World AIDS Day: 1 December
World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, and mourning those who have died of the disease.

- Theme for the year 2017 is ‘My Health, My Right’.

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council
India was re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation under Category B at an assembly of the body at its headquarters in London.

- Indian High Commissioner to the UK YK Sinha represented India at the assembly where India secured the second-highest number of votes (144) from member-countries, just after Germany’s 146 and ahead of Australia’s 143.
- The other countries to make the cut included France (140), Canada (138), Spain (137), Brazil (131), Sweden (129), The Netherlands (124) and the UAE (115).

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: 3 December
International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on December 3 every year.

- It is an international day promoted by the United Nations since 1992.
- The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.
- 2017 Theme is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”.

SCO summit held in Russia
The annual SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) summit was held in Russia’s Sochi.

- It discussed issues related to the regional security scenario including the situation in the Gulf and Afghanistan.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj represented India in the summit.

First phase of Chabahar port inaugurated
The first phase of Chabahar port, located in Iran’s southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, was inaugurated by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in the presence of representatives from India, Afghanistan and several other countries of the region.

- The first phase of the Chabahar port project is known as the Shahid Beheshti port.
- The port is likely to ramp up trade among India, Afghanistan and Iran.

International conference on climate change begins in Nepal
Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari has inaugurated an international conference in Hindu Kush to draw attention towards the adverse effects of global warming.

- The four-day conference is attended by more than 300 experts from different countries of Asia including
India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar.

- V K Saraswat, member of India’s Neeti foundation is leading the Indian delegation in the conference.

Points to Remember
- Nepal is a landlocked central Himalayan country in South Asia.
- Sher Bahadur Deuba is the Prime Minister of Nepal.
- Kathmandu is the capital of Nepal. Rupee is the currency of Nepal.

US to recognise Jerusalem as Israel’s capital

US President Donald Trump has announced that the US will recognise Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.
- Mr Trump has also approved moving the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but not for several years.
- Israel has always regarded Jerusalem as its capital city, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

India gets admission into Wassenaar Arrangement

The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday welcomed the decision of the Wassenaar Arrangement to admit India as the 42nd member of the organisation which aims to regulate trade and use of dual use technology.
- Officials said that following admission into the club, India will get access to high technology, which will help address the demands of Indian space and defence sectors.

Points to Remember
- Wassenaar Arrangement, is a multilateral export control regime (MECR) with 42 participating states including many former Comecon (Warsaw Pact) countries.
- The Wassenaar Arrangement was established to contribute to regional and international security and stability.

International Human Rights Day: 10 December

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on 10 December every year.
- The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- This year’s theme is “Let’s stand up for equality, justice and human dignity”.

International Anti-Corruption Day: 9 December

International Anti-Corruption Day has been observed annually, on 9 December, since the passage of the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 31 October 2003.
- International Anti-Corruption Day 2017 Theme: “United against corruption for development, peace and security”.

Saudi Arabia lifts decades-long ban on cinemas

audi Arabia has lifted a decades-long ban on cinemas, part of a series of social reforms by the powerful crown prince.
- Commercial cinemas will be allowed to operate in the kingdom as of early 2018, for the first time in more than 35 years.

Points to Remember
- Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab state in Western Asia.
- Saudi Arabia is sometimes called “the Land of the Two Holy Mosques” in reference to Al-Masjid al-Haram (in Mecca) and Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (in Medina), the two holiest places in Islam.
- Saudi Arabia has since become the world’s largest oil producer and exporter.
Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arab while Riyal is the Currency.

Mount Hope named UK’s new highest peak
British authorities have named Mount Hope as the country’s new highest peak, a media report said.
- Hope was recently re-measured and found to tower above the previous title holder, Mount Jackson, by 160ft.
- Hope is now put at 10,626ft and Jackson at 10,446ft.

India ranks 100 in global prosperity index
After rising up in the Ease of Doing Business Index, India has upgraded its ranks in “The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017” as well.
- The index ranks India 100th on the list of prosperous countries among 149 countries.
- Norway topped the ranking while New Zealand and Finland sealed second and third spot respectively.

UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture
The Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma led the Indian delegation to the second UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture, with focus on sustainable development, which was held in Muscat, Capital city of Oman, during 11-12th December, 2017.
- Speaking during the Ministerial Dialogue on Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development, Dr. Mahesh Sharma highlighted India’s approach to sustainable development, while preserving nature and India’s cultural heritage.
- The Conference had also on its agenda themes such as culture and tourism as a factor of peace and prosperity; tourism development and protection of cultural heritage; culture and tourism and urban development and creativity; and exploring cultural land escapes in tourism. The conference also finalized the 2030 Agenda.

11th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Argentina
The Eleventh World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC11) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- The biggest takeaway from the conference was the commitment from members to secure a deal on fisheries subsidies.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu had led the Indian delegation in the conference.

Points to Remember
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates international trade.
- The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- WTO has 164 member countries. The WTO’s current Director-General is Roberto Azevedo.

International Migrants Day: 18 December
International Migrants Day is an international day observed on 18 December every year.
- International Migrants Day was appointed by the General Assembly of United Nations on 4 December 2000 taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world.
- Theme of International Migrants Day 2017 is “Safe Migration in a World on the Move”.

France to ban all oil, gas production by 2040
France's parliament has approved a law banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within the country and its overseas territories.

- Under that law, existing drilling permits will not be renewed and no new exploration licenses will be granted.
- The French government claims the ban is a world first.

UN votes 128-9 to reject US decision on Jerusalem

The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a measure rejecting the Trump administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. 128 countries voted against US.

- Only nine countries — including the United States and Israel — voted against UN. Another 35 abstained, and 21 were absent.

India ranks 109th in mobile internet speed and 76th in fixed broadband

India has ranked 109th in mobile internet speeds and 76th in fixed broadband speeds in Ookla's November Speedtest Global Index, where the country's average mobile speed was 8.8 Mbps and broadband speed was 18.82 Mbps.

- Norway ranked first in the world for mobile internet, with an average download speed of 62.66 Mbps, as of November.
- Singapore led in the fixed broadband category, with a 153.85 Mbps average download speed.

India declares $25 million assistance for Rakhine State

India has announced a development assistance of $25 million for Myanmar’s Rakhine State, from where thousands of Rohingya Muslims recently fled following incidents of violence against the community.

- This came a day after Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar visited Myanmar and met Myanmar’s State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.
- An estimated 6,00,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar’s Rakhine State since late August after large-scale violence there.

India to set up IT centre in Egypt's Al Azhar University

India will be establishing a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) at Al Azhar University, Egypt's highest religious authority and one of the world's most eminent seats of Sunni Muslim learning.

- All the equipment and course material has reached Egypt and premises are being prepared for CIET, which will provide high-tech education and skills to the country's youth, India's Ambassador to Egypt, Sanjay Bhattacharyya, said.

Guatemala to move its embassy to Jerusalem

The president of Guatemala says the Central American country will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

- Guatemala was one of nine nations that voted earlier this week with the United States when the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a non-binding resolution denouncing President Donald Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

India’s Humanitarian Assistance to Republic of Yemen

The Government of India is providing medical assistance worth about US$ one million to Republic of Yemen in response to a request from the Yemeni government.

- As a part of its commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to Yemen, India has been a member of the ‘Friends of Yemen’ Group.
- India has earlier extended medical assistance to Yemen in April 2015. Additionally, India provided food assistance in the form of rice and wheat, each worth of US$ 2 million in August 2012 and March 2013 respectively.
Points to Remember

- Yemen is an Arab country in Western Asia at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Sana’a is the capital of Yemen. Rial is the currency of Yemen.
- Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi is the president of Yemen while Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr is the Prime Minister.

Nepal bans solo climbing on Mount Everest

Nepal has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in an attempt to reduce accidents and make mountaineering safer.

- The new safety regulations also prohibit double amputee and blind climbers from attempting to reach the summit of the world’s highest peak.
- Nearly 300 people have died on Mount Everest since the first ascent to the peak was made in 1953.

Kiran Rijiju inaugurates Kathakar: International Storytellers Festival

The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated 7th edition of three day ‘Kathakar: International Storytellers Festival’ at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

- Member of Parliament, Shri Manoj Tiwari, Film maker and composer Shri Vishal Bhardwaj, singer and musician Shri Mohit Chauhan, Australian High Commissioner to India Mr Harinder Sidhu and Member Secretary, IGNCA, Dr Sachchidanand Joshi will also participate in the event tomorrow.

- Kathakar is the only oral storytelling festival in India and is a part of Ghummakkad Narain- the Travelling Literature Festival which was started under the aegis of UNESCO in 2010.
- Kathakar is an attempt to not just preserve the art form but also create new audiences for the same.

6th International Tourism Mart being organized in Guwahati, Assam

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the North Eastern States is organising the “International Tourism Mart” (ITM) in Guwahati, Assam from 5-7 December, 2017.

- The event will be held in Taj Vivanta, and will be inaugurated on 5th December by His Excellency, Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam in the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister Assam and Shri K.J Alphons MoS (IC), Ministry of Tourism & MoS, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Union Secretary Smt. Rashmi Verma and other dignitaries from Central Ministries and North Eastern States.

- The 6th International Tourism Mart, will put the spotlight on India’s “Act East Policy”, blossoming ties with ASEAN and the larger East Asia region, home to the world’s rapidly growing economies and India’s emerging tourism markets.

World’s first 3D Sanskrit film screened at IFFI

World's first Sanskrit 3D film ‘Anurakthi is among the main attraction in 3D category at the ongoing International Film Festival of India in Panaji in Goa.

- Asokan PK-directed film throws light on the ancient theatrical tradition of Koodiyattam in Kerala.
- The movie narrates the story of 'Vasudha', a Punjabi danseuse.
Manohar Parrikar launches farmer engagement app 'Jai Kisaan'

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar has launched the Jai Kisaan App, a farmer engagement app packed with features and functions to fulfill the needs of the farmers community in India.

- The Jai Kisan app is a one-stop solution on agricultural information and cultivation, covering crop nutrition, protection, seeds, and diagnostic services.

President of India inaugurates Hornbill Festival

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Hornbill Festival and State Formation Day celebrations of Nagaland on December 1, 2017 in Kisama.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the Hornbill Festival is the perfect showcase of rich Naga culture and traditions, preserved over the years in the form of music, dance and food.
- The Hornbill Festival at Kisama and the International Music Festival represent the diversity of Naga society.

Cabinet approves setting up of National Nutrition Mission

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi yesterday has approved setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM) with a three year budget of Rs.9046.17 crore commencing from 2017-18.

- The NNM, as an apex body, will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries.

- The programme through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.

India Awarded Certificate of Commendation for Its Effort to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has said that India has been awarded with the Certificate of Commendation for its exemplary enforcement action in its regional and global effort to combat illegal wildlife trade.

- “The award was given to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau by the Secretary General of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora at Geneva, Switzerland”, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said in New Delhi.

MedTech Summit of Biodesign Programme Under Department of Biotechnology

XIth Annual MedTech Summit was organised in New Delhi by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

- This Program is implemented by Department of Biotechnology jointly at AIIMS and IIT Delhi in collaboration with International partners.
- This event was attended by leaders of Government organisations, academia, medical device industry, start-ups, hospitals, design, business and engineering institutes from Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, Singapore, UK and USA.

UA approves construction of over 1 lakh more houses for urban
The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has approved the construction of 1.12 lakh more affordable houses for urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

- There will be an investment of Rs 8,105 crore for construction of these houses. The Centre will provide an assistance of Rs 1,681 crore for their construction.
- Under PMAY(U), the government targets to provide houses to all urban poor by 2022.

**Bengal first state in India to setup green university**

West Bengal Assembly passed the West Bengal Green University Bill 2017 for setting up an environmental studies university at Hooghly district.

- State Education Minister Partha Chatterjee tabled the Bill and it was passed while opposition Left Front and Congress boycotted the debate.
- Chatterjee said West Bengal is the first state to have a university dedicated to environmental studies.

**Mega Northeast Exhibition cum Sale Bonanza' inaugurated**

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh announced Rs. 90 crore for "Northeast Hill Area Development" beginning from Tamenglong district on a pilot basis, in the first phase, for a period of two years.

- Dr Jitendra Singh said that he had made the commitment to introduce an exclusive hill area development programme during his visit to Imphal and the purpose behind this was to ensure equitable development of all the districts of the State, notwithstanding their diversities of topography, geographical conditions and other aspects.

**Centre increases the agricultural education budget this year by 47.4 percent**

The government of India has increased the budget of Agricultural Education by 47.4% this year as compared to the financial year 2013-14.

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh has said that it is our main objective to attract youth including school children towards agricultural education.
- The Agriculture Minister said that two years back Government of India decided to celebrate National Agricultural Education Day on December 3 because it is the birthday of our first Union Agriculture Minister and Former President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad.

**India's Biggest Floating Solar Power Plant To Be Inaugurated In Kerala**

Kerala Electricity Minister M.M. Mani will inaugurate the largest floating solar power plant in the country at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad on 4 December.

- The floating solar power plant that floats on the surface of the water has a capacity of 500 kilowatts. This is the country's largest floating solar plant.
- Constructed by Thiruvananthapuram-based Ad tech Systems, the plant will generate seven lakh units per year. The total cost of the project is Rs. 9.25 crore.

**ICG conducts Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted a Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise called ‘Clean Sea 2017’ at sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

- The objective of the exercise was to ascertain preparedness of the Indian Coast Guard, resource
agencies and other stakeholders in responding to a major oil spill.

International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness inaugurated in New Delhi
The First Ever International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness ‘Arogya 2017’ was inaugurated by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu and Minister of State for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in New Delhi.

- The three day exhibition cum conference is being held at Vigyan Bhawan from 4th to 7th December, 2017.
- ‘Arogya 2017’ has been jointly organized by Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Government of India including Pharmexcil in partnership with FICCI to showcase the strength and scientific valuation of traditional system of medicine.
- Nearly 1500 delegates from India and 60 countries are participating in ‘Arogya 2017’.

6th International Tourism Mart to Begin in Guwahati
“6th International Tourism Mart” (ITM) will begin in Guwahati, Assam. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the North Eastern States is organizing this Mart from 5-7 December, 2017.

- Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Governor of Assam will inaugurate the Mart in the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, KJ. Alphons, Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, Chief Minister Assam, Union Tourism Secretary Smt. Rashmi Verma and other dignitaries from Central Ministries and North Eastern States.
- The 6th International Tourism Mart, will put the spotlight on India’s “Act East Policy”, blossoming ties with ASEAN and the larger East Asia region, home to the world’s rapidly growing economies and India’s emerging tourism markets.

Maharashtra, Gujarat On High Alert due to Cyclone Ockhi
After crossing Lakshadweep, cyclone Ockhi has moved towards Maharashtra and Gujarat, reported IMD officials.

- The cyclone originated near the coast of Sri Lanka and travelled hugging the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala towards Lakshadweep claiming 19 lives in Kerala in its wake.
- It has now moved towards Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Successful Launch of Akash Missile
The Surface to Air Missile AKASH with indigenous radio frequency seeker against target Banshee, has been successfully launched from the Launch Complex-III at ITR Chandipur.

- The Radars, telemetry and electro-optical systems along the coast have tracked and monitored all the health parameters of the missile.

ISA to become a Treaty-based International Intergovernmental organization
In terms of its Framework Agreement, with ratification by Guinea as the 15th country on 6th November 2017, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will become a treaty-based international intergovernmental organization on 6th December 2017.

- The ISA, headquartered in India, has its Secretariat located in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gwalpahari, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Points to Remember
- The ISA is an Indian initiative, jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, on the sidelines of COP-21, the UN Climate Conference.
• It aims at addressing obstacles to deployment at scale of solar energy through better harmonization and aggregation of demand from solar rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn.
• As of date, 46 countries have signed and 19 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA.

Vice President to inaugurate CIC’s Annual Convention
The Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the Central Information Commission (CIC)’s 12th Annual Convention on ‘Right to Information’ in New Delhi.
• This year the Convention follows two seminars held in May and July this year, to discuss ‘Implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005’ and ‘Land Records and RTI Act’ respectively.

Conference of States Power Ministers to be held in New Delhi
A conference of Ministers for Power and New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories will be held in New Delhi on 7th of December, 2017.
• The Conference will be inaugurated by Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy.
• The aim of this conference is to review the implementation of various ongoing Schemes/Programmes and deliberate on a host of issues pertaining to Power and Renewable Energy sectors.

3rd DRC-NITI Aayog Dialogue held
The 3rd edition of the Dialogue between the NITI Aayog and the Development Research Council of China, the DRC- NITI Aayog Dialogue was held in Beijing.
• The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and Mr Li Wei, President (Minister), DRC.
• The DRC-NITI Dialogue provides an important platform for both sides to discuss key macro-economic issues impacting both countries and areas of mutual interest.

Uttar Pradesh’s Shamli District Included in NCR
Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district was included in the national capital region, taking the total number of districts in the NCR to 23.
• Cities in the NCR get funds at "attractive" interest rates from the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) for infrastructure development.
• Besides Delhi, there were 22 districts -13 of Haryana, seven of Uttar Pradesh and two of Rajasthan in the NCR so far.

Anupriya Patel inaugurates 22nd AHWP conference
Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon’ble MoS (Health & Family Welfare) recently inaugurated the 22nd conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) at New Delhi.
• The five day conference is being conducted by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and National Drug Regulatory Authority (NDRA) of India in collaboration with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
• The key objective of the event is to develop and recommend approaches for the convergence and harmonization of medical device regulations in Asia and beyond and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise amongst regulators and the industry.

Points to Remember
Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) was established in 1999 as a voluntary non-profit organization of the 30 national regulators of member countries and industry members.

Its goal is to promote regulatory harmonization on medical device regulations in Asia and other regions in accordance with the guidance issued by International Medical Device Regulators Forums (IMDRF).

The AHWP works in collaboration with related international organizations such as IMDRF, WHO, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), etc.

**Prime Minister inaugurates Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the “Dr. Ambedkar International Centre” at 15, Janpath, New Delhi.

- He had laid the foundation stone of this Centre in April 2015.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the Centre would play a key role in the dissemination of Dr. Ambedkar's teachings and vision.

**Sports Minister Col Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurates SAICON 2017**

The First International Conference on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences SAICON 2017 was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore.

- He said contribution of Sports Science will become important under the Khelo India Programme launched by his ministry.
- He said in accordance with the intentions of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of empowering youths, ‘Khelo India' programme has been chalked out to tap talent at the school and college level.

**India, Israel to open centre for floriculture in Tamil Nadu**

India and Israel are coming together to set up a centre for excellence in floriculture at Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.

- The centre, the first agro-technology development centre to be set up with Israel’s assistance in the State, was officially inaugurated on 7 December.
- These centres would not only develop agricultural practices suitable for selected geographical regions, but would also transfer the best practices to farmers in and around.

**First-time ever in India: The Global Partnership Summit 2017**

The Global Partnership Summit (GPS) 2017 is scheduled to be held at Aerocity, New Delhi from 11th to 14th December 2017.

- India Center Foundation (ICF), a not for profit and non-governmental organisation, which has been working for over two decades towards nation's socio-economic development, will organise it in India for the first-time ever.
- The GPS will focus on clean energy, healthcare, infrastructure and logistics, energy, tourism, art and culture, agro economy, banking and finance, education and skill development and information communication technology.

**India's 1st Military Literature Fest starts**
The first Military Literature Festival took off in Chandigarh with Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore formally declaring it open.

- Military leaders, veterans, thinkers, scholars, writers, journalists, war correspondents, historians, poets, artists, composers, researchers and industrialists have come together to share their experiences and insights on this platform.

**International conference on Ground water**

An International conference is being organized on the Ground water issues in the country with a theme of “Ground water Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges and Climate Change Adaptation” from December 11 to 13, 2017.

- The conference has been organized by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the aegis of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

**Giriraj Singh Launches Public Procurement Portal for MSEs - MSME Sambandh**

A Public Procurement Portal ‘MSME Sambandh’ was launched by Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for MSME.

- The objective of the portal is to monitor the implementation of the Public Procurement from MSEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises.
- He stated that in the words of the Prime Minister MSME sector generates more employment next only to Agriculture sector.

**Kacheguda becomes India’s first energy-efficient railway station**

Kacheguda Railway Station under the South Central Railway (SCR) has earned the unique distinction of being the first Energy Efficient ‘A1 Category’ Railway Station on Indian Railways.

- The station has achieved 100% energy efficiency by replacing 1,312 conventional lights with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting.
- About 370 ceiling fans, too, were replaced with energy efficient Brushless DC Electrical (BLDC) motors fans, and 12 air conditioners with energy efficient inverter-type air conditioners.
- Kacheguda Railway station is a historic building and had completed 100 years.

**India declared free from Trachoma, a bacterial infection of eye**

India has been declared free from infective Trachoma which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye.

- It causes inflamed granulation on the inner surface of the lids.
- Releasing the National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17) in New Delhi, Health Minister J P Nadda made an announcement in this regard and termed it as a momentous achievement.

**Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates the ‘Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage’**

Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) Dr. Sharma inaugurated the three days ‘Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage’ in New Delhi on December 08, 2017.

- He said that the message of Lord Buddha is as relevant in the twenty first century as it was two and a half millennia ago and has been a unifying force among nations.
- He said that BIMSTEC has a crucial role in development of the region.

**India to host southeast Asia connectivity summit**
New Delhi will host an Asean-India Connectivity Summit (AICS) on December 11-12 on the theme “Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century”.

- The event comes ahead of the visit of the leaders of the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) here next month for the commemorative summit of 25 years of the India-Asean dialogue partnership.
- In a historic first, the 10 leaders will collectively be the chief guests at next year’s Republic Day celebrations here.

**Goa CM unveils country's 'first' mobile food testing lab**

India’s 'first' mobile food testing laboratory, which will enable on-the-spot food safety tests to be conducted in Goa, was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.

- The vehicle is equipped to conduct on-the-spot tests to check the food quality.
- It will also check the hygiene level of water, he said adding that the results can be received within 15 minutes.

**UN Women, Facebook inaugurates 'We The Women' event in Mumbai**

UN Women in collaboration with Facebook has inaugurated a two day event in Mumbai titled 'We The Women' to empower and recognise the magnificent contribution of women in our society.

- The event witnessed speakers from different walks of life including Textile and I&B Minister, Smriti Irani, Sakshi Malik, Mithali Raj, Ekta Kapoor, Karan Johar and others.

- Union I&B minister Smriti Irani said that it is time that every women should stand up for themselves and again the power to empower themselves.

**Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad launches first NIC CERT**

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon’ble Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology inaugurated the “NIC-CERT”, a setup of National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on 11thDecember 2017.

- During the inauguration, Hon’ble Minister said that as part of its Digital India initiatives, the Government has introduced a lot of its services online.
- Although this has made services very accessible to the citizens, it has also exposed them to the threats and vulnerabilities which are an inherent part of cyberspace.

**India proposed $1 billion credit for connectivity with ASEAN: Nitin Gadkari**

India has proposed USD 1 billion line of credit to promote sea, air and road connectivity projects with ASEAN, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

- Apart from this, India has set up a project development fund of USD 77 million for various developments.
- He was addressing the ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit jointly organised by CII and ASEAN India Centre.

**WB announces life insurance of Rs. 5 lakh each for pilgrims**

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee announced that pilgrims coming to Gangasagar next year will be covered by life insurance amounting to Rs 5 lakh each.

- The premium in this regard will be borne entirely by the state government.
- Around five to six lakh pilgrims attend the Gangasagar fair on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.
J P Nadda launches new initiatives on Universal Health Coverage Day, 2017
The Union Health Minister J P Nadda has launched “LaQshya - Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative, a Safe Delivery Mobile Application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral areas.
- The goal of this initiative is to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality.
- He also released the Operational Guidelines for Obstetric High Dependency Units (HDUs) and Intensive Care Units (ICUs).

Hyderabad to become 'beggar-free' city
Hyderabad once again launched a drive to turn Hyderabad into “Beggar Free” city which was earlier put to halt after rumors that the drive was initiated because of US president Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump to the city.
- Telangana Prisons Department Inspector General Narsimha said that the Prison Department has recently started two Beggar homes one is in Chanchalguda jail for male beggars and another is in Challapalli jail for female beggars.

National Energy Conservation Day to be celebrated on 14th December
Hon’ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, will preside as the Chief Guest over the National Energy Conservation Day celebrations, to be held in New Delhi, on 14th December, 2017.
- The occasion will also be graced by the presence of Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Raj Kumar Singh.
- Hon’ble President of India will give away National Energy Conservation Awards to industries that have demonstrated measurable reductions in their energy use.

India to host 3rd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB
India will host the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB at Mumbai on 25th and 26th June 2018.
- The Theme of the Annual Meeting, 2018 will be “Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration”.
- The Government of India and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Secretariat signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to delineate the duties and responsibilities of major stakeholders who would be involved in organizing the aforesaid Annual Meeting.
- The AIIB also approved a US$335 million loan to finance a 100-percent electric Bangalore Metro Rail—R 6 project.

Points to Remember
- India is not only one of the founding members of AIIB but is also the 2nd largest shareholder in AIIB.
- The Government of Maharashtra has nominated Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) as the nodal agency for organising the Annual Meeting.
- AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.
- Headquartered in Beijing, China, AIIB commenced operations in January 2016.

14th Inclusive Finance India Summit held in New Delhi
The 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit was held in New Delhi to build consensus on strategies and a unified vision for achieving universal financial inclusion in India.
- A book - 'Talking financial inclusion in liberalized India: Conversations with Governors of the RBI',
edited by Prof. MS Sriram was released during the inaugural session.

Rajasthan becomes first in country to offer e-mail IDs in Hindi
Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to offer free e-mail address in Hindi to its residents.

- This facility will lead to millions of new users who are not comfortable with English e-mail ids.
- The project has been implemented by the state IT department with the partnership in form of insourcing with private IT companies.

Submarine Kalvari to be commissioned by PM Narendra Modi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commission India’s first Scorpene class submarine, Kalvari, into the Indian Navy in Mumbai on 14 December.

- The Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders delivered Kalvari on September 21 to the Navy after successfully completing all trials.
- Scorpene submarines can undertake varied missions such as anti-surface and antisubmarine warfare, intelligence gathering and mine laying.

MHA releases Rs 174 crore to six states for border development
The Home Ministry has released Rs 174 crore to six states having an international border for development of infrastructure in forward areas.

- The states that will be benefited under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) are Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

India hosts 4th India-Australia-Japan trilateral meeting
Issues related to counter-terrorism, economic cooperation and maritime security were highlighted in the 4th India-Australia-Japan trilateral meeting hosted by Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in New Delhi.

- On the other hand, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held the 15th Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

- Russia and India also extended support and cooperation for China as the chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2017-2018 and for China’s hosting of 2018 SCO Summit.

Vice-President of India inaugurates the World Conference on Vedas
The Vice-President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the Vedas preach world peace, universal brotherhood and welfare of all.

- Inaugurating the World Conference on Vedas, “Vishwa Ved Sammelan”, in New Delhi, he said the Vedas have great relevance to humanity.
- The Yajurveda mentions that the knowledge of Vedas is meant for the well-being of the entire humanity.
- The Vedas do not refer to any caste or community, he added.

Cabinet approves continuation of NLCPR scheme for North East till March 2020
The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the existing Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme with funding pattern of 90:10 till March, 2020 with an outlay of Rs.5300.00 crore. It would enable completion of ongoing projects.

- The Union Cabinet also approved the introduction of new Central Sector Scheme of “North East Special
Infrastructure Development Scheme” (NESIDS) from 2017-18 with 100% funding from the Central Government to fill up the gaps in creation of infrastructure in specified sectors till March, 2020.

- The assets to be created under the new scheme of NESIDS will not only strengthen health care and education facilities in the region but will also encourage tourism thereby the employment opportunities for local youth.
- The scheme will act as a catalyst in overall development of the region in the years to come.

Society for Nuclear Medicine International Conference (SNMICON)
Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr. Subash Bhamre inaugurated a four day 49th Annual Conference of the Society of Nuclear Medicine – India SNMICON, in New Delhi.

- Dr. Bhamre said that advances in medical science have led to significant improvements in our quality of life.
- Increase in life expectancy, cure of hitherto incurable diseases and the ability to understand the human body can all be attributed to these advancements.

Cabinet approves Agreement with UNESCO
The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography, as a Category-2 Centre (C2C) of UNESCO, in Hyderabad.

- The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a training centre towards development of capacity for the countries on the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), African countries bordering the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, small island countries under the framework of UNESCO.

World Telugu Conference begins in Hyderabad
The World Telugu Conference began at Lal Bahadur Stadium Hyderabad.

- Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the conference in the presence of Governor of Telangana and AP E.S.L. Narasimhan and Maharashtra Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and other dignitaries.
- About 400 delegates from 42 countries were participating in the conference.

President of India Lays Foundation Stone of ‘NYAYA GRAM’ Project
The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, laid the foundation stone of the Nyaya Gram project of the High Court of Allahabad on December 16, 2017 in Allahabad.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said freedom of the judiciary is a cornerstone of our democracy.
- India’s credibility is enhanced by a fearless and independent judiciary.

Indo-Maldives ‘Exercise Ekuverin’ begins in Belagavi
India and the Maldives have begun Exercise Ekuverin, their eighth annual joint military training event, in Belagavi.

- The exercise will be an opportunity for the two armies to activate the Joint Operations Centre at Belagavi.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability between the two armies.

Meghalaya launches India’s first social audit law
Meghalaya has become the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.
Chief Minister Mukul Sangma launched ‘The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017’, at a national convention in Shillong.

So far, social audits of government programmes have been done at the initiative of civil society organisations.

**PM Modi inaugurates 60 MW Tuirial hydropower project in Aizawl**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 60 MW Tuirial hydropower project in Aizawl.
- It is the first large hydropower project in Mizoram which will boost the socio-economic development of the state.
- He further said this project will boost eco-tourism and provide a source of assured drinking water supply.

**India is the second largest producer of horticultural crops and fruits**

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh said research and development projects in horticulture crops have yielded encouraging results, as a result, the production of horticulture crops have been more than food grains irrespective of adverse climatic conditions.
- After China, India is the second largest producer of horticultural crops and fruits.
- The Agriculture Minister said it at the World Orange Day 2017 event in Nagpur on 17 December.

**State-level earthquake mock exercise in Haryana on 21st December**

Preparations are on in full swing across Haryana for the earthquake mock exercise to be held on December 21, 2017 across the State.
- The mock exercise, which is being conducted by the Haryana State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), will help participating agencies and stakeholders in evaluating the effectiveness of their disaster response plans.

**International herbal fair in Bhopal from Dec 14**

Some rare medicinal herbs were displayed during the seven-day International Herbal Fair being organised in Bhopal.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated this fair at the Lal Parade Ground.
- Delegations from Bhutan, Nepal, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and other countries are taking part in the fair.

**Gita Research Institute to be set up in Mathura**

A research institute for the study of the ‘Bhagavad Gita’ will be soon set up by the Uttar Pradesh government in the temple town Mathura.
- The Gita Research Institute has been proposed by the Yogi Adityanath government, Minister for Religious works and culture Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary said.

**Odisha CM inaugurates Tribal Sports Meet 2017**

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the Tribal Sports Meet 2017, a first-of-its kind event in the country to promote sports among tribals in Odisha.
- Patnaik also unveiled the logo of the event and mascot of the meet ‘Olly’.
- The Sports Meet will be held across the state. The players up to 35 years of age are eligible for participating in the meet, an official statement said.

**BJP Wins Gujarat and Himachal assembly elections**

BJP has swept Himachal Pradesh and has also won Gujarat again, though by a decidedly lower margin of victory than last time.
• The Bharatiya Janta Party has been in power in Gujarat for over two decades.

Points to Remember
• The BJP has won 99 of Gujarat’s 182 assembly seats. Congress has won 79 seats in Gujarat.
• This is 6th consecutive assembly election victory for BJP in Gujarat.
• The BJP has won 44 of Himachal’s 68 assembly seats. Congress has won 21 seats in Himachal.

AP Govt, UNESCO to set up gaming hub, special school
The Andhra Pradesh Government in association with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) is planning to establish a centre of excellence for children as well as a “gaming for e-learning hub”.
• It will be the first of its kind in India and in Asia-Pacific region, according to Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, Director of UNESCO MGIEP.

NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar retires
National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar has retired from the post after completing his five-year tenure.
• His successor is yet to be appointed.
• Justice Kumar resigned as Supreme Court judge after he was appointed NGT chairperson on December 20, 2012.

Cabinet approves setting up of India's first rail university in Gujarat
The Cabinet has approved a project to set up India's National Rail and Transport University (NRTU) in Vadodara in Gujarat.
• A not-for-profit company under Section 8 of the companies Act, 2013, will be created by the ministry of railways which shall be the managing company of the proposed university.
• The project has been pending for the past three years.

India's first design university opens campus
India's first and only design university, World University of Design opens it campus at Sonipat, Haryana.
• It is promoted by Om Parkash Bansal Educational and Social Welfare Trust of Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab.

Centre finally gives ‘green’ nod for Kaleshwaram project
The Telangana government’s prestigious Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) finally gets the green nod.
• The expert appraisal committee (EAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest recommended the “proposal for grant of environmental clearance” in its meeting held on December 5 in Delhi.
• The green nod for the project will be a big boost to the Telangana government.

Skill development scheme for textile sector approved
To help create more jobs in the textile sector that has been hit by demonetisation and the rollout of the goods and services tax (GST), the Union cabinet has approved a Rs1,300 crore scheme that will impart skills to a million people.
• The scheme, cleared in a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will provide demand-driven and placement-oriented skilling programme across the textile sector.
• The approved outlay is for the years FY2018-FY2020.

Swarn Project in Railways
The Ministry of Railways has decided to launch “Project Swarn” with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience across 9 dimensions which include coach interiors, toilets, onboard cleanliness, staff behavior, catering, linen, punctuality, security, on-board entertainment. real time feedback will also be taken as part of Project Swarn.
• In total, 14 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi trains will be covered.
• Railways have been allowed to spend up to 50 lakh per rake for upgradation of trains to Swarn Standard.

**Indian Science Communication Congress held in Delhi**

Over 300 scientists and communicators converged for the 17th Indian Science Communication Congress (ISCC-2017) held in New Delhi.

• The two-event, which began at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), aims at promoting communication of India's scientific wisdom.

**Darpan Launched For Financial Inclusion Of Rural Population**

The Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha has launched DARPN – “Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India” Project to improve the quality of service, add value to services and achieve “financial inclusion” of un-banked rural population.

• He said, the goal of the IT modernization project with an outlay of Rs. 1400 Crore is to provide a low power technology solution to each Branch Postmaster (BPM) which will enable each of approximately 1.29 Lakhs Branch Post Offices (BOs) to improve the level of services being offered to rural customers across all the states.

• Shri Sinha said that as on date, 43,171 Branch Post Offices have migrated under the “DARPAN” project with the aim of financial inclusion to rural population and it is targeted to complete the project by March, 2018.

**Regional Conference on 'Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices'**

A Regional Conference on 'Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices' begins in Guwahati on 22 December.

• The two-day conference is being organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Assam.

• Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbanand Sonowal will inaugurate the Conference and address the delegates.

• The Conference is an effort to create a common platform to share experiences in the formulation and implementation of citizen centric governance, improved public service delivery, Good Governance Index, PM awarded initiatives and awareness on State Collaboration Initiative scheme of DARPG.

**'Hamesha Vijayee' exercise held in Rajasthan**

The Indian Army's Southern Command, conducting exercise 'Hamesha Vijayee', is out in the deserts of Rajasthan to evaluate the capability of the armed forces to strike deep into the enemy territory in an integrated air-land battle.

• The military exercise was held in the general area of Barmer and Jaisalmer from December 16 till December 22.

**Railways plans to make all stations 100% LED lit by March-end**

In an eco-friendly measure to cut power consumption, the Indian Railways planned to make all stations cent per cent LED lit by March 31, 2018.

• The railways said it was actively working to provide 100 per cent LED lighting for energy needs in railway staff colonies, stations and platforms.
Till November 2017, about 3,500 railway stations had already been provided with cent per cent LED lights. About 20 lakh such lights were installed.

**National Mathematics Day: 22 December**

In India, the day December 22 has been declared as the National Mathematics Day.

- The Declaration was made by Dr Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India, to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan in 2012.
- Dr Manmohan Singh also announced that the year 2012 would be celebrated as the National Mathematics Year.

**MEA launches SAMEEP to take Indian foreign policy to students**

The Ministry of External Affairs has launched a new programme, SAMEEP, aims to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across the country.

- The ministry of external affairs has asked all its officers on leave to travel to their hometowns and particularly their alma mater.
- The idea is not only to get the ordinary student to take an interest in India’s place in the world and its global ambitions, but also to look at diplomacy as a career option.

**Bengaluru to host 7th international coffee fest**

The seventh edition of the India International Coffee Festival (IICF) will be held in Bengaluru from January 16-19.

- The four-day IICF 2018, being organised by the India Coffee Trust and State-run Coffee Board to promote the Indian coffees globally, is expected to attract over 100 companies, 600 delegates and some 10,000 visitors, organisers said.
- IICF 2018 would be a precursor to the International Coffee Organisation’s World Coffee Conference being hosted by India in Bengaluru in 2020.

**Indian Navy Conducts Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr with Oman Navy**

Indian Naval Ships Trikand and Teg are deployed to Oman for bilateral exercise ‘Naseem Al Bahr’ or ‘Sea Breeze’.

- This exercise is the 11th edition and has been a biennial feature since 1993.
- The Indian ships entered Muscat on 16 December 2017 for the harbour phase.

**Ganga Gram Project launched to make 4,470 Ganga Villages Swachh**

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) has launched ‘Ganga Gram’ – a project for sanitation based integrated development of all 4470 villages along the River Ganga, at a multi-stakeholder sammelan held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The Ganga Gram Swachhta Sammelan was attended by more than 1400 delegates including 500 village sarpanches from all five Ganga States (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal).
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is the nodal agency for implementation of the Ganga Gram Project.
- For the Ganga Gram Project the Ministry works in close coordination with NMCG, various Ministries, State Government and Districts.

**Good Governance Day: 25 December**

Good Governance Day is observed in India annually on 25 December, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

- Good Governance Day was established in 2014 to honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by...
fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

- In keeping with this principle, the Government of India has decreed Good Governance Day to be a working day for the government.

**Bengaluru becomes first city to get its own logo**

Bengaluru got its own logo and the tagline 'Bengaluru - Be U' (be you) is expected to build the city's image on the global stage.

- The city is the first Indian city to get its own identity badge.
- Selected from 1,350 entries, the logo aims to signify Bengaluru’s cosmopolitan culture, a sense of belonging, 480-year history and futuristic outlook.

**Odisha recognised as 'Champion State' for exports**

The Centre has recognised Odisha as a 'Champion State' for recording the highest growth in exports during 2016-17, official sources said.

- This was announced during a review meeting of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the export performance of states and formulation of strategy attended by L N Gupta, MSME Additional Chief Secretary, Odisha.
- The exports from the state have increased from Rs 19,082 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 40,872 crore in 2016-17

**India’s first AC local train flagged off in Mumbai**

India’s first air-conditioned local ran its maiden journey from Borivali station to Churchgate in the southern part of Mumbai.

- The 12-coach EMU’s inaugural run comes after 65 trial runs over two years at Kurla and Virar car-sheds.
- The local was brought to Mumbai from the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, on April 4, 2016.
- The services will replace 12 existing non-air conditioned services.

**Entre releases Rs 167 crore to 9 states for border development**

The Home Ministry has released Rs 167 crore to nine states with international border for the development of infrastructure in forward areas.

- The states which will benefit include Rajasthan and Punjab, both having international border with Pakistan, and West Bengal and Assam having boundary with Bangladesh.

**Uttar Pradesh introduces power scheme to mark Vajpayee’s birthday**

Uttar Pradesh has launched a free household power connection scheme for the poor in the state to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth anniversary.

- The government has a target of covering 16 million by 2018-end under the scheme ‘Prakash hai to vikas hai’.
- The government has also introduced Kisan Uday Yojana, a novel scheme for farmers, under which existing 5 HP/7.5 HP submersible and coupling sets will be replaced free of cost.

**UP govt signs MoU with South Korea**

The Uttar Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.

- MoU was signed for giving a new dimension to cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming, which will provide more employment opportunities and development.

**'Heritage Cabinet' to be set up in Odisha**
The Odisha government has decided to set up a unique ‘Heritage Cabinet’ and an Odia Language Commission as part of its move to preserve the relics and monuments in the state and enrich its rich culture and language.

- Heritage Cabinet' would be headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. It would aim to protect ancient monuments, temples and archaeological sites in Odisha, and take steps to preserve the state's culture, language and literature.

Radha Mohan Singh launches Livestock Disease Forewarning – Mobile Application

Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh has launched Livestock Disease Forewarning – Mobile Application (LDF-Mobile App) in New Delhi.

- It is developed by ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), Bengaluru.
- At the launch, Union Agriculture Minister informed that dreaded Rinderpest disease has been eradicated from India and stressed that similar efforts are needed to control and eradicate diseases like FMD, PPR, Brucellosis, CSF, BT, HS etc., which cause huge economic loss annually to the livestock rearers and livestock industry as a whole.

All Trains To Have Bio-Toilets By March 2019

The government said it plans to complete the work of installing bio-toilets in all passenger trains by March 2019.

- The Minister said retro-fitment of bio-toilets in existing in-service coaches is also being done to a limited extent in coaching depots.

Indian Science Congress to be held in March in Imphal

The 2018 edition of the historic Indian Science Congress will be held at Manipur University, Imphal, in March.

- The event was scheduled at the Osmania University (OU), Hyderabad, in the first week of January but had to be moved out due to security problems.
- This was the first time the 106-year-old ISC had to be postponed at the last minute.

Environment Ministry Launches Regional Project to Tackle Stubble Burning

In another significant step to combat climate change, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved a regional project on ‘Climate Resilience Building among Farmers through Crop Residue Management’ under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC).

- The first phase of the project has been approved at a cost of approximately Rs. 100 Crore for the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The project will leverage approximately three times the approved amount with contribution from the States as well as farmers.

Rs 33,700 crore allocated under Swachh Bharat Mission since 2014

Union government has allocated over Rs 33,700 crore under the ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ since its launch in 2014, the Lok Sabha was informed.

- In a written reply, Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Uma Bharti said Rs 2,850 crore, Rs 6,525 crore, Rs 10,513 crore and Rs 13,948.27 crore were allocated respectively during 2013-14, 14-15, 15-16 and 16-17.

India successfully test-fires supersonic interceptor missile

India has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile,
capable of destroying any incoming ballistic missile in low altitude, from a test range in Odisha.

- This was the third supersonic interceptor test carried out this year in which an incoming ballistic missile target was successfully intercepted, within 30 km altitude of the earth's atmosphere by an interceptor.
- The earlier two tests were conducted on March 1 and February 11, 2017, as part of efforts to have a full-fledged multi-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.

National Children’s Science Congress held in Gujarat

25th National Children’s Science Congress 2017 is being held between 27th to 31st December, 2017 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- The theme for this year's Nationa Science Congress is "Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development".
- The special focus area is on accessibility for persons with disabilities.

President inaugurates 100th Indian Economic Association conference

President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated the 100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association at Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur of Andhra Pradesh.

- The event will be held for four days.
- Addressing the function, President said that without growth, there can be no development, and while growth is necessary, it is not sufficient to tackle inequalities in our society.

Points to Remember

- Indian Economic Association is a registered body of Indian economic professionals, established way back in 1917.
- Its objective is to provide a forum for debate and discussion of policy-oriented issues.
- The Association currently has 5000 plus members, both individual and institutional.

24-hour power for all by March 2019, says Modi government

By March 2019, all homes in the country will be provided uninterrupted 24-hour power supply throughout the year, Power Minister R K Singh said.

- Singh said by December 2018, 1,694 villages, which are yet to be electrified, will have electricity connection and works in this regard has been going on.
- All homes will get 24-hour power by March 2019, he said during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha.

5,45,090 Houses Sanctioned for Urban Poor Under PMAY(Urban)

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of 5,45,090 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of Rs. 31,003 cr with central assistance of Rs. 8,107 cr.

- The approval was given in the 29th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee in its meeting.
- With the above proposed houses, cumulative houses under PMAY(U) would become 36,00,819 after final approval from CSMC.

65.75 MW Power Generated from the Municipal Solid Waste

Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Raj Kumar Singh, in a written reply to a question on total power generated in the country from the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), in Lok Sabha informed that the present installed capacity of power generation from the MSW is 65.75 MW which is about 0.02% of total power generation capacity in the country.
Shri Singh informed that under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 48 MSW based plants with cumulative installed capacity of 412.5 MW are under various stages construction.

The Minister also stated that the Ministry has set a target of installing 10 GW power capacity from biomass by 2022.

So far about 8.2 GW biomass power projects have already been set up in the country.

'World sweet festival' in Telangana next month
Telangana will be hosting an international sweets festival next month.

- The World Sweet Festival, featuring over hundreds of sweet items, will be held from January 13 to 15.
- Sweets from foreign countries will also be presented alongside the Indian delicacies.

Puducherry to host international sailing event in Jan
Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy said a series of boat races will be held here from January 25 to 28, 2018, which will witness the participation of sailors from various countries.

- The event titled 'Sailing the East Coast' regatta will be conducted as part of the 'Bon Jour India' celebrations organised by the French government in Puducherry, he said.
- It would be organised with the support of the French Embassy, the Institute of France in Pondicherry and the Puducherry government.

78th session of Indian History Congress begins
The three-day long 78th session of the Indian History Congress began in Kolkata at the Jadavpur University campus.

- The Indian History Congress will have six sections this time - Ancient India, Medieval India, Modern India, Countries Other than India, Archaeology and Contemporary India.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will address a session of the Indian History Congress.

FM Chairs 18th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council
The eighteenth Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley as pre-Budget 2018-19 consultations with the financial sector regulators.

- The Regulators presented their proposals for the Union Budget 2018-19 concerning development of their respective sectors.
- The Council deliberated over these proposals.
- Concerned Ministries/Departments were advised by the Council to examine respective proposals in detail for appropriate further decision.

ISRO to launch 31 satellites in a single mission onboard PSLV
ISRO has announced that it would launch 31 satellites, including India's Cartosat-2 series earth observation space craft, in a single mission onboard its Polar rocket on January 10.

- The mission will be the first Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) mission after the unsuccessful launch of navigation satellite IRNSS-1H in August.
- The mission's main payload would be India's Cartosat-2 series earth observation satellite.

IAF bids farewell to MiG-27 ML Bahadur
The last MiG-27 ML aircraft roared over Hasimara Air Force base in Bengal for the last time as the IAF bade farewell to this legacy fleet in a function.

- The MiG-27 ML, codenamed 'Bahadur' in India, has had an impeccable track record in its more than three decades of glorious service to the nation.

NITI Aayog slowest in disposing public grievances: Report
Government think-tank NITI Aayog is slowest among 52 central ministries and departments, when it comes to addressing public grievances, reveals a government report.

- According to the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System report, NITI Aayog disposed only 54 per cent of total 5,883 grievances received between January 1, 2014 and December 28, 2017.
- With 99 per cent grievances addressed, the External Affairs Ministry turns out to be the swiftest, as out of total 49,558 grievances only one is pending since more than a year.
- Among others, the Finance Ministry received highest number of grievances -- total 5,42,370, of which 97 per cent had been addressed.

Haryana becomes first state to offer protected price for vegetables
Haryana is all set to become the first state in the country to fix a protected price for vegetable crops.

- The farmers will be ensured of protected price for their vegetables under the 'Bhavantar Bharpai Yojna' or the price deficit compensation scheme.
- Agriculture Minister Om Prakash Dhankar said the primary objective of this scheme is to ensure that the farmers must not face the distress sale of their produce.

Centre sanctions Rs 1,250 cr for Assam inland transport
The central government has sanctioned Rs. 1,250 crore for the development of transport sector in Assam, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari said.

- With this financial outlay, the government also aimed at developing the inland water transport, he said.
- Of this outlay, an amount of Rs 32 crore will be utilized for constructing 56 terminals and Rs. 60 crore will be spent on Ro-Ro service.

Assam CM launches skill development training centres
Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has ceremonially launched skill development training centres across the state.
The chief minister launched the centres in a programme organized by Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati.

The Chief Minister further informed that the state government has already signed MoU with the Government of Singapore under which a skill development centre having international standard would be set up at Mangaldoi.

Ten thousand youth of the state would undergo training in that centre, he mentioned.

**Odisha police to go digital from January 1, 2018**
The Odisha police is all set to go digital from January 1, 2018 with computerisation of police station work under the Criminal Tracking and Networking System (CCTNS).

- The project is being implemented under the national e-governance initiative at a cost of Rs 61 crore.
- Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) R P Sharma, after reviewing the status of the CCTNS project, said out of 612 police stations across the state, 589 police stations have been equipped with the necessary hardware and software for successful implementation of the project.

**USAID announces $1 mn for TB awareness in India**
The US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced $1 million to create awareness about Tuberculosis (TB) to help India in its fight against the disease.

- India has the world’s highest incidence of TB, with 2.8 million cases annually, and accounts for more than a quarter of the global TB burden.

**West Bengal to get World Bank subsidy to buy 130 electric buses**
The West Bengal government has negotiated with the World Bank to avail subsidy to buy 130 electric buses for plying in Kolkata, Asansol and Durgapur.

- The World Bank has agreed to provide a subsidy of Rs seven lakh per bus.
- While 100 buses would ply in Kolkata, the remaining 30 have been earmarked for industrial towns of Durgapur and Asansol.

**Corp Bank launches RuPay credit cards**
Corporation Bank has launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards.

- Corporation Bank’s RuPay credit cards are accepted at all RuPay-enabled 1.5 million plus PoS terminals and 80,000 plus e-commerce merchants in India and all ICS Partner acceptance points (POS, e-commerce merchants) globally.
- Jai Kumar Garg, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Corporation Bank, unveiled the cards in Mangaluru.

**Fitch lowers 2017-18 growth projection to 6.7%**
International ratings agency Fitch has lowered the country's GDP growth projection for 2017-18 to 6.7 per cent.

- According to Fitch’s December Global Economic Outlook (GEO), the global ratings agency reduced the growth forecast for the fiscal year to end-March 2018 (FY18) to 6.7 per cent from 6.9 per cent.

**Venezuela to Launch Oil-Backed Cryptocurrency**
Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has announced the launch of a sovereign cryptocurrency "petro" which could bypass the U.S.-led financial sanctions, according to a market commentator.

- It is no surprise that digital currencies have become more popular as reports have been emerging that
Venezuela's economic crisis is triggering increased use of Bitcoin due to its currency -- the bolivar -- plunging in value.

**Points to Remember**
- Venezuela is a federal republic located on the northern coast of South America.
- Nicolás Maduro is the president of Venezuela.
- Caracas is the capital of Venezuela. Bolivar is the currency of Venezuela.

**Federal Bank offers savings a/c without interest**
Aluva-based Federal Bank has launched a non-interest bearing savings account targeting those whose beliefs do not permit them to accept interest payments.
- The 'Noor Personal Account' was launched on Milad-e-sherif.
- While account holders will not earn any interest they will get a platinum debit card which will provide them lounge access in airports eight times a year.

**Points to Remember**
- The Federal Bank Limited is a major private sector commercial bank headquartered at Aluva, Kochi, Kerala.
- Earlier, it was called Travancore Federal Bank Limited.
- It was founded in 1931. Shyam Srinivasan is the Managing Director & CEO of Federal Bank.

**ADB to lend $583 million for Reliance Power Bangladesh project**
The Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) board of directors has approved debt financing and partial risk guarantees totalling $583 million to develop Reliance Power’s liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal and a 750-MW power project in Bangladesh.
- The project, which includes a power plant to be located in Meghnaghat, near the capital city of Dhaka, and an LNG terminal near Kutubdia Island, south of Chittagong, will significantly increase power generation and improve energy infrastructure in Bangladesh.
- The total project cost is approximately $1 billion.

**Points to Remember**
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.
- It is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- Its motto is to Fighting poverty in Asia and the Pacific.
- It has 67 member countries. Takehiko Nakao is the president of the bank.
- As of 31 December 2016, Japan and United States hold the largest proportion of shares at 15.607%. China holds 6.444%, India holds 6.331%, and Australia holds 5.786%.

**YES BANK Awarded ‘Best Bank in India’ for CSR**
YES BANK, India’s fifth largest private sector bank, received multiple awards at the ‘Asiamoney Awards-2017’ hosted in Hongkong by the prestigious Asiamoney magazine.
- YES BANK was recognized as the Best Bank in India in the Asiamoney Corporate Client Choice Survey 2017.
- YES BANK also received the “Best Bank in India for CSR” award for multiple initiatives including championing Green Finance as well as the use of digital technologies.

**BI retains economic growth projection at 6.7% for FY’18**
The Reserve Bank retained economic growth projection for 2017-18 at 6.7 per cent saying that the risks are evenly balanced.
The 6-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6 per cent and reverse repo at 5.75 per cent.

In its Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18, RBI has also raised the inflation forecast for the remainder of the current financial year to 4.3-4.7 per cent.

Govt sets up panel to address NPAs in the power sector
The government has set up a high-level committee headed by NITI Aayog chief executive Amitabh Kant to address the problem of stressed assets in India's power sector.

- Non-performing assets (NPAs) in power generation accounted for around 5.9% of the banking sector’s total outstanding advances of Rs4.73 trillion.
- Tackling the issues that afflict the so-called stranded power assets will provide much-needed relief for Indian banks weighed down by bad loans.

India’s GDP growth to rise to 7.5% in 2018: Morgan Stanley
The Indian economy is expected to witness cyclical growth recovery, with real GDP growth likely to accelerate from 6.4 per cent this year to 7.5 per cent in 2018 and further to 7.7 per cent in 2019, says a report.

- According to global financial services major Morgan Stanley, corporate return expectations and balance sheet fundamentals are improving, and a strengthening financial system should be able to meet investment credit demand.

RBI Launches Campaign Against SMS Fraudsters
Taking the fight to the arena used by fraudsters promising prize money from the RBI, the central bank has itself launched an SMS campaign and a 'missed-call' helpline to warn people against such scams.

- Typically, such fraudsters make calls or send SMSe and emails to gullible people promising lotteries and prize money from the Reserve Bank -- at times from the RBI Governor himself -- to trap them into sharing their banking account details or paying some 'fees or charges' to get the money.
- RBI has now taken to SMSe to spread public awareness against such frauds and has also set up a 'missed call' helpline that provides all necessary information to the callers, including about filing of complaints.
- RBI/RBI Governor/Government never sends such email/SMS/call,” the central bank says in one such SMS, while asking them to give a missed call to a phone number (8691960000).

Delhi-NCR 84th most expensive office location globally: Report
Delhi-NCR is ranked 84th in the list of most expensive office locations in the world with an annual cost of USD 5,392 (over Rs 3.5 lakh) per workstation, according to property consultant Cushman & Wakefield.

- Hong Kong emerged as the most expensive location with an annual cost of USD 27,431 per workstation, followed by London and Tokyo, the consultant said in its report 'Office Space Across the World 2017' that evaluated 215 global locations.

Indian economy to grow at 7.2% in 2018, says UN report
The Indian economy will grow at 7.2% in 2018 and accelerate to 7.4% in 2019 as a result of robust private consumption, public investment and structural reforms, a United Nations report said.

- The report also forecast that inflation in India will be 4.5% in 2018 and 4.8% in 2019, slightly above the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) medium-term consumer price index-based (CPI-based) inflation target of 4%.
India’s economy expected to grow at 7.5% in 2018, says Nomura
Global investment bank Nomura has predicted India’s economy to register a 7.5 per cent growth rate in 2018, saying it is on the cusp of a cyclical recovery.

- It has forecast 6.7 per cent in the fourth quarter and a full-year growth of 6.2 per cent this year, rising to 7.5 per cent in 2018.

RBI imposes restrictions on Corporation Bank
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed certain restrictions on Corporation Bank on carrying out banking activities as its share of bad loans rose sharply.

- The government owned bank said that the RBI has triggered prompt corrective action (PCA) against it in view of high non-performing loans and requirement to raise capital.
- This makes Corporation Bank eighth bank to face restriction in a span of 10 months.

India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for SANKALP Project
A Financing Agreement for IBRD loan of USD 250 million (equivalent) for the “Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project” was signed with the World Bank.

- The Objective of the project is to enhance institutional mechanisms for skills development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for the work force.

RBI imposes Rs 3 crore penalty on IndusInd Bank
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed Rs 3 crore penalty on IndusInd Bank for breaching rules on income classification norms.

- A statement issued by RBI said that the penalty was imposed after the regulator observed violation of various regulations issued by the RBI on non-performing loans and extension of non-fund based limits.

ADB lowers India’s GDP forecast for FY18 to 6.7 per cent
The Asian Development Bank has raised its economic growth estimate for developing Asia to 6 percent for this year from a previous estimate of 5.9 per cent, citing stronger than expected exports and China's resilience.

- The Manila-based ADB kept its 2018 Asia growth forecast at 5.8 per cent.
- By region, South Asia will remain the fastest growing region in Asia Pacific, the ADB said, with India's growth outlook lowered to 6.7 per cent from 7.0 per cent.

Japan To Offer Grant For Vocational Training Centre In Rajasthan
Japan has decided to offer a grant worth 8.4 million Yen for the construction of a vocational training centre for poor women and youth in Rajasthan's Baran district

- The Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP) for development projects are designed to meet the diverse basic human needs of the people in developing countries.

No MDR charges on debit card payments up to Rs 2000
The merchant discount rate (MDR) charges on transactions up to Rs 2,000 made through debit cards, BHIM UPI or Aadhaar-enabled payment systems will be borne by the government 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 the banks.
- The move will have an impact of Rs 2,512 crore on the exchequer.
GST Council clears e-way bill mechanism
In order to provide seamless movement of goods across state borders, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council at its 24th meeting decided to make electronic permits compulsory for inter-state movement of goods from 1 February.

- The e-way bill system, which will be available on a trial basis for voluntary adoption by businesses from 16 January, will also help the tax authorities to monitor cross-border movement of consignments and check instances of under-valuation of goods.
- States have time till 1 June to implement the national e-way bill system for intra-state goods movement.

UIDAI puts Airtel, Airtel Bank’s Aadhaar-linked e-KYC services on hold
The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has temporarily suspended telecom major Bharti Airtel and Airtel Payments Bank’s “Aadhaar linked e-KYC” services for alleged misuse of the facility.

- UIDAI’s interim order comes after some customers of the telecom major alleged that the company had opened their bank account in Airtel Payments Bank when they used the “Aadhaar linked e-KYC services” without their consent.
- The “Aadhaar linked e-KYC” service of UIDAI provides an instant, electronic, non-repudiable proof of identity and proof of address along with date of birth and gender, resident’s mobile number and email address to the service provider.

RBI levies Rs 5 crore penalty on Syndicate Bank
Syndicate Bank has emerged as the latest entrant on the Reserve Bank of India's hit list for violation of norms.

- The central bank has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 crore on the public sector lender for violating the Know Your Customer (KYC)/Anti-Money Laundering (AML) norms.
- Earlier, RBI had penalised Union Bank of India Rs 2 crore for non-compliance of KYC norms.

Iraq replaces Saudi Arabia as India's lead oil supplier
Iraq has overtaken Saudi Arabia for the first time to become India's top crude oil supplier in the current fiscal.

- Saudi Arabia traditionally has been India's top oil source but in the April-October period of 2017-18, Iraq dethroned it, supplying 25.8 million tonnes (MT) of oil.

Yes Bank, EIB to co-finance $400 mn for clean power projects
Yes Bank and the European Investment Bank will co-finance USD 400 million funding for renewable power generation in the country.

- Of the USD 400 million, the EIB will fund USD 200 million while the rest will be supported by Yes Bank, the project promoters and other financial institutions.
- Under this renewable power generation initiative, several solar projects in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka have been identified.
- The EIB loan of USD 200 million has a tenor of 15 years.

Points to Remember
- Yes Bank is India's fifth largest private sector bank, founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur in 2004.
- Yes Bank is the only Greenfield Bank licence awarded by the RBI in the last one decade.
- Rana Kapoor is the CEO and MD of Yes Bank. Its headquarters is in Mumbai.
A Financing Agreement for IDA Credit of USD 125 million (equivalent) for the “Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project” was signed by the Government of India with the World Bank in the national capital.

- The Financing Agreement was signed by Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director, World Bank (India) on behalf of the World Bank.
- The Objective of the operation is to improve access to quality and market-driven vocational training provided in it is and apprenticeships.
- The closing date for the project is 30th November, 2022.

**RBI puts Bank of India under prompt corrective action**

Bank of India said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated ‘prompt corrective action’ (PCA) against the lender over high bad loans.

- High net non-performing assets (NPA), insufficient common equity tier 1 (CET1) capital and negative return on assets (ROA) for two consecutive years has prompted the action, the bank said in a statement.
- RBI has also put United Bank of India on corrective action plan. This is the second time in four years that UBI came under regulatory sanctions.

**World Bank approves USD 40 mn loan for UP tourism project**

Loan worth USD 40 million for a tourism project in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh was approved by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors.

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will grant the loan which has a 5-year grace period, and maturity term of 19 years.
- The Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project will support the state government's priority of re-structuring tourism.

**Rs 52,000 cr infused in Public Sector Banks since 2015-16**

The government has informed the Lok Sabha that it had so far infused a capital of Rs 51,858 crore in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) under its 'Indradhanush Plan' since 2015-16.

- The data shared by the government showed that out of the total Rs 51,858 crore, Rs 25,000 crore was infused in 2015-16, Rs 24,997 crore in 2016-17 and Rs 1,861 crore in 2017-18.

**UK tops Forbes’ List of Best Countries for Business in 2018**

The United Kingdom has topped Forbes’ rankings of best countries in the world for business in 2018 for the first time, up from fifth last year.

- The list ranks 153 countries on 15 factors including property rights, innovation, taxes and red tape.
- The UK is followed by New Zealand and the Netherlands, while India was ranked 62nd on the list.
- Chad ranks last for the third straight year.

**Yes Bank sets up MTN programme to raise $1 bn**

Private sector lender Yes Bank has established a Medium Term Note (MTN) programme to raise USD 1 billion (over 6,400 crore) by issuing debt securities on private placement basis.

- On November 29, the Capital Raising Committee of the board of the bank had approved its proposal to set up the MTN programme.
- As per the approval from its board of directors and shareholders, the bank has permission to raise funds up to Rs. 20,000 crore in one or more tranches on private placement basis from time to time.
Public sector banks' NPA hits Rs 7.34 lakh crore
Bad loans of Public sector banks (PSBs) stood at Rs 7.34 lakh crore by the end of second quarter this fiscal, a bulk of which came from corporate defaulters, according to Reserve Bank data.

- However, on the other hand private sector banks' non-performing assets (NPAs) were considerably low at Rs 1.03 lakh crore by September 30.
- The government said leading corporate houses and companies accounted for approximately 77 per cent of the total gross NPAs from domestic operations for the banks.
- Among the major public sector banks, State Bank of India (SBI) had the highest amount of NPAs at over Rs 1.86 lakh crore.

Loan Agreement with World Bank to Support Farmers in Tamil Nadu
The Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the World Bank have signed a $318 million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project to promote climate resilient agriculture technologies, improve water management practices, and increase market opportunities for small and marginal farmers.

- About 500,000 farmers, of which a majority are small and marginal, are expected to benefit from improved and modernized tank irrigation systems.
- The project will rehabilitate and modernize about 4,800 irrigation tanks and 477 check dams, spread across 66 sub-basins, in delivering bulk water to irrigation systems.

India is set to overtake the United Kingdom and France to become the world's fifth largest economy next year, a report said.

- Currently, ranked seventh, India will move up to fifth place in 2018 and vault to third spot by 2032, the Centre for Economics and Business Research, a London-based consultancy, said in its annual rankings.
- The United States, the world's largest economy, will be overtaken by China in 2030, the report forecast.

Govt cuts small savings interest rate by 0.2 percentage points
The government cut the interest rate on small savings schemes, including public provident fund (PPF), national savings certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra, by 0.2 percentage points for the January-March quarter, a move that will prompt banks to lower deposit rates.

- Interest rates in the five-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, however, has been retained at 8.3%. The interest rate on the senior citizens’ scheme is paid quarterly.
- As per the finance ministry notification, PPF and NSC will fetch a lower annual rate of 7.6% while KVP will yield 7.3% and mature in 11 months.
- The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samriddhi Account will offer 8.1 from existing 8.3% annually.
- Term deposits of 1-5 years will fetch a lower interest rate of 6.6-7.4%, to be paid quarterly, while the five-year recurring deposit is pegged at 6.9%.

India to become fifth largest economy in 2018: Report

India is the top remittance receiving country in the world
Indians working abroad sent home $68 billion in 2015, making India the top remittance receiving country surpassing China.

- Other top receiving countries for remittances from Asia include Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam.
India topped the list with $68 bn of remittance inflows, followed closely by China ($63.93 bn).

Philippines is the third highest remittance receiving country in the world.

India to replace China as world's biggest LPG importer

India is set to surpass China as the biggest importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) this month.

Shipping data in Thomson Reuters Eikon shows LPG shipments to India will reach 2.4 million tonnes in December, pushing it ahead of top importer China, on 2.3 million tonnes, for the first time.

India's first bitcoin trading app launched

Crypto currency dealer Pluto Exchange has announced the launch of India's first mobile application for transacting in virtual currencies.

Pluto Exchange founder and Chief Executive Bharat Verma said his company is all set to launch the country's first app-based wallet that enables bitcoin transactions using a mobile number.

By using a four-digit personal identification number (PIN), users can now buy, sell, store and spend bitcoins via a mobile number, Verma added.

IBBI grants recognition to two registered valuers organisations

In pursuance to the Companies (Registered Valuers and Valuation) Rules, 2017, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has recognised two registered valuers organisations.

The Institution of Estate Managers and Appraisers will handle one asset class of “land and building”, while the IOV Registered Valuers Foundation will handle three asset classes of “land and building”, “plant and machinery” and “securities or financial assets”.

These registered valuers organisations will conduct educational courses in valuation, grant membership and certificate of practice to individuals, conduct training for its members and lay down and enforce the Code of Conduct for the registered valuers, who are its members.

Bank of Baroda to buy out JV partner's stake in mutual fund

Bank of Baroda has said it will purchase its joint venture partner UniCredit's entire 51 per cent stake in Baroda Pioneer Asset Management Company (AMC) and Baroda Pioneer Trustee Company Private Ltd (Trustee).

BoB has executed a share purchase agreement (SPA) with UniCredit SpA, the AMC and the Trustee.

Pursuant to the SPA, the bank will become the sole shareholder of the AMC and the Trustee company and the sole sponsor of the Baroda Pioneer Mutual Fund. The transaction is subject to requisite regulatory approvals.

The JV was formed in 2008.

S&P puts Indian banks in 'Group 5'

Rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) has put banking sector of India in group '5' under Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA).

The other countries in group '5' are Spain, Ireland, Italy, Panama, Bermuda, Poland, Peru, Qatar, South Africa and the UAE.

The medium-term outlook for India's growth remains healthy due to good demographics, public and foreign direct investments, private consumption, and reforms such as the removal of barriers to domestic trade through GST," it said.
Centre pumps Rs. 7,577 cr into 6 public sector banks

Coming to the rescue of ailing banks, the Centre has pumped in capital of ₹7,577 crore in various weak public sector banks.

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

India ranks 5th in list of countries with highest NPA levels

India has the highest level of non-performing assets (NPA) among BRICS countries and is ranked fifth on a list of countries with the highest levels of NPAs, a report by CARE Ratings revealed.

- The only countries ranked higher than India on the list are Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Ireland.
- All these countries, along with Spain, are commonly referred to as PIIGS, and have been victims of sovereign debt crises in recent years.
- At 9.85 percent, India’s NPA ratio is over 400 basis points higher.

Federal Bank partners LuLu Exchange for cross-border remittances

Kerala based Federal Bank has announced a partnership with Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Exchange to leverage blockchain technology for cross-border remittances.

- The two financial companies have launched and successfully tested the service using blockchain technology, which is fast revolutionising the financial and commercial world.
- The companies worked with Digiledge, a Bengaluru based fintech start-up on this innovation.

Allahabad Bank ties up with NeSL

Allahabad Bank entered into an agreement with state-run National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing the latter's Information Utility Services envisaged under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

- MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank Usha Ananthasubramanian stressed on the need for Information Utility Services in the present context when most banks are reeling under NPA pressure.

S K Chourasia appointed as DGOF and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board

Shri Sunil Kumar Chourasia, IOFS, has been appointed as the new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) w.e.f. 1st December, 2017.

- Previously, he was Member, OFB and was in charge of Material & Components division.
- Graduating in Mechanical Engineering from Jabalpur and thereafter earning an M Tech from IIT Kanpur, Shri Chourasia joined Indian Ordnance Factories Service in 1981.

A. Surya Prakash reappointed chairman of Prasar Bharati

Former journalist and author A. Surya Prakash has been appointed as the chairman of the public broadcaster Prasar Bharati for a second term.
• Prasar Bharati runs Doordarshan and All India Radio.
• Prakash, who has been at the helm of Prasar Bharati for three years since 2014, retired earlier in October.

Infosys appoints Salil S. Parekh as CEO and Managing Director
Infosys has appointed Capgemini executive Salil Parekh as Chief Executive Officer, putting an end to an executive search that lasted for nearly two months.
• Parekh, who will take over on January 2, 2018 for a period of five years, was a member of the Group Executive Board at French firm Capgemini.
• U B Pravin Rao, who had replaced Vishal Sikka as interim CEO and Managing Director, will step down from that role effective January 2, 2018 and will continue as Chief Operating Officer and a whole-time Director of the Company.

British singer Ellie is UN environment global goodwill ambassador
British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding is a Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment, joining the fight to save the lives and habitats of people and animals by cleaning up the planet's air and seas, fighting climate change and protecting species.
• Poor air quality, and pollution of all forms, is high on the agenda of the UN Environment Assembly, which Ellie will attend when it begins on December 4 in Nairobi.

Akshay Kumar to promote government's flagship agri-schemes
Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar will promote the government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card and crop insurance.
• The Union Agriculture Ministry has roped in the actor for television advertisements to intensify the publicity of the agri-schemes.
• Besides soil health card scheme, the actor will promote Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and others.

Azar A.H.Khan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan
Shri Azar A.H.Khan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.
• He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. He is presently Consul General in the Consulate General of India, Istanbul.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui to be face of water conservation campaign
Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who comes from an agricultural background, will now be the face of a water conservation campaign, which is an initiative by the Central government.
• He was approached by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to spearhead the campaign.
• The actor, who was a farmer, is aware of the various new technological advances farmers across the world use to conserve water.

Uma Shankar appointed RBI Executive Director
Uma Shankar, chief general manager (CGM) in charge of the Reserve Bank of India's financial inclusion and development department has taken over as executive director (ED) in the central bank.
• Shankar has been elevated after Meena Hemchandra the executive director in charge of the central bank's supervision department retired at the end of November.
Rahul Gandhi elected unopposed as Congress President
Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi was elected unopposed as president of the Indian National Congress. Briefing reporters, the party’s central election authority chief Mullappally Ramachandran said Mr. Gandhi will formally take over on December 16.

- He is the 16th president of the Congress since Independence.

Points to Remember
- The Indian National Congress was Founded on 28 December 1885
- The Indian National Congress conducted its first session in Bombay from 28–31 December 1885.
- Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee was the first president of Indian National Congress.

K. Jeeva Sagar appointed Ambassador of India to Kuwait
Shri K. Jeeva Sagar (IFS: 1991) has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Kuwait.

- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. He is presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

FIH chief Batra elected unopposed as IOA President
International Hockey Federation (FIH) chief Narinder Batra has been elected unopposed as the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), while Rajeev Mehta was re-elected secretary general for a four-year term.

- The 59-year-old Mr. Batra, thus, became one of the few sports administrators to head a national Olympic committee while heading an important international sports federation.

Czech president appoints Andrej Babis as new prime minister
Czech billionaire businessman Andrej Babis was appointed prime minister after his ANO party came first in an October election.

- Running on pledges to fight migration and make the state more efficient, ANO won 29.6 percent of the vote.

Ravindra Jaiswal appointed Ambassador of India to Sudan
Shri Ravindra Jaiswal (IFS: 1999) has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Sudan.

- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. He is presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Berne.

PK Gupta appointed Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali
Shri Pradeep Kumar Gupta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali.

- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. He is presently Counsellor, High Commission of India, Accra

Conservative Sebastian Pinera wins Chile's election
Conservative former President Sebastian Pinera has won Chile's presidential runoff in an election that was expected to have a much closer result.

- Pinera had secured 54.6 percent of the votes. His centre-left opponent, Alejandro Guillier, received 45.4 percent.

Points to Remember
- Chile is a South American country.
- Its capital is Santiago and currency is Peso.

Europe's youngest leader Sebastian Kurz sworn in as chancellor
Europe's youngest leader Sebastian Kurz, 31 was sworn in as Austria's new chancellor.
Austrian People's Party formed a coalition with the nationalist Freedom Party that is expected to move the country's politics to the right.

The two parties have pledged to tighten the country's asylum and immigration regulations while maintaining a firm commitment to the European Union.

Points to Remember
- Austria is a federal republic and a landlocked country of over 8.7 million people in Central Europe.
- Vienna is the capital of Austria and Euro is the currency of Austria.
- Alexander Van der Bellen is the President of Austria.

Justice Salvi takes charge as acting NGT Chairman
Justice Umesh Dattatraya Salvi took charge as the acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), following the retirement of Justice Swatanter Kumar.
- Justice Salvi will continue in office until the date a new chairperson is appointed or the date of his superannuation, whichever is earlier.
- He will retire on February 13, 2018.

BJP retains Vijay Rupani as Gujarat CM
Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani will be retained for a second term.
- Nitin Patel will remain his deputy chief minister.
- Rupani won the Gujarat Assembly election from Rajkot West.
- His party, the BJP, now has 100 seats in the Assembly, thanks to support from independent MLA and former Congress leader Ratansinh Rathod.

Lt Gen B S Sahrawat takes over as DG, NCC
Lieutenant General B S Sahrawat took over the reins of National Cadet Corps as its Director General.
- The General Officer is a third generation army officer.
- He is alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
- He was commissioned in December 1980 in 13th Battalion (Rezang La), the Kumaon Regiment.

M. Subbarayudu appointed Ambassador of India to Peru
Shri M. Subbarayudu, (IFS: 1994) has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru.
- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. He is presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Amnesty International appoints Kumi Naidoo as next Secretary General
Amnesty International has appointed Kumi Naidoo as the next Secretary General of the global human rights movement.
- From August 2018 Kumi will succeed Salil Shetty, who served two terms as Secretary General from 2010.
- The Secretary General is the leader and main spokesperson for Amnesty International and the Chief Executive of its International Secretariat.

Points to Remember
- Amnesty International (commonly known as Amnesty or AI) is a London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights.
- Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961.

Jairam Thakur Will Be Chief Minister In Himachal Pradesh
Five-time legislator Jairam Thakur will be the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, BJP lawmakers decided after a
meeting to pick their chief, attended by the party's Central observers Nirmala Sitharaman and Narendra Singh Tomar.

- He will take oath on December 27, the BJP has announced.
- The 52-year-old, who represents Seraj, a constituency near Mandi, had earlier been the party's state unit chief and a minister in a government headed by Mr Dhumal.

**Ranveer Singh is Premier League's ambassador in India**

To promote football in India, the Premier League has forged a partnership with Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh.

- The league recently hosted an international fan park in Bengaluru, which saw more than 20,000 Indian fans engage with clubs and activities.

**UN appoints Henrietta Fore as UNICEF head**

UN chief Antonio Guterres has appointed former senior US government official Henrietta H Fore as the new executive director of UNICEF.

- Fore, 69, has worked to champion economic development, education and health, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for the most vulnerable in the international and developing world.
- Fore will become the seventh Executive Director on January 1, 2018. The Trump administration has welcomed the UN’s decision.

**Points to Remember**

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations (UN) program headquartered in New York City that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group. It was established on 11 December 1946.

**Belgium appoints world's first female ambassador to Saudi Arabia**

Belgium has become the first country to appoint a female ambassador to Saudi Arabia in spite of the Gulf nation's shocking women's rights record.

- Dominique Mineur will move to Riyadh to head up the embassy from next year in a 'clear signal' to Saudi officials.
- Mineur is currently based in the United Arab Emirates.

**George Weah elected Liberian president**

Former football star George Weah has been elected as Liberia's president.

- With nearly all ballots counted, Mr Weah is well ahead of opponent Joseph Boakai with more than 60% of the vote.
- He will succeed Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female president, in Liberia's first democratic handover in decades.
- He is the only African footballer to have won both Fifa World Player of the Year and the prestigious Ballon D'Or.

**President appoints Vinay Sahasrabuddhe as ICCR President**

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabuddhe as the President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

- Sahasrabuddhe, the BJP's national Vice President, is also a Rajya Sabha member from Maharashtra.

**Points to Remember**

- ICCR was founded in 1950 by India’s first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who also served as its first President.
- Former Presidents Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma and K.R. Narayanan, former Prime Ministers P.V.
Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee have also held the post.

Jenny Kim crowned Miss Supranational 2017
Miss Korea Jenny Kim bagged the title of Miss Supranational 2017 at the gala event held on December 1 in Poland's Spa Resort of Krynica-Zdroj.

- Romania's Bianca Tirsin was announced as the second runner-up.
- Kim left behind 64 contestants from different countries to bag the title.
- She was crowned Miss Supranational 2017 by last year's winner Srinidhi Shetty.

‘Populism’ is Cambridge dictionary’s ‘word of the year’
The word “populism” has been announced as the Cambridge Dictionary 2017 Word of the Year.
- The dictionary defines populism as “political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want”.

Star Screen Awards 2018
The 23rd edition of the annual film awards show, Star Screen Awards, was held at Mumbai.

- Best Film (Critics): Newton
- Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal)
- Best Actress (Popular): Vidya Balan (Tumhari Sulu)
- Best Actress (Critics): Konkona Sen Sharma (Lipstick Under My Burkha)
- Best Actor (Critics): Rajkummar Rao (Newton)
- Best Actor (Popular): Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
- Best Supporting Actor: Rajkummar Rao (Bareilly Ki Barfi)
- Best Supporting Actor Female: Neha Dhupia (Tumhari Sulu)
- Best Playback Singer (male): Arijit Singh (Raees and Jagga Jasoos)
- Best Playback Singer: Shashaa Tirupati (Shubh Mangal Savdhaan)

16-year-old Syrian wins Children's Peace Prize 2017
Sixteen-year-old Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria was awarded the International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to ensure the rights of Syrian refugee children.
- Al Jounde, a refugee of the Syrian civil war, set up a school together with his family in a Lebanese refugee camp that currently provides 200 children with education.

Saudi crown prince tops Time Person of the Year readers’ poll
Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, has won TIME’s Person of the Year 2017 online reader poll.
- The 32-year-old crown prince received 24% of the “yes” votes cast.

‘MeToo' movement named Time magazine's Person of the Year'
The ‘Silence Breakers' who started the #MeToo movement have been named Time ‘Person of the Year'.
- Last year's winner, President Trump, and China's President Xi Jinping came in second and third place.
- Time Editor-in-Chief Edward Felsenthal called the movement 'the fastest moving social change we’ve seen in decades'.
Taj Mahal named second best UNESCO world heritage site
The Taj Mahal, India's iconic ivory-white marble mausoleum in Agra, is the second best UNESCO world heritage site in the world, according to a new survey.

- With over 8 million visitors per year, the monument built by mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, is rated after Cambodia's Angkor Wat.
- Conducted by online travel portal TripAdvisor, the survey lists the UNESCO Cultural and Natural heritage sites best rated by travellers around the globe.

Aamir Khan's Dangal Wins Best Asian Film at Australian Gala
Aamir Khan-starrer Dangal was on Wednesday named the Best Asian Film at the 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards.

- Dangal, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, is a biographical sports drama film.
- It is inspired by the lives of the Phogat family members, telling the story of Mahavir Singh Phogat, an amateur wrestler, who trains his daughters Geeta and Babita to become India's first world-class female wrestlers.

Unesco recognizes Kumbh Mela as India’s cultural heritage
The Kumbh Mela has been recognized by Unesco as an “intangible cultural heritage of humanity”.

- The Kumbh Mela, held in Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik, represents a syncretic set of rituals related to worship and cleansing in holy rivers.

Hindi writer Mamta Kalia to get the 27th Vyas Samman
Eminent Hindi writer Mamta Kalia will be honoured with literary award Vyas Samman for year 2017 for her novel "Dukkham Sukkham", the K K Birla Foundation announced.

- The writer will receive an amount of Rs 3.5 lakh as the prize money.
- Eminent literary critic and poet Ram Vilas Sharma was the first recipient of Vyas Samman in 1991.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins fifth Ballon d’Or
Cristiano Ronaldo has won the Ballon D’Or for the fifth time to equal his great rival Lionel Messi’s haul.

- The Real Madrid and Portugal superstar pipped the Argentine Barcelona legend to prize in Paris this evening.
- PSG forward Neymar was also in the top three alongside Ronaldo and Messi.
- He is now level with Lionel Messi on five Ballon d’Or wins each.

Kerala’s 'zero-waste' Alappuzha among top five cities in UN list
The waste management system being implemented in Kerala's coastal town of Alappuzha has been recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of the five models across the world for fighting the pollution menace.

- Alappuzha, often called "the Venice of East", has been listed in the UNEP environment report entitled, 'Solid approach to waste: how five cities are beating pollution' alongside cities like Osaka in Japan, Ljubljana in Slovenia, Penang in Malaysia and Cajica in Colombia.
Irrfan Khan Gets Honoured At Dubai International Film Festival

Irrfan Khan was recently honoured at the 14th Dubai International Film Festival for his “incredible body of work.”

- From proving his acting mettle in serious roles like Paan Singh Tomar to tickling our funny bones with his great comic timing in films like Hindi Medium, Irrfan Khan has also made a mark in Hollywood.

Manish Sisodia Bags 'Finest Education Minister Award'

Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia was awarded the ‘Finest Education Minister’ award by former President Pranab Mukherjee.

- Mr Sisodia, who also holds the Deputy Chief Minister portfolio, was presented the award at a national convention on education, The Fifth Estate, organised by an educational think tank.

Vice President confers Yeraringan award to M.S. Swaminathan

M.S. Swaminathan has been given ‘Yeraringan’ Award recently by M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India.

- Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan is known as “Indian Father of Green Revolution” for his leadership and success in introducing and further developing high-yielding varieties of wheat in India.

Indian short film ‘The School Bag’ wins award in Vancouver Film Festival

Indian film “The School Bag” has bagged the Best Short Film award at the Vancouver Golden Panda International Film Festival.

- The fiction film, directed by Dheeraj Jindal, is based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

- The School Bag” also won the Best Short Film award at the Lahore International Children’s Film Festival and Jindal received the Best Director award at the Indian Film Festival of Cincinnati, US.

Priyanka Chopra receives Mother Teresa Memorial award

Actor Priyanka Chopra has been honoured with this year's Mother Teresa Memorial award for social justice.

- Priyanka received the award for her contribution towards lending her support to social causes, such as her recent visit to Syria, where she met and interacted with refugee children.

- The actor is also UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador and is known for supporting various philanthropic activities.

India's Lakshmi Puri Receives 'Power of one' Award At UN

Six top diplomats, including an Indian woman Lakshmi Puri, have been felicitated with the inaugural Diwali “Power of One” award at the UN headquarters in New York for their contribution to help form a more “perfect, peaceful and secure world”.

- The awards were presented on Monday on the occasion of the first anniversary of the US Postal Service's issuing of a forever Diwali stamp last year.

Lucknow's Jitesh Singh Deo wins Mr. India World 2017 title

Jitesh Singh Deo from Lucknow has bagged the Mr. India World 2017 title. He will represent India at the Mr World competition.

- Prathamesh Maulingkar, a model and entrepreneur from Goa, won the Mr India Supranatural 2017 title.

Bengali poet Joy Goswami to get 31st Moortidevi Award
Eminent Bengali poet Joy Goswami will be given the 31st Moortidevi Award for the year 2017, a selection board meeting announced.

- The committee, headed by poet and scholar Satya Vrat Shastri, unanimously decided to confer the award upon Goswami for his poetry collection titled 'Du Dondo Phowara Matro'.
- It is the first time the award will be given to a Bengali poet.
- The award consists of a Saraswati Statue, a Citation Plaque and cash award of Rupees 4 lac.

Ramdev Dhurandhar receives Shrilal Shukla Smriti IFFCO Sahitya Samman
Noted litterateur Ramdev Dhurandhar has been selected for this year's 'Shrilal Shukla Smriti IFFCO Sahitya Samman' presented by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).
- The selection committee headed by Shri Devi Prasad Tripathi selected Ramdev Dhurandhar for the award, keeping his extensive literary contribution in mind.

Youthquake' named word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries
Oxford Dictionaries has crowned “youthquake” as its word of 2017 in a nod to the unexpected level of youth engagement in this summer's election in the United Kingdom.
- An amalgamation of “youth” and “earthquake”, the noun is defined as “a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people.”

Roger Federer named BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year
Roger Federer has been voted the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year for a record fourth time.
- Federer previously won the award, which is voted for by the public, in 2004, 2006 and 2007.

Muhammad Ali and Usain Bolt have each won it three times.

Rekha receives first Smita Patil Memorial Award
Legendary actress Rekha, who received the first Smita Patil Memorial Award, said she found the late actress was a far better performer than her.
- Rekha was conferred the award for her contribution in the field of cinema on 16 December.

21-year-old Shree Saini crowned Miss India USA 2017
Shree Saini, a resident of Washington state, was crowned Miss India USA 2017.
- At the beauty pageant, cancer surgeon Kavita Malhotra Pattani from Florida was declared Mrs India USA 2017.
- Swapna Mannam, 17, from New Jersey was crowned with Miss Teen India USA 2017.

Tata Steel Joda Mine gets Golden Peacock Innovation Award
Joda East Iron Mine (JEIM) of Tata Steel has been honoured with the prestigious Golden Peacock Innovation Management Award for the year 2017 for driving innovation in mines.
- Joda East Iron Mine of Tata Steel is one of the fully mechanised captive iron mines of Tata Steel.
- It is rated five star category mines by the Government for doing sustainable mining.

Satheesh Reddy conferred with national design award
G. Satheesh Reddy, Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri and Director General, Missiles and Strategic Systems, has been conferred with the prestigious National Design Award.
- He has bagged this award for his significant national contribution towards indigenous design and
development of diversified missile systems, guided weapons, avionics technologies.

**Kolkata Police wins NASSCOM-DSCI excellence award**
The cyber section of Kolkata Police has been awarded with this year's prestigious NASSCOM-DSCI excellence award.
- The section was awarded during an All India Security Seminar recently held in Gurgaon where cyber units from different state police forces all across the country had participated.

**Atanjali ranked India's most trusted FMCG Brand**
Patanjali has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Brand by the Brand Trust Report India Study 2017.
- 11,000 brands across 16 cities were covered by The Brand Trust Report India Study 2017.
- The Patanjali Ayurved Limited was established in 2006 by Ramdev, along with Acharya Balkrishna.

**IIT professor bags prestigious award**
Pranita P Sarangi, a professor of Biotechnology at IIT, Roorkee, has bagged this year's Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award.
- Sarangi was chosen for the award by the department of biotechnology, ministry of science and technology, government of India, for her scientific achievements and proposed work in the field of cancer immunology.
- The IYBA award covers a research grant up to Rs 50 lakh and a cash award prize of Rs 1 lakh per year during the project period.

**Sudarshan Pattnaik creates world's biggest sand Santa face**
Globally acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik claimed to have created the “world's biggest” sand Santa face with message “World Peace” on the Puri beach of Odisha on Christmas eve.

**Ronaldo wins Globe Soccer Best Player award**
Real Madrid forward, Cristiano Ronaldo, has won the Best Player of the Year accolade at the Globe Soccer Awards.
- Ronaldo retained the award, making it four wins overall, after helping his club defend the Champions League and win the Liga title.
- The Portugal captain also won his fifth Ballon d’Or, the UEFA Best Player in Europe and FIFA’s The Best Award this year.
- Real were named Club of the Year, with boss Zinedine Zidane collecting the Coach of the Year award.

**Chola MS honoured with Golden Peacock Award for risk management**
Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited has been awarded the prestigious “Golden Peacock Award for Risk Management” for the year 2017.

**Kolkata Police wins NASSCOM-DSCI excellence award**
The cyber section of Kolkata Police has been awarded with this year's prestigious NASSCOM-DSCI excellence award.
- The section was awarded during an All India Security Seminar recently held in Gurgaon where cyber units from different state police forces all across the country had participated.

**Atanjali ranked India's most trusted FMCG Brand**
Patanjali has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Brand by the Brand Trust Report India Study 2017.
- 11,000 brands across 16 cities were covered by The Brand Trust Report India Study 2017.
- The Patanjali Ayurved Limited was established in 2006 by Ramdev, along with Acharya Balkrishna.

**IIT professor bags prestigious award**
Pranita P Sarangi, a professor of Biotechnology at IIT, Roorkee, has bagged this year's Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award.
- Sarangi was chosen for the award by the department of biotechnology, ministry of science and technology, government of India, for her scientific achievements and proposed work in the field of cancer immunology.
- The IYBA award covers a research grant up to Rs 50 lakh and a cash award prize of Rs 1 lakh per year during the project period.

**Sudarshan Pattnaik creates world's biggest sand Santa face**
Globally acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik claimed to have created the “world's biggest” sand Santa face with message “World Peace” on the Puri beach of Odisha on Christmas eve.

**Ronaldo wins Globe Soccer Best Player award**
Real Madrid forward, Cristiano Ronaldo, has won the Best Player of the Year accolade at the Globe Soccer Awards.
- Ronaldo retained the award, making it four wins overall, after helping his club defend the Champions League and win the Liga title.
- The Portugal captain also won his fifth Ballon d’Or, the UEFA Best Player in Europe and FIFA’s The Best Award this year.
- Real were named Club of the Year, with boss Zinedine Zidane collecting the Coach of the Year award.

**Chola MS honoured with Golden Peacock Award for risk management**
Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited has been awarded the prestigious “Golden Peacock Award for Risk Management” for the year 2017.
The Golden Peacock Awards were instituted in 1991 by the Institute of Directors (IOD).

Chola MS has been awarded the Winner under the Sector - "Insurance (General)".

The other winners in this category include State Bank of India, ONGC Videsh and L&T Finance Holdings.

Ankushita wins the ‘Best Boxer’ title in World Youth Women's Boxing
Ankushita Boro, a 17-year-old girl from Assam won The Best Boxer title in World Youth Women’s Boxing Championship held in Guwahati.

- Ankushita Boro sealed the fifth gold with her bout against Russia’s Ekaterina Dynnik in the 64kg final.
- Nearly 200 players from over 30 countries took part in the championship which was held for the first time in India.

Mirabai Chanu wins India's first World Championships gold in 22 years
India won its first weightlifting World Championships gold medal since 1995 when Mirabai Chanu defeated the Thai favourite Thunya Sukcharoen in the women's 48kg.

- India's last World Championships winner was Karnam Malleswari, who in 2000 became the country's first female Olympic medallist in any sport.

Mary Kom resigns as boxing’s National Observer
Five-time world champion M.C Mary Kom has resigned as the National Observer for Indian boxing after Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore made it clear that active sportspersons will not be considered for the position.

- The 35-year-old Olympic bronze-medallist was among 12 national observers appointed by the then Sports Minister Vijay Goel in March.

India beat Nepal 3-0 to lift South Asian badminton title
India defeated Nepal 3-0 to win the first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament (team championship) in Guwahati.

- With the team championship over, the individual competition will commence from December 6.

India to host senior women's, men's boxing World Championships
India will host the Senior Women's World Boxing Championships next year and the Senior Men's World Championships in 2021, Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore announced.

- Rathore was speaking a function to felicitate the Indian women's squad which registered a tally of five gold and two bronze medals at the Youth Women's World Championships in Guwahati last month.

Hockey World League Final: India beat Germany 2-1 to win bronze
India defeated a spirited but depleted Germany 2-1 to win the bronze medal at the Hockey World League Final.

- SV Sunil put India in the lead in the first half but a poor defending saw Mark Appel equalise in the second half.
- Harmanpreet Singh then converted a penalty corner six minutes before the final hooter to seal the match in India's favour.

Delhi to host India Open boxing tournament
The national capital will host the inaugural India Open International Boxing Tournament for senior men and women from January 28 to February 1 in 2018.

- Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh revealed this during the felicitation ceremony of
Indian pugilists who won medals in the AIBA Youth Women’s World Championships in Guwahati last month.

Australia wins Men's Hockey World League title
Australia have defended the Hockey World League title by claiming a 2-1 triumph over reigning Olympic champions Argentina at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- Earlier, India defeated Germany to claim bronze medal.
- Men's FIH Hockey World League Final took place between 1 and 10 December 2017 in Bhubaneswar, India.

Siwach named ABC’s best youth boxer
World youth champion Sachin Siwach was named the Asian Boxing Confederation’s best youth boxer of the year after winning an online poll conducted by the continental body.
- Siwach polled 36.2% votes in his category.
- India also fetched the Best Asian International Technical Official (ITO) award with Lenny D’Gama winning the online poll.

Michael Jordan becomes the world's highest-paid athlete of all time
In the latest list released by Forbes, Michael Jordan has been named as the highest-paid athletes of all time.
- Meanwhile, former world number one golfer Tiger Woods is standing at the second spot, with an eye-popping $1.7 billion pretax.

Nepal hosts first International Wheelchair Cricket Tournament
The first ever International Wheelchair Cricket Tournament was organised in Nepal's Kathmandu.

- The tournament has participation of teams from Nepal, India and Bangladesh which is supported by the Sushil Koirala Memorial Foundation and technical assistance from the Kathmandu Cricket Training Center.

PV Sindhu finishes with silver medal at BWF Super Series Final
PV Sindhu won silver at the Dubai World Super series Finals after losing a titanic contest against Japan's top seed Akane Yamaguchi 21-15, 12-21, 19-21.
- Sindhu, who beat Chen Yufei in the semi-final, is only the second Indian to make a finals appearance at the tournament.

Mo Farah wins BBC’s Sports Personality of the Year award
World 10,000m champion Sir Mo Farah has been voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2017.
- He becomes the first long-distance runner to win the Sports Personality award since Paula Radcliffe in 2002.
- The 34-year-old, a four-time Olympic champion, won his third successive world 10,000m gold medal in London in August.

England’s women cricket team win BBC Team of the Year Award
England’s women cricket team won the BBC Team of the Year Award following their remarkable win over India in the World Cup that was played under home conditions.

Here are the winners:
- Sports Personality of the Year: Mo Farah
- Overseas Sports Personality of the Year: Roger Federer
- Lifetime Achievement: Jessica Ennis-Hill
- Coach of the Year: Benke Blomkvist, Stephen Maguire and Christian Malcolm
Team of the Year: England’s women cricket team

Badminton Jr. Nationals: Aakarshi Kashyap wins U-17 & U-19 singles titles
India’s top-ranked junior shuttler Aakarshi Kashyap won U-17 and U-19 singles titles at junior Nationals in Guwahati.
- In Under-17 category, 16-year-old from Bhilai defeated Malvika Bansod in the final.
- In under 19 category final, Kashyap beaten Vaidehi Choudhari 22-20, 21-11.

Birmingham officially named as 2022 Commonwealth Games host city
Birmingham has been selected to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022, the biggest sporting event to be awarded to an English city since the London Olympics in 2012.
- Birmingham began the bidding process in September 2016 with its sights set on hosting the 2026 edition but Durban, South Africa, which was originally chosen to host in 2022, was stripped of the event in March this year after failing to meet a series of financial deadlines.

Shooting excluded from 2022 Commonwealth Games
Birmingham Games officials did not pick shooting, which features in the list of optional sports, for the final programme.
- Instead the organisers chose judo, table tennis, wrestling, gymnastics, diving, cycling and 3v3 basketball as the seven optional sports apart from the 10 mandatory ones.
- The final list of sports for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games is set to be finalised by end of the year.

Meanwhile, there are chances that cricket could feature at the 2022 edition, albeit in a mixed-gender Twenty20 (T20) format.

Bangladesh girls clinch SAFF U-15 Women's Championship
Bangladesh won the title of the inaugural edition of SAFF Under-15 Women's Football Championship with a solitary goal victory against India.
- Winger Shamsunnahar’s 41st minute strike proved decisive in the final at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium.
- The hosts beat the same opposition 3-0 in a league stage match.

Saudi Arabia hosts world chess games
Saudi Arabia has hosted a world chess tournament for the first time on 26 December.
- Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman has pushed for greater social freedom, including lifting a ban on women driving that goes into effect next year, allowing concerts and movies, and easing rules on gender segregation.
- The tournament, called the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships, runs until 30 December.

Viswanathan Anand wins World Rapid Chess Championship
Viswanathan Anand lifted the World rapid chess championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- The genial genius from Chennai, who defeated Magnus Carlsen of Norway earlier in the tournament, went on to finish on top with 10.5 points at the end of the 15th and final round.
- In the final, Anand beat Russia’s Vladimir Fedoseev to reclaim the title he had won in 2003.
- The women’s title was won by China’s Ju Wenjun.
Veteran actor Shashi Kapoor passes away at 79
Veteran Hindi film actor Shashi Kapoor passed away on Monday after prolonged illness. He was 79.

- Kapoor was well-known for his roles in films like 'Deewaar' (1975), 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram' (1978), 'Junoon' (1978), 'Shaan' (1980), and 'Namak Halaal' (1982).
- In 2011, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Indian government.
- In 2015, he became the third in his family to be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Father of DNA fingerprints Prof Lalji Singh passes away
DNA Scientist and former BHU VC Prof Lalji Singh passed away on 10 December. He was 70.

- He held the position of BHU VC from August 22, 2011 to August 22, 2014.
- He is considered to be father of DNA fingerprints, who worked in the area of molecular basis of sex determination, wildlife conservation, forensics and evolution and migration of humans.

Actor-director Neeraj Vora passes away
Bollywood actor, writer and filmmaker Neeraj Vora died at a Mumbai hospital. He was 54.

- His last film as an actor was Anil Kapoor starrer 'Welcome Back', which released in 2015.
- Neeraj Vora was also known for writing the first part of the Hera Pheri series (2000) and Rohit Shetty's 'Golmaal' (2006).
- He also directed Hera Pheri 2.

Ex-UP governor BL Joshi passes away at AIIMS
Former UP governor Banwari Lal Joshi passed away at AIIMS due to septic shock following an infection of the valves. He was 82.

- He served as governor of UP from 2009 to 2014 and lieutenant governor of Delhi from 2004-07.
- Joshi also served as governor of Meghalaya and Uttarakhand.

Bengali film actor Partha Mukhopadhyay passes away
Veteran actor Partha Mukhopadhyay, who had acted in many Bengali classics, died of cardiac arrest at a hospital. He was 70.

- Mukhopadhyay had portrayed a number of roles in classics like 'Atithi', 'Balika Badhu', 'Amar Prithivi', 'Baghbandir Khela', 'Agniswar' and had made his mark as a character actor in 1970s and 1980s.

Eye surgeon Dr Daljit Singh passes away in Amritsar
Noted eye surgeon Dr Daljit Singh who introduced the lens implants in the country and invented plasma scalpel for glaucoma and cataract surgery, passed away in Amritsar.

- 82-year-old Padma Shri awardee ophthalmologist was suffering from a chronic disease and was bedridden for a month.
- Dr Singh had also contested the Lok Sabha election from Amritsar on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ticket against Capt Amarinder Singh of Congress and Arun Jaitley of BJP.
Gulzar pens debut novel in English on the Partition
Veteran lyricist Gulzar has come out with his debut novel in English which examines the status of refugees after the Partition.

- “Two” was originally written in Urdu, Gulzar's medium of writing.
- “Two” is written in Gulzar's inimitable and riveting style.

U’khand CM launches his biography
Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched a biography based on chronicles of his early struggle and lesser known aspects of his life.

- Titled 'Trivendra Ek Zindaginama - Khairasain ka Sooraj', the book is written by a doctor named Nandan Singh Bisht.

Current Affairs Question
1. In which city 7th edition of three-day Kathakar: International Storytellers Festival organized?
   (A) Jaipur
   (B) New Delhi
   (C) Lucknow
   (D) Gandhi Nagar
   (E) Bhopal

2. Under the aegis of which organization Kathakar, the only oral storytelling festival in India and is a part of Ghummaakad Narain- the Travelling Literature Festival was started in 2010?
   (A) WTO
   (B) WHO
   (C) UNESCO
   (D) UNHCR
   (E) World Bank

3. In which city 6th International Tourism Mart being organized?
   (A) Kolkata
   (B) Guwahati
   (C) Bhubaneswar
   (D) Raipur
   (E) Chennai

4. Which of the following is a World's first Sanskrit 3D film?
   (A) Ratnavali
   (B) Kadambari
   (C) Anurakthi
   (D) Mālavikāgnimitram
   (E) Meghdutam

5. In which city International Film Festival of India is being organized?
   (A) Bengaluru
   (B) Mumbai
   (C) Pune
   (D) Panaji
   (E) New Delhi

6. Which of the following state government launched the Jai Kisaan App?
   (A) Madhya Pradesh
   (B) Maharashatra
   (C) Tamil Nadu
   (D) Karnataka
   (E) Goa

7. To create awareness about which disease US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced $1 million to help India in its fight against the disease?
   (A) AIDS
   (B) Tuberculosis
   (C) Dengue
   (D) Cholera
   (E) Chikungunya

8. Which of the following state has negotiated with the World Bank to avail subsidy to buy 130 electric buses?
   (A) Himachal Pradesh
   (B) Rajasthan
   (C) Odisha
   (D) Telangana
   (E) West Bengal

9. Who among the following won The Best Boxer title in World Youth Women’s Boxing Championship held in Guwahati?
   (A) Nikhat Zareen
   (B) Seema Punia
   (C) Kavita Chahal
   (D) Ankushita Boro
   (E) Pinki Rani

10. Who among the following won first weightlifting World Championships gold medal since 1995?
   (A) Karnam Malleswari
11. Consider the following statements:

2. World AIDS Day is one of the eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

12. Which of the following country re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization under Category B?
(A) China
(B) Malaysia
(C) Japan
(D) South Africa
(E) India

13. Where is the Headquarters of International Maritime Organization?
(A) Brisbane
(B) New York
(C) London
(D) Paris
(E) Tokyo

14. Hornbill Festival is celebrated in which of the following state?
(A) Kerala
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Assam
(D) Nagaland
(E) Gujarat

15. Consider the following statements:

1. Union Cabinet chaired by Health Minister J P Nadda has approved setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM).
2. NNM, as an apex body, will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries.
3. The programme through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

16. Which of the following country has been awarded with the Certificate of Commendation for its exemplary enforcement action in its regional and global effort to combat illegal wildlife trade?
(A) Philippines
(B) India
(C) Sri Lanka
(D) Brazil
(E) South Africa

17. Who among the following has been appointed as the new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)?
(A) Sunil Kumar Chourasia
(B) P K Shrivastava
(C) P W Ralegankar
(D) Saurabh Kumar
(E) D K Shrivastava

18. Who among the following has been appointed as the chairman of the public broadcaster Prasar Bharati?
(A) Shashi S. Vempati
(B) A Surya Prakash
(C) Rajeev Singh
(D) Ashok Kumar Tandon
(E) Ali R. Rizvi

19. Who among the following has resigned as the National Observer for Indian boxing?
(A) Vijender Singh
(B) M C Marry Kom
(C) Pinki Rani
(D) Kavita Chahal
(E) Kavita Goyat

20. Which of the following novel is written by Veteran lyricist Gulzar?
(A) The Perfect Storm
(B) River of Smoke
(C) Partition: 1947
(D) Two
(E) Indo- Pakistan

21. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on which date every year?
22. In which city the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit 2017 was held?
(A) Astana
(B) Beijing
(C) New Delhi
(D) Sochi
(E) Shanghai

23. In Which city XIth Annual MedTech Summit was organised by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Jaipur
(D) Hyderabad
(E) Chennai

24. Which state has become the first state in India to setup green university?
(A) Assam
(B) Manipur
(C) West Bengal
(D) Andhra Pradesh
(E) Gujarat

25. Who has been appointed CEO and Managing Director of Infosys?
(A) Ajit Balakrishnan
(B) Salil S. Parekh
(C) Ajay Bhatt
(D) Sabeer Bhatia
(E) Sashi Reddi

26. Where is the headquarters of Corporation Bank?
(A) Mangalore
(B) Chennai
(C) Hyderabad
(D) Bengaluru
(E) Mumbai

27. Which is the native country of Capgemini?
(A) USA
(B) Japan
(C) France
(D) Germany
(E) South Korea

28. Who is the governor of West Bengal?
(A) Banwari lal Purohit
(B) Jagdish Mukhi

29. Where is the headquarters of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?
(A) Beijing
(B) Astana
(C) Shanghai
(D) Moscow
(E) Sochi

30. Which of the following is not a member country of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?
(A) India
(B) Russia
(C) Kazakhstan
(D) Pakistan
(E) Nepal

31. Chabahar port is located in which of the following country?
(A) Iraq
(B) Afghanistan
(C) Iran
(D) India
(E) Russia

32. India’s Biggest Floating Solar Power Plant is inaugurated in Which of the following state?
(A) Tamil Nadu
(B) Kerala
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Gujarat
(E) Assam

33. Which of the following Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise has been conducted by the Indian Coast Guard?
(A) Clean Sea 2017
(B) Pollution Free Sea 2017
(C) Swachh Sea 2017
(D) Race at Sea 2017
(E) None of these

34. Who has been appointed UN environment global goodwill ambassador recently?
(A) Kate Winslet
(B) Emma Watson
(C) Ellie Goulding
(D) Idris Elba
(E) Rachel Weisz

35. Who has been crowned Miss Supranational 2017?
(A) Bianca Tirsin
(B) Jenny Kim
36. Which of the following word has been announced as the Cambridge Dictionary 2017 Word of the Year?
(A) Selfie  
(B) Populism  
(C) Post-truth  
(D) Inauguration  
(E) Nepotism

37. Which district has been selected on a pilot basis for "Northeast Hill Area Development" programme?
(A) Tamenglong  
(B) Ampati  
(C) Shillong  
(D) Mawkyrwat  
(E) Baghmara

38. Who is the governor of Kerala?
(A) Vajubhai Vala  
(B) P. Sathasivam  
(C) Acharya Dev Vrat  
(D) Mridula Sinha  
(E) Satya Pal Malik

39. Who is the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region?
(A) Suresh Prabhu  
(B) Ananthkumar  
(C) Dr Jitendra Singh  
(D) Ravi Shankar Prasad  
(E) Giriraj Singh

40. Who is the president of Iran?
(A) Ashraf Ghani  
(B) Hassan Rouhani  
(C) Abdula Hamid  
(D) Viktor Orban  
(E) Abdullah Nsour

41. In which country International conference on climate change organized?
(A) Bangladesh  
(B) Nepal  
(C) Sri Lanka  
(D) Bhutan  
(E) Myanmar

42. Consider the following statements:
1. First Ever International Conference on AYUSH and Wellness ‘Arogya 2017’ was inaugurated in New Delhi.
2. ‘Arogya 2017’ has been jointly organized by Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Government of India including Pharmexcil in partnership with FICCI.
3. It focused on strength and scientific valuation of traditional system of medicine.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2  
(B) Only 2 & 3  
(C) Only 1 & 3  
(D) 1, 2 & 3  
(E) None of these

43. In which city 6th International Tourism Mart (ITM) organized?
(A) Kolkata  
(B) Guwahati  
(C) Bhubaneswar  
(D) Jaipur  
(E) Chennai

44. Which of the following cyclone has moved towards Maharashtra and Gujarat after crossing Lakshadweep?
(A) Ockhi  
(B) Phailin  
(C) Hudhud  
(D) Vardah  
(E) Helen

45. Which of the following rating agency has lowered the country's GDP growth projection for 2017-18 to 6.7 per cent?
(A) Moody’s  
(B) Fitch  
(C) ICRA  
(D) CARE’s  
(E) CRISIL

46. Which of the following country has announced the launch of a sovereign cryptocurrency "petro"?
(A) Saudi Arabia  
(B) United Arab Emirates  
(C) Venezuela  
(D) Qatar  
(E) United states of America

47. Which of the following movie won Best Film (Critics) award in 23rd edition of the annual film awards show?
(A) Dangal  
(B) Lipstick under my Burka  
(C) Bareilly Ki Barfi  
(D) Newton  
(E) Hindi Medium

48. Who among the following won Best Director award in 23rd edition of the annual film awards show?
(A) Anurag Kashyap
49. Who among the following won Best Actor (critics) award in 23rd edition of the annual film awards show?
(A) Amir Khan
(B) Akshay Kumar
(C) Rajkumar Rao
(D) Irrfan Khan
(E) Sushant Singh Rajput

50. In which year Veteran Hindi film actor Shashi Kapoor honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award?
(A) 2012
(B) 2016
(C) 2015
(D) 2011
(E) 2009

51. Which of the following Surface to Air Missile with indigenous radio frequency has been successfully launched from Chandipur?
(A) Brahmos
(B) Trishul
(C) Agni
(D) Aakash
(E) Prithvi

52. Consider the following statements:
1. International Solar Alliance (ISA) will become a treaty-based international intergovernmental organization on 6th December 2017.
2. The ISA, headquartered in India, has its Secretariat located in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurgaon.
3. The ISA is an Indian initiative, jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

53. In which city Vice President inaugurated the Central Information Commission (CIC)’s 12th Annual Convention on ‘Right to Information’?
(A) Bhopal
(B) Jaipur
(C) Chennai
(D) Hyderabad

54. Consider the following statements:
1. A conference of Ministers for Power and New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories held in Chennai.
2. The Conference inaugurated by Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy.
3. The aim of this conference is to review the implementation of various ongoing Schemes/Programmes and deliberate on a host of issues pertaining to Power and Renewable Energy sectors.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

55. In which city 3rd edition of the Dialogue between DRC-NITI Aayog Dialogue was held to provides an important platform for both sides to discuss key macro-economic issues impacting both countries?
(A) Shanghai
(B) New Delhi
(C) Beijing
(D) Mumbai
(E) Tianjin

56. Which of the following district of Uttar Pradesh included in the national capital region (NCR), Delhi?
(A) Aligarh
(B) Ambedkar Nagar
(C) Ghazipur
(D) Shamli
(E) Barailey

57. Consider the following statements:
2. The key objective of the event is to develop and recommend approaches for the convergence and harmonization of medical device regulations in Asia.
3. The AHWP works in collaboration with related international organizations such as IMDRF, WHO, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), etc.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
58. Which of the following bank has launched a non-interest-bearing savings account targeting those whose beliefs do not permit them to accept interest payments?
(A) UCO Bank
(B) Federal Bank
(C) UBI
(D) SBI
(E) Canara Bank

59. Who among the following was awarded the International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to ensure the rights of Syrian refugee children?
(A) Mohamad Al Jounde
(B) Mohamad Aafreen
(C) Mohamad Aaleyah
(D) Mohamad Aqeela
(E) Shabana Khatun

60. Where is the headquarters of Federal Bank?
(A) Kolkata
(B) Hyderabad
(C) Bengaluru
(D) Mumbai
(E) Kochi

61. US President Donald Trump has announced that the US will recognize Jerusalem as
(A) Syria
(B) Israel
(C) Palestine
(D) Spain
(E) Libya

62. Which of the following bank has approved debt financing and partial risk guarantees to develop Reliance Power's liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal and a 750-MW power project in Bangladesh?
(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(D) Asian Development Bank
(E) New Development Bank

63. Consider the following statements:
1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.
2. It is headquartered in Mandaluyong, Philippines.
3. It has 67-member countries. Takehiko Nakao is the president of the bank.
4. Japan and United States hold the largest proportion of shares at 15.607%. China holds 6.444%, India holds 6.331%, and Australia holds 5.786%.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 3
(B) Only 1, 3 & 4
(C) Only 2, 3 & 4
(D) Only 1, 2 & 4
(E) 1, 2, 3 & 4

64. Which of the following bank received the “Best Bank in India for CSR” award for multiple initiatives including championing Green Finance as well as the use of digital technologies?
(A) ICICI
(B) SBI
(C) HDFC
(D) YES Bank
(E) Canara Bank

65. The Reserve Bank retained economic growth projection for 2017-18 at what percent?
(A) 6.20%
(B) 6.70%
(C) 5.90%
(D) 6.40%
(E) 7.20%

66. Who among the following actor will promote the government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card and crop insurance?
(A) Amitabh Bachchan
(B) Akshay Kumar
(C) Aamir Khan
(D) Salman Khan
(E) Shah Rukh Khan

67. Who among the following won TIME’s Person of the Year 2017 online reader poll?
(A) Donald Trump
(B) Xi Jinping
(C) Angela Merkel
(D) Mohammed bin Salman
(E) Vladimir Putin

68. To start which movement, 'Silence Breakers' has been selected as Time Person of the Year?
(A) Umbrella Movement
(B) Bakassi Movement
(C) Indradhanush
(D) MeToo
(E) None of these
69. Which of the following India's iconic ivory is the second-best UNESCO world heritage site in the world, according to a new survey?
   (A) Taj Mahal  
   (B) Golden Temple  
   (C) Red Fort  
   (D) Jantar Mantar  
   (E) Meenakshi Temple

70. India defeated which of the following country to win the first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament (team championship) in Guwahati?
   (A) Bhutan  
   (B) Nepal  
   (C) China  
   (D) Japan  
   (E) Bangladesh

71. In which city Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the “Dr. Ambedkar International Centre”? 
   (A) Gwalior  
   (B) Nagpur  
   (C) Mumbai  
   (D) New Delhi  
   (E) Bhopal

72. Consider the following statements:
   1. The First International Conference on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences SAICON 2017 was held in New Delhi.
   2. It was inaugurated by Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore.
   3. To empowering youths, ‘Khelo India' programme has been chalked out to tap talent at the school and college level.

Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2  
   (B) Only 2 & 3  
   (C) Only 1 & 3  
   (D) 1, 2 & 3  
   (E) None of these

73. Which of the following country will set up a centre for excellence in floriculture at Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu?
   (A) France  
   (B) USA  
   (C) England  
   (D) Russia  
   (E) Israel

74. Consider the following statements:
   1. The Global Partnership Summit (GPS) 2017 will be held at Aerocity, New Delhi.
   2. India Center Foundation (ICF) will organise it in India for the first-time ever.
   3. GPS will focus on clean energy, healthcare, infrastructure and logistics, energy, tourism, art and culture, agro economy, banking and finance, education and skill development.

Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2  
   (B) Only 2 & 3  
   (C) Only 1 & 3  
   (D) 1, 2 & 3  
   (E) None of these

75. Who among the following will be head of a high-level committee which has been set up by government to address the problem of stressed assets in India's power sector?
   (A) Amitabh Kant  
   (B) Arvind Pangariya  
   (C) Bibek Debroy  
   (D) Arvind Subramanian  
   (E) Kaushik Basu

76. Who among the following has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan?
   (A) Manpreet Vohra  
   (B) Shri George Raju  
   (C) Azar A.H.Khan  
   (D) Harsh K Jain  
   (E) DR. T. Suresh Babu

77. Which of the following movie the Best Asian Film at the 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards?
   (A) M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story  
   (B) Dangal  
   (C) Newton  
   (D) Sultan  
   (E) Niraja

78. Which of the following Mela has been recognized by UNESCO as an “intangible cultural heritage of humanity”? 
   (A) Pushkar Mela  
   (B) Kumbh Mela  
   (C) Sasaram Mela  
   (D) Manipur Mela  
   (E) Puri Mela

79. Kumbh Mela is not held in which of the following city?
   (A) Nasik  
   (B) Ujjain  
   (C) Haridwar  
   (D) Allahabad
80. Who among the following is Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog?
(A) Amitabh Kant
(B) Rajiv Kumar
(C) Bibek Debroy
(D) Rajiv Mehrishi
(E) Vinod Rai

81. Consider the following statements:
1. Wassenaar Arrangement admits India as the 42nd member of the organization.
2. Aim of this organization to regulate trade and use of dual use technology.
3. India will get access to high technology, which will help address the demands of Indian space and defence sectors.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

82. In which city first Military Literature Festival organised?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Chandigarh
(C) Jaipur
(D) Sri Nagar
(E) Gangtok

83. Who among the following is Punjab Governor?
(A) VP Singh Badnore
(B) Kalyan Singh
(C) Kiran Bedi
(D) Banwari Lal Purohit
(E) Devendra Kumar Joshi

84. Consider the following statements:
1. An International conference is being organized on the Ground water issues in India.
2. The theme of this conference is Ground Water Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges and Climate Change Adaptation.
3. The conference is organized by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).
4. Sushri Uma Bharti is a Union Minister for Water Resources, Ganga Rejuvenation and River Development.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1, 2 & 3
(B) Only 2, 3 & 4
(C) Only 1, 3 & 4
(D) Only 2 & 4
(E) 1, 2, 3 & 4

85. Who among the following launched the A Public Procurement Portal ‘MSME Sambandh’?
(A) Narendra Singh Tomar
(B) Nitin Jairam Gadkari
(C) Ravi Shankar Prasad
(D) Shri Giriraj Singh
(E) Anant Geete

86. Which of the following railway station has earned the unique distinction of being the first Energy Efficient ‘A1 Category’ Railway Station on Indian Railways?
(A) Chennai Railway Station
(B) Vishakhapatnam Railway Station
(C) Kacheguda Railway Station
(D) Bengaluru Railway Station
(E) Kolkata Railway Station

87. Who among the following will be honoured with literary award Vyas Samman for year 2017?
(A) Mamta Kalia
(B) Surinder Verma
(C) Sunita Jain
(D) Kamal Kishore Goyenka
(E) Pooja Varma

88. Novel "Dukkham Sukkham" is written by __________.
(A) Surinder Verma
(B) Mamta Kalia
(C) Kamal Kishore Goyenka
(D) Sunita Jain
(E) Mukesh Sharma

89. Who among the following football players has won the Ballon D’Or for the fifth time?
(A) Lionel Messi
(B) Cristiano Ronaldo
(C) Neymar
(D) Wayne Rooney
(E) Arjen Robben

90. Which of the following country will host the Senior Women's World Boxing Championships in 2018 and the Senior Men's World Championships in 2021?
(A) China
(B) England
(C) Australia
(D) India
(E) Brazil

91. International Human Rights Day is celebrated on which of the following date?
(A) 9-Dec
92. What is the theme of this year’s International Human Rights Day?
(A) Stand up for someone's rights today!
(B) Let’s stand up for equality, justice and human dignity
(C) Our Rights, Our Freedoms, Always
(D) binds us together as a global community with the same ideals and values
(E) Human rights defenders who act to end discrimination

93. International Anti-Corruption Day has been observed annually on which of the following date?
(A) 9-Dec
(B) 10-Dec
(C) 11-Dec
(D) 8-Dec
(E) None of these

94. What is the theme of this year’s International Anti-Corruption Day?
(A) United against corruption for development, peace and security
(B) Break the Corruption Chain
(C) Empowering citizens' fight against corruption
(D) Corruption: An impediment to the Sustainable Development Goals
(E) ACT-Against Corruption Today

95. India has been declared free from which of the following disease recently?
(A) Cholera
(B) Chickenpox
(C) Trachoma
(D) Pneumonia
(E) Malaria

96. In which city Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) Dr. Sharma inaugurated the three days ‘Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage’?
(A) Gaya
(B) Colombo
(C) New Delhi
(D) Sumatra
(E) Kuala Lumpur

97. Which of the following global financial services organization has predicted that India's GDP growth to rise to 7.5% in 2018?
(A) Fitch
(B) Moody’s
(C) Morgan Stanley
(D) ICRA
(E) IMF

98. Who among the following will be the face of a water conservation campaign, which is an initiative by the Central government?
(A) Amitabh Bachchan
(B) Irfan Khan
(C) Anupam Kher
(D) Nawazuddin Siddiqui
(E) Aamir Khan

99. Which of the following Indian city has been recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of the five models across the world for fighting the pollution menace?
(A) Aurangabad
(B) Coimbatore
(C) Vijayawada
(D) Madurai
(E) Alappuzha

100. United Nations Environment Programme is Headquartered at____________.
(A) Geneva
(B) Washington
(C) Nairobi
(D) London
(E) Durban

101. Consider the following statements: -
1. New Delhi will host an ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit (AICS) on December 11-12.
2. The theme of this summit will be “Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century”.
3. The 10 ASEAN leaders will collectively be the chief guests at next year's Republic Day celebrations.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

102. Which of the following state unveils country's 'first' mobile food testing lab?
(A) Maharashtra
(B) Goa
(C) Telangana
(D) Uttar Pradesh
(E) Jharkhand

103. In which city UN Women in collaboration with Facebook has inaugurated ‘We The Women’ event?
(A) Panaji
104. Which of the following Institution launched an SMS campaign and a 'missed-call' helpline to warn people against SMS Fraudsters?
   (A) SBI
   (B) RBI
   (C) Ministry of Finance
   (D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
   (E) HDFC

105. Who among the following has been appointed RBI Executive Director?
   (A) BP Kanungo
   (B) S S Mundra
   (C) N S Vishwanathan
   (D) Viral Acharya
   (E) Uma Shankar

106. Who among the following actors honoured at the 14th Dubai International Film Festival for his incredible body of work?
   (A) Akshay Kumar
   (B) Aamir Khan
   (C) Irrfan Khan
   (D) Nawazuddin Siddiqui
   (E) Ayushman Khurana

107. India win the bronze medal at the Hockey World League Final to defeat which of the following country?
   (A) Netherlands
   (B) Germany
   (C) England
   (D) Argentina
   (E) Australia

108. Which of the following city will host the inaugural India Open International Boxing Tournament for senior men and women from January 28 to February 1 in 2018?
   (A) Bhopal
   (B) Imphal
   (C) Guwahati
   (D) New Delhi
   (E) Kolkata

109. Who among the following is known as father of DNA fingerprints?
   (A) Birbal Sahni
   (B) C N R Rao
   (C) G. Madhavan Nair
   (D) Sundar Lal Hora
   (E) Lalji Singh

110. Where is the Headquarters of Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN)?
   (A) Jakarta
   (B) Colombo
   (C) Dhaka
   (D) Kuala Lumpur
   (E) Manila

111. Consider the following statements:
   1. Saudi Arabia has lifted a decades-long ban on cinemas, part of a series of social reforms by the powerful crown prince.
   2. Saudi Arabia is sometimes called “the Land of the Two Holy Mosques” in reference to Al-Masjid al-Haram (in Mecca) and Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (in Medina), the two holiest places in Islam.
   3. Saudi Arabia has since become the world's largest oil producer and exporter.
   4. Dinar is the Currency of Saudi Arabia.
   Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1, 2 & 4
   (B) Only 1, 2 & 3
   (C) Only 2, 3 & 4
   (D) Only 1, 3 & 4
   (E) 1, 2, 3 & 4

112. Which of the following mountain have named as the Britain's new highest peak?
   (A) Mansalu
   (B) Makalu
   (C) Kamet
   (D) Logan
   (E) Hope

113. Who among the following inaugurated the “NIC-CERT”, a setup of National Informatics Centre?
   (A) Jitendra Singh
   (B) Hardeep Singh Puri
   (C) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
   (D) Dr. Mahesh Sharma
   (E) Alphons Kannanthanam

114. With which of the following organization, India has proposed USD 1 billion line of credit to promote sea, air and road connectivity projects?
   (A) SAARC
   (B) ASEAN
   (C) BRICS
   (D) BIMSTEC
   (E) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

115. Which of the following state government announced that pilgrims coming to Gangasagar next year will be covered by life insurance amounting to Rs 5 lakh each?
116. Consider the following statements:
1. The Union Health Minister J P Nadda has launched “LaQshya - Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative.
2. It is a Safe Delivery Mobile Application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral areas.
3. The goal of this initiative is to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2 
(B) Only 2 & 3 
(C) Only 1 & 3 
(D) 1, 2 & 3 
(E) None of these 

117. Which among the following cities launched a drive to turn into "Beggar Free" city?
(A) Bengaluru 
(B) Hyderabad 
(C) Ahmedabad 
(D) Jaipur 
(E) Mumbai 

118. What is the rank of Delhi-NCR in the list of most expensive office locations in the world?
(A) 106 
(B) 92 
(C) 84 
(D) 72 
(E) 69 

119. Who among the following awarded the 'Finest Education Minister' award by former President Pranab Mukherjee?
(A) Kalicharan Sarraf 
(B) Shailendra Singh Rathore 
(C) Shivraj Singh Chouhan 
(D) Prakash Javdekar 
(E) Manish Sisodiya 

120. Which of the following country have defended the Hockey World League title by claiming a 2-1 triumph over reigning Olympic champions Argentina at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar?
(A) Australia 
(B) New Zeeland 
(C) Brazil 
(D) England 

121. According to the Legatum Prosperity Index 2017, What is the rank of India?
(A) 89 
(B) 94 
(C) 59 
(D) 72 
(E) 100 

122. In which country second UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture organized?
(A) Qatar 
(B) Oman 
(C) Saudi Arabia 
(D) India 
(E) Israel 

123. In which city National Energy Conservation Day celebrations, to be held on 14th December, 2017?
(A) Mumbai 
(B) Kolkata 
(C) New Delhi 
(D) Bengaluru 
(E) Hyderabad 

124. Consider the following statements:
1. India will host the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB at Mumbai.
2. The Theme of the Annual Meeting, 2018 will be “Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration”.
3. AIIB is a multilateral development bank headquartered in Manila with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2 
(B) Only 2 & 3 
(C) Only 1 & 3 
(D) 1, 2 & 3 
(E) None of these 

125. A book- 'Talking financial inclusion in liberalized India: Conversations with Governors of the RBI' was released during the inaugural session of 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit. Who is the author of this book?
(A) Jagdish Bhagwati 
(B) Kaushik Basu 
(C) Bimal Jalan 
(D) MS Sriram 
(E) C Rangrajan 

126. According to the United Nations report Indian economy will grow at which percent?
127. According to Global investment bank Nomura, what will be Indian economy growth in Financial Year 2018?
(A) 6.80%
(B) 7.50%
(C) 7.40%
(D) 7.00%
(E) 8.20%

128. Who among the following was awarded with 'Yeraringan' Award recently by M. Venkaiah Naidu?
(A) Amartya Sen
(B) M S Swaminathan
(C) S Kiran Kumar
(D) K N Vyas
(E) Vishnu Sharma

129. Which of the following Indian film has bagged the Best Short Film award at the Vancouver Golden Panda International Film Festival?
(A) The Virgin
(B) Gutthi
(C) Migration
(D) The School Bag
(E) Prarambha

130. Who among the following actress has been honoured with this year’s Mother Teresa Memorial award for social justice?
(A) Priyanka Chopra
(B) Kareena Kapoor
(C) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
(D) Sushmita Sen
(E) Vidya Balan

131. Which of the following state/UT has become the first state in the country to offer free e-mail address in Hindi?
(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) New Delhi
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Karnataka
(E) Uttar Pradesh

132. Which of the following India’s first Scorpene class submarine will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in Mumbai?
(A) INS Chakra
(B) INS Sindhughosh
(C) INS Aridhaman
(D) INS Shishumar
(E) INS Kalvari

133. Consider the following statements:-
1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed certain restrictions on Corporation Bank.
2. The government owned bank said that the RBI has triggered prompt corrective action (PCA) against it in view of high non-performing loans.
3. This makes Corporation Bank eighth bank to face restriction in a span of 10 months.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

134. With which bank, India signed a loan agreement for the “Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project”?
(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(D) Asian Development Bank
(E) New Development Bank

135. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed Rs 3 crore penalty on which bank for breaching rules on income classification norms?
(A) IDBI
(B) HDFC
(C) IndusInd
(D) Canara
(E) Oriental Bank of Commerce

136. Which of the following banks has predicted India's GDP forecast for FY18 to 6.7 per cent?
(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(D) Asian Development Bank
(E) New Development Bank

137. Who among the following has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Kuwait?
(A) Mr. Navdeep Suri
(B) Shri K. Jeeva Sagar
(C) Sh. Jaideep Sarkar
(D) Mr. Vijay Gokhale
(E) Shri Prabhat Kumar

138. Who among the following have been felicitated with the “Power of One” award at the UN headquarters in New York for their contribution to help form a more “perfect, peaceful and secure world”?
139. IndusInd Bank is headquartered at ________________.
(A) Hyderabad
(B) Chennai
(C) New Delhi
(D) Mumbai
(E) Kolkata

140. Consider the following statements:
1. The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. President of the Bank has always been a US citizen nominated by the United States.
3. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has 189-member countries, while the International Development Association (IDA) has 173 members.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

141. Consider the following statements:
1. 4th India-Australia-Japan trilateral meeting hosted in New Delhi.
2. Issues related to counter-terrorism, economic cooperation and maritime security were highlighted in the meeting.
3. Russia and India also extended support and cooperation for China as the chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2017-2018 and for China's hosting of 2018 SCO Summit.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

142. Which of the following ministry has released Rs 174 crore to six states having an international border for development of infrastructure in forward areas?
(A) Ministry of Defence
(B) Ministry of Home Affairs
(C) Ministry of Finance
(D) Prime Minister Office
(E) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

143. Consider the following states:-
1. Assam
2. Gujarat
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Manipur
5. Uttar Pradesh
6. West Bengal
Which of the above states will be benefited under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP)?
(A) Only 1, 3 & 4
(B) Only 2, 3 & 5
(C) Only 1, 2, 5 & 6
(D) Only 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
(E) All of these

144. Which of the following country has decided to offer a grant for the construction of a vocational training centre for poor women and youth in Rajasthan's Baran district?
(A) England
(B) Israel
(C) Japan
(D) Australia
(E) Singapore

145. Who among the following has been elected unopposed as the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?
(A) Rajeev Mehta
(B) Narinder Batra
(C) Neeta Ambani
(D) Vijay Kumar Malhotra
(E) N. Ramachandran

146. Who among the following has bagged the Mr. India World 2017 title?
(A) Bikram Saluja
(B) Deepinder Gill
(C) Sunil Mann
(D) Inder Bajwa
(E) Jitesh Singh Deo

147. Who among the following won the Mr. India Supranatural 2017 title?
(A) Kawaljit Anand Singh
(B) Vazeil Trivedi
(C) Prateek Gujral
(D) Prathamesh Maulingkar
(E) Nishant Dahia

148. Who among the following was named the Asian Boxing Confederation’s best youth boxer of the year after winning an online poll conducted by the continental body?
(A) Sachin Siwach
149. Who among the following has been named as the highest-paid athletes of all time?
(A) Why Kobe Bryant
(B) Maria Sharapova
(C) Tom Brady
(D) Michael Jordan
(E) Sophie Hahn

150. Neeraj Vora passes away. Who he was?
(A) Writer
(B) Journalist
(C) Politician
(D) Filmmaker and Actor
(E) Cricketer

151. Consider the following statements:
1. The Eleventh World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC11) was held in Durban, South Africa.
2. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates international trade.
3. The biggest takeaway from the conference was the commitment from members to secure a deal on fisheries subsidies.
4. The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1, 2 & 4
(B) Only 2, 3 & 4
(C) Only 1, 2 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

152. In which city, Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr. Subash Bhamre inaugurated a four-day 49th Annual Conference of the Society of Nuclear Medicine – India SNMICON?
(A) Jodhpur
(B) Sri Nagar
(C) New Delhi
(D) Shimla
(E) Guwahati

153. Consider the following statements:
1. Eminent Bengali poet Joy Goswami will be given the 31st Moortidevi Award for the year 2017.
2. The award will be conferred to Goswami for his poetry collection titled ‘Du Dondo Phowara Matro’.
3. The award consists of a Saraswati Statue, a Citation Plaque and cash award of Rupees 4 lac.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3

154. MDR charges on transactions up to Rs 2,000 made through debit cards, BHIM UPI or Aadhaar-enabled payment systems will be borne by the government to promote digital transactions. MDR is stands for:
(A) Merchant Discount Rate
(B) Manually Deduction Recovery
(C) Manually Discount Recovery
(D) Merchant Deduction Rate
(E) None of these
158. Who among the following has been selected for this year’s ‘Shrilal Shukla Smriti IFFCO Sahitya Samman’ presented by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)?
   (A) Ramdev Dhurandhar
   (B) Umashankar Joshi
   (C) Gopinath Mohanty
   (D) Masti Venkatesha Iyengar
   (E) P K Sinha

159. Which of the following word has crowned as Oxford Dictionaries’ word of 2017?
   (A) Youthquake
   (B) Populism
   (C) Post-Truth
   (D) Selfie
   (E) Neologism

160. Who among the following has been voted the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year for a record fourth time?
   (A) Muhammad Ali
   (B) Virat Kohli
   (C) Lionel Messi
   (D) Roger Federer
   (E) Usain Bolt

161. In which city Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the World Telugu Conference?
   (A) Chennai
   (B) Vishakhapatnam
   (C) Hyderabad
   (D) Secunderabad
   (E) Madurai

162. Which project of the High Court of Allahabad was inaugurated by the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind?
   (A) Nyaya Sewa
   (B) Nyaya Gram
   (C) Nyaya Kalp
   (D) Nyaya Manch
   (E) None of these

163. Which of the following exercise have begun between India and Maldives?
   (A) Ekuverin
   (B) Malabar
   (C) Suryakiran
   (D) Shatrujeet
   (E) Nomadic Elephant

164. At which place India and the Maldives have begun their eighth annual joint military training event?
   (A) New Delhi
   (B) Jodhpur
   (C) Guwahati
   (D) Male
   (E) Belagavi

165. Which of the following state has become the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice?
   (A) Manipur
   (B) Assam
   (C) Meghalaya
   (D) Mizoram
   (E) Nagaland

166. In which city Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 60 MW Turial hydropower project?
   (A) Shillong
   (B) Kohima
   (C) Aizawl
   (D) Guwahati
   (E) Gangtok

167. Consider the following statements:
   1. In order to provide seamless movement of goods across state borders, the GST Council decided to make electronic permits compulsory for inter-state movement of goods from 1 February.
   2. The e-way bill system, which will be available on a trial basis for voluntary adoption by businesses from 16 January.
   3. States have time till 1 June to implement the national e-way bill system for intra-state goods movement.
   Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2
   (B) Only 2 & 3
   (C) Only 1 & 3
   (D) 1, 2 & 3
   (E) None of these

168. Which telecom company’s Aadhaar linked e-KYC” services has been suspended by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)?
   (A) Bharti Airtel
   (B) Idea Cellular
   (C) Reliance Jio
   (D) BSNL
   (E) Vodafone

169. Which of the following country hosted first ever International Wheelchair Cricket Tournament?
170. Consider the following statements:

1. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the “Aadhaar Act 2016” on 12 July 2016.
2. It is under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
3. Unique Identification Authority of India has its Headquarters (HQ) in New Delhi and eight Regional Offices (ROs) across the country.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

171. India is at which position in production of horticultural crops and fruits?

(A) First
(B) Second
(C) Third
(D) Fourth
(E) None of these

172. Who among the following is Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister?

(A) Jitendra Singh
(B) Narendra Singh Tomar
(C) Radha Mohan Singh
(D) Ravishankar prasad
(E) R K Singh

173. In which state earthquake mock exercise to be held on December 21, 2017 across the State?

(A) Himachal Pradesh
(B) Haryana
(C) Punjab
(D) Sikkim
(E) Uttarakhand

174. In which city seven-day International Herbal Fair being organized?

(A) Jaipur
(B) Shimla
(C) Dehradun
(D) Guwahati
(E) Bhopal

175. In which city a research institute for the study of the 'Bhagavad Gita' will be soon set up by the Uttar Pradesh government?

(A) Mathura
(B) Agra
(C) Lucknow
(D) Varanasi
(E) Meerut

176. Who among the following has been appointed prime minister of Czech Republic after his ANO party came first in an October election?

(A) Mariano Rajoy
(B) Paolo Gentiloni
(C) Mark Rutte
(D) Andrej Babis
(E) Boyko Borissov

177. Who among the following has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Sudan?

(A) Shri Ravindra Jaiswal
(B) Mr. Pankaj Saxena
(C) Shri Prabhat Kumar
(D) Shri. Ashok Kumar Sharma
(E) Shri. Saurabh Kumar

178. Who among the following has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali.

(A) Vijay Thakur Singh
(B) Sanjiv Arora
(C) Sandeep Chakravorty
(D) Shri Pradeep Kumar Gupta
(E) Shri. Ashok Kumar Sharma

179. Who among the following won silver medal at BWF Super Series Final after losing a titanic contest against Japan's top seed Akane Yamaguchi?

(A) P V Sindhu
(B) Saina Nehwal
(C) P C Tulusi
(D) Jwala Gutta
(E) Kanwal Thakkar Singh

180. In which city Badminton World Federation Super Series Final organized?

(A) Jakarta
(B) Dubai
(C) Melbourne
(D) Johannesburg
(E) Paris

181. International Migrants Day is observed on 18 December every year. What is the theme of this year?

(A) Migration improves Human Development
(B) Safe Migration in a World on the Move
182. Which of the following state’s Chief Minister has inaugurated the Tribal Sports Meet 2017, a first-of-its kind event in the country to promote sports among tribals?
(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Chhattisgarh
(C) Jharkhand
(D) Odisha
(E) Andhra Pradesh

183. How many seats are in the Gujarat State Assembly?
(A) 204
(B) 68
(C) 182
(D) 196
(E) 186

184. Which of the following bank has emerged as the latest entrant on the Reserve Bank of India's hit list for violation of norms?
(A) HDFC
(B) ICICI
(C) IDBI
(D) IndusInd
(E) Syndicate

185. Which of the following country has overtaken Saudi Arabia for the first time to become India's top crude oil supplier in the current fiscal?
(A) Iran
(B) Qatar
(C) Venezuela
(D) Iraq
(E) United Arab Emirates

186. Who among the following has won Chile's presidential election?
(A) Roberto Azevedo
(B) Sebastian Pinera
(C) Alejandro Guillier
(D) Michelle Bachelet
(E) Ricardo Lagos

187. Which of the following is a currency of Chile?
(A) Real
(B) Euro
(C) Peso
(D) Guaraní
(E) Boliviano

188. Who among the following actress received the first Smita Patil Memorial Award for her contribution in the field of cinema?
(A) Madhuri Dixit
(B) Sridevi
(C) Kajol
(D) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
(E) Rekha

189. Who among the following was crowned Miss India USA 2017?
(A) Shree Saini
(B) Monica Gill Marok
(C) Pranathy Sharma Gangaraju
(D) Karina Kohli
(E) Madhu Valli

190. Who has been voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2017 among the following World 10,000m champions?
(A) Paul Tanui
(B) Joshua Cheptegei
(C) Mo Farah
(D) Abadi Hadis
(E) Mohammed Ahmed

191. Which of the following state government is planning to establish a center of excellence for children as well as a “gaming for e-learning hub” in association with UNESCO MGIEP?
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Andhra Pradesh
(E) Tamil Nadu

192. Justice Swatanter Kumar was a chairperson of which of the following Institution?
(A) National Human Right commission
(B) National Green Tribunal
(C) Central Administrative Tribunal
(D) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
(E) Union Public Service Commission

193. Consider the following statements:
1. Yes Bank and the European Investment Bank will co-finance USD 400 million funding for renewable power generation in the country.
2. Under this renewable power generation initiative, several solar projects in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka have been identified.
3. The EIB loan of USD 200 million has a tenor of 15 years.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 1 & 3
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
Consider the following statement about Yes Bank:

1. Yes Bank is India's fifth largest private sector bank, founded in 2004.
2. Yes Bank is the only Greenfield Bank license awarded by the RBI in the last one decade.
3. Rana Kapoor is the CEO and MD of Yes bank.
4. Its headquarters is in Bengaluru.
Which of the above statements are correct?

(A) Only 2, 3 & 4
(B) Only 1, 2 & 4
(C) Only 1, 2 & 3
(D) Only 1, 3 & 4
(E) 1, 2, 3 & 4

Who among the following sworn in as Austria's new chancellor?

(A) Jens Spahn
(B) Frédéric Mazzella
(C) Leo Varadka
(D) Emanuel Macron
(E) Sebastian Kurz

Which of the following company has been honoured with the prestigious Golden Peacock Innovation Management Award for the year 2017 for driving innovation in mines?

(A) Vedanta Resources
(B) Hindalco Industries
(C) Coal India
(D) Tata Steel
(E) Hindustan Copper

Who among the following has been conferred with the prestigious National Design Award?

(A) Amitabh Kant
(B) G. Satheesh Reddy
(C) C. N. R. Rao
(D) S. Kiran Kumar
(E) K. Radhakrishnan

Which of the following country’s women cricket team won the BBC Team of the Year Award?

(A) Australia
(B) India
(C) West endies
(D) England
(E) New Zealand

Who among the following won the BBC Lifetime Achievement award 2017?

(A) Jessica Ennis-Hill
(B) Benke Blomkvist
(C) Stephen Maguire
(D) Christian Malcolm
(E) Roger Federer

Who among the following won U-17 and U-19 singles titles at junior Nationals in Guwahati?

(A) Malvika Bansod
(B) Vaidehi Choudhari
(C) Aakarshi Kashyap
(D) Sapna Thapar
(E) Swati Singh

Which of the following country has approved a law banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within the country and its overseas territories?

(A) Russia
(B) United states of America
(C) Egypt
(D) France
(E) United Arab Emirates

In which state, The Cabinet has approved a project to set up India's National Rail and Transport University (NRTU)?

(A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Gujarat
(D) Uttar Pradesh
(E) Andhra Pradesh

In which district of Haryana, India's first and only design university, World University of Design opens it campus?

(A) Gurugram
(B) Panipat
(C) Sonipat
(D) Rewari
(E) Hisar

Centre finally gives ‘green’ nod for Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) project. This project is related to which of the following states?

(A) Telangana
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Karnataka
(D) Gujarat
(E) Madhya Pradesh

For which sector, Union cabinet has approved a Rs1,300 crore Skill development scheme to recover hit by demonetization and the rollout of the goods and services tax (GST)?

(A) Mines Sector
(B) Telecom Sector
(C) Fertilizers Sector
(D) Textile Sector
(E) Defense Sector
206. Which of the following project has been decided to launch by Ministry of Railways with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience across 9 dimensions?
(A) Swarnmala
(B) Swarn
(C) Sucharu
(D) Niyamait
(E) Bharatmala

207. Consider the following statements:
1. A Financing Agreement for IDA Credit of USD 125 million (equivalent) for the Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project was signed.
2. The project was signed by the Government of India with the World Bank.
3. The Objective of the operation is to improve access to quality and market-driven vocational training provided in it is and apprenticeships.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

208. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated ‘prompt corrective action’ (PCA) against which bank?
(A) Union Bank of India
(B) Bank of India
(C) Bank of Baroda
(D) Canara Bank
(E) State Bank of India

209. Who among the following took charge as the acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?
(A) M. Sasidharan Nambar
(B) Jawad Rahim
(C) Raghuvendra Singh Rathore
(D) Sonam Phintso Wangdi
(E) Umesh Dattatraya Salvi

210. Who among the following is governor of Haryana?
(A) Dr. D.Y. Patil
(B) Shri J.B. Patnaik
(C) Kiran Bedi
(D) Kaptan Singh Solanki
(E) V P Singh Badnore

211. Which of the following organization passed a measure rejecting the Trump administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital?
(A) International Court of Justice
(B) United Nation Security Council
(C) United Nation General Assembly
(D) European Union
(E) BRICS

212. In which city 17th Indian Science Communication Congress (ISCC-2017) held?
(A) Bengaluru
(B) Chennai
(C) Kolkata
(D) Jaipur
(E) New Delhi

213. Consider the following Statements:
1. Central Government has launched DARPAN Project to improve the quality of service.
2. DARPAN is stands for Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India.
3. “DARPAN” project is launched with the aim of financial inclusion to rural population and it is targeted to complete the project by March, 2018.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

214. In which city a Regional Conference on ‘Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices’ held?
(A) Kolkata
(B) New Delhi
(C) Guwahati
(D) Shimla
(E) Chandigarh

215. Regional Conference on ‘Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices’ is organized by which of the following Institution?
(A) National Informatics Centre
(B) DARPG
(C) DIPAM
(D) NITI Aayog
(E) India Trade Promotion Organization

216. In which state The Indian Army’s Southern Command, conducting exercise ‘Hamesha Vijayee’?
(A) Gujarat
(B) Punjab
(C) Jammu & Kashmir
(D) Kolkata
(E) Rajasthan

217. Consider the following statements:
1. In an eco-friendly measure to cut power consumption, the Indian Railways planned to make all stations 100% percent LED lit by March 31, 2018.
2. The railways said it was actively working to provide 100 per cent LED lighting for energy needs in railway staff colonies, stations and platforms.
3. According to Railway 3,500 railway stations had already been provided with cent per cent LED lights.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

218. Which of the following Institution approved USD 40 million for a tourism project in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh?
(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Asian Development Bank
(D) New Development Bank
(E) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

219. Under which plan, government had so far infused a capital of Rs 51,858 crore in Public Sector Banks (PSBs)?
(A) DIPAM
(B) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
(C) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
(D) Indradhanush
(E) None of these

220. Who among the following is governor of Uttar Pradesh?
(A) Shri Banwarilal Purohit
(B) Shri Ram Naik
(C) Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi
(D) Shri Kalyan Singh
(E) Shri Ganga Prasad

221. According to Ookla's November Speed Test Global Index, what is the rank of India in mobile internet speeds and fixed broadband speeds respectively?
(A) 109 & 76
(B) 98 & 47
(C) 103 & 72
(D) 107 & 49
(E) None of these

222. National Mathematics day is celebrated on which of the following date?
(A) 21-Dec
(B) 23-Dec
(C) 22-Dec
(D) 20-Dec
(E) 24-Dec

223. Which of the following programme launched by Ministry of External Affairs to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across the country?
(A) Look East
(B) Act East
(C) Neighbors First
(D) SAMEEP
(E) RISHTYEY

224. Who among the following will be Chief Minister of Gujarat?
(A) Nitin Patel
(B) Vijay Rupani
(C) Satpal Singh Satti
(D) Vajubhai Vala
(E) Jairam Thakur

225. Who among the following took over the reins of National Cadet Corps as its Director General?
(A) Lieutenant General Sarath Chand
(B) Lieutenant General J S Cheema
(C) Lieutenant General R R Nimbhorkar
(D) Lieutenant General RV Kanitkar
(E) Lieutenant General B S Sahrawat

226. Who among the following has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru?
(A) Shri M. Subbarayudu
(B) Shri Sanjay Rana
(C) Shri Rajesh K. Sachdeva
(D) Sandeep Kumar
(E) Sajeev Babu Kurup

227. Which police’s Cyber Section has been awarded with this year's prestigious NASSCOM-DSCI excellence award?
(A) Delhi Police
(B) UP Police
(C) Mumbai Police
(D) Kolkata Police
(E) Goa Police

228. Which of the following has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Brand by the Brand Trust Report India Study 2017?
(A) Britannia
(B) Nestle India
(C) Hindustan Unilever Ltd
(D) Patanjali Ayurved
(E) Godrej Consumer

229. Which of the following city will host the Commonwealth Games in 2022?
(A) Durban, South Africa
(B) New Delhi, India
230. According to Ookla’s November Speed Test Global Index, which of the following country is top in the list of fixed broadband category?
(A) Singapore
(B) Norway
(C) South Africa
(D) Finland
(E) United State of America

231. For which state of Myanmar, India has announced a development assistance of $25 million?
(A) Bago Region
(B) Rakhine State
(C) Kachin State
(D) Kayah State
(E) Kayin State

232. Who among the following is Myanmar’s State Counsellor?
(A) Aung San Suu Kyi
(B) Htin Kyaw
(C) Wunna Maung Lwin
(D) Michael Aris
(E) Thein Nyunt

233. In which country, India will be establishing a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT)?
(A) Saudi Arabia
(B) Afghanistan
(C) Egypt
(D) Qatar
(E) Iran

234. In which city, seventh edition of the India International Coffee Festival (IICF) will be held?
(A) Chennai
(B) Bengaluru
(C) Darjeeling
(D) Hyderabad
(E) Guwahati

235. In which year, India will host International Coffee Organization’s World Coffee Conference?
(A) 2018
(B) 2022
(C) 2019
(D) 2020
(E) 2021

236. With which country, Indian Navy Conducts Bilateral Exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr or ‘Sea Breeze’?
(A) Saudi Arabia

237. Which of the following country has topped Forbes’ rankings of best countries in the world for business in 2018?
(A) France
(B) United Kingdom
(C) United State of America
(D) Australia
(E) New Zealand

238. What is the rank of India in Forbes’ rankings of best countries in the world for business in 2018?
(A) 78th
(B) 62nd
(C) 48th
(D) 56th
(E) 84th

239. Which of the following game has been excluded from 2022 Commonwealth Games?
(A) Judo
(B) Table Tennis
(C) Shooting
(D) Wrestling
(E) Gymnastic

240. Banwari Lal Joshi passed away. He was former governor of which state?
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Madhya Pradesh
(E) Punjab

241. Consider the following statements:
1. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) has launched ‘Ganga Gram’.
2. It is a project for sanitation based integrated development of all 4470 villages along the River Ganga.
3. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is the nodal agency for implementation of the Ganga Gram Project.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these
242. Good Governance Day is observed on which of the following date?
(A) 23-Dec
(B) 25-Dec
(C) 24-Dec
(D) 22-Dec
(E) 20-Dec

243. Which bank has established a Medium-Term Note (MTN) programme to raise USD 1 billion by issuing debt securities on private placement basis?
(A) HDFC Bank
(B) ICICI Bank
(C) Yes Bank
(D) Allahabad Bank
(E) UCO Bank

244. Who among the following has been appointed as next Secretary General of the global human rights movement of Amnesty International?
(A) Salil Shetty
(B) Kumi Naidoo
(C) Mwikali Muthiani
(D) Anna Neistat
(E) Julie Verhaar

245. Consider the following statements:
1. Amnesty International is a London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights.
2. Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961.
3. The Secretary General is the leader and main spokesperson for Amnesty International and the Chief Executive of its International Secretariat.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

246. Who among the following will be new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh?
(A) Prem Kumar Dhumal
(B) Anurag Thakur
(C) J P Nadda
(D) Jairam Thakur
(E) Narendra Singh Tomar

247. Who among the following will be Premier League’s ambassador in India to promote football in India?
(A) Aamir Khan
(B) Ranbir Kapoor
(C) Ranbeer Singh
(D) Akshay Kumar
(E) John Abraham

248. Who among the following has been appointed as the new executive director of UNICEF?
(A) Antonio Guterres
(B) Henrietta H Fore
(C) Anthony Lake
(D) Yemdaogo Eric Tiare
(E) Irina Velichko

249. Consider the following statements:
1. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations (UN) program headquartered in New York City.
2. It provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.
3. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group. It was established on 11 December 1946.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

250. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched a biography ‘Trivendra Ek Zindaginama - Khairasain ka Sooraj’, which is based on his life. Who among the following is author of this book?
(A) Nandan Singh Bishit
(B) Trivendra Singh Rawat
(C) Vikram Seth
(D) Aashish Tripathi
(E) Salman Rushdie

251. Which of the following country will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem?
(A) West Indies
(B) Canada
(C) Mexico
(D) Guatemala
(E) United states of America

252. Which of the following city got its own logo and the tagline to build the city’s image on the global stage?
(A) Chennai
(B) Hyderabad
(C) Bengaluru
(D) New Delhi
(E) Kolkata

253. Which state has been recognized as a ’Champion State’ for recording the highest growth in exports during 2016-17?
254. Consider the following statements:

1. India’s first air-conditioned local train its maiden journey from Borivali station to Churchgate in the southern part of Mumbai.
2. The local was brought to Mumbai from the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, on April 4, 2016.
3. The services will replace 12 existing non-air-conditioned services.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 3
(B) Only 1 & 2
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

255. Consider the following statements:

1. Bad loans of Public sector banks (PSBs) stood at Rs 7.34 lakh crore by the end of second quarter this fiscal.
2. Private sector banks’ non-performing assets (NPAs) were considerably low at Rs 1.03 lakh crore.
3. Among the major public-sector banks, State Bank of India (SBI) had the highest amount of NPAs at over Rs 1.86 lakh crore.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 3
(B) Only 1 & 2
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

256. Which of the following country has become the first country to appoint a female ambassador to Saudi Arabia?
(A) Belgium
(B) Austria
(C) Spain
(D) Canada
(E) Brazil

257. Which country won the title of the inaugural edition of SAFF Under-15 Women’s Football Championship?
(A) Sri Lanka
(B) Afghanistan
(C) Bangladesh
(D) Nepal
(E) India

258. Which country was Runner up in the inaugural edition of SAFF Under-15 Women’s Football Championship?
(A) Sri Lanka
(B) Afghanistan
(C) Bangladesh
(D) Nepal
(E) India
265. Which of the following government has decided to set up a unique ‘Heritage Cabinet’ in its state?
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Telangana
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Maharashtra
(E) Odisha

266. Which of the following Institution has signed loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project?
(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Asian Development Bank
(D) World Trade Organization
(E) World Food Organization

267. Consider the following statements:
1. India is set to overtake the United Kingdom and France to become the world's fifth largest economy next year.
2. The United States, the world's largest economy, will be overtaken by China in 2030, the report forecast.
3. This report is published by Centre for Economics and Business Research, a London-based consultancy.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 3
(B) Only 1 & 2
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

268. Who among the following has bagged this year's Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award?
(A) Geetam Tiwari
(B) Pranita P Sarangi
(C) Manindra Agrawal
(D) Gautam Biswas
(E) Vishnu Sharma

269. Who among the following have created the “world's biggest” sand Santa face with message “World Peace” on the Puri beach of Odisha on Christmas eve?
(A) Satish Gujaral
(B) Sudip Roy
(C) Sudarshan Patnaik
(D) Baiju Parthan
(E) Bharti Dayal

270. Who among the following is governor of Odisha?
(A) S.C. Jamir
(B) Naveen Patnaik
(C) B D Mishra
(D) Kalyan Singh
(E) Ram Naik

271. Consider the following statements:
1. The Government of India is providing medical assistance worth about US$ one million to Republic of Yemen.
2. As a part of its commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to Yemen, India has been a member of the ‘Friends of Yemen’ Group.
3. Yemen is a country in Western Africa at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula.
4. Sana’a is the capital of Yemen. Rial is the currency of Yemen.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1, 2 & 3
(B) Only 1, 2 & 4
(C) Only 2, 3 & 4
(D) 1, 2, 3 & 4
(E) None of these

272. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh has launched Livestock Disease Forewarning – Mobile Application (LDF-Mobile App) in New Delhi.
2. It is developed by ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI), Bengaluru.
3. Government informed that dreaded Rinderpest disease has been eradicated from India.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

273. The government plans to complete the work of installing bio-toilets in all passenger trains by ________.
(A) April, 2019
(B) March, 2019
(C) March, 2018
(D) April, 2018
(E) None of these

274. In which city, 2018 edition of the historic Indian Science Congress will be held?
(A) Hyderabad
(B) Bengaluru
(C) Kolkata
275. Consider the following statements:
1. The government cut the interest rate on small savings schemes, including PPF, national savings certificate (NSC) and Kisan Vikas Patra, by 0.2 percentage points for the January-March quarter.
2. Interest rates in the five-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, however, has been retained at 8.3%.
3. As per the Finance Ministry notification, PPF and NSC will fetch a lower annual rate of 7.6% while KVP will yield 7.3% and mature in 11 months.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

276. Which of the following is the top remittance receiving country in the world?
(A) China
(B) Philippines
(C) India
(D) Pakistan
(E) Bangladesh

277. Which of the following country is the biggest importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) this month?
(A) China
(B) Japan
(C) Vietnam
(D) India
(E) Indonesia

278. Who among the following has been named PETA’s Person of the Year by animal rights organization People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)?
(A) Aishwarya Rai
(B) Kareena Kapoor
(C) Anushka Sharma
(D) Vidya Balan
(E) Madhuri Dixit

279. Which of the following country has hosted a world chess tournament for the first time on 26 December?
(A) Qatar
(B) Saudi Arabia
(C) Oman
(D) United Arab Emirates
(E) Egypt

280. Reserve Bank of India established on which Commission/committee’s recommendation?
(A) P C Mahalanobish Committee
(B) Hilton Young Commission
(C) Bhagwati Committee
(D) D R Mehta Commission
(E) Gadgil Committee

281. Consider the following statements:
1. Environment Ministry has approved a regional project to Tackle Stubble Burning.
2. The project will be under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC).
3. The first phase of the project has been approved at a cost of approximately Rs. 100 Crore for the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

282. ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ was launched under which of the following Ministry?
(A) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
(B) Ministry of Culture
(C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(D) Ministry of Urban Development
(E) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

283. Consider the following statements:
1. India has successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile.
2. It is capable of destroying any incoming ballistic missile in low altitude, from a test range in Odisha.
3. This was the third supersonic interceptor test carried out this year in which an incoming ballistic missile target was successfully intercepted.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

284. In which state 25th National Children’s Science Congress 2017 is being held between 27th to 31st December, 2017?
(A) Gujarat
285. Consider the following statements:

1. President inaugurated the 100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association at Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur of Andhra Pradesh.

2. Indian Economic Association is a registered body of Indian economic professionals, established way back in 1917.

3. Its objective is to provide a forum for debate and discussion of policy-oriented issues.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

286. On which day, the Indian government will provide uninterrupted 24-hour power supply throughout the year?

(A) March, 2019
(B) April, 2018
(C) March, 2018
(D) April, 2019
(E) None of these

287. Which of the following Ministry has approved the construction of 5,45,090 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana?

(A) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
(B) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
(C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(D) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(E) Ministry of Planning

288. How many percent of total power generation will be generated by solid Waste Management?

(A) 0.25%
(B) 0.02%
(C) 0.05%
(D) 1.20%
(E) 1.45%

289. In which state World Sweet Festival will be held from January 13 to 15?

(A) Andhra Pradesh
(B) Telangana
(C) Maharashtra
(D) West Bengal
(E) Odisha

290. Which of the following State/UT will host international sailing event?

(A) Lakshadweep
(B) Andaman & Nicobar
(C) Puducherry
(D) Andhra Pradesh
(E) Tamil Nadu

291. In which city 78th session of the Indian History Congress began?

(A) New Delhi
(B) Jaipur
(C) Kolkata
(D) Bhopal
(E) Allahabad

292. Which of the following dealer has announced the launch of India's first mobile application for transacting in virtual currencies?

(A) Plus 500
(B) Pluto Exchange
(C) Angel Broking
(D) Fx Open
(E) Ava Trade

293. Consider the following statements:

1. In pursuance to the Companies Rules, 2017, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has recognised two registered valuers organisations.

2. The Institution of Estate Managers and Appraisers will handle one asset class of “land and building”.

3. IOV Registered Valuers Foundation will handle three asset classes of “land and building”, “plant and machinery” and “securities or financial assets”.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

294. Which of the following bank will purchase its joint venture partner UniCredit’s entire 51 per cent stake in Mutual Fund?
(A) Allahabad Bank
(B) HDFC Bank
(C) ICICI Bank
(D) Bank of Baroda
(E) Canara Bank

295. Which of the following rating agency has put banking sector of India in group ‘S’ under Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA)?
(A) Standard & Poor’s
(B) Fitch
(C) Moody’s
(D) NASDAQ
(E) ICRA

296. According to the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System report, which of the following institution/Ministry is slowest in disposing public grievances?
(A) Finance Ministry
(B) NITI Aayog
(C) External Affairs Ministry
(D) Home Ministry
(E) Railway Ministry

297. National Youth Festival will be organised in which of the following city?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Jaipur
(C) Mumbai
(D) Chennai
(E) Chandigarh

298. Who has been elected as Liberia's president?
(A) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
(B) Ruth Perry
(C) Amos Sawyer
(D) George Weah
(E) Charles Taylor

299. Who has won the Best Player of the Year accolade at the Globe Soccer Awards?
(A) Lionel Messi
(B) Luis Suarez
(C) Cristiano Ronaldo
(D) Neymar
(E) Arjen Robben

300. How much amount has been released by the government of India to Bank of India, which was recently placed under prompt corrective action by the Reserve Bank of India?
(A) Rs. 1,277 crore
(B) Rs. 4,507 crore
(C) Rs. 2,257 crore
(D) Rs. 3,077 crore
(E) Rs. 2,185 crore

301. Which Company has been awarded the prestigious “Golden Peacock Award for Risk Management” for the year 2017?
(A) Life Insurance Corporation of India
(B) General Insurance Corporation of India
(C) The Oriental Insurance Company Limited
(D) Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited
(E) National Insurance Company Limited

302. In Banking Term, PCA, C Stands For
(A) Credit
(B) Cash
(C) Corrective
(D) Current
(E) Corporate

303. Who lifted the World rapid chess championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia?
(A) Magnus Carlsen
(B) Viswanathan Anand
(C) Veselin Topalov
(D) Vladimir Kramnik
(E) Garry Kasparov

304. What is India's rank in list of countries with highest NPA levels?
(A) 1st
(B) 4th
305. How many satellites will be launched by ISRO in a single mission onboard PSLV rocket on January 10?
(A) 28
(B) 84
(C) 31
(D) 65
(E) 36

306. Which of the following countries has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest?
(A) India
(B) Bhutan
(C) Nepal
(D) Myanmar
(E) Sri Lanka

307. Which of the following states is all set to become the first state in the country to fix a protected price for vegetable crops under the 'Bhavantar Bharpati Yojna'?
(A) Maharashtra
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Haryana
(E) Madhya Pradesh

308. For which state’s Inland transport central government has sanctioned Rs. 1,250 crores?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Assam
(C) Odisha
(D) Sikkim
(E) Meghalaya

309. Consider the following statements:
1. Assam government has ceremonially launched skill development training centers across the state.
2. The chief minister launched the centers in a programme organized by Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati.
3. The Chief Minister further informed that the state government has already signed MoU with the Government of Singapore.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

310. Which of the following state’s police is all set to go digital from January 1, 2018 with computerization of police station work under the Criminal Tracking and Networking System (CCTNS)?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Odisha
(C) Assam
(D) Telangana
(E) Andhra Pradesh

311. Kerala based Federal Bank has announced a partnership with LuLu Exchange to leverage blockchain technology for cross-border remittances. LuLu Exchange is bank of which country?
(A) Iran
(B) Saudi Arabia
(C) Israel
(D) Egypt
(E) Abu Dhabi

312. Which of the following banks entered into an agreement with state-run National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing the latter's Information Utility Services?
(A) Allahabad Bank
(B) Canara Bank
(C) ICICI Bank
(D) UCO Bank
(E) HDFC Bank

313. Who among the following has been appointed as the President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations?
(A) Vinay Sahasrabuddh
(B) Amit Shah
(C) Sambit Patra
(D) Jaswant Sinha
(E) Ashok Parnami

314. In which year Indian Council of Cultural Relation was established?
(A) 1950
(B) 1952
(C) 1956
(D) 1963
(E) 1978

315. Who among the following is Chief Minister of Assam?
(A) Mukul Sangma
(B) Pawan Kumar Chamling
(C) Sarbananda Sonowal
(D) D.D. Lapang
(E) J. D. Rymbai
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
<th>4.</th>
<th>5.</th>
<th>6.</th>
<th>7.</th>
<th>8.</th>
<th>9.</th>
<th>10.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>72.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>73.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>74.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>75.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>76.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>