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- ❖ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the Budget for the year 2018-19 in the Parliament.
- ❖ India has slipped 10 places to reach the 42nd place on the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) annual Global Democracy Index 2017. The index ranks 165 independent states and two territories on the basis of five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture. Norway has topped this list.
- ❖ Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister, R K Singh has inaugurated the 7th India Energy Congress 2018 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Anu Kumar has won the first gold medal of the Khelo India School Games in 1500 metres.
- ❖ Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar has been honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman Award 2018.
- ❖ Senior bureaucrat Neelam Kapoor has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- ❖ The Government of India has constituted a high-level committee to look into procedures for sharing of infrastructure for utilities like water pipes and telecom cables.
- ❖ World's oldest man Francisco Nunez Olivera passes away. He was 113.
- ❖ India has joined Ashgabat Agreement on the establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), Russia have signed an MoU to collaborate and engage in Design, Development and Execution of contemporary, State-of-Art vessels for Inland and Coastal Waterways.
- ❖ The 7th India Energy Congress was held in New Delhi. The theme of the 7th edition of India Energy Congress is 'Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030'.
- ❖ The 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela has begun in Faridabad, Haryana.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has made a record by opening the world's longest zip line, measuring 2.83 km in length. Guinness World Records officials certified the zip line in Ras al-Khaimah.
- ❖ Rwanda has become the first low-income country to provide universal eye care for its 12 million population.

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- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed its joint secretary Vikram Singh Sisodia as the Chef-de-Mission for the upcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in Gold Coast, Australia.
- ❖ Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar, who has been working extensively for the development of the language, was honoured with this year's Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award.
- ❖ Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan took charge as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army. He succeeds Lt General A K Bhatt.
- ❖ India defeated Australia by eight wickets to win the under -19 Cricket World Cup for the fourth time.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day Global Investors' Summit 'Advantage Assam' in Guwahati.
- ❖ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has inaugurated India's first sentiment index 'CriSidEx' for micro and small enterprises. This index has been jointly developed by SIDBI and CRISIL.
- ❖ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has inked pact with the World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project to enhance navigation on National Waterway-1 from Varanasi to Haldia.
- ❖ Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), Russia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate and engage in Design, Development and Execution of contemporary, State-of-Art vessels for Inland and Coastal Waterways.
- ❖ Alibaba's affiliate Ant Small and Micro Financial Services Group (Ant) has invested about USD 200 million in online food ordering app Zomato.
- ❖ Shabnam Asthana was awarded the 'Times Power Women of the Year 2017'- Pune for Global PR. She was awarded by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Special Assistance in the Government of Maharashtra, Dilip Kamble.
- ❖ John Hennessy has been appointed as the Chairman of Alphabet's Board.
- ❖ Thanglura Darlong has been appointed as Indian Ambassador to Romania. He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer of 1988 batch.
- ❖ The Government of Assam & National Building Construction Corporation has signed a MoU to set up a Twin Tower Trade Centre in Guwahati.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Production) has constituted a 17 member task force headed by Tata Sons Chairman N

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- Chandrasekaran to study the use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military.
- ❖ The First ever International Kala Mela was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.
 - ❖ The Maharashtra government has approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as a new wildlife sanctuary in the state.
 - ❖ The book penned down by PM Narendra Modi named 'Exam Warriors' was launched to reach out to the students across the country ahead of their exams. The book was released by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
 - ❖ The World Cancer Day is observed on 4th February every year to raise awareness about cancer, its treatment and to encourage methods of its prevention. The theme for WCD 2016-18 is 'We can, I Can'.
 - ❖ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched the world's smallest rocket with the ability to put a tiny satellite into orbit. The rocket lifted off from the Uchinoura Space Center.
 - ❖ Sri Lanka celebrated the 70th Independence Day in a grand ceremony at the Galle Face Green in Colombo. The theme of the ceremony was "One Nation".
 - ❖ The President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid appointed Syed Mahmud Hossain as the new Chief Justice of the country. Justice Hossain is the 22nd chief justice of Bangladesh.
 - ❖ Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades has won re-election for a second term.
 - ❖ Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated Numaligarh Refinery Limited's Diesel Hydro Treater Plant (DHTP) at the Petroleum and Natural Gas exhibition Pavilion of Global Investors Meet 'Advantage Assam'.
 - ❖ Indian cricketers Jasprit Bumrah and Harmanpreet Kaur as well India women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia and shooter Heena Sidhu are among Forbes India 30 Under 30 list.
 - ❖ Austrian film-maker Stefan Bohun's documentary 'Brother Jakob, Are You Sleeping?' won the prestigious Golden Conch award for the best documentary in the International Competition category at the 15th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF).
 - ❖ Hukum Singh, BJP parliamentarian from Uttar Pradesh's Kairana, passed away. He was 79.

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- ❖ Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma clinch the USD 3 million Maybank Championship with a stunning 10-under-par 62 card.
- ❖ Denmark's Mathias Christiansen and Christinna Pedersen defeated Indonesian pair of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva to win the India Open BWF Super 500 badminton mixed doubles title.
- ❖ China's Shi Yuqi defeated Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien-Chen to win the India Open BWF Super 500 badminton men's singles badminton title.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Social Welfare minister Sajad Gani Lone inaugurated a women helpline service WHS (181) to provide 24 hours immediate response to women affected by violence.
- ❖ India successfully test-fired the indigenously developed short-range nuclear capable Agni-I ballistic missile. The missile was fired from the Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast. The test was conducted by the Strategic Force Command of the Indian Army. The range of Missile is 700 km. It was 18th version of Agni-I.
- ❖ Cab-hailing startup Ola and the Government of Assam have signed an MoU to pilot an app-based river taxi service in Guwahati. The river taxis will be machine-operated boats and users will be able to book the rides through Ola's app.
- ❖ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport of Mumbai sets record with 980 flights in 24 hours or almost one flight every minute. With this, the Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport bettered its own feat of 974 flights in 24 hours, recorded in December 2017. While Gatwick, the U.K.'s second-largest airport, remains the most efficient single-runway airport in the world.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh State government in association with UNICEF has launched massive door to door campaign DASTAK to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease in the state. The war cry of DASTAK is 'Darwaja Khatkhatao, AES aur JE ko bhagao'.
- ❖ Sweden and the United Nations World Food Programme signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement committing an unprecedented \$370 million dollars to WFP over the next four years.
- ❖ The Maldives president, Abdulla Yameen, has declared a state of emergency in the country as heavily armed troops stormed the country's top court and a former president Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed was arrested in a deepening political crisis.

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- ❖ Jerome H Powell was sworn in as the 16th Chairman of the Federal Reserve for a four-year term. Mr Powell has succeeded Janet Yellen, the first woman to lead the US central bank in its 100-year history.
- ❖ Shubhankar Sharma has emerged as the best Indian golfer in the world, grabbing the 72nd position in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR). He has won the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ The government on 6 February 2018 launched the Start-up-India ranking framework to help the Startup India initiative to drive economic growth of the country. Three new tools, namely the State and Union Territory Startup Ranking Framework, the Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Startups in India and the Startup India Kit were launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu.
- ❖ Haryana continues to dominate medals tally at the first Khelo India School Games in New Delhi. Haryana now has 54 medals with 20 gold, 16 silver and 18 bronze medals. Delhi with 18 gold, 19 silver and 24 bronze medal are in the second position followed by Maharashtra with 52 medals which include 16 yellow metals.
- ❖ The President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 88th Mahamastakabhisheka Utsav of Lord Gomateshwara in Hassan district of Karnataka. Mahamastakabhisheka of Gommateshwara, who is also known as Bahubali takes place once in 12 years.
- ❖ India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile as part of a user trial by the Army from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, in Odisha. Prithvi-II is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kilogram of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines. It is a surface-to-surface missile and has a strike range of 350 km.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to hold the first-of-its-kind, one-day Pelican Festival at the Atapaka Bird Sanctuary on Kolleru. Kolleru is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the country.
- ❖ The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been ranked the top environment policy think tanks in India while it has secured the 16th position in global rankings, climbing up two positions from the last year.
- ❖ Google and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) signed a pact to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology curriculum. It was signed on the occasion of Safer Internet Day (06th February).

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- ❖ The US-based SpaceX has successfully launched the world's most powerful operational rocket Falcon Heavy towards Mars. The rocket, carrying a Tesla Roadster car, will revolve around the Sun in a way that will repeatedly bring it close to the Earth and Mars.
- ❖ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0%. Consequently, the Reverse Repo Rate (RRR) under the LAF remains at 5.75%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25%. GVA growth for 2017-18 is projected at 6.6%. GVA growth for 2018-19 is projected at 7.2% overall with risks evenly balanced.
- ❖ Kathakali maestro Madavoor Vasudevan Nair collapsed on stage and died while performing at Agasthyacodu Mahadeva Temple, Kerala. He was 89.
- ❖ Indian women's cricket team pacer Jhulan Goswami has become the first woman in the world to take 200 wickets in ODI cricket. Goswami achieved the feat playing in her 166th ODI against South Africa. Goswami had become the leading wicket-taker in women's ODI in May 2017, overtaking former Australian pacer Cathryn Fitzpatrick's record of 180 wickets.
- ❖ The Fifth edition of South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference was held in New Delhi. It was hosted by Public Procurement Division (PPD) of Ministry of Finance and All India Management Association (AIMA).
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prema Khandu laid the foundation stone for Rhododendron Park in Tawang.
- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has developed the first flight of Hawk-i with indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS). Hawk-i is the first indigenous RTOS developed in India from scratch and certified by Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).
- ❖ The first ever of its kind in the country chat-based job search mobile app 'Empzilla' is being launched that will do away with existing limitations of employers and job seekers making selection process quick and cost-effective.
- ❖ Dubai International Airport has held on to its No 1 ranking as the world's busiest airport for international travel, after seeing around 88.2 million passengers in 2017. Dubai International Airport first surpassed London Heathrow as the world's busiest airport for international traffic in 2014.
- ❖ Bermuda has become the first country to legalise and then repeal same-sex marriage. Bermuda's governor John Rankin approved a bill reversing

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the right of gay couples to marry, despite a supreme court ruling last year authorising same-sex marriage.

- ❖ Business magazine Forbes has released its first-ever Crypto Rich List, comprising 20 wealthiest people in the cryptocurrency space. The list was topped by Ripple Co-founder Chris Larsen, who is estimated to have a crypto net worth of \$7.5-8 billion. He is followed by Ethereum Co-founder Joseph Lubin (\$1-5 billion) and Founder of cryptocurrency exchange Binance Changpeng Zhao (\$1.1-2 billion).
- ❖ Actor John Mahoney passed away after a brief illness in Chicago, the USA. He was 77 years old. He was well-known for playing the title character in the “Frasier” show.
- ❖ Rear Admiral Mukul Asthana, has been appointed as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air) at New Delhi. He was commissioned in 1986 in the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for his three-nation visit to Palestine, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. This is the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Palestine, and Prime Minister Modi's second visit to UAE and first to Oman. Prime Minister would be addressing the Sixth World Government Summit being held in Dubai, UAE
- ❖ Justice Abhilasha Kumari was sworn-in as new Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur on 9 February 2018. Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla administered her the oath of office at Raj Bhavan in Imphal. Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, Ministers, MLAs and Judges attended the swearing-in ceremony. Justice Abhilasha was a judge of the Gujarat High Court.
- ❖ India has increased “substantially” its score in the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, ranking 44th among 50 nations, according to the US Chambers of Commerce report. Last year, India ranked 43rd out of 45 countries in the Index. The top 3 countries on the list are- The USA, The United Kingdom and Sweden.
- ❖ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has constituted a 13-member advisory committee to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernisation of the armed forces. The committee will be headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi, former secretary in the government.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will start a pilot project called "pay as you use" on the Delhi-Mumbai Highway to study and implement the ability of the system in the country.

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- ❖ The South Central Railway (SCR) has become the first railway zone in the country to complete 100% LED lighting at all the stations under its jurisdiction.
- ❖ Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K Singh, launched a Web-based monitoring System and a Fly Ash mobile application named ASH TRACK.
- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a fine of around Rs. 136 crores on search engine major Google for unfair business practices in the Indian market for online search.
- ❖ IndusInd Bank launched its new Sonic Identity, which is essentially a musical logo called 'MOGO', as part of its branding initiatives.
- ❖ PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi has been appointed as the International Cricket Council's (ICC) first-ever independent female director. Nooyi will join the cricket body in June 2018 for a 2-year term.
- ❖ SBI Card, the country's second-largest credit card issuer, has appointed Hardayal Prasad as new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company. He has replaced Vijay Jasuja.
- ❖ The first Khelo India School Games concluded in New Delhi with sports powerhouse Haryana topped the overall medal tally. The state won 102 medals which include 38 gold and 26 silver. Maharashtra with 110 medals (36 of them gold) finished second while Delhi with 94 medals came third. Sports Minister, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore presented the top State Haryana with the glittering trophy.
- ❖ The 23rd Olympic Winter Games officially kicked off with a colourful ceremony at Pyeongchang in South Korea on 9 February 2018.
- ❖ To set a record in the Guinness book for ice hockey on the world's highest altitude, an international level tournament was organised at Chibra Kargyam in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir on 8 February 2018. Five international teams from USA, Germany, Canada, Slovakia and Russia and a local team participated in the tournament. It was jointly organised by the Hockey Foundation , USA , Ladakh Winter Sports Club and Lalok Winter Sports Association.
- ❖ Punjab National Bank has signed an agreement for information utility with National e-Governance Services Limited.
- ❖ Grand Master Vidit Gujrathi has been appointed as the brand ambassador of All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB).

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- ❖ Justice Antony Dominic, was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has appointed PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi to the ICC Board. With this, she has become the organization's first independent female director.
- ❖ Union power and renewable energy minister, R.K Singh has launched a Web-based monitoring System and a Fly Ash mobile application named ASH TRACK.
- ❖ NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report titled, "Healthy States, Progressive India" in New Delhi. The report is the first of its kind, nationwide analysis of health systems across the States, including Union Territories.
- ❖ P. Radhakrishnan has inaugurated Third Global Procurement Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ An eight-year-old Indian-origin schoolgirl, Sohini Roy Chowdhury has entered the UK's 'Mathletics Hall of Fame'. It is an online mathematics-based competitive tool aimed at primary school students.
- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a fine of Rs 136 crore on internet giant Google for unfair business practices for online search in India.
- ❖ Forbes has released its first ever list of richest people in cryptocurrency, which is topped by Ripple co-founder Chris Larsen, with an estimated crypto net worth of USD 7.5-8 billion.
- ❖ Emirates Group signed a MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Government to establish a framework for collaboration in the aviation sector.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has released the 'Healthy States, Progressive India Report'. Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have ranked top among the larger states in terms of overall performance. The report was released by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh are at the top in the terms of annual incremental performance.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the 'Grand Collar of the State of Palestine' by President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas, recognising his key contribution to promote relations between India and Palestine.
- ❖ Dubai witnessed 15% growth in tourist arrivals from India in 2017, hosting 2.1 million visitors, retaining top spot as the source market. It also became the first country to cross the 2 million mark in a single year,

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according to the latest data published by Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism).

- ❖ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) appointed Biswamohan Mahapatra as non-executive chairman for two years with immediate effect. He succeeds B Sambamurthy who was the interim chairman.
- ❖ Eminent litterateur Chandrasekhar Rath passed away at the age of 89. He died of old age ailments. He was recently nominated for Padma Shri by the Union government this year for his contribution towards Odia literature. His three novels, Yantrarudha (The Instrumented) 1967, Asurya Upanivesh (The Sunless Colony) 1974 and Nav Jatak (Regenesi) 1981, have given him a special place in Odia literature. He has also received literary awards like Sahitya Akademi Award and Sarala Award.
- ❖ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh released a book titled "Mere Sapnon ka Bharat". It is a compilation of interviews of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by former MP Tarun Vijay.
- ❖ Australia's champion javelin thrower Jarrod Bannister passed away. He was 33.
- ❖ Rakesh Singh has been appointed as the private banking head of HDFC Bank.
- ❖ 11 February 2018: International Day Of Women And Girls In Science observed globally.
- ❖ The Bihar government has banned the sale of loose cigarettes in the state. Bihar is the 12th state in the country to enforce such a ban.
- ❖ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Centre for learning Sanskrit language in Gujarat University in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ In South Korea, teenage snowboarding sensation Red Gerard won the first gold for the United States at the Pyeongchang Olympics.
- ❖ Property portal Magicbricks in collaboration with State Bank of India (SBI) has launched an online housing festival 'Big Bang Home Carnival', wherein nearly 16,000 housing units from 22 Indian cities will be showcased.
- ❖ Asma Jahangir, Pakistan's renowned human rights lawyer, social activist and an outspoken critic of the country's powerful military establishment, died of cardiac arrest.
- ❖ ONGC Videsh, Partners Acquire 10% Stake In Abu Dhabi Oilfield For \$600 Million.
- ❖ National Productivity Council is observing National Productivity Day on 12 February 2018, and National Productivity Week till 18th February. It is the

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60th Anniversary of the National Productivity Council and is being celebrated as Diamond Jubilee Year. The theme for the National Productivity Week is - Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India.

- ❖ Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on 12 February 2018 announced one time loan waiver of upto Rs. 50,000 for small and marginal farmers in the state.
- ❖ South Africa's Reserve Bank said, the Bank of Baroda has notified the office of the registrar of banks of its intention to exit from South Africa.
- ❖ Embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya has lost another legal battle linked to his now- defunct Kingfisher Airlines after the UK High Court awarded Singapore-based BOC Aviation an estimated \$90 million in claims.
- ❖ The Mo Ibrahim Foundation says it has awarded the \$5 million African Leadership prize to former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The Ibrahim Prize, which honours role models on a continent where many leaders have stayed in power for decades, has been awarded just four times before since it was established in 2006. Ms. Sirleaf is the fifth person and first woman to receive it.
- ❖ First Pakistani woman from Hindu minority to become lawmaker. Krishna Kumari will be the first female Hindu lawmaker in Pakistan since 1947.
- ❖ Australia cricket captain Steve Smith capped off a golden 12 months by winning his second Allan Border Medal in Melbourne on Monday. Smith, hailed as the country's finest batsman since Donald Bradman, polled 246 votes, well ahead of two-time medal winner David Warner (162 votes) and Nathan Lyon (156 votes). Smith, who had earlier been named Australia's Test Player of the Year for his dominant 12 months with the bat, won his first Border Medal in 2015. The skipper was the hot favourite to take the award following a year in which he played 24 international games across limited overs and Test cricket and scored 1754 runs at 67.46 with seven centuries.
- ❖ Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh inaugurated the 'Indian Power Stations 2018' in New Delhi. It is the three-day International Conference on Operations and Maintenance.
- ❖ The Institute Of Directors organised it's 12th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in Bengaluru, Karnataka. In the conference, the Prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 were presented.

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- The leadership award for philanthropy and social change was presented to Mr. Vineet Nayar, Founder Chairman, Sampark Foundation.
- ❖ Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) & FTAs on e-Tourist Visa on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI). The growth rate in FTAs in January 2018 over January 2017 was 8.4%. During the month of January 2018, a total of 2.40 lakh foreign tourists arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 1.52 lakh during the month of January 2017 registering a growth of 58.5%.
 - ❖ World Radio Day is observed annually on 13 February. The theme for WRD 2018 is "Radio and Sports". The Day is organised globally by the UNESCO.
 - ❖ The Gevora Hotel in Dubai, developed by the Al Attar Group has now become the "world's tallest hotel". It stands 356 metres and 53 centimetres tall. It is one metre taller than the previous holder of the title, the JW Marriott Marquis, in the same city. The title has been confirmed by Guinness Book of World Records.
 - ❖ Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) launched the first tests of the world's first autonomous pods at the World Government Summit. The autonomous pods are launched in cooperation with Next Future Transportation (US-Based).
 - ❖ Defending champion Karnataka's Kishan Gangolli won the 13th edition of the National 'A' Chess Championship for the blind in Mumbai.
 - ❖ US President Donald Trump today unveiled a massive USD 1(point)5 trillion plan to modernise America's infrastructure including USD 200 billion in federal funding.
 - ❖ Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades won a second five-year term as voters gave a thumbs-up to his record in containing an economic meltdown in 2013 and conducting abortive peace talks with the Turkish Cypriots.
 - ❖ Noted thinker, writer and journalist Muzaffar Hussain died. He was 78.
 - ❖ Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh has inaugurated the 'Indian Power Stations 2018', an International Conference on Operations and Maintenance in New Delhi.
 - ❖ Wipro and Tata Steel have been selected as the world's most ethical companies for 2018 by the US-based think tank Ethisphere Institute.

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- ❖ India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit was held in New Delhi. It was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- ❖ Former union minister and Senior TDP leader Bolla Bulli Ramaiah died. He was 92.
- ❖ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the 8th Global Theatre Olympics on 17th February, 2018 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Max Bupa Health Insurance has launched its digitally enabled new Health Insurance plan 'Go Active'.
- ❖ The Indian cricket team has strengthened its position at the top and Afghanistan rose to 10th in the latest ICC One-Day rankings.
- ❖ The third international conference on pharmaceuticals industry and medical devices, 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018', will be held at Bengaluru from February 15-17, 2018.
- ❖ According to the 'Military Balance 2018' report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), India overtook the UK as the fifth-largest defence spender in the world in 2017 at USD 52.5 billion.
- ❖ CPN-UML chairperson K P Sharma Oli has become the Prime Minister of Nepal for the second time.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the international conference 'Agricon 2018' and 'Agriexpo 2018' at Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (CSAUT), Kanpur.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won the Senior Women's National Football Championship by defeating Manipur at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack.
- ❖ India's first radio festival was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Ashok Das, a 1987 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as India's new Ambassador to Brazil.
- ❖ Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad has inaugurated the India-Bangladesh "Friendship Gate" in Dawki, Meghalaya.
- ❖ Equitas Small Finance Bank has introduced an interactive digital savings account 'selfeSavings'.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) 2018 at New Delhi.
- ❖ India has Signed Loan Agreement with New Development Bank for USD 100 Million for Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for Desert Areas.
- ❖ India's biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices began in Bengaluru With the theme, 'Driving NextGen

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Pharmaceuticals. Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilisers Ananth Kumar inaugurated the three-day event.

- ❖ India's Umang App was named winner of the Best M-Government Service award in the Accessible Government category while Aadhar won the best emerging technology award at the recently concluded World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai, where India had the status of 'Guest of Honour' country.
- ❖ Private sector lender, Yes Bank has announced the listing of the Bank's debut US \$600 million bond issue under its maiden US \$1 billion medium-term note (MTN) bond on country's first international exchange BSE's IndiaINX at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.
- ❖ Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn suddenly resigned in what he described as a bid to smooth reforms, following years of violent unrest that threatened the ruling party's hold on Africa's second most populous nation.
- ❖ Cyril Ramaphosa, head of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) has been sworn in as South Africa's new President. He was elected as the new president of South Africa by the ruling party politicians after the resignation of Jacob Zuma.
- ❖ Japan's government has reappointed Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda for another term and chose an advocate of bolder monetary easing as one of his deputies, a sign the central bank will be in no rush to dial back its massive stimulus program.
- ❖ In Tennis, Yuki Bhambri has become the first Indian to reach the quarter-finals of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament.
- ❖ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has suspended Romania's drug-testing laboratory for six months.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has won the Senior Women's National Football Championship for the first time.
- ❖ Martin Guptill becomes the highest run-scorer in Twenty20 internationals, surpasses Brendon McCullum. It took Guptill's international T20 career total to 2,188 runs, surpassing compatriot Brendon McCullum's 2,140, with India's Virat Kohli the next highest on the all-time list with 1,956.
- ❖ The Centre will set up 562 more Ekalavya Model Residential Schools in tribal areas of the country. Briefing media in New Delhi on the budgetary

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provisions of his ministry, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram said, 271 such schools have already been sanctioned out of which, 190 are currently operational.

- ❖ Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau will arrive in India on a seven-day State visit. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, his visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries in key areas of mutual interest including trade and investment, energy, science and innovation, higher education, infrastructure development, skill development and space.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks with visiting Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in New Delhi, during which discussions on the issues of regional, international and mutual interest will be held. This is the first visit by Iranian President to India in 10 years.
- ❖ India and Iran signed an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA) and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income. The Agreement is on similar lines as entered into by India with other countries.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 (WSDS 2018) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The government has signed second Loan Agreement with New Development Bank (NDB) for the financing of Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas.
- ❖ Russian space agency Roskosmos has successfully launched Progress MS-08, an unmanned cargo spacecraft for the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ China will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit at Qingdao, eastern Shandong Province in June 2018. China had taken over rotating chair of SCO after 17th SCO summit concluded in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan in June 2017.
- ❖ K.P. Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the second time, weeks after his Left alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist) swept the parliamentary polls. He has replaced Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- ❖ Vikas Sathaye, a Pune-born person has been honoured with the Scientific and Engineering Academy Award at the Oscars Scientific and Technical Awards 2018 at Beverly Hills in Los Angeles, California.

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- ❖ In Gujarat, BJP MLA from Raopura constituency in Vadodara, Rajendra Trivedi is set to become Speaker of the 14th Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ India beat South Africa by 8 wickets in the sixth and final One-Day International match at Centurion last night. Chasing a target of 205 runs, India made 206 runs for the loss of 2 wickets in the 33rd over. Skipper Virat Kohli scored his 35th ODI century and remain not out. The visitors have won the six-match series by 5-1.
- ❖ 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer has become the oldest world number one in Tennis history. The 36-year old Swiss replaced Rafael Nadal at the top of the standings after recording a 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 win over Dutch Robin Haase in the quarter-finals of the Rotterdam Open at the Netherlands. Federer surpassed Andre Agassi, who held the top spot aged 33, in 2003.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker, Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the 6th India region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference at Patna in Bihar. The conference focused on the objectives and role of the Parliamentary Association body.
- ❖ The prestigious World Congress on Information Technology 2018 has begun in Hyderabad. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the three-day IT summit through a video link. The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is organising Congress while the National Alliance of Software and Services Companies (NASSC) and the Telangana state Government are jointly hosting the event.
- ❖ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 8th edition of the Theatre Olympics at Lal Quila in New Delhi. The event has been organised by National School of Drama under the aegis of Ministry of Culture. The theme of the festival is - "Flag of Friendship".
- ❖ According to the Union Minister of State of the Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch Chandrayan-2 Mission around April 2018. Chandrayaan-2 is the country's second mission to the moon.
- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has organized a National Conference under the title of "Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers' Income" in New Delhi.
- ❖ Assam is at the bottom of the list with regard to maternal mortality rate (MMR) with a figure of 300 against the national average of 167, while the

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fund spending under National Health Mission (NHM) is just 13.58% for 2017-18. MMR is the annual number of female deaths per 1,00,000 live births from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management. The Centre had allocated Rs 1,056.25 crore for Assam under National Health Mission (NHM) for 2017-18.

- ❖ In a first in the country, the Maharashtra government will be setting up an institute for artificial intelligence (AI) in Mumbai. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will unveil the plan for the institute during the Magnetic Maharashtra Summit and at the Global Economic Conference in Canada in March 2018.
- ❖ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley arrived in Riyadh on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. He will co-chair the 12th India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting to be held in the Saudi capital Riyadh. Mr Jaitley will also open the Saudi-Indian Business Council. Finance Minister will also visit India Pavillion at the Saudi National Heritage and Cultural Festival Janadriyah. Mr Jaitley will meet with the Saudi Minister of Trade & Investment Majid Al-Qassabi to discuss the bilateral issues between the two countries.
- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced area development plans worth Rs 1,918 crore for Punjab to supplement farmers' income.
- ❖ Digital payments entity PhonePe has partnered with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the adoption of its indigenously-designed Point of Sale (POS) device at IOCL retail outlets.
- ❖ PNB Housing Finance Ltd has tied up with International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, to raise \$800 million for green and affordable housing in India.
- ❖ Amazon has become the first foreign e-commerce firm to start its own food retail venture in India called Amazon Retail, piloting its services in Pune.
- ❖ Milkbasket, India's first and largest micro-delivery platform has been recognised as 'Startup of the Year' 2017 at the 7th Small Business Awards held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Business consultancy firm EY has named Bajaj Finserv's Sanjiv Bajaj as the entrepreneur for 2017. Sanjiv Bajaj will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo.
- ❖ Roger Federer (Switzerland) celebrated his return to the top of the world rankings by winning the Rotterdam Open, in the Netherlands. It was his

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97th career title. The 36-year-old, the oldest No.1 in history, defeated Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) in the final. Federer is three years older than American Andre Agassi was when previously holding the record for oldest No.1 back in 2003. This was his third title in Rotterdam following successes in 2005 and 2012. France doubles pair P. H. Herbert and N. Mahut won the Men's Doubles Title.

- ❖ Archaeologist and historian Arvind P. Jamkhedkar will be the next Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). He will replace Prof. K. Sudershan Rao.
- ❖ R B Pandit took over as the Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA).
- ❖ India's Manavadiya Singh Rathore clinched junior men's trap silver in the Qatar Open Shotgun meet in Lusail, Qatar.
- ❖ Virgin Group has signed an agreement with Maharashtra government to build a Hyperloop transportation system between Mumbai and Pune.
- ❖ Jordan Thompson has won the Men's Singles title of Chennai Open ATP Challenger Tennis Championships.
- ❖ Noted French jazz violinist Didier Lockwood has passed away. He was 62.
- ❖ Crime drama Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri won maximum prizes at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2018, which took place at the Royal Albert Hall in London, UK.
- ❖ The government of India and the UN jointly announced that India will host the global World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June 2018. World Environment Day is celebrated globally on June 5. The theme for World Environment 2018 is "Beat Plastic Pollution".
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Palace Queen Humsafar Express between Mysuru and Udaipur in Mysuru Railway Station.
- ❖ India successfully test-fired Agni II medium-range nuclear-capable missile from APJ Abdul Kalam island off the Odisha coast. The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) fired Agni-II from a mobile launcher at launch complex 4 of the Integrated Test Range. Agni-II, which has a length of 20 metres, weighs 17 tonnes and can carry a payload of 1000 kgs over a distance of 2000 kms. It is a part of the Agni series of missiles developed by the DRDO.
- ❖ Singapore will impose a 'carbon tax' from 2019 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions and make companies more competitive as global agreements on climate change take effect.

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- ❖ Fitch placed Punjab National Bank on Rating Watch Negative (RWN), reflecting a possibility of downgrade following the USD 1.77 billion fraud. The fraud is the biggest ever in the banking history.
- ❖ In a major reform in the coal sector since its nationalisation in 1973, the government today allowed private companies to mine the fossil fuel for commercial use, ending the monopoly of state-owned Coal India Ltd.
- ❖ Christian Coleman has set up a world record in 60 metres race. The World silver medallist ran the distance in 6.34 seconds at the US indoor national championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- ❖ Japanese Yuzuru Hanyu became the first figure skater in 66 years to win back-to-back Winter Olympic gold medals in the men's singles event as he won Japan's first gold medal at PyeongChang Games.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2-Day long UP Investors Summit in Lucknow. The mega event has been organised by the Uttar Pradesh government. It is aimed at showcasing investment opportunities and potential across various sectors in Uttar Pradesh. According to the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, 900 MoUs have already been finalised ahead of the Summit. Representatives from Mauritius, Japan, the Netherlands, Finland, Czech Republic, Thailand and Slovakia will also participate in the event.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 22nd edition of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in Hyderabad through a video conference. The WCIT is held for the first time in India. The 26th edition of Nasscom-India Leadership Forum (ILF) was also held in the same venue later on. Nasscom is the host of the of WCIT. Telangana is the state partner for both the events.
- ❖ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched 4 food canteens at Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar, and Yamunanagar via video-conferencing from Chandigarh. These have been set up under the 'Antyodaya Aahaar Yojana' to provide healthy, nutritious and hygienic food at only Rs 10 per meal to all poor and needy.
- ❖ Maharashtra government will roll out 'Asmita Yojana' on the International Women's Day (March 8, 2018) to provide cheap (subsidised) sanitary pads to school girls and women. Under the scheme, schoolgirls

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studying in Zilla Parishad schools will get sanitary napkin packet at Rs 5 while rural women can avail it at the subsidised rate of Rs.24 and Rs.29.

- ❖ India has been ranked 12th-worst among 52 low-middle income countries based on the number of children dying within the first month of their birth, which is 25.4 per 1,000 live births. Pakistan is the worst with 45.6 newborn deaths per 1,000 live births, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Japan, with an NMR of 0.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, has been ranked the world's safest country in which to be born followed by Iceland (1) and Singapore (1.1).
- ❖ US Marines in Thailand for the Cobra Gold training exercise took part in one of the wildest parts of the drills – drinking cobra blood. This was the 37th edition of the exercise. This year, seven countries are participating in Cobra Gold – the US, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Singapore. Part of the drill involves jungle survival.
- ❖ The Indian and Indonesian armies began the sixth edition of their annual military exercise named 'Garuda Shakti' in Bandung, Indonesia.
- ❖ Google has combined its two payment services, Google Wallet and Android Pay, into a new app called Google Pay.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day 'UP Investors Summit' in Lucknow.
- ❖ Union Drinking Water and Sanitation minister Uma Bharati launched the 'Gangotri Swachh Iconic Place project' and 'Swajal' - a community owned drinking water programme -in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district.
- ❖ The University Grants Commission has constituted a four-member Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) to conduct the appraisal of applications for shortlisting 20 Institutions of Eminence (IoE). N Gopalaswami, former chief election commissioner of India is the chairperson of the committee.

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- ❖ Uttar Pradesh's Khadi and Village Industries Board signed a pact with Amazon India to facilitate online selling of Khadi products.
- ❖ Indian and Indonesian armies began the sixth edition of 'Garuda Shakti' military drill in Bandung, the capital of West Java province of Indonesia.
- ❖ Technology giant Google has launched a new payments app called Google Pay.
- ❖ Renowned cardiologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr BK Goyal passed away. He was 82. प्रख्यात हृदयविज्ञानी और पद्म विभूषण से सम्मानित डॉ बी.के. गोयल का निधन हो गया। वह 82 वर्ष के थे।
- ❖ Telangana government has partnered with Nasscom to set up a Center of Excellence for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ RBI has constituted an Expert panel which will investigate the reasons for the growing fraud in banks and also suggest ways to prevent it.
- ❖ India will host the global World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June 2018. The theme for this year is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
- ❖ India successfully conducted a night trial of its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile with a strike range of 350 km, from a test range in Odisha.
- ❖ According to the latest report by non-government organisation Transparency International, India has been placed 81st in the Global Corruption Perception Index 2017. New Zealand has topped this list of 180 countries.
- ❖ Flying officer Avani Chaturvedi has become the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft.
- ❖ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has reduced the interest rate to 8.55% for 2017-18.

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- ❖ OXIGEN Services has signed an agreement with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to expand and deploy new micro-ATMs at IOCL's fuel station network.
- ❖ Second meeting of the Canada-India Business Forum was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Actor Kamal Haasan has launched his political party 'Makkal Needhi Miam'.
- ❖ India's indigenous light transport aircraft Saras was successfully test flown for a second time. The first successful test was carried out on January 24 this year.
- ❖ The Telangana Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in the state.
- ❖ Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank began its operations. It became the fourth Payment Bank to start its operations after Bharti Airtel, Paytm and FINO Payments Bank.
- ❖ India successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable 'Dhanush' ballistic missile from a naval ship off Odisha coast. It has a strike range of 350 kms.
- ❖ Former Madhya Pradesh minister and senior Congress leader Suresh Seth passed away. He was 86. He was popularly known as 'Sher-e-Indore'.
- ❖ The Government of India and The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$84 million loan for improvement and expansion of water supply in Bhagalpur and Gaya towns in Bihar.
- ❖ Swachh Bharat brand ambassador Kunwar Bai has passed away. She was 106.

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- ❖ India and Germany has signed an agreement for technical cooperation in Sustainable Urban Development Programme and Smart Cities in India.
- ❖ Indian scientists have developed a super critical carbon di oxide Brayton test loop facility that would help generate clean energy from future power plants including solar thermal. The facility was inaugurated by Science & Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan at the IISc campus in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Global Digital Health Partnership Symposium was held at Sydney, Australia.
- ❖ Union Minister of Railways & Coal Piyush Goyal has launched the Digital Receipt Note, Receipted Challan & Digital Bill Submission to improve transparency.
- ❖ The Government of India has signed a MoU with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to usher the "programme based research support" in addressing current and future global and local developmental challenges.
- ❖ A cultural festival 'Ras Banaras – Swachhagrah – Bapu ko Kaaryaanjali', organized by the Ministry of Culture, concluded successfully in Varanasi.
- ❖ The 44th edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival was held at Khajuraho temple in Madhya Pradesh. It was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has launched 'Ombudsman Scheme' for non-banking financial companies (NBFC). The scheme will provide a cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism relating to deficiency in the services by NBFCs.
- ❖ Mahindra Aerospace and Canada's Viking Air have signed a memorandum of understanding to support regional air connectivity under government's UDAN Yojana.

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- ❖ Senior journalist and editor-in-chief of National Herald, Neelabh Mishra, passed away. He was 57.
- ❖ Digital payments startup Paytm has launched two insurance companies, Paytm Life Insurance and Paytm General Insurance.
- ❖ Exim Bank has signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for financing a project on 'Capacity Building of MSMEs in North East India for Export Competitiveness'.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Amma two-wheeler scheme in Chennai. Under this scheme, 50 percent subsidy will be given to working women for buying two-wheeler in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development schemes worth Rs 1,000 crore for Daman and Diu, and also inaugurated a flight connecting Ahmedabad to coastal town of Diu.
- ❖ International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels will be held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Veteran Actress Sridevi has passed away recently. She was 54.
- ❖ Parupalli Kashyap has won the Men's singles title of the Austrian Open International Challenge.
- ❖ Commerce and Industry Ministry has appointed four institutes (IIFT, ICAI, ICSI, and NICMAR) to push India's ranking in ease of doing business index.
- ❖ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) partnership summit in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the first tactile Sanitary Napkin production unit of Uttarakhand under the control of the women's empowerment and child development department, established by CSR fund of Hindustan Zinc Limited, a unit located in Siddiqui Pant Nagar of Vedanta Group.
- ❖ Chinese telecom gear firm Huawei unveiled the world's first commercial 5G modem.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government signed a total of 364 memoranda of understanding with various business establishments, including Reliance Industries Limited.
- ❖ Pyeongchang Olympics, the biggest Winter Olympic Games, concluded. Norway has topped these games by winning 39 medals including 14 gold, 14 silver and 11 bronze medals.

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- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out the successful test flight of Rustom-2 drone at Chalakere in Karnataka's Chitradurga district. Rustom-2 is a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).
- ❖ Amit Panghal claimed his second consecutive international gold but the celebrated MC Mary Kom had to be content with a silver in the 69th Strandja Memorial boxing tournament for men and women.
- ❖ India shuttler Sameer Verma defeated former world No. 2 Jan O Jorgensen to clinch the men's singles title at the Swiss Open Super 300 tournament.
- ❖ Former Cabinet Secretary TSR Subramanian died. He was 79.
- ❖ Michael McCormack has been appointed as the new Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.
- ❖ Manganlal Shah, BJP MLA from Uttarakhand, passed away. He was 55.
- ❖ Indian gymnast Aruna Budda Reddy has become the first Indian to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup. She has won a bronze medal in the women's vault event.
- ❖ Nitin Gadkari has laid the foundation stone for setting up of a National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), at IIT Chennai.
- ❖ 21st national conference on e-Governance has been started in Hyderabad.
- ❖ 20th Conference of the Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CCEM) was held in Nadi, Fiji. The theme of the Conference was "Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?"
- ❖ According to the Economic think-tank, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the Indian economy is projected to grow at 6.7 per cent in the current financial year 2017-18 and 7.5 percent in 2018-19.
- ❖ Samina Baig, Pakistan's first woman to climb Mount Everest, has been appointed as the goodwill ambassador of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ China has been elected as vice chair of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global body mandated to combat terror financing and money laundering.
- ❖ Google announced a deeper integration with the State Bank of India (SBI) for its digital payment app "Tez" that will allow users to now create a SBI UPI Id -- @oksbi and get access to exclusive offers for the SBI customers.

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- ❖ Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd (CSB) has tied up with Celebrus Capital Ltd (Celebrus) to offer CSB's customers online trading and Demat Services.
- ❖ Union Drinking Water and Sanitation minister Uma Bharti has launched the Swajal pilot project at Village Bhikampura in Karauli, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a Truck Parking Terminal at the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Tuticorin under the ambitious Sagarmala Project.
- ❖ Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has entered into a MoU with the Regional Center for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for designating Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow (CSIR-CIMAP) as Coordinating Center on Medicinal Plants.
- ❖ National Science Day (NSD) is celebrated every year on 28 February. The Theme for this year is 'Science and technology for a sustainable future'.
- ❖ Chilika Lake in Odisha has emerged as the single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world with 155 Irrawaddy dolphins.
- ❖ Moody's Investors Service has estimated that India will grow at 7.6 per cent in calendar year 2018.
- ❖ The Defence Ministry has started the process to set up the country's first defence industrial corridor linking Chennai with four other cities of Tamil Nadu to promote industries manufacturing weapons and military equipment. This 'Quad' or quadrilateral corridor will connect Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio) along with its technology partner Cisco has been awarded with the "Best Mobile Operator Service for Consumers award" at the ongoing Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ Jayendra Saraswathi, the senior seer of Kancheepuram Sankara Mutt, passed away. He was 82.
- ❖ According to a report by HDFC Bank, India's GDP growth rate will be 6.5 percent in the current financial year and it will increase to 7.3 percent in the next financial year 2018-19.
- ❖ Chennai will host the World Junior Squash Championship (men and women's category) and the WSF Men's Junior Team Championship.
- ❖ India has been ranked 47th out of 86 countries on the Inclusive Internet Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ❖ Sajeev Krishnan has been appointed as the Director of Dhanlaxmi Bank.

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- ❖ Second India-Korea Business Summit was Held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Karnataka defeated Saurashtra to win the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the third time.
- ❖ Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani released 'India 2018' (English Version) and 'Bharat 2018' (Hindi Version).
- ❖ Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd and Celebrus Capital Ltd have announced a new partnership to offer CSB's customers online trading and demat services.
- ❖ Tennis legend Roger Federer became the most decorated winner in the history of Laureus World Sports Awards after he won twin honours at the 18th edition of the awards ceremony in Monaco. It was his sixth award. The awards include the Sportsman and Comeback titles.
- ❖ American tennis great Serena Williams won the Sportswoman of the Year Award following her Australian Open success, her 23rd Grand Slam title. Serena is now the most decorated female Laureus Award winner with five Laureus statuettes.
- ❖ Eminent Odia writer Kanakalata Mohanty passed away. She was 82.

BAFTA Awards 2018

S. No.	Category	Winners
1.	Best Film	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
2.	Outstanding British Film	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
3.	Best Director	Guillermo Del Toro, The Shape of Water
4.	Best Actress	Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
5.	Best Actor	Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour
6.	Best Supporting Actress	Allison Janney, I, Tonya
7.	Best Supporting Actor	Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
8.	Best Cinematography	Roger Deakins, Blade Runner 2049

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9.	Original Screenplay	Martin McDonagh, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
10.	Adapted Screenplay	James Ivory, Call Me by Your Name
11.	British Short Film	Cowboy Dave British Short Animation: Poles Apart
12.	Special Visual Effects	Blade Runner 2049 Best Animated Film: Coco
13.	Best Film Not In The English Language	The Handmaiden Best Documentary: I Am Not Your Negro
14.	Best Production Design	Paul Austerberry, Jeff Melvin, Shane Vieau, The Shape of Water
15.	Best Editing	Jonathan Amos, Paul Machliss Baby Driver
16.	Best Sound	Dunkirk
17.	Best Original Music	The Shape of Water
18.	Best Costume Design	Phantom Thread
19.	Best Makeup & Hair	Darkest Hour
20.	The Ee Rising Star Award (Voted For By Public)	Daniel Kaluuya

Highlights of Union Budget 2018

- ✓ No change in personal income tax structure, says Arun Jaitley
- ✓ Standard deduction of Rs 40,000 for salaried taxpayers, says Arun Jaitley
- ✓ Status quo for salaried class, says Arun Jaitley
- ✓ 25% Corp tax rate extended to companies with turnover up to Rs 250 cr
- ✓ FM says Rs 90,000 cr extra collected as personal Income Tax in last 1 year. will continue with tax policies that reward honest tax payers.
- ✓ FM Arun Jaitley says propose to allow 100% tax deduction to companies registered as farmer-producer companies with a turnover of Rs 100 crore.
- ✓ India produced over 275 million tonnes of foodgrain and 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables in 2016-17.

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- ✓ Crop production at record high; govt is committed to giving 50% more than cost of crop production to farmers.
- ✓ Govt to set MSP at one-and-half times the cost of production for Kharif crops.
- ✓ Govt will ensure farmers get MSP if prices fall; Niti Aayog will discuss with state govts for mechanism to ensure farmers get better prices.
- ✓ Rs 2,000 crore fund to be set up for upgrading rural agri markets.
- ✓ Govt has promoted organic farmers in a big way; women self-help groups to be encouraged to take up organic farming.
- ✓ Food processing sector growing at 8 pc; allocation for food processing ministry being doubled to Rs 1400 cr.
- ✓ India's agri export potential is \$100 bn as against current \$30 bn exports, says FM.
- ✓ Mass formalisation of MSME sector is happening after demonetisation and GST.
- ✓ Target for loan disbursement under Mudra scheme set at Rs 3 lakh crore for next fiscal.
- ✓ Govt to soon announce scheme to address the issue of Non-Performing Assets.
- ✓ Rs 4.6 lakh cr sanctioned under MUDRA Scheme.
- ✓ Govt's budget for health, education and social security increased to Rs 1.38 lakh crore for 2018-19 from Rs 1.22 lakh crore in current fiscal.
- ✓ Govt identifies 115 "aspirational districts" to make them model districts of development.
- ✓ PM Jeevn Jyoti Bima Yojana to reach all poor households: Arun Jaitley
- ✓ 24 new govt medical colleges and hospitals to be set up by upgrading existing district hospitals
- ✓ Health insurance scheme to cover 500 million beneficiaries of 100 million families. FM Jaitley announces a cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per year
- ✓ For education sector, the government proposes revitalising infrastructure, opening schools for the ST populations as well as promoting programmes for teachers, in order to improve quality education for students: Arun Jaitley.
- ✓ Air Pollution in Delhi NCR is a cause for concern, special scheme will be implemented to support Govts of Haryana, Punjab, UP and Delhi NCT to address it and subsidize machinery for management of crop residue.

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- ✓ Scheme for revitalizing school infrastructure, with an allocation of 1 lakh crore rupees over four years. Called RISE - Revitalising Infrastructure in School Education.
- ✓ Finance Minister says will set up PM Research Fellow Scheme; 1000 B-Tech students to be selected.
- ✓ Finance Minister says two new planning & architecture schools to be set up in IITs.
- ✓ Finance Minister says total investment of Rs 1 lakh cr for 'RISE'.
- ✓ The government will launch a flagship National Health Protection Scheme, which will have 50 crore beneficiaries. The Centre will give up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. This will include secondary and tertiary healthcare.
- ✓ Govt to focus on health, education & social protection. To use technology to improve education from 'blackboard to digital board'.
- ✓ Allocating natural resources in a more transparent manner, there is a premium on honesty now.
- ✓ Rs 14 lakh cr for enhancing rural livelihood.
- ✓ Hope to grow at 7.2 per cent-7.5 per cent in the second half of 2017-18.
- ✓ Finance Minister says propose to treat education holistically without segmentation.
- ✓ 80 million poor families to be given free gas connection under Ujjwala scheme.
- ✓ Finance Minister says allocate Rs 2,600 underground water irrigation plan in 96 districts.
- ✓ 500 mn beneficiaries of govt health care scheme.
- ✓ Rural infra and education get a massive push.
- ✓ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley says Rs 16,000 cr allocation for electricity connection to poor families.
- ✓ Eklavya schools to be started for Scheduled Tribe population.
- ✓ Rs 11 lakh cr for instant farm credit mooted next FY.
- ✓ Economy to grow by 7.2-7.5 per cent in second half of current fiscal, says FM.
- ✓ When our govt took over India was considered one of the fragile five economies of the world; we have reversed it; India is today fastest growing economy.
- ✓ Introduction of GST has made indirect tax system simpler.
- ✓ India is today a \$2.5 trillion economy and will become fifth largest economy in the world from the present seventh largest.

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- ✓ Budget will focus on strengthening agricultural and rural economy: FM Jaitley.
- ✓ PM has articulated the vision of minimum government, maximum governance: Jaitley.
- ✓ We are firmly on path to achieve 8% growth.
- ✓ Govt focusing on ease of living now.
- ✓ Cooking gas being given free to poor under PMUY, 4 cr unconnected being provided electricity connection, stent prices slashed: FM.
- ✓ Direct Benefit Transfer is a global success story.
- ✓ Emphasis on generating higher income for farmers; want to help farmers produce more and realise higher prices.

Highlights of the Economic Survey 2017-18

- ✓ The GDP growth rate for the fiscal year 2017-2018 is pegged at 6.75% by the Economic Survey report. The government, in its advance GDP estimate, had estimated a growth of 6.5%.
- ✓ In the fiscal year 2019, the survey said that the Indian economy is expected to grow between 7% and 7.5%. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has also said that India could grow at 7.4% in the current year 2018, as against China's 6.8%.
- ✓ On the implementation of the Goods and Service Tax (GST), the survey said that there has been a 50% increase in number of indirect taxpayers; Large increase in voluntary registrations; distribution of GST base closely linked to size of economies; strong correlation between export performance and state's standard of living and India's formal sector was found to be substantially greater than currently believed, the economic survey said.
- ✓ The level of tax filers by November 2017 was 31% greater. The economic survey said that it translated roughly into about 1.8 million additional taxpayers due to demonetization-cum-GST, representing 3% of existing taxpayers.

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- ✓ The Agriculture growth in FY18 likely to be at 2.1%, while the Industry growth for FY18 likely to be 4.4%
- ✓ Services growth for FY18 likely to be at 8.3% and the country's economy should witness improvement in next fiscal year.
- ✓ The IBC resolution process could prove a valuable technology for tackling this long-standing problem in the Indian corporate sector.
- ✓ The apparel sector has immense potential to drive economic growth, increase employment, and empower women in India. This is especially true as China's share of global apparel exports has come down in recent years. However, India has not, or not yet, capitalized on this opening.
- ✓ In the last three fiscal years, India experienced a positive term of trade shock. But in the first three quarters of 2017-18, oil prices have been about 16 percent greater in dollar terms than in the previous year (Table 1). It is estimated that a \$10 per barrel increase in the price of oil reduces growth by 0.2-0.3 percentage points, increases WPI inflation by about 1.7 percentage points and worsens the CAD by about \$9-10 billion dollars. Economic Survey calls for "policy vigilance" in coming year if high oil prices persist or stock prices correct sharply.
- ✓ The Headline inflation has been below 4 per cent for twelve straight months, from November, 2016 to October, 2017 and CPI food inflation averaged around one per cent during April-December in the current financial year. The Survey observes that the economy has witnessed a gradual transition from a period of high and variable inflation to more stable prices in the last four years.
- ✓ Current account deficit expected to average 1.5-2% of the GDP this fiscal, while export growth is pegged at 12.1%.
- ✓ The survey said that India will need \$4.5 trillion investment in infrastructure by 2040.