



CURRENT AFFAIRS (FEBRUARY - 2018) :

National

⇒ The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise – 2017 (IMMSAREX-17) was held in the Bay of Bengal for the first time. Bangladesh President Md Abdul Hamid inaugurated the exercise at Cox Bazar, Bangladesh. Ships, naval chiefs and maritime experts from 32 countries, including the 23 member countries and 9 observers from the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) took part.

⇒ India has long been trying to be a member of the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), but China is opposing India's membership bid as India has not signed the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT). India refused to sign the NPT because it defines 'nuclear weapons states' as those that tested nuclear devices before 1967. India tested it in 1974. Moreover, NPT is an unfair treaty as nuclear weapon states have no obligation to give them up while non-nuclear (like India) states are not allowed to have them. Apart from India, Pakistan and Israel have also not signed the NPT.

While majority of the 48-member group backed India's membership, China along with New Zealand, Ireland, Turkey, South Africa and Austria opposed to India's admission. Recently Russia's deputy foreign minister Sergey Ryabkov met India's foreign secretary S. Jaishankar and supported India's stand saying that India's application for membership cannot be interlinked with that of Pakistan, a terrorists' den and a close ally of China.

Membership to the NSG is important for India as it will essentially increase India's access to state-of-the-art technology from the other members of the group. It would give a boost to the Make in India programme. That will, in turn, boost the economic growth of the country.

⇒ The Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), at its plenary meeting of the grouping in Vienna (its headquarter), decided to admit India as its 42nd member. Entry in the Wassenaar Arrangement is likely to pave the way for India to join NSG. Significantly, China which opposes India's entry into the 48-nation NSG, is not a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement. The WA is an elite club of 42 countries including India, which subscribe to arms export control, similar to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime. In June 2016, India joined Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The NSG, the MTCR, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement – all are formed to regulate the conventional, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and technologies.

⇒ The 15th Russia-India-China trilateral Foreign Ministers' meet was held in New Delhi. The three Foreign Ministers – Sushma Swaraj, Wang Yi (China) and Sergey Lavrov (Russia) underlined the primary and leading role and responsibility in preventing and countering terrorism and extremism. India expressed concern over China's role in opposing the international ban on the UN-designated terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, the mastermind of Pathankot terror strike.

⇒ The Pentagon in its report titled 'Enhancing Security and Stability in Afghanistan' said that India is Afghanistan's most reliable regional ally. India has assisted Afghanistan with projects like the Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam and the construction of Afghan parliamentary building besides security assistance including four Mi-35 aircrafts.

⇒ The International Solar Alliance (ISA), launched by the PM Narendra Modi at the Paris CoP on November 30, 2015 has become a treaty-based international intergovernmental organisation. The ISA is now a reality with 46 among the 121 member countries signing the statute, 19 of them ratifying it. The alliance will be the first such entity to be headquartered in India.

India has set an ambitious target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022. Of this, 100 GW will be solar energy.

⇒ BJP has won the Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections for the 6th straight time since 1998. In the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, BJP won 99 seats whereas Congress won 77 seats.

BJP also won Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections. In the 68-member Assembly, BJP won 44 seats whereas Congress won only 21 seats.

⇒ The Central government has approved the launch of the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) to tackle the problems of under-nutrition, low birth-weight and stunting (stunting means prevention from growing or developing properly). The mission will look to reduce under-nutrition and low birth-weight by 2% every year. It will try to achieve a reduction in stunting from the Current 38.4% according to the National Family Health Survey to 25% by 2022. It also aims at bringing down anaemia among young children, women and adolescent girls by 3% each year.

International

⇒ Donald Trump on his first tweet on the new year's day accused Pakistan of cheating the USA with billions of dollars. He said, "The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than \$ 33 billion in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies and deceit, thinking of our leaders as fool".



- ⇒ The United States has withdrawn from its participation from the 'Global Compact on Migration'. In September 2016, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a non-binding political declaration 'The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants', pledging to uphold the rights of refugees, help them resettle and ensure they have access to education and job. Under the Trump and his 'America First' policies, the US has withdrawn itself from the Paris Climate deal and also very recently from UNESCO.
- ⇒ The US Supreme Court allowed President Donald Trump's revised ban on travel that prevents residents of eight countries, including mainly Muslim nations. They are – Iran, Yemen, Chad, Somalia, Libya, Syria, North Korea and some groups from Venezuela from entering the USA.
- ⇒ The US President Donald Trump recently recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moved to relocate the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The status of Jerusalem at present is a critical issue in the Israel-Palestine conflict, with both sides claiming the city as their capital. A range of world leaders from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the European Union, France, Germany and also Pope Francis warned Trump against this move saying that maintaining Jerusalem's status quo was important in order to avoid adding new elements of tension to an already volatile world that is wrecked by so many cruel conflicts.
- ⇒ The Maldives has signed 12 agreements with China, including a crucial free trade deal and a pact to jointly promote the One Belt One Road (OBOR) programme. It was China's second Free Trade Agreement (FTA) after Pakistan. China is also building relationship with other South Asian countries in order to influence the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the same way it has with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ⇒ Sri Lanka owes more than \$ 8 billion to state-controlled Chinese firms. Struggling to repay the debt, Sri Lanka formally handed over the strategic port of Hambantota to China on a 99-year lease – the deal that government critics have said threatens the country's sovereignty.
- ⇒ The United States has decided to withhold \$ 255 million in military aid to Pakistan as it failed to take decisive action against terrorists on its soil.
- ⇒ The first phase of the strategically located Chabahar port has been inaugurated by the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. The phase one is known as the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar. India, Iran and Afghanistan reiterated their commitment to the early operationalization of the port.
- ⇒ Vladimir Putin launched a \$ 27 billion liquefied natural gas plant in the snow-covered plains of the Arctic as Russia hopes to surpass Qatar to become the world's biggest exporter of the chilled fuel.
- ### Economy
- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 15.01.2018) are :
- * Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 6%.
 - * 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*) : 8.65% - 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*).
- ⇒ In order to promote digital payments, RBI has come out with differentiated Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) for debit card transactions. MDR is the rate charged to a merchant by a bank for providing debit and credit card services. MDR charge for small merchants with an annual turnover of up to ₹ 20 lakh has been fixed at 0.4% with a cap of maximum ₹ 200 per transaction. In case the annual turnover exceeds ₹ 20 lakh, MDR charges would be 0.9% with a cap of ₹ 1,000 per transaction.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Communication launched 'Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India' (DARPAN) project to improve the quality of services and achieve financial inclusion.



- ⇒ The RBI has placed two more lenders – Bank of India and United Bank of India on its under the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) plan. The eight banks identified earlier were Corporation Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Dena Bank, Central Bank, IDBI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and UCO Bank. Under the Prompt Corrective Action, the bank faces restrictions on spending money on opening branches and can disburse loans only to those companies whose borrowing is above investment grades.
- ⇒ The State Bank of India has launched a unified integrated app called YONO (You Need Only One) that would offer all kinds of financial and lifestyle products.
- ⇒ The government of India has set up the National Anti-Profitteering Authority, under the Chairmanship of B N Sharma amid reports that some companies, particularly restaurants, are not passing on the benefits of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cuts to consumers.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – ‘Saubhagya’ Web Portal to monitor the ‘Saubhagya’ scheme launched by the PM Narendra Modi in September 2017. Under Saubhagya scheme, all willing households in rural areas and poor families in Urban Areas will be given free electricity connection by December, 2018. There are around 4 crore unelectrified households in the country.
- ⇒ Germanwatch, an environment organisation has ranked India at the 14th position out of 56 nations in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), 2018.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Railways has decided to upgrade Premium Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains under Project ‘Swarna’. The country’s first Swarna Rajdhani (Train No. 12313) New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani Express was launched on November 17 from New Delhi.
- ⇒ Five Indian women have found their places in the Forbes magazine’s World’s 100 Most Powerful Women List. ICICI Bank’s MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar topped the list among Indian women followed by Roshni Nadar Malhotra, CEO of HCL Enterprise; Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairman and MD of Biocon; Shobhana Bhartia, Chairperson and Editorial Director of HT Media Ltd. and Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra.
- ⇒ November 30 marks the centenary of the one-rupee note. This is the only paper currency that bears the signature of the Finance Secretary, not the RBI Governor because it belongs to the government of India, not the RBI.
- ⇒ The cryptocurrency market cap has crossed \$ 250 billion. Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash and Ethereum are some of the cryptocurrencies that have shown remarkable growth recently. Bitcoin is the first decentralised virtual currency as the system works without a central bank or a single administrator. Bitcoin was invented by an unknown person or a group of people under the name ‘Satoshi Nakamoto’. Some economists feel that Bitcoin is more powerful than physical, old fashioned money. Inspired by the latest success, one of the leading Indian payment gateway ‘BillDesk’ has recently launched a cryptocurrency exchange ‘Coinome’ in India with its headquarter in Mumbai.
- ⇒ Walt Disney company is going to buy film, TV and international assets from Rupert Murdoch’s ‘Twenty First Century Fox Inc’ as Disney seeks greater scale to tackle the growing competition from Netflix and Amazon.com.
- ⇒ The government has identified 115 most backward districts in the country for rapid transformation by 2022. The Centre has approved setting up of ‘Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendras’ across these 115 most backward districts.
- ⇒ The private sector Federal Bank has obtained RBI’s approval to open representative offices at Kuwait and Singapore.

Sports

- ⇒ Yuvraj Singh promoted a UNICEF sports initiative for youngsters in South Asia. In this regard, Yuvraj launched the ‘Power of Sports to Shape the Future of Adolescents’ campaign in South Asia at Colombo.
- ⇒ India won the Paytm India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Series by 2-1 matches. Shikhar Dhawan was adjudged Man of the Series.
- ⇒ India defeated Sri Lanka by 3-0 matches in the bilateral Twenty-20 series. Indian bowler Jaydev Unadkat was declared Man of the Series.
- ⇒ Off-Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest bowler to reach the milestone of 300 Test wickets in his 54th match. He broke the record of Dennis Lillee of Australia. He achieved this feat while playing against Sri Lanka at Nagpur.
- ⇒ Virat Kohli achieved a great feat of scoring 10 international centuries in one calendar year. The previous best was Ricky Ponting and Greame Smith with 9 centuries.
- ⇒ The first ever T10 international cricket league was held at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. Kerala King won the title by defeating Punjabi Legends in the final.
- ⇒ Australia won the Hockey World League by defeating Argentina in the final at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha. India won a bronze medal by defeating Germany.



- ⇒ The Indian diving team won 1 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals in the 'Road to Asian Games 2018' Indonesia Open Aquatic Championship 2017 held at Jakarta.
- ⇒ Visually impaired swimmer Kanchanmala Pande scripted history for India when she became the first Indian to win the gold medal in the World Para Swimming Championship in Mexico.
- ⇒ Indian won the Men's Asian Kabaddi Championship 2017 gold medal in Gorgan, Iran by defeating Pakistan. Indian Women too won the championship by defeating Korea.
- ⇒ India won 59 medals (29 gold, 24 silver and 6 bronze) at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championship in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ⇒ S. M. Chanu of India lifted a new world record of 194 kg - 85 Kg snatch and 109 kg clean-and-jerk and won the gold medal at the World Weightlifting Championship at Anaheim, USA. With this, Chanu became the 2nd Indian Weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to achieve this feat.
- ⇒ G Sathiyam clinched the men's gold medal at the 2017 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Spanish Open at Almeria, Spain.
- ⇒ Gopi Thonakal became the first Indian to win the Asian Marathon Championship after he achieved the feat in the 16th edition of the event at Donggwa, China.
- ⇒ Mairaj Ahmad Khan was crowned national champion at the 61st National Shooting Championship for Shotgun events at New Delhi's Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.
- ⇒ World Youth Champion Sachin Siwach was named the Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year.
- ⇒ The first International Conference on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences (SAICON-2017) was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Ministry of State Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore. SAICON-2017 will promote scientific temperament in the country and inspire students, researchers and educationists alike to take up sports science and research to the next level.
- ⇒ The International Hockey Federation Chief Narendra Batra has been selected President of the Indian Olympic Association.

Awards

- ⇒ Renowned Hindi Scholar and Writer Mamta Kalia has been chosen for Vyas Samman for her novel Dukkham Sukkham.
- ⇒ Priyanka Chopra has been honoured with Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice.
- ⇒ Ishan Khattar has bagged the Best Actor award at Bosphorus International Film Festival in Turkey for his debut project 'Beyond the Clouds'.
- ⇒ Six diplomats including Lakshmi Puri of India have been felicitated with the inaugural 'Power of One' award at the UN headquarters, New York for their contribution to help in forming 'perfect, peaceful and secured world'.
- ⇒ Odia poet Ravi Singh has been named the winner of the Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman, 2017.
- ⇒ 'Dangal' was chosen the Best Asian Film at the 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards, Sydney.
- ⇒ The 3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award was conferred on Professor Hiroshi Maru of Japan by President Ram Nath Kovind at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan for his exemplary contribution to Indology.
- ⇒ Jitesh Singh Deo emerged the winner of the 2017 Mr. India World Crown at Bandra Fort, Mumbai.
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind awarded Presidential Colours to the submarine arm of the Indian Navy at the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Vishakhapatnam.
- ⇒ Time magazine announced 'The Silence Breakers' as its Persons of the Year for 2017. Those women who have shared their bitter experiences about sexual harassment and assault, have been collectively named 'The Silence Breakers'.

Persons

- ⇒ Kamala Harris, the Indian-American Senator of California has topped the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list of '50 Leading Global Thinkers' for giving the the Democratic Party hope in the era of President Donald Trump.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the 'Second Most Tweeted About World Leader' after the US President Donald Trump. According to the microblogging site Twitter, Trump with 44.1 million followers and Modi with 37.5 million are respectively the first and the second.
- ⇒ Gurbir Singh Grewal has become the first Sikh Attorney General (AG) in US history. He has been appointed AG of the US State of New Jersey.
- ⇒ Emperor Akihito of Japan has decided to step down due to his old age and nominated prince Naruhito as the successor.
- ⇒ Dia Mirza, the actor-activist has been appointed UN Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India.
- ⇒ Professor Dharendra Pal Singh has been appointed new Chaiman of the UGC.
- ⇒ Vijay Rupani has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ⇒ Jai Ram Thakur has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- ⇒ Sarah Mullally has been appointed Bishop of London, becoming the first woman to take up the job which is one of the most senior posts in the Church of England.



Died

- ⇒ Shashi Kapoor, born as Balbir Raj Kapoor, a popular Bollywood actor died at the age of 79. His last film was 'Side Streets', an English movie.
- ⇒ Lalji Singh, considered as the father of DNA fingerprints, passed away.
- ⇒ Ali Abdullah Saleh, the former President of Yemen has been killed by Houthi rebels.
- ⇒ Batuk Gandhi, a veteran journalist and foreign correspondent with 'The Hindu', passed away.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ India's first only-design university 'World University of Design' (WUD) has been opened in Rajiv Gandhi Education City Sonipar in Haryana. WUD is India's first university dedicated to education in the creative domain. WUD offers 23 specialised UG and PG programmes in various design arenas such as design, fashion, communication, visual art, retail management, architecture, etc.
- ⇒ India hosted 'Bodhi Parva : BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage' at Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi. It was inaugurated as part of celebrations of the 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC and to spread the universal message of peace and tolerance practised by Buddhism. BIMSTEC is an international organisation comprising Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Strategic Plan 2017-24 aimed at eradicating HIV / AIDS by 2030. It was launched on the occasion of World AIDS Day (1st December). Mission SAMPARK was also launched to trace those who are left to follow up and are to be brought under Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) services. Presently, about 11.5 lakh People Living with HIV (PLHIVs) are taking free ART through 536 ART centres in the country. It is a big challenge to trace those who are Left to Follow Up and needed to be brought under ART services.
- ⇒ The UN Women in collaboration with Facebook inaugurated a two-day event titled 'We The Women' in Mumbai to empower and recognise the magnificent contribution of women in our society.
- ⇒ Australia has been the 24th country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage.
- ⇒ The United Arab Emirates formed a new economic and partnership group with Saudi Arabia and separated from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- ⇒ The MI 8 helicopter, also known as 'PRATA' phasing out ceremony was held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bangalore. MI 8 helicopters served for 45 years after their induction. MI 8 helicopters were manufactured and supplied by Soviet Union (Russia).

- ⇒ Victoria, the second most populous Australian State has legalised voluntary euthanasia (mercy killing). With this, doctor-assisted suicide will be allowed in Victoria since June 2019. The scheme, however, will be accessible only to terminally ill patients over 18 years of age, living in Victoria and having life expectancy of less than 6 months. Till date, the countries that have legalised human euthanasia are the Netherlands, Belgium, Colombia, Luxembourg, Canada and Victoria (Australia).
- ⇒ The 8th edition of 'Ekuverin', the Indo-Maldives joint military exercise was held in Belagavi (Belgaum) in Karnataka.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned the Scorpene-class submarine INS Kolvari into the Navy. INS Kolvari is named after the dreaded tiger shark, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean. This is the first of the six submarines to be inducted into the Indian Navy. It is designed by the French naval defence and energy company DCNS and are being built by Mazagaon Dock, Mumbai. The first Kolvari was commissioned in 1967, but decommissioned in 1996.
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone of the Naya Gram project of the Allahabad High Court in Allahabad. Naya Gram initiative has been started to make judiciary system more accessible for the common people. It has been seen that having so many strict laws, people are still scared to ask for legal help due to complicated system.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Health launched a 15-day door-to-door campaign across the country for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB).
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, inaugurated the Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum in Vishakhapatnam.
- ⇒ The Biaras Small Hydro Power Project (SHP) of 1.5 MW has been commissioned in Biaras Drass in Kargil (J&K). This is the first project to be commissioned under the Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative. The plant will power the Drass town in Kargil, which is one of the coldest places in India.
- ⇒ India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit was held at Dantewade in Chhattisgarh. The event was organised by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Government of the USA.
- ⇒ Norway has become the first country to cease the use of FM radio for its national broadcasts and switch over to digital radio.
- ⇒ Dubai opened a camel hospital which is first of its kind in the world.
- ⇒ 60-MW Tuirial Hydropower Project on the Tuirial river has been inaugurated in Aizwal, Mizoram.



- ⇒ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has for the first time compiled a list of 157 alien invasive species. Out of the 157 species listed, 58 are found on land and in freshwater habitat while 99 are found in the marine ecosystem. These invasive animal species pose a threat to the biodiversity of the area and human welfare and safety. They also harm the agriculture.
- ⇒ The 11th edition of Naseem-Al-Bahr (Sea Breeze) Naval exercise between India and Oman was held at Said Bin Sultan Naval Base, Wudam in Oman.
- ⇒ Kacheguda Railway Station in Hyderabad division has earned the distinction of being the first energy-efficient A1 category railway station in the country.
- ⇒ India's first Madame Tussauds Wax museum opened its door in Delhi. It is the 23rd edition of Madame Tussauds in the World.
- ⇒ North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un warned the United States on January 1, 2018 that he has a nuclear button on his table targeting the US mainland with an atomic warhead.
- ⇒ To mark the new year, Losar Festival was observed in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. Losar is a Tibetan word for 'new year'.
- ⇒ Meghalaya has become the first State in India to operationalise a law 'The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act', 2017. The law will make it easier to correct the course of a project while it is rolling along, and not the auditing after all the money is spent.
- ⇒ Rajasthan has become the first and only State in India to offer free e-mail address in Hindi to its residents.
- ⇒ The Indian Coast Guard ship 'Sujay', The last in the series of the six 105m Offshore Patrol Vessel has been commissioned in Goa. It was indigenously built by the Goa Shipyard Ltd.
- ⇒ Hornbill Festival has been celebrated in Nagaland on December 1. The festival coincided with the 54th Statehood of Nagaland. The festival pays tribute to Hornbill, the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas for its qualities of alertness and grandeur.
- ⇒ The Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Kapu Reservation Bill to give 5% reservation to the Kapu community in educational institutions and government jobs.
- ⇒ The historic Lavi Fair has been observed in Himachal Pradesh. Lavi was a major trading centre and the stopover point on the old trade routes that led to Kinnaur, Tibet, Ladakh and Afghanistan.
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 10-day long Manipur Sangai Festival in Imphal.
- ⇒ The Saudi Arabian Kingdom announced a historic decision to end a ban on women's driving and now they are allowed to drive trucks, motorcycles, etc.
- ⇒ The National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17) has declared that India is a Trachoma free country. Trachoma is a chronic infective disease of the eye and is the leading cause of infective blindness globally.
- ⇒ 'Operation Synergy' was conducted recently jointly by the Indian Navy, the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard and State fisheries department. It was formed to deal with the devastation occurred due to cyclone 'Ockhi' in Kerala.
- ⇒ Kumbh Mela, the mass Hindu pilgrimage of faith, has been inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Unity. The committee observed that Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth. The festival is held in four places – Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nasik.
- ⇒ the Karnataka State Minorities Commission has constituted a seven-member panel to study the demand for Separate religion status made by the Lingayat community in Karnataka.
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind issued an Ordinance amending the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The Ordinance omits 'bamboo', grown in non-forest areas from the definition of 'Trees', thereby exempted it from required permits for falling and transportation.
- ⇒ The 'Chateau Louis XIV', called the world's most expensive house by Forbes, situated in France, said to have been bought by the Saudi crown prince Mohammed Bin Salman for \$ 300 million.
- ⇒ According to the World Migration Report 2018, the Indian Diaspora is the world's largest, with slightly more than 15.6 million people from India living overseas. The Indian Diaspora constitutes 6% of the total number of international migrants (people living outside the country of their birth).
- ⇒ The former telecom minister A Raja, DMK MP Kanimozhi and all other accused were Acquitted in the politically-sensitive 2G Spectrum allocation scam cases.
- ⇒ Oxford Dictionaries has declared 'Youthquake' as its word of the year for 2017. The 'Youthquake' is defined as 'a significant cultural, political or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people.'
- ⇒ The 26th of November, 2017 was celebrated as the Constitution Day. The Constitution of India was adopted on November 26, 1949.

Books & Authors :

- ⇒ Dukkham Sukkham – Mamta Kalia
- ⇒ Trust No Aunty – Maria Qamar
- ⇒ Ashoka : Satrap of Taxila – Ashok K Banker
- ⇒ Available Lights – C P Surendran
