

NATIONAL

- ❖ **The Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha** launched **DARPAN – “Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India”**. It will offer core banking services in rural areas.
- ❖ **Punjab Chief Minister ‘Amarinder Singh’** has launched a mobile app **“PUDA-UCIC**, Unauthorised constructions and illegal colonies” to check unauthorized construction.
- ❖ The 17th Indian Science Communication Congress (ISCC-2017) held at **Indian Institute of Mass Communication**. It aims at promoting communication of India's scientific wisdom.
- ❖ An MoU was inked by the Kerala government and fertiliser major **FACT** for setting up a **₹ 1,800-crore petrochemical park in Kochi**.
- ❖ The indigenously developed **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air (QRSAM)** short range missile, was successfully test-fired by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** from a test range along the Odisha coast. It was launched from the launch pad-3 of **Chandipur in Odisha**.
- ❖ The seventh edition of the **India International Coffee Festival (IICF)** will be held in **Bangalore**. It is organised by the India Coffee Trust and State-run Coffee Board to promote the Indian coffees globally.
- ❖ **Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration** with Department of Commerce, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**; Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Pharmexcil to organize the **International AROGYA 2017**.
- ❖ The government will launch the **‘Ganga Gram’** project at the Ganga Gram **Swachata Sammelan in New Delhi**.
- ❖ The second edition of the **Iranshah Udvada Utsav(IUU)**, a cultural festival of Parsi community begins in **Gujarat**.
- ❖ **India’s** first and only design university, **World University of Design** opened at **Sonipat, Haryana**.
- ❖ Indian Affairs With an aim to bring the foreign policy to the masses the External Affairs Ministry has come up with an initiative **called SAMEEP – ‘Students and MEA Engagement Programme’**.
- ❖ India’s first home-grown high purity gold reference standard – the **Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya** (BND-4201) – was launched at the India **Government Mint, Mumbai**.

- ❖ **Maharashtra Energy Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule** informed that the government has set the target of producing **25,000 MW electricity** using solar power.
- ❖ **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has been given a nod to extend **Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport**.
- ❖ **Dr Jitendra Singh** launched the **electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS), in New Delhi**.
- ❖ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated a new metro link between **Noida and Delhi**.
- ❖ **Bengaluru** City joined the ranks of **Singapore, Melbourne, New York**, and became the **first city** in the country to have a logo of its own.
- ❖ **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** has inaugurated the Centenary celebrations of the **Yoga Institute in Mumbai**.
- ❖ The Environment ministry has launched a pilot project **for beach clean-up and development**. It also aims for the '**Blue Flag**' certification for such identified beaches.
- ❖ The **country's first air-conditioned (AC) suburban train** commenced its services. The first service of the 12-coach EMU will commence between Borivali and Churchgate.
- ❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will attend World Economic Forum, where the world's top CEOs and a large number of heads of government gather for the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in January. The meeting will be held in **Davos** town of **Switzerland**.
- ❖ The **Uttar Pradesh Govt.** has launched a free household power connection scheme '**Prakash hai to vikas hai**' for the poor to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary.
- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated four projects of the State Government at **Velagapudi, Andhra Pradesh**.
- ❖ Rajasthan state government sets up **Automatic service ATMs 'E-Mitra Plus'** at nearly 9900 Atal Seva Kendras and 2500 urban locations situated across the state. It will work for 24*7 for 365 days.
- ❖ **Maharashtra government** has set up a 17-member development authority for the **Raigad Fort**. It will be headed by Rajya Sabha member **Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati**.

- ❖ NITI Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is a Government of India's flagship program to promote innovation and entrepreneurship **nationwide in schools, universities and industry.**

INTERNATIONAL

- ❖ **India and Cuba** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for **enhanced cooperation in the health sector.**
- ❖ Indian Naval Ships **Trikand** and **Teg** are deployed to Oman for bilateral exercise '**Naseem Al Bahr**' or '**Sea Breeze**'.
- ❖ The **United Kingdom** has topped Forbes' rankings of **best countries in the world for business in 2018.** It is followed by New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden and Canada.
- ❖ **India** entered into an agreement with **Switzerland** for **automatic exchange of tax-related financial information between the two countries.** It will be implemented from January 1 2018.
- ❖ **France's parliament** has approved a law banning all exploration and production of oil and **natural gas by 2040** within the country and its overseas territories.
- ❖ **Salman Khan** has once again got the top spot in **Forbes India Celebrity 100** list for the second consecutive year. Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** and India's cricket captain **Virat Kohli** took the second and third spot respectively with actor **Priyanka Chopra** named as only female celebrity in top 10 list.
- ❖ A loan agreement for providing additional funding of **euro 20 million** was signed for the project '**Pare Hydroelectric Plant**'. It was signed under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation.
- ❖ **U.S. President Donald Trump** signed Republicans' massive **\$1.5 trillion tax** overhaul into law, cementing the biggest legislative victory of his first year in office.
- ❖ **China's** domestically developed **AG600**, the **world's largest amphibious aircraft**, performed its maiden flight.

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
- ❖ The **governments of India and Tamil Nadu** signed an agreement with the World Bank for the multilateral lender to provide **\$318 million loan**.
- ❖ **The world's longest glass bridge** has been opened in China. It is located in **Shijiazhuang, Hebei province near Beijing**, the capital of China.

BANKING & BUSINESS

- ❖ The Capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has raised the investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in central government securities to over **1.91 lakh crore from January 2018**.
- ❖ **SBI Card** and **Bharat Petroleum** have announced the launch of the BPCL SBI Card and claimed to be the '**most rewarding fuel co-branded credit card in the country**.'
- ❖ **India** looks set to leapfrog Britain and France next year to become the **world's fifth-largest economy** in dollar terms, a report showed.
- ❖ **State-Run Banks' NPAs reached Rs 7.34 Lakh Crore**: RBI Data
- ❖ Smartphone manufacturer Samsung launched its '**Bill Payments**' on its flagship payments service, **Samsung Pay** in partnership with **Axis Bank**.
- ❖ Agri service solutions provider **Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM)** and Myanmar ties up with **HDFC Bank** and IndusInd Bank to provide **collateral management services**.
- ❖ The **Centre for Economics and Business Research report** has predicted India will become world's **5th largest economy** in dollar terms by 2018. **Douglas McWilliams**, Cebr deputy chairman announced, it will overtake UK and France to reach the Position.
- ❖ **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has issued regulations for insurance firms to carry out offshore business from **Gujarat-based GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the person	Appointed for	Resigned	Preceded by
Justice U D Salvi	officiating chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)	_____	Justice Swatanter Kumar
Subbarayudu	next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru	_____	_____
Shashi Arora- Airtel Payments Bank's managing director and CEO	_____	Steps down from his position	_____
Vijay Rupani	chief minister of Gujarat	_____	_____
Nitin Patel	deputy chief minister of Gujarat	_____	_____
Jai Ram Thakur	new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh	_____	_____
Lieutenant General B S Sahrawat	National Cadet Corps as its Director General	_____	_____
NAAC director Prof Dharendra Pal Singh	new UGC chairman	_____	_____

Saba Karim	as General Manager of BCCI	_____	_____
Orbitz CEO Barney Harford	chief operating officer(COO) of Uber	_____	_____
Dominique Mineur	Belgium is to become the first country to send a resident female ambassador to Saudi Arabia	_____	_____
Senior IPS officer Abhay	Appointed as the DG of Narcotics Control Bureau	_____	_____

AWARDS & HONOURS

Award winner Name	Award Name	For
Authors Mamang Dai and Ramesh Kuntal Megh	Win Sahitya Akademi Award 2017	The Black Hill, a novel, and Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar, a literary criticism, in English and Hindi respectively.
Actress Anushka Sharma	PETA's 'Person of the Year'	
Vin Diesel	2017's Top-Grossing Actor	
K S Chitra	'Harivarasanam' Award	

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ A book containing selected writings by late journalist Gauri Lankesh was launched at the Mumbai Press Club. **The Way I See It — a Gauri Lankesh Reader**, has been edited by **writer and sociologist Chandan Gowda**.

**SPORTS**

- ❖ **Birmingham, London** has been named host city for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- ❖ **India captain Mithali Raj** was named in the **ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year** while left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht was the lone cricketer to find a place in the both the **ODI and T20 Teams** of the year announced by the world body.
- ❖ **Harmanpreet Kaur** has found out a place in the **ICC Women's T20 Team of the Year**.
- ❖ England's **Heather Knight** named as captain of the 50-over side and **Stafanie Taylor** of the West Indies appointed skipper of the 20-over side.
- ❖ **Vijender Singh** defended his **WBO Oriental and Asia Pacific super middleweight titles** against Ghana's Ernest Amuzu at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
- ❖ IOC bans 11 Russians for life over alleged Sochi Games doping violations.
- ❖ Indian boxers have claimed three gold, a silver, and a bronze medal at the Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament. The event was held in **Karaganda, Kazakhstan**.
- ❖ In Cricket, Team India has risen to the second spot in the latest ICC Twenty-20 rankings. **Pakistan** is at the top of the list.
- ❖ **India** finished as runners-up in the **SAFF Under-15 Women's Championships**. India lost to Bangladesh 0-1 in the final at Dhaka.
- ❖ Double Olympic **medallist Sushil Kumar** for **Rs 55 lakh**, the highest bid in the history of the tournament during the Pro Wrestling League auctions in **New Delhi**.

- ❖ The Indian men’s football ended the year at **105th spot in the FIFA rankings.**
- ❖ **Saudi Arabia** is hosting the **world chess tournament for the first time.**
- ❖ **Haryana shooter Anisa Sayyed** won the women’s 25m pistol **gold** with a new record at **61st National Shooting Championship Competitions (61st NSCC), in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

OBITUARY

Name the person	Designation	Native
Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay	Bengali singer	Kolkata
Heather Menzies-Urich	Actor	
Partha Mukhopadhyay	Bengali film actor	Kolkata
Robbie Malinga	Music legend	South African

IMPORTANT DAYS

December	Important day	Theme
21	National mathematics day	_____
23	National Farmers’ Day (Kisan Diwas)	_____
25	Good Governance Day	_____