



CURRENT AFFAIRS (JANUARY - 2018) :

National

- ⇒ A new passenger train named Bandhan Express was recently flagged off. This weekly train runs between Kolkata and Khulna (Bangladesh) on every Thursday from both sides. The 172km distance is covered in four hours with two stoppages – Petrapole (in India side) and Benapole (in Bangladesh). Bandhan Express is the second Indo-Bangladesh train service after the Maitree Express which runs between Kolkata and Dhaka.
- ⇒ After four-time failure since March 2013, India successfully flight-tested its indigenous 'Nirbhay', a land-attack cruise missile which can deliver nuclear warheads to a strike range of 1000 km.
- ⇒ Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde visited India recently, accompanied by six ministers and a high powered business delegation. The King expressed the interest of Belgian companies to participate in programmes such as Make-in-India, Clean India and Smart Cities Programmes. 38 agreements were signed.
- ⇒ PM Narendra Modi visited Philippines in connection with the India-ASEAN and the East Asia Summits held in Manila. Mr. Modi and Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte held bilateral talks. Duterte expressed interest in acquiring fast offshore patrol vessels and welcomed Indian pharmaceutical companies to invest in the country to make good quality and cheaper drugs. Modi expressed interest in expanding cooperation with Philippines in the renewable energy sector and welcomed the country to join in the Solar Alliance. Four agreements were signed.

At the 15th India-ASEAN Summit, PM Modi invited the ASEAN leaders as Chief Guests of India's 69th Republic Day Celebrations.

- ⇒ Guinea has become a new member of the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA was launched at the UN Conference of Parties (CoP) climate summit in Paris on November 30, 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then French President Francois Hollande. Recently China has announced that it has plans to join the ISA. China's decision to join the sunshine alliance is significant since it is the largest manufacturer of renewable energy equipments. The membership is open to all 121 prospective countries falling between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

International

- ⇒ China's largely rubber-stamp Parliament body, the National Congress, formally extended a law banning disrespect of the national anthem to cover Hong Kong. This move, the critics said, undermined Chinese-ruled Hong Kong's autonomy and freedom.

Hong Kong is a former British Colony that returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a so-called 'One country, two systems' formula that promises the city a high degree of autonomy, including an independent judiciary.

- ⇒ Nicaragua signed the Paris climate agreement, which set measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent temperature rising by more than 2 degrees. Syria is the only country that did not sign the agreement while the US President Donald Trump announced to pull out of the agreement it signed.
- ⇒ The crown prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed Bin Salman arrested dozens of princes, senior military officers, businessmen including cabinet ministers and billionaires as part of a sweeping anti-corruption probe.

The King Salman earlier named his son, the crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman as head of an anti-corruption committee established on November 4, 2017 just hours before the arrests. Analysts have suggested that the arrest of once untouchable members of the royal family is the sign that the 32-year-old crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman is moving to quash his rivals or critics.

- ⇒ The Syrian Army, after a week-long campaign carried out with allied forces, liberated the long-contested eastern city of Dier el-Zour from the Islamic State. Deir el-Zour, on the west bank of Euphrates river, had been divided into a government held and an IS held part for nearly three years.
- ⇒ US President Donald Trump and the first lady Melania Trump was on a 5-nation Asia tour recently. President Trump's tour included Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and Philippines. The main objective was to work on the strategy to tackle the military madness of North Korea. During his tour of Philippines, Mr. Trump met Indian PM Narendra Modi on the sidelines of ASEAN Summit.
- ⇒ 12 countries that border the Pacific Ocean signed up the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal that represents about 40% of the world's economic output. The pact aimed to deepen economic ties between these nations, slashing tariffs and fostering trade to boost growth. The deal was signed during Barack Obama's presidency of the US. But President Donald Trump ditched the TPP in favour of an 'America First' Policy. Recently the remaining 11 countries of the TPP held a meeting in Denang (Vietnam) and agreed to move ahead without the US. They are – Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Chile and Peru.



- ⇒ The 23rd meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP23) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Bonn. The delegates discussed on the 'Paris Pact', which aims to limit a rise in average world temperature to 'well below' 2°C above pre-industrial times, ideally 1.5°C to limit more droughts, floods and rising sea level. The delegates agreed to launch a process in 2018 to start reviewing existing plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions as part of a long-term efforts. It would be called the 'Talanoa Dialogue', a Fijian word which means story-telling and sharing experiences.
- ⇒ Zimbabwe's military took control of the country and put the President Robert Mugabe and his family under house arrest. The Zimbabwe crisis is for practical purposes a coup in spite of the fact that Robert Mugabe refused to resign during his talk with the Army. Virtually, the 37-year authoritarian rule of Mugabe, who came to the power in 1980 after independence, has come to an end. Emmerson Mnangagwa, who was the Vice-President of Zimbabwe and was sacked by Robert Mugabe became the new president.
- ⇒ Iran and Turkey signed agreements with Qatar in order to solve the crisis. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE and Egypt all cut ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of backing extremism and fostering ties with Iran in June 2017. Since the crisis erupted, Iran and Turkey came forward and sought to help break Qatar's isolation, including by increasing food exports to the empire.
- ⇒ On the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, 2017, India ranked 108th out of 144 countries. Last year, India ranked 87th. India's poor performance is because of lower participation of women in the economy and lower wages. The index was prepared keeping gender parity in four areas – health, education, economics and politics. Iceland topped the list followed by Norway and Finland.
- ⇒ Syrian Army declared victory over Islamic State when the last town 'Albu Kamal' was captured by the Army.
- ⇒ Iraqi forces captured the border town of Rawa, the last remaining town under Islamic State control. Rawa's capture marks the end of Islamic State's era of territorial rule over a so called caliphate that is proclaimed in 2014 across the vast area of Iraq and Syria.
- * Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 5.75%
- * Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 19.5%
- * CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%
- * Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 6.25%
- * MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 6.25%.
- * Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 8.85% - 9.45%.
- * Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 6% - 6.75%.
- * Savings A/c.: 3.50% - 4.00%.
- * MCLR: 7.65% - 8.05%.
- (*MCLR, the Marginal Cost of Fund-based Lending Rate, is the new benchmark lending rate at which banks will now lend to new borrowers. Till 31 March 2016, banks used the Base rate as the benchmark lending rate. MCLR is built on four components – Marginal cost of funds, Negative carry on account of CRR, Operating costs and Tenor premium*).
- ⇒ After making Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory for transactions in interest rate, forex and credit derivative market, the RBI is set to make LEI compulsory for companies having aggregate fund based and non-fund based loans over ₹ 5 crore. LEI is a unique 20-digit alphanumeric code that will help banks monitoring the aggregate loan of corporate borrowers.
- ⇒ The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will become operational in all the 650 districts of the country by April, 2019. They will facilitate financial inclusion. These banks would be linked to 1.55 lakh rural post offices and carry out banking services.
- ⇒ The government has announced that it is working on a ₹ 2.11 lakh crore recapitalisation package for public sector banks (PSBs). For this, the government has asked the RBI if it can pay a special dividend, apart from the yearly surplus that it pays to the government. The dividend payout will be made during the current RBI financial year ending in June 30, 2018. It is to be noted that the RBI had transferred ₹ 30,659 crore of its surplus to the government in 2016-17, less than half of the ₹ 65,876 crore it had handed over in 2015-16.

Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 06.01.2018) are :
- * Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 6%.



- ⇒ The RBI, in a rare move, cancelled a bond sale via Open Market Operation (OMO) worth ₹ 10,000 crore. So far this fiscal, RBI has sold bonds worth ₹ 90,000 crore through OMOs in a bid to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system. When the RBI feels there is excess liquidity in the market, it resorts to the sale of securities, thereby sucking out the rupee liquidity. Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, the RBI buys securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity in the market.
- ⇒ The first ever Gender Vulnerability Index, prepared by 'Plan India' has been released by the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare. The safest State to be a woman in India is Goa, followed by Kerala, Mizoram, Sikkim and Manipur. The index was prepared keeping four parameters under consideration – education, health, poverty and protection. Bihar has been found to be the worst for women to live, followed by UP and Delhi.
- ⇒ To attract more investments into transport and logistics, the government has given infrastructure status to the logistics sector. Logistic costs of exports are very high in India and due to this, Indian goods are less competitive in global markets.
- ⇒ The RBI has asked banks to provide doorstep banking facilities to senior citizens of more than 70 years of age and differently-abled persons including the visually impaired by December 31, 2017.
- ⇒ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified that the farmers do not need to quote PAN or furnish Form No. 60 for cash sale of their produce up to ₹ 2 lakh a day.
- ⇒ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the maximum age of joining under NPS-Private Sector (i.e. All Citizen and Corporate Model) from the existing 60 years to 65 years of age and continue up to the age of 70 years in NPS.
- ⇒ There is a fear that China may build a dam in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra river and divert 80% of the river's flow during the lean season. The Brahmaputra originates from Tibet, flows eastward and takes a sharp turn west to reach Arunachal Pradesh where it is called 'Siang'.

So India wants to fast track plans to build reservoirs to store water from the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. India wants to store around 14.8 billion cubic metre (BCM) of water to drive four proposed hydropower projects in the Siang, Lohit, Subansiri and Dibang rivers in Arunachal Pradesh during the dry winter and spring.
- ⇒ New York-based credit rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) has retained India's ratings at 'BBB-minus'. However, the US-based Global credit rating agency Moody's Investors Services has upgraded India's sovereign ratings to 'Baa 2' from its lowest investment grade 'Baa 3'.
- ⇒ India has been ranked at the 51st spot among 63 countries on the IMD Talent Rankings in terms of ability to attract, develop and retain talent. In the previous ranking, India was ranked at the 54th spot. Switzerland has topped the list followed by Denmark, Belgium Austria and Finland.
- ⇒ To make farming a remunerative profession, the government approved changes to ongoing central scheme Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with a focus on value chain, post harvest infrastructure development, risk mitigation, etc. Now the scheme has been re-branded as RKVY-RAFTAAR (Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation), to be implemented for three years.
- ⇒ According to the 2017 Asia Pacific Wealth Report released by Capgemini, India has bagged the 4th spot in the list of countries with largest population of millionaires in the Asia Pacific region. India was shown to have about 2,19,000 high net worth individuals (HNWI), or people with assets of over \$1 million.
- ⇒ On the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, 2017, India ranked 108th out of 144 countries. Last year India ranked 87th. India's poor performance is because of lower participation of women in economy and low wages. The index was prepared keeping gender parity in four areas – health, education, economics and politics. Iceland topped the list followed by Norway and Finland.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has ordered implementation of a new rule, under which all cars sold from December 1, 2017 have to be fitted with a 'FASTag' device on the windscreen for smooth passage through toll plazas. A FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it. This enables the commuter to drive through toll plazas, without stopping for cash transactions.
- ⇒ Almost 18 months after Panama Papers leak, another massive trove of secret financial data, the largest ever, has been leaked by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIT). The leak, called the 'Paradise Papers' contains 13.4 million documents from two leading firms in offshore finance – Appleby of Bermuda and Asiatic of Singapore. They feature 19 global tax havens which help the politicians, celebrities and rich individuals hide their cash from tax authorities. India ranks 19th out of 180 countries in term of number of names in the offshore data leak. A total of 714 Indians have been named.



Sports

- ⇒ Cheteshwar Pujara became the third Indian and ninth overall batsman to bat across all five days in a Test match. Pujara achieved this rare feat in the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The other two Indian batsmen are M.L. Jaisimha and Ravi Shastri.
- ⇒ Afghanistan emerged Champion of the Asia Cup Cricket Under-19 by defeating Pakistan at the Kinrara Academy Oval in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ⇒ Punjab National Bank emerged champion of the 54th Senior Nehru Hockey Tournament, beating Punjab and Sind Bank at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- ⇒ After winning Asia Cup Men's Hockey title, India emerged champion of the Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2017, defeating China at Kakamigahara, Japan. Rani Rampal was the captain of the Indian team.
- ⇒ H S Prannoy of Hyderabad defeated K Srikanth in the final in Nagpur to clinch his maiden Senior National Badminton Championship Men's Singles crown. In the Women's Singles final, Sania Nehwal defeated P V Sindhu.
- ⇒ Pankaj Advani defeated Mike Russel of England in the final in Doha to retain the IBSF World Billiards Championship, 2017.
- ⇒ Pankaj Advani defeated Amir Sarkhosh of Iran in the final in Doha to win the IBSF World Snooker Championship, 2017.
- ⇒ India's MC Mary Kom defeated North Korea's Kim Hyang Mi in 48 Kg category event at the ASBC Asian Confederation Women's Boxing Championship in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- ⇒ India's table tennis player G Sathiyam clinched ITTF Spanish Open Men's Singles title in Almeria, Spain.
- ⇒ France defeated Belgium to win the Davis Cup, a coveted tennis title.

Awards

⇒ 48th IFFI-2017

The 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in Panaji, Goa. The festival was opened with the screening of the movie 'Beyond the Clouds', directed by Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi. Some of the awardees –

- Best Film – '120 Beats Per Minute' by Robin Campillo.
- Best Actor (Female) – Parvathy Thiruvoth Kottuvatta for 'Take Off'.
- Best Actor (Male) – Nahuel Perez Biscayart for '120 Beats Per Minute'.
- Best Director – Vivian Qu for 'Angels Wear White'.

- IFFI Lifetime Achievement – Atom Egoyan (Canadian filmmaker).

- Indian Film Personality of the Year Award – Amitabh Bachchan.

- ⇒ Demi-Leigh of South Africa has been crowned Miss Universe, 2017.
- ⇒ Renowned Hindi litterateur Krishna Sobti has been chosen for the prestigious Jnanpith Award for 2017.
- ⇒ Sri Lankan writer Anuk Arudpragasam has been honoured with the DSC prize for South Asian Literature for 2017 for his debut novel 'The story of a Brief Marriage' in Dhaka.
- ⇒ The inaugural edition of Indian Sports Honours ceremony was held in Mumbai. Kidambi Srikanth, the winner of four Super Series badminton titles this season was honoured with the Sportsman of the year award while Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu was felicitated with the Sportswoman of the year in the individual sports category.

Indian's off-spinner R. Ashwin and woman cricketer Mithali Raj were awarded the Sportsman and the Sportswoman of the year honours in the team sport category. The Indian Women's Cricket Team which finished runner up in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup this year under the captaincy of Mithali Raj were honoured with the Team of the Year award.

- ⇒ Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been chosen for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for his leadership of the country between 2004 and 2014.
- ⇒ Miss India Manushi Chhillar of Haryana was crowned Miss World 2017 in Sanya, China. She was also the co-winner of the 'Beauty with a Purpose'. Manushi is the 6th Miss World from India and the title came to India after 17 years when Priyanka Chopra became the Miss World in 2000. Reita Faria was the first Indian to win this crown in 1966.
- ⇒ Girish Karnad, the eminent Indian playwright and veteran actor was honoured with the Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ⇒ Tibetan spiritual leader and the Nobel laureate Dalai Lama was felicitated with the 10th Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Award acknowledging his concern for the oppressed human beings all over the world.
- ⇒ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017.
- ⇒ Royal Opera House in Mumbai has been awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation. King George V inaugurated the Royal Opera House in 1911.



- ⇒ Indian short film 'The School Bag' has won the Best Short Film Award at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM).

Persons

- ⇒ Dalveer Bhandari, India's nominee to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has been re-elected. He is one of the five judges in the ICJ for a nine-year team.
- ⇒ Shinzo Abe has been re-elected the Prime Minister of Japan.
- ⇒ Bob Geldof, an Irish musician, returned the Dublin Honour, saying he could not hold the award which is also shared by Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. He alleged Kyi as butcher who killed thousands of Rohingyas.
- ⇒ Priti Patel, the Indian origin Minister in British Cabinet – Britain's international development secretary resigned. She was accused of meeting Israeli officials secretly.
- ⇒ Surendra Kumar Sinha, the Chief Justice of Bangladesh resigned. He was the first Hindu Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.
- ⇒ Sethurathnam Ravi has been appointed Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). He succeeded Dhirendra Swarup.
- ⇒ Shubhangi Swarup has been inducted as a pilot in the Indian Navy, becoming the first woman pilot of the Indian Navy.
- ⇒ NK Singh has been appointed Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission which is required to submit its report by October, 2019.
- ⇒ Badri Narain Sharma has been appointed first Chairman of the newly-constituted National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST regime.
- ⇒ Hansmukh Adhia has become the new Finance Secretary. He succeeded Ashok Lavasa.
- ⇒ Kenneth Juster is the new US Ambassador to India. The position has been lying vacant since January 2017, when Richard Verma resigned.
- ⇒ Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon replaced Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates as the richest person in the world. According to the Forbes, the fortune of Jeff Bezos reached \$90.6 billion whereas that of Bill Gates was \$90.1 billion.

Died

- ⇒ Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, veteran Congress leader passed away. He was the President of All India Football Federation for 20 years.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ The three-day Organic World Congress 2017 was held at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida, UP. The Congress saw the participation of 1400 representatives from 110 countries.
- ⇒ Saudi Arabia has become the first country to grant citizenship to a robot called Sophia.

- ⇒ 'India Disaster Response Summit' was held recently in New Delhi. The summit was organised jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority and Facebook. The programme will be piloted in two disaster-prone States – Assam and Uttarakhand.
- ⇒ The first Heli Expo India and International Civil Helicopter Conclave-2017 was held in New Delhi. The conclave was organised by Pawan Hans Limited, a Mini Ratna company with the theme of 'Enhancing Connectivity'. The first issue of Pawan Hans Magazine 'Aviation Today' was also launched.
- ⇒ Aadi Mahotsav, a festival celebrating the spirit of tribal culture was organised in New Delhi. The theme of the festival was 'A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce'. More than 750 tribal artisans from over 25 states participated in the festival.
- ⇒ Burundi has become the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court.
- ⇒ India sent its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port in Iran. The consignment was flagged off from the Kandla port in Gujarat.
- ⇒ China for the fourth time blocked India's move to put a ban on the UN effort to name the Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.
- ⇒ Minister of Communications, Manoj Sinha launched Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana. SPARSH stands for Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude and Research in Stamps as Hobby. Under the scheme, it is proposed to award annual scholarship to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby.
- ⇒ The Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to 'Banglar Rasogolla'. Thus West Bengal registered a sweet victory of the special sweet Rasogolla over Odisha, the other contender.
- ⇒ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has proposed to issue guidelines for hostels, schools and coaching centres for children specifying fee payment schedule, diet, therapy to deal with stress, etc. The commission, headed by Stuti Narrain Kacker, has invited public comments on the proposed guidelines. According to the draft guidelines, hostels can only charge fee monthly or quarterly but not annually. They cannot charge capitation fees. At coaching institutes, many parents pay huge fees at the beginning of the academic session for the entire year and students are not able to withdraw mid-session because of the money invested and eventually commit suicide.



- ⇒ According to the Global Climate Risk Index (CRI), prepared by Berlin based NGO 'Germanwatch', India ranked as the sixth most vulnerable country in the world in terms of facing extreme weather events. Haiti, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Vietnam taking the top 5 positions.
- ⇒ Alappuzha, a beautiful city in Kerala, got recognition and appreciation from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for doing commendable efforts in solving the problems of solid waste.
- ⇒ India and the United States agreed to implement the programme for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC) to strengthen maritime security.
- ⇒ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) recently said that Non Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) are not required to link bank accounts and other services with Aadhar. This is because most of the NRIs / PIOs / OCIs are not eligible for Aadhar.
- ⇒ The Goa government executed a trilateral MoU to hold the Nobel Prize Series – India 2018 (Science Impacts Life). The event was jointly organised by the Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India in Collaboration with Nobel Media, Sweden and Department of Science and Technology.
- ⇒ The 7th edition of the Indo-Bangladesh joint military exercise named 'Sampriti-7' was conducted at India's Jungle Warfare School in Mizoram and at the Joint Training Node in Shillong, Maghalaya.
- ⇒ The two-day Coastal Security Exercise 'Sagar Kavach' was conducted along the Goa coast jointly by all security agencies from coastal belt area line to the limit of the territorial water, i.e., 12 nautical miles.
- ⇒ The Indian naval ships named Tir and Sujatha and the Indian Coast Guard ship Sarathi made a five-day goodwill visit to Sri Lanka and participated in a number of training exercises.
- ⇒ The Children's Day is observed in India on November the 14th and International Child Rights Day is observed on November, the 20th. The Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated the Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017) from 16th to the 20th November, 2017.
- ⇒ Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top State in terms of digital initiatives undertaken. followed by Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- ⇒ The Madras High Court has banned the use of pictures of living persons on banners and hoardings in Tamil Nadu, where towering cut-outs of politicians and actors are almost a part of local culture.
- ⇒ A fourteen day joint training exercise named 'PRABAL DOSTYK-2017' between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army was held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- ⇒ The Indian Air Force participated in exercise 'Blue Flag-17', which was conducted at Uvda Air Force Base in Israel. This was the first time the Indian Air Force participated with Israel in a multilateral exercise setting.
- ⇒ Himachal Pradesh emerged on the top of the India Youth Development Index (IYDI) 2017, followed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala. IYDI is a composite index of indicators that reflect the socio-economic and political status of youth in a State of India.
- ⇒ The International Puppet Festival, christened as PUN (Puppets Unite Neighbourhood) was held in Kolkata recently.
- ⇒ The Border Road Organisation has constructed the world's highest motorable road in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir under the Project Himank.
- ⇒ Chennai has been included in the Creative Cities Network (CCN) of UNESCO for its contribution to music. Chennai joined the elite club of world cities and also two other cities in India – Jaipur and Varanasi.

Books & Authors :

- ⇒ Story of a Brief Marriage – Anuk Arudpragasam
- ⇒ The Living – Anjali Joseph
- ⇒ Selection Day – Aravind Adiga
- ⇒ The Association of Small Bombs – Karan Mahajan
- ⇒ Moments of Truth : My Life with Acting – Roshan Taneja
- ⇒ The Goat Thief – Perumal Murugan
- ⇒ My Life, Our Times – Gordon Brown
- ⇒ The Perils of Being Moderately Famous – Soha Ali Khan
