thakur becomes first Indian to win an international medal in skiing:

- Aanchal Thakur created history by becoming the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing.
- The Manali resident grabbed a Bronze medal in the slalom race category at Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup organised by Skiing's international governing body, Federation International de Ski (FIS) at the Palandoken Ski Centre, in Erzurum in Turkey.

Bahrain to host first-ever 'Baby Olympics':

- Bahrain has announced plans to host the first-ever 'Baby Olympics' where two to four-year-olds will take part in the games in April.
- The Athletics competition will host three events: medley relay for four year-olds, a hurdles toddle for three year-olds, while participating two year-olds will cross a specially designed stretch of 15 meters in a freestyle race.

Sarjubala Devi claims gold in National Women's Boxing Championship:

- 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.

Football Delhi signs MoU with ASSOCHAM:



- Football Delhi signed a MoU with ASSOCHAM for the development of the sport in the capital city.
- Under the Memorandum of Understanding, emphasis will be given to grassroots level participation through jointly-organised events, seminars and forums.
- Industry members and stakeholders in the field of infrastructure development, sports science and medicine will engage themselves in the initiative.
- As per the MoU, ASSOCHAM and Football Delhi will jointly form a task force to periodically review the progress made and take necessary steps.

Woman performs 105-hour non-stop yoga, attempts world record:

- Kavitha Bharanidaran, a Chennai resident, has attempted a new Guinness World Record for performing yoga continuously for over 105 hours.
- Kavitha Bharanidaran, who took five-minute breaks after each hour, started doing Yoga continuously from 7 AM on December 23, 2017.

IMPORTANT OBITUARIES

PERSON	FIELD
M V Pylee	Educationalist
Anwar Jalalpuri	Urudu Writer
Radha Vishwanathan	Carnatic Singer
Vasant Davkhare	Senior NCP leader
Raghunath Jha	Former Congress Union Minister
Dan Gurney	Car Racer
Gnani Sankaran	Tamil writer

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