

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2018 PDF**

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- ❖ Customers will not have to pay any transaction charges for payments through debit card, BHIM app and other payment made for up to Rs2,000.
- ❖ Salil S Parekh will formally take over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Infosys.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker and Mehuli Ghosh emerged as the best shooters as Haryana dominated the 61st National Shooting Championship with 168 medals.
- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided financial assistance of Rs 10,000 crore to Odisha by end of the third quarter of the current financial year.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma has declared Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway as 'Electronics Manufacturing Zone' under the 'UP Electronics Manufacturing Policy' policy.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates introduced value-added tax, a first for the Gulf which has long prided itself on its tax-free, cradle-to-grave welfare system.
- ❖ The State Bank of India reduced the base rate and benchmark prime lending rates (BPLR) by 30 basis points each, which will benefit nearly 80 lakh customers on the old pricing regime.
- ❖ Shahzar Rizvi of Meerut has won a gold medal in the 10m pistol event at the in the final at the 61st National Shooting Championship.
- ❖ The Chhattisgarh Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre for the second phase of the Bharat Net project under which 5987 village panchayats will be connected through optical fiber network.
- ❖ Allahabad Bank entered into an agreement with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing the latter's Information Utility Services envisaged under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

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- ❖ Israel has filed notice to withdraw from the UNESCO alongside the United States. Israel has blasted UNESCO in recent years over the organisation's criticism of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and its decision to grant full membership to Palestine in 2011.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh has been declared open defecation free ahead of the national deadline of October 2, 2019. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Haryana were declared open defecation free states in October 2017.
- ❖ National vice-president of the BJP, Vinay Sahasrabudhe, who is also the member of Rajya Sabha has been appointed the President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations.
- ❖ Vidarbha have created history by winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history with a thumping nine-wicket win over Delhi at the Holkar stadium in Indore.
- ❖ The State Bank of India reduced the base rate and benchmark prime lending rates by 30 basis points each, which will benefit nearly 80 lakh customers on the old pricing regime.
- ❖ The citizen of Assam witnessed the release of the first draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) containing the first batch of 19 million names of genuine Indian citizens in compliance with the Supreme Court 's orders. Registrar General of India Sailesh released the document.
- ❖ Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi inaugurated an online portal NARI in New Delhi for the empowerment of women.
- ❖ The Assamese and Manipuri language versions of Prime Minister's Official website- [www.pmindia.gov.in](http://www.pmindia.gov.in) were launched.
- ❖ Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale has been appointed the foreign secretary of India. He has succeeded S Jaishankar.
- ❖ Devika Shah assumes office as Indian Clearing Corporation MD, CEO.

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- ❖ Pankaj Jain, Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS), has assumed charge as the Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).
- ❖ Prominent Urdu poet Anwar Jalalpuri passed away at the age of 71 in Lucknow. He suffered a brain stroke.
- ❖ Pakistan bans Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud-Dawa from collecting donations.
- ❖ G Sathyan has become India's highest-ranked player in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. He surpasses his compatriot the legendary Sharath Kamal. Sathyan, who was nowhere near the top-100 bracket until a few months ago, is the leader today at world No. 49, pushing Kamal to the second spot at 51.
- ❖ India Cancels \$500 Million Deal For Israeli Anti-Tank Missiles.
- ❖ State-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd has commissioned the country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh. The firm has installed a 5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak) solar plant at its petrochemical complex at Pata in Uttar Pradesh. The plant over the roofs of warehouses covers a total area of 65,000 square meters.
- ❖ The Karnataka government announced that 'Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE) will be held from February 28, billing it as the "largest" B2B travel event in the country.
- ❖ The 171st Araadhanai Music Festival of one of the Trinities of Carnatic music Saint Thyagaraja begins in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu. The festival was inaugurated by Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- ❖ Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to make a difference. The UN Security Council has 15 members, including five with permanent seats who have the

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power to veto resolutions – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. The six countries who left the UN Security Council recently are Egypt, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay.

- ❖ The unusual and very efficient whistle language commonly called “bird language” used as a means of communication by villagers in remote northern Turkey entered the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. UNESCO has accepted the “bird language” of Black Sea villagers as an endangered part of world heritage in need of urgent protection.
- ❖ Pakistan has allowed Chinese currency Yuan for exports and financing transactions. According to Pakistan, external affairs ministry, both public and private sector enterprises of Pakistan and China are free to choose Yuan for bilateral trade and investment activities.
- ❖ HDFC Bank has announced a partnership with Rajasthan Government to promote and nurture startups in the state.
- ❖ State Bank of India and NABARD have signed an agreement with five NGOs in Bengal for the promotion of 2,500 joint liability groups (JLGs) in select districts of the State.
- ❖ RBI Bonds Scheme being replaced by 7.75% Savings Bonds Scheme.
- ❖ According to financial services company HSBC, India’s GDP growth rate is expected to accelerate to 7.0 per cent in 2018-19 and 7.6 in 2019-20 from 6.5 per cent in this fiscal.
- ❖ Liverpool and Egypt striker Mohamed Salah has been named Arab Player of the Year for 2017 in a poll of around 100 sports journalists from several Arab countries.
- ❖ The Supreme Court on 4 January 2017 allowed Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) to participate in Ranji Trophy and similar other national-level cricket championships.

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- ❖ Cabinet has approved the Agreement between India and Myanmar on Land Border Crossing.
- ❖ Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and Israel on cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector.
- ❖ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved five projects worth Rs. 295.01 crore.
- ❖ Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) launched the country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has initiated 'prompt corrective action' (PCA) against Allahabad Bank over its high bad loans.
- ❖ The NABARD has sanctioned Rs 372.51 crore loan assistance under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to Odisha towards irrigation and rural bridge projects for the last quarter of this fiscal.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) has operationalised its first desktop ATM in Telangana. The mini-ATM within the branch premises will facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed an agreement for the training of employees of the latter in the area of payment banking.
- ❖ Rajinder Khanna was appointed the deputy National Security Adviser (NSA). He was the former chief of the country's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs10 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has the motif of Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse. The base colour of the note

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is Chocolate Brown. The dimension of the banknote will be 63 mm x 123 mm.

- ❖ The world's biggest cleanliness survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan Survey 2018' was launched in India by PM Narendra Modi. It will be conducted from the 4th of January to 10th of March.
- ❖ India has excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of-the-art National Knowledge Network (NKN) for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.
- ❖ Goa will be hosting the third edition of the Science Film Festival of India in January 2018. The festival, titled SCI-FFI Goa, is being organised by the state-based Vidnyan Parishad, Goa Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The country's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has registered an increase from 24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.2% in 2016-17, according to the All India Higher Education Survey (AIHES) launched by Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- ❖ The Indian economy will expand by 6.5% in 2017-18, according to the new data of the government's Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- ❖ Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.
- ❖ Finance Ministry clears FDI proposals worth Rs 532 crore of Metaffinity Private Limited.
- ❖ Mahendra Singh Dhoni was back with Chennai Super Kings while Royal Challengers Bengaluru retained India captain Virat Kohli during the Indian Premier League retentions in Mumbai.
- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unveiled the official emblem of the state government, which was recently approved by the



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centre. The logo highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of “Biswa Bangla” at the centre. Ms Banerjee has also contributed to the design of the emblem.

- ❖ The World Book Fair started in New Delhi. Environment issues like climate change, global warming, and water pollution will be the main theme for this year’s Fair.
- ❖ Defence Ministry has cleared contracts worth 2,420 crore rupees for Navy and Army which includes the procurement of P-8I Training Solution and Low-Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS).
- ❖ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj who is visiting Indonesia as part of her three-nation tour, co-chaired the fifth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Commission with her Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi.
- ❖ The Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 kicked off at Kathmandu, the capital Nepal. President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari inaugurated the exhibition.
- ❖ Iceland has become the first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men and women. In Iceland now it will be illegal to pay men more than women for the work.
- ❖ Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd (TIHCL), a State government initiative, has got RBI clearance to register and function as a non-banking finance company (NBFC).
- ❖ Paytm Payments Bank has partnered IndusInd Bank to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit (FD) when the customer balance exceeds Rs. 1 lakh at the end of the day.
- ❖ The managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Ravi Menon, has been named the best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018 by UK-based magazine, The Banker.



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- ❖ Saudi Arabia gives green signal to India's proposal to revive sea route for Haj pilgrimage.
- ❖ Aiming to promote clean energy, a major discom launched the "country's first" solar rooftop consumer aggregation programme for residential buildings, which seeks to provide installations at a single point for an entire apartment complex.
- ❖ The Indian Navy and Cochin Port Trust (CPT) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for utilising the Port's berthing facility at Mattancherry wharf for naval ships.
- ❖ Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has reached a subscriber base of 80 lakh.
- ❖ Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical, produced by Shapoorji Pallonji and the NCPA, won seven trophies, including the Best Indian Play, at the Broadway World India Awards 2017.
- ❖ Toyota's former president Tatsuro Toyoda, who helped the Japanese auto giant establish a foothold in North America, has died. He was 88.
- ❖ Haryana has become the first state in the country to launch High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal. This portal not only helps in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases up to the grass-roots level but also ensures their timely referral to the civil hospitals for further management and delivery by specialists.
- ❖ Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh announced that Arunachal Pradesh would get its first Film and Television Institute, being set up by the Union Government. This would be the second such one in the country. The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune.
- ❖ Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million). With this, transfer of

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Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History. World's most expensive transfer is Brazilian football player Neymar's transfer from Barcelona to Paris Saint Germain team in 200 million pounds in 2017.

- ❖ France's unseeded player, Gilles Simon's defeated second seed Kevin Anderson in straight sets by 7-6,6-2 to lift the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra trophy.
- ❖ Switzerland won their third Hopman Cup as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber in the deciding mixed doubles to secure a 2-1 victory in the final at the Perth Arena.
- ❖ Elina Svitolina secured her first WTA title in Australia with a straight-sets victory in the Brisbane International final. Svitolina beat Belarusian qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich.
- ❖ Legendary astronaut John Young, who walked on the Moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died at 87. World champion powerlifter Saksham Yadav dies in road accident.
- ❖ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Dilip Asbe its managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO).
- ❖ Music maestro AR Rahman has been officially appointed as the brand ambassador of Sikkim.
- ❖ Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan has dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer 'Pratyush' to the nation in Pune.
- ❖ Rating agency Crisil has projected India's economic growth rate to be 7.6 percent in the coming fiscal year 2018-19.
- ❖ Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial

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assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has selected four Indians to represent the voice of youth at the forthcoming annual meeting at Davos in Switzerland. They include Kanika Kumar, associate vice-president at Intellicap; Dipika Prasad, co-founder Lakeer; Jaideep Bansal, Leader, Energy Access, Global Himalayan Expedition and Karanvir Singh, Chairman, Visionum group.
- ❖ Gujarat has topped the Logistics Ease across Different States (LEADS) index developed by the commerce and industry ministry along with Deloitte. It has been followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been awarded with the first Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award for Probity in Public Life in Jammu.
- ❖ According to Tourism Australia, India has emerged as the fastest growing market for Australian tourism.
- ❖ The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway (CR) has found its way into the Limca Book of Records for having an all-woman staff.
- ❖ Paytm has set up a new entity called Paytm Money Ltd that will offer investment and wealth management products and will invest close to \$10 million upfront in the new entity.
- ❖ Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe has partnered mobile wallet company FreeCharge to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- ❖ Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).

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- ❖ World Bank has projected India's growth rate at 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 for the next two years.
- ❖ Professional player Aditya Mehta won the Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship in the capital city of West Bengal Kolkata.
- ❖ Aanchal Thakur made history as she won India's first ever international medal in skiing. The 21-year-old Manali resident clinched bronze in the coveted Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup.
- ❖ India successfully launched weather observation satellite Cartosat 2 Series and 29 other spacecraft. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully placed these satellites in the orbit with the PSLV C-40 launch vehicle.
- ❖ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been honoured with a Doctorate of Literature (D.Litt.) degree by the Calcutta University for her social service.
- ❖ Hyderabad will host the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2018 from 19 to 21 February, 2018.
- ❖ Gallup International Association (GIA) has ranked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the number three in its annual survey of world leaders. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has topped this list.
- ❖ India has emerged as a top borrower from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in 2017.
- ❖ Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan will be honored the 24th annual Crystal Award at the 48th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He will get the award for "his leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India.
- ❖ Eminent Hindi writer Doodhnath Singh passed away. He was 81.

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- ❖ 24th Conference of Speakers & Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth was held in Victoria.
- ❖ India has extended a financial assistance of USD 45.27 million for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour in northern Sri Lanka into a commercial port.
- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of the International cruise terminal at Mumbai Port.
- ❖ Noted scientist K Sivan has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He will replace AS Kiran Kumar.
- ❖ Second largest private sector lender HDFC Bank has estimated an uptick in India's GDP growth rate in fiscal year 2019 to 7.3 per cent from the 6.5 per cent estimated for the fiscal year 2017-18.
- ❖ State-run Bank of Maharashtra and Life Insurance Company Aviva Life Insurance have entered into an agreement to distribute the Life insurance products.
- ❖ Sunny Verghese, Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman, has been appointed as the Chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- ❖ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed Ice Hockey Association of India's General Secretary Harjinder Singh as India's 'Chef De Mission' for the 23rd Winter Olympics.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a three-day International Dharma-Dhamma conference at Rajgir in Bihar.
- ❖ Actress Kajol, an active supporter of eradicating preventable deaths from hygiene-related issues, has become an advocacy ambassador for a Swachh Aaadat Swachh Bharat initiative.

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- ❖ South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has signed MOU for co-operation between industries in Gujarat and the East Asian country.
- ❖ Ministry of Railways has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for Freight Managers which provides features for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard.
- ❖ Israel will invest USD 68.6 million to boost cooperation with India in areas like tourism, technology, agriculture and innovation over a period of four years.
- ❖ According to Singapore's banking group DBS, India's economy is likely to grow by 6.6 per cent in current fiscal.
- ❖ Former world silver-medallist Sarjubala Devi (48kg), representing Manipur, claimed the gold as well as the best boxer trophy even as the Railways Sports Promotion Board emerged overall champions in the National Women's Boxing Championships.
- ❖ Anil Khanna has been appointed as the Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- ❖ V J Mathew has been appointed as the Chairman of Maritime Board. Mathew is the legal consultant of Vizhinjam International container terminal company and Indian Maritime Association Co-President.
- ❖ According to the data by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, December's consumer price index (CPI) inflation rose to 5.21 per cent, from 4.88 per cent in November.
- ❖ The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has elected Pramod Kumar Agarwal as the new chairman and Colin Shah as the Vice Chairman.



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- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government will sign a MoU with the e-commerce giant, China based Alibaba Company in respect of imparting training in e-commerce and technical skill development to the unemployed youth.
- ❖ IDFC Bank announced a merger with non-banking financial company Capital First.
- ❖ Italy will participate as a partner country in the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS).
- ❖ China successfully launched two BeiDou-3 satellites to provide navigation and positioning services to countries along the Belt and Road initiative (BRI) by the end of 2018.
- ❖ PM Modi and Israel PM Netanyahu visit Teen Murti Chowk for solemn ceremony.
- ❖ India, Britain sign agreements on illegal Indian migrants return and sharing criminal records and intelligence.
- ❖ Iraqi PM Haider al-Abadi announces his candidacy for May 12 parliamentary elections to choose PM.
- ❖ Jharkhand govt distributes more than 27,000 appointment letters to youths at Skill Summit.
- ❖ World Economic Forum ranks India 30th on global manufacturing index; Japan tops.
- ❖ The 70th Army Day is being celebrated on 15th January 2018. The day is celebrated to pay homage and salute to the courageous and brave Indian soldiers who have been sacrificing their lives for protecting the country.
- ❖ India has contributed USD 50,000 to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals.
- ❖ Federal Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Hedge Equities Ltd for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs. A



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formal agreement was executed in which Jose K Mathew (EVP & Head Retail Business, Federal Bank) and Alex Babu (MD, Hedge Equities Ltd) exchanged the MoU announcing the tie-up.

- ❖ The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)'s India International Exchange listed the first bond on its Global Securities Market.
- ❖ Maharashtra's mine workers who face an increased risk of tuberculosis will be part of awareness programmes on the illness, as part of a partnership that the Maharashtra Government recently formalized with Johnson & Johnson.
- ❖ TV actress Charu Rohatgi, known for her roles in serials like 'Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon' and 'Uttaran', passed away.
- ❖ Sarod maestro Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta passed away. He was 84.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the project commencement of the Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra in Barmer district of Rajasthan. This project is a joint venture between HPCL and the Rajasthan government.
- ❖ Veteran journalist and media educationist Nand Kishore Trikha died. He was 82.
- ❖ Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh took over as the new Chief of Staff of Western Naval Command. He has replaced Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh.
- ❖ Narendra Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu have launched joint R&D projects under the 'India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)' at the India-Israel Business Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ TV Actress Charu Rohatgi died. She had starred in films like 'Ishaqzaade' and '1920: London'.
- ❖ Market regulator SEBI has approved appointment of Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of the country's largest Agri-commodity bourse NCDEX.

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- ❖ Tech Mahindra has partnered with Israeli firm Context Space Solutions to develop the world's first global software privacy ecosystem, MyData Shield.
- ❖ Tata Consultancy Services, India's largest IT services company, signed a \$690 million deal with M&G Prudential, the UK and European savings and investments business unit of Prudential Plc, to digitally transform their business and deliver enhanced service for its UK savings and retirement customers.
- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index. Japan has topped this list.
- ❖ India and Israel signed nine agreements to boost cooperation in key areas, including cyber security, oil, gas and energy.
- ❖ India and the UK have signed two agreements on return of Indians, who are living in Britain as illegal migrants, and sharing criminal records and intelligence.
- ❖ India and Sri Lanka have signed four agreements for collaboration in ICT sector, setting up of e-office system and connecting of National Knowledge Network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics.
- ❖ According to the global financial services company Morgan Stanley, the Indian economy is expected to witness an average GDP growth of 7.3 per cent over 2020-22.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 'Economic Democracy Conclave' organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini at Thane, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Hyderabad Hunters defeated Bengaluru Blasters by 4-3 to win their maiden Premier Badminton League (PBL) title.

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- ❖ Former Union minister and Bihar's renowned leader Raghunath Jha passed away. He was 78.
- ❖ Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated an International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- ❖ Third Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) partnership summit will be held in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and PM Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the 'iCreate Centre' at Deo Dholera in Ahmedabad. iCreate paves way for the two nations to jointly script new stories of success through innovation.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India, Achal Kumar Joti announced dates for elections to the Assemblies of Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland. The CEC announced the polling for legislative assembly elections in Tripura on 18 February, while Meghalaya and Nagaland will go to vote on 27 February.
- ❖ India test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-V inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM), which has a strike range of over 5,000km. It was test fired successfully from Abdul Kalam island off the coast of the eastern state of Odisha.
- ❖ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana' (MMKSJ) – an assistance scheme for Artists in the state. Around 50,000 artists will be benefited from this. The government has decided to give Rs 1,200 per month as artist assistance.
- ❖ India, for the first time, took part in a two-day meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Beijing, China.
- ❖ North and South Korea have agreed to march together under a single unified Korea flag at Winter Olympics in the South. These are the first

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high-level talks between the two Koreas in more than two years. The Games will take place in February 2018 in Pyeongchang in South Korea.

- ❖ Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, took over as Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command from Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh.
- ❖ Digital invoice discounting marketplace – Invoicemart has tied up with state-run lender Bank of Baroda to discount invoices for MSMEs. Buyers and sellers registered in the marketplace will now be able to access funding from Bank of Baroda. Invoicemart is a joint venture between Axis Bank Ltd and junction services ltd.
- ❖ Maharashtra has become the first state in the country that has come out with a public cloud policy, virtually mandating its departments to shift their data storage onto the cloud. This move has created a USD 2- billion opportunity for the industry.
- ❖ As per the Power Minister RK Singh, India will set up a \$350-million fund to finance solar projects as the country steps up efforts to achieve its ambitious target of adding 175 gigawatts (GW) in renewable energy by 2022.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Government of India and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu to enhance import and export performance.
- ❖ Facebook has appointed outgoing American Express CEO Kenneth Chenault to its board, making him the first African-American to be on the board.
- ❖ The government appointed senior IAS officer S Selvakumar as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL). Selvakumar has replaced Anurag Agarwal.

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- ❖ Facebook-owned instant messaging platform WhatsApp has rolled out a feature that connects small businesses with customers. Currently, only Android users can access the feature and they can avail of it through the latest update of the app.
- ❖ Amplus Energy Solutions announced entering into a pact with private sector lender Yes Bank for strategic tie-up to co-finance projects in the solar energy space in India.
- ❖ Office of Profit: 20 AAP MLAs stand disqualified; President Kovind accepts EC's recommendation.
- ❖ The government has entered into an agreement with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited for the strategic sale of its 51.11 per cent equity share-holding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation limited for 36,915 crore rupees.
- ❖ 15th edition of Mumbai Marathon was held on 21 January 2018. The richest race in India with a prize money worth 4 lakh 5,000 dollars came to a conclusion with Ethiopia's Solomon Deksisa winning it. Another Ethiopian, Shumit Akalnaw became the first runner-up, while Joshua Kipkorir from Kenya came second.
- ❖ India will overtake China to be the fastest growing large economy in 2018 and the country's equity market will become the fifth largest in the world: Report
- ❖ Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel has been named as the new governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Susanta Kumar Roy has been appointed as Director (Projects) of NTPC.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer Sudeep Lakhtakia has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the black cats commando force NSG.

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- ❖ App-cab Company Uber entered into a partnership with Eastern Railway to help travelers avail a ride at Howrah station, which is one of the busiest railway terminals in the country.
- ❖ Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker Srinivas Tiwari passed away. He was 93.
- ❖ AU Small Finance Bank has signed a MoU with LIC to offer Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY).
- ❖ Manav Thakkar climbed to World No.2 in the boy's under-18 category while Diya Chitale rose to No. 5 in the girls under 15 category in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings.
- ❖ Maharashtra Government has approved Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna, a Rs.4,000-crore project aimed at promoting climate-resilient agriculture.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Davos, Switzerland to attend the 48th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. He will lead the largest-ever Indian delegation comprising Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu among others. The theme of the WEF Annual Meeting this year is 'Creating a shared future in a fractured world'.
- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), announced the 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.
- ❖ The first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) of Puducherry was inaugurated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs at Karaikal.
- ❖ The Telangana government had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Clean Authority of Tokyo in connection with municipal solid waste incineration in Hyderabad.



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- ❖ The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh organised the three-day 'Kachra Mahotsav 2018'. It is India's first Garbage Festival.
- ❖ Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018. Valletta will share the title with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.
- ❖ India was ranked at the 62nd place among emerging economies on an Inclusive Development Index of World Economic Forum (WEF). In the report, China is on 26th position and Pakistan is on 47th. Norway remains the world's most inclusive advanced economy, while Lithuania again tops the list of emerging economies.
- ❖ Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat was appointed as the next chief election commissioner (CEC) of India. Mr Rawat is the 22nd CEC of India. He succeeded Achal Kumar Joti.
- ❖ Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel has been named as the new governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer Sudeep Lakhtakia has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the 'black cats' commando force NSG.
- ❖ The annual World Economic Forum, WEF, meet began in Davos today with a special message from Pope Francis being read out at the opening ceremony. WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab declared the summit open amid the ski-resort receiving record snowfall.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump has signed a bill reopening the government, ending a 3-day partial shutdown.
- ❖ India-ASEAN business and investment conference held in New Delhi ahead of the landmark commemorative summit meeting on the 25th of January. In the conference, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu stresses enhanced connectivity via land to strengthen trade ties. Silver jubilee of



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India-ASEAN partnership is being celebrated in New Delhi on the 25th January with an unprecedented summit meet.

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Government and the Canton of Zurich signed a letter of intent, to promote mutual prosperity and development.
- ❖ The Minister of State (IC), for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone for Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur, Rajasthan. This will be the third CRI under the aegis of Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH).
- ❖ India has emerged as the fifth most attractive market for investments and the optimism over global economic growth is at a record level, as per the survey of CEOs by global consultancy PwC.
- ❖ Industry Chamber Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has appointed Dilip Chenoy as its Director General.
- ❖ Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was honoured with the 24th Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced, the 2018 edition of the Women's World T20 will be hosted by West Indies in November 2018.
- ❖ Young Indian shuttler Siddharth Pratap Singh secured his maiden international title, bagging the Swedish Open Junior International Series with a straight-game victory over Denmark's Mads Christophersen in the finals in Uppsala in Sweden.
- ❖ Trumpeter, composer and singer Hugh Masekela, affectionately known as the 'father of South African jazz', has died after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 78.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India celebrated the 8th National Voters' Day across the country on 25th January for enhanced participation of citizens

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in the electoral process. The National level function was held in New Delhi.

- ❖ An MoU was signed between National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, and M/S IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd for construction of the 14.150 km long, 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed an MoU with SME Corporation Malaysia for exchange of information and cooperation in areas such as policies to aid development of small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the two countries.
- ❖ India ranks 177 among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018, according to a biennial report by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum. India ranked 141 in 2016 report.
- ❖ India has moved up on a global index of talent competitiveness to the 81st position in the report that was released in the first day the 48th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Switzerland has topped the list.
- ❖ Vodafone India has partnered with e-commerce marketplace Flipkart to provide a range of entry-level smartphones at an effective price of Rs999.
- ❖ The government has announced 88,139 crore rupees capital infusion in 20 public sector banks, PSBs, during the current fiscal ending 31st March to boost lending and revive growth. IDBI Bank will get the most- Rs10,610 crore followed by State Bank of India 8,800 crore rupees.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh celebrated 48th Statehood Day on 25 January 2018.
- ❖ Maharashtra government has banned the sale of tobacco in shops selling FMCG items in the state.

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- ❖ Jaipur Literature Festival, popularly known as Kumbh of literature begins on 25 January 2018.
- ❖ Nation Celebrates 69th Republic Day on 26 January 2018.
- ❖ L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) has announced the appointment of KVB Reddy as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
- ❖ A 10-year-old Indian-origin boy, Mehul Garg has become the youngest applicant in a decade to achieve the highest score in the Mensa IQ test in the UK, beating geniuses like Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.
- ❖ Indian boxing star Vijender Singh has risen four rungs to sixth in the latest WBO rankings for the super middleweight category.
- ❖ The ministry of human resource development (HRD) has sanctioned a grant of Rs 456.10 crore for IITs Kharagpur, Delhi, Madras and Bombay for development projects.
- ❖ The second highest Tricolor flag of Uttarakhand was dedicated to the people on the 69th Republic Day in the Udhamsingh Nagar district.
- ❖ Kishore Biyani's company Future Supply Chain Solutions will acquire Snapdeal's logistics service provider Vulcan Express Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ Chief negotiators of 16 countries including India and China will meet next month in Jakarta for the next round of discussions on the proposed mega trade deal RCEP.
- ❖ Tímea Babos of Hungary and Kristina Mladenovic of France defeated Russia's Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina to lift the Australian Open women's doubles crown.
- ❖ Foreign exchange reserves continues to scale new peaks, touches \$414.78 billion.
- ❖ Saudi billionaire Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal has been released after nearly three months in detention following a settlement with authorities.

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- ❖ In the United States, Steve Wynn has stepped down as the Finance Chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), following allegations of decades of sexual misconduct.
- ❖ The annual Republic Day celebrations generated a record number of tweets at over 1.1 million this year.
- ❖ Roger Federer Wins the Australian Open for His 20th Grand Slam Title.
- ❖ Caroline Wozniacki wins the Australian Open 2018.
- ❖ Usha Ananthasubramanian became the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA). At present, she is the MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank.
- ❖ Noted Bengali film actress Supriya Devi died. She was 85
- ❖ Biotechnology pioneer Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw was among two-dozen board members inducted in the US Indian Business Council.
- ❖ Indian-American attorney Parthiv Patel has been included in the New Jersey Bar Association.
- ❖ Gurdeep Singh of RSPB won a gold medal in the +105kg category in the 70th men's Senior National Weightlifting Championships.
- ❖ National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Home (NHIDCL) and IL&FS transportation signed a MoU for construction of Zojila tunnel.
- ❖ Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched the 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' to help distressed sections of the society.
- ❖ India and Vietnam launched the first ever set of commemorative postage stamps to highlight the bilateral ties between them. The theme of these stamps is 'ancient architecture'.
- ❖ Senior Congress leader and former MP of Madhya Pradesh, Puran Singh Bedia died. He was 74.

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- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched the 'Shakti' app for women's safety.
- ❖ India and Cambodia signed four agreements deciding to promote defence agreements. These agreements include preventing crime, improving cooperation in investigations and legal aid in criminal cases, besides providing a loan of USD 36.92 million for Cambodia's Stung Sva Hab water resources development project.
- ❖ India and Cambodia signed four agreements in the field of cultural exchange, an exchange line of credit of \$26.9 million, memorandum of understanding to cooperate in legal matter and an agreement on prevention of human trafficking. The documents were exchanged in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Cambodian PM Hun Sen following delegation-level talks between the two countries. New Delhi has agreed to set up a centre of IT excellence in Cambodia.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur launched the 'Shakti' app for women's safety in the state. The app was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Himachal Pradesh government.
- ❖ Trade ministers from various countries including Australia, Japan and Switzerland met for an informal WTO ministerial gathering in Davos, Switzerland. India was represented by Deepak Jagdish Saxena, ambassador and permanent representative to the WTO.
- ❖ Sandeep Lamichhane became the first cricketer from Nepal to land a deal in an IPL contract. He was picked by Delhi Daredevils in the player's auction. The 17-year-old, the only Nepal player in the IPL auction, was sold at his base price of Rs 20 lakh.
- ❖ The world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan has defeated Saina Nehwal in the finals of the Indonesia Masters in Jakarta.

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- ❖ Anti-Leprosy Day being observed on 30 January 2018. The day, observed every year on the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi, remembers his selfless efforts and care for the people affected by leprosy.
- ❖ Member of Parliament from Palghar in Maharashtra Chintaman Wanaga passed away in New Delhi.
- ❖ Armies of India and Vietnam have begun a six-day-long military exercise in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. The exercise named 'VINBAX' is the first military exercise between the two countries.
- ❖ Marking the 69th Republic Day celebrations, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) have launched the first ever 'Khadi Haat' in the country. The Khadi Haat was inaugurated by Union Minister of State Giriraj Singh in Connaught Place, New Delhi.
- ❖ India is ranked second only to South Africa as the cheapest country to live or retire, according to a recent survey of 112 countries by GoBankingRates. The survey ranked nations on the bases of four key affordability metrics which are Local purchasing power index, rent index, Groceries index, and Consumer price index.
- ❖ A three-day international bird festival will be held at the Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh in February 2018 with nearly 200 leading ornithologists expected to attend.
- ❖ The Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) headed by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan announced that five members of parliament (MPs) selected for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards. This includes, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015), Trinamool Congress' Dinesh Trivedi (2016), Manipur's governor Najma A Heptulla (2013), BJP's Lok Sabha member Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (2014) and five-time Rajya



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Sabha member Bhartruhari Mahatab of the Lok Biju Janata Dal (BJD) (2017).

- ❖ Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle will be given the 'Yash Chopra Memorial Award'. She will be the fifth winner of the award.
- ❖ Rating agency CRISIL has revised its outlook on 18 public sector banks (PSBs) from "negative" to "stable" after the government announced bank-wise capital infusion and reform plans.
- ❖ Mobile payments company Paytm and Alibaba Group-owned AGTech Holdings Ltd have formed a joint venture to launch 'Gamepind' a gaming platform aimed at mobile users in India.
- ❖ Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen has been elected as the Vice Chairman of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum. It is a new organisation set up to enhance business relations between India and the US.
- ❖ ICC U-19 World Cup: India beat Pakistan by 203 runs; to face Australia in finals.
- ❖ The India Open Badminton tournament kicked off in New Delhi on 30 January 2018 with the Qualification matches.

## ICC Awards 2017 Winners

- ✓ Cricketer of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy) – Virat Kohli (India)
- ✓ Test Cricketer of the Year – Steve Smith (Australia)
- ✓ ODI Cricketer of the Year – Virat Kohli (India)
- ✓ T20I Performance of the Year – Yuzvendra Chahal (India) – 6/25 versus England in Bengaluru
- ✓ Emerging Cricketer of the Year – Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
- ✓ Associate/Affiliate Cricketer of the Year – Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- ✓ Spirit of Cricket Award – Anya Shrubsole (England women's team)
- ✓ Umpire of the Year (David Shepherd Trophy) – Marais Erasmus



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- ✓ Fans' Moment of the Year – Pakistan winning the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 beating India in England

## ICC Awards 2017 – Women's Winners

- ✓ Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for Cricketer of the Year – Ellyse Perry (Australia)
- ✓ ODI Player of the Year – Amy Satterthwhite (New Zealand)
- ✓ T20I Player of the Year – Beth Mooney (Australia)
- ✓ Emerging Player of the Year – Beth Mooney

## ICC Awards 2016 Winners

- ✓ Cricketer of the Year – Ravichandran Ashwin (India)
- ✓ Test Cricketer – Ashwin
- ✓ ODI Cricketer – Quinton de Kock (South Africa)
- ✓ Women's ODI Cricketer – Suzie Bates (New Zealand)
- ✓ Women's T20I Cricketer – Suzie Bates (New Zealand)
- ✓ T20I Performance – Carlos Brathwaite (West Indies ) (34 not out, 10 balls, 1x4, 4x6, ICC WT20 India 2016 final v England, Kolkata)
- ✓ Emerging Cricketer – Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)
- ✓ Associate/Affiliate Cricketer – Mohammad Shahzad (Afghanistan)
- ✓ Spirit of Cricket Award – Misbah-ul-Haq (Pakistan)
- ✓ Umpire – Marais Erasmus

## 63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018

- ✓ Best Film: 'Hindi Medium'
- ✓ Critics' Award for Best Film: 'Newton'
- ✓ Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female): Vidya Balan for 'Tumhari Sulu'
- ✓ Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) : Irrfan Khan for 'Hindi Medium'

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

## The 75th Golden Globe Award

- ✓ **Best motion picture, drama:** Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.
- ✓ **Best motion picture, musical or comedy:** Lady Bird.
- ✓ **Best director, motion picture:** Guillermo del Toro, "The Shape of Water".

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- ✓ Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, drama: Frances McDormand.
- ✓ Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, drama: Gary Oldman.
- ✓ Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, musical or comedy: Saoirse Ronan.
- ✓ Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, musical or comedy: James Franco.
- ✓ Best motion picture, animated: Coco
- ✓ Best motion picture, foreign language: In the Fade
- ✓ Best television series, drama: The Handmaid's Tale, Hulu
- ✓ Best performance by an actress in a television series, drama: Elisabeth Moss.
- ✓ Best performance by an actor in a television series, drama: Sterling K. Brown.

## 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.
- ✓ 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.

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.



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- ✓ 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.



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## Complete Winners List Australian Open 2018

Category	Winners	Runner up
Men's Singles	Roger Federer	Marin Cilic
Women's Singles	Caroline Wozniacki	Simona Halep
Men's Doubles	Oliver Marach, Mate Pavic	Robert Farah, J. Cabal
Women's Doubles	Kristina Mladenovic, Tímea Babos	Elena Vesnina, Ekaterina Makarova
Mixed Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski, Mate Pavic	Tímea Babos, Rohan Bopanna

## Complete Winners List Australian Open 2017

Category	Winners	Runner up
Men's Singles	Roger Federer	Rafael Nadal
Women's Singles	Serena Williams	Venus Williams
Men's Doubles	J. Peers and H. Continen	B Bryan and M Bryan
Women's Doubles	L Safarova and B. Mattek-Sands	A Hlavackova and S. Peng
Mixed Doubles	A Spears and J Cabal	S Mirza and I Dodig