



CURRENT AFFAIRS (MARCH - 2018) :

National

⇒ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was on a six-day visit to India recently. Indian PM Narendra Modi broke protocol and himself went to the airport to receive him. Mr. Netanyahu lauded the Indian PM as a revolutionary leader and told him that he was available for a yoga class with him any time. India and Israel signed nine agreements including in the areas of cyber security, oil and gas, air transport, research in homeopathy and space science.

The PM Netanyahu inaugurated the third edition of Raisina Dialogue. (*The Raisina Dialogue is a multilateral conference held annually in New Delhi. Since its inception in 2016, the conference has emerged as India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. The conference is hosted by the Observer Research Foundation, an independent think-tank, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India.*)

After visiting the Taj Mahal in Agra, both the PMs went to Ahmedabad and paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati. They then reached Deo Dholera village in Ahmedabad and dedicated 'iCreate Centre' to the country. iCreate (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) is an autonomous institution on the outskirts of Ahmedabad that aims at identifying and nurturing budding entrepreneurs and provide them with all the assistance required in this regard.

Mr. Netanyahu presented Mr. Modi with a unique gift – a GAL Mobile, a vehicle with water purification capabilities that can purify up to 20,000 litres of sea water per day. In his last leg, the Israeli PM visited Mumbai and termed his country's partnership with India as one 'made in heaven'.

⇒ The first 'Person of Indian Origin Parliamentarian Conference' was held in New Delhi. It was attended by 134 elected representatives from 24 countries including France, Fiji, Switzerland, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, etc. The event was held to mark the 102nd anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa.

⇒ India has become the 43rd member of the Australia Group (AG), an elite group that deals with trade in fissile (i.e., of atoms able to produce nuclear fission) materials and technologies. AG works to counter the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. With this, India has gained entry into three nuclear export control regimes – Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) and the Australia Group. It will hopefully facilitate India's entry in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

⇒ The first Global Initiative on Academic Network (GIAN) course on Sustainable Urban Planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) has been launched at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur's outreach centre in NOIDA. The course is actively supported by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

⇒ When India celebrated its first Republic Day on January 26, 1950, the Chief guest was a South-east Asian leader President Sukarno of Indonesia. On this January 26, 2018, leaders from all the 10 ASEAN member countries – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Brunei were the chief guests at the 69th Republic Day parade.

⇒ To mark the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership, the 15th anniversary of Summit-level partnership and 5 years of strategic relations, India hosted the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi. The theme of the Special Commemorative Summit was 'Shared Values, Common Destiny'.

International

⇒ The USA has suspended more than \$ 1 billion in security-related aid for Pakistan until it takes decisive action against terrorists operating from its soil, chiefly the Haqqani Network and Afghan Taliban.

⇒ Tension between North Korea and South Korea began to abate when North Korean Supreme leader Kim Jong-un announced reopening of its border hotline with the South. The leaders of the two Korean delegations met at the truce village of Panmunjom, a village just north of the de facto border between North and South Korea where the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement that paused the Korean War was signed. In a joint statement, North Korea pledged to send a large delegation to February 2018's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea.

⇒ Jo Cox, a Labour Party MP of Britain, planned to find ways to reduce loneliness in the UK. He was murdered in 2016. Recently the British PM Theresa May appointed Tracey Crouch, the Minister for Sports and Civil Society as the Minister for Loneliness.

Economy

⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 25.02.2018) 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% - 7.80%.
- (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).
- ⇒ Bad loans of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) stood at ₹ 7.34 lakh crore by the end of the second quarter of 2017-18. According to the RBI, leading corporate houses and companies accounted for approximately 77% of the total gross NPAs from domestic operations for the banks.
 - ⇒ A recent report by CARE Ratings revealed that at 9.9% ratio, India has been ranked 5th on the list of countries with the highest Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) ratio. Greece has the highest NPA ratio of 36.4% followed by Italy, Portugal and Iceland. NPA ratio is the ratio between net NPA to total loans given by the banks.
 - ⇒ In order to ensure the flow of clean money to political parties, without revealing the donors' name, the government has launched 'Electoral Bond' scheme. The bonds can be purchased in multiples of ₹ 1,000, ₹ 10,000, ₹ 1 lakh, ₹ 10 lakh and ₹ 1 crore from specified branches of SBI. These are bearer instruments and will not carry the name of the bearer. They are interest free and are valid for 15 days.
 - ⇒ Market regulator SEBI banned global auditing firm Price Waterhouse Network from engaging in audit work with any listed company for two years for its role in the ₹ 8,000 crore Satyam scam that took place in 2009.
 - ⇒ The New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Bill, 2018 was introduced in the Lok Sabha to establish an autonomous and independent institution for better management of arbitration in India. The Bill states that the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR), which works under the aegis of the Supreme Court, has not been able to actively engage and embrace developments in the arbitration ecosystem.
 - ⇒ The World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked India at the 30th position out of 100 nations on a global manufacturing index. Japan has got the top position followed by South Korea, Germany, Switzerland and China.
 - ⇒ According to the latest global Environmental Performance Index (GPI) released on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meet in Davos, India has ranked the fourth worst country worldwide in curbing environmental pollution. India is at the 177th spot, down from 141st position two years ago in the list of 180 countries.
 - ⇒ India's ranking in Democracy Index, 2017, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit has slipped down to the 43rd rank from the 32nd rank last year. Out of the 167 countries, the top position is occupied by Norway, followed by Iceland and Sweden.
 - ⇒ The World Economic Forum (WEF) published the Inclusive Development Index, 2018. The WEF measured progress of 103 economies. Norway topped the index followed by Iceland and Luxembourg. India ranked 62nd.
 - ⇒ The World Bank has projected that India's economic growth rate is likely to be 7.3% in 2018 and then accelerate to 7.5% in the next two years. The World Bank also revised India's growth estimate for 2017 from 7% to 6.7% despite initial setbacks from demonetisation and the GST.
 - ⇒ According to the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO), India's GDP growth rate is projected at 7.4% for 2018-19 against 6.7% this year, making India the fastest growing economy among the emerging economies.
 - ⇒ According to the latest data released by International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook, India has moved up one position to the 126th in terms of per capita GDP of countries. Qatar remains the world's richest country among the 200 countries in terms of per capita GDP based on purchasing power parity (PPP). India's per capita GDP rose from \$ 6,690 in 2016 to \$ 7,170 in 2017. Qatar (per capita GDP of \$ 1,24,930) is followed by Macao, Luxembourg, Singapore, Brunei and Ireland.
 - ⇒ According to the Sample Registration System (SRS), under-five child mortality (U5MR) of India declined from 43 per 1000 in 2015 to 39 per 1000 in 2016.



- ⇒ As per the survey released by the international rights group Oxfam titled 'Reward Work, Not Wealth', the richest 1% in India held 58% of the country's total wealth. India's richest 1% cornered 73% of the wealth generated in the country last year.
- ⇒ The fourth All India Tiger estimation process began digitally in the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR), Andhra Pradesh. The forest officials used android phones and a new app to collect the field data of the big cats. The app – Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (M-StrIPES) was used for the first time in the process to avoid human error involved in the traditional recording of the pugmarks and other signs of the tigers in forests.
- ⇒ The Telengana government, from January 1, 2018 is giving the farmers 24 X 7 electricity free of cost for agricultural purposes. Telengana is the only State to achieve this distinction in India.
- ⇒ According to LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States), the report prepared by the Commerce Ministry with the help of the consultancy firm Deloitte, Gujarat topped the logistics index chart followed by Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.
- ⇒ Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced value-added tax (VAT) from January 1, a first for the Gulf, which has long prided itself on its tax-free welfare system.
- ⇒ HDFC has become the first Indian bank to cross ₹ 5 trillion (₹ 5 lakh crore) market capitalisation. HDFC is the third company to achieve this milestone after RIL and TCS.
- ⇒ The Maharashtra government has announced 1% reservation in government jobs and educations for orphans.

Sports

- ⇒ India retained the Blind Cricket World Cup, 2018 by defeating Pakistan in Sharjah. Ajay Kumar Reddy was the captain of the Indian team.
- ⇒ Vidarbha defeated Delhi at the Holkar Stadium, Indore in the final to clinch the Ranji Trophy, a prestigious domestic cricket title in India for the first time.
- ⇒ Delhi clinched its maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy, beating Rajasthan.
- ⇒ Jaidev Unadkat emerged the most expensive Indian cricketer in the Indian Premier League auction for 2018, concluded in Bangaluru. Rajasthan Royals bought Unadkat for a whopping ₹ 11.5 crore. Ben Stokes of England was the most expensive bowler who was bought by Rajasthan Royals for ₹ 12.5 crore.
- ⇒ Virat Kohli has been named Captain of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test and One-Day International teams of the year.

- ⇒ Defending champion Roger Federer of Switzerland defeated Marin Cilic of Croatia to retain his Australian Open Men's Singles title. Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark defeated Simona Halep of Romania to win the Australian Open Women's Singles title.
- ⇒ Punjab National Bank clinched the eighth Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship by defeating Canara Bank in Imphal.
- ⇒ Hyderabad Hunters emerged champion of the Premier Badminton League title as it prevailed over Bengaluru Blasters at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad.
- ⇒ Aanchal Thakur from Manali, Himachal Pradesh created history by becoming the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing. She won a Bronze medal at Alpine Eider 3200 Cup, in Turkey.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports conducted the first Khelo India School Games under Khelo India Programme (for Athletes) in New Delhi. School going children between 10 to 18 years of age participated in it. Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore launched the Khelo India Anthem with the tagline 'Aur khelna chahte hain hum, khub khelo saath me hain hum'. The three-stroke khelo India logo is designed by Ogilvy India and composed by Louis Banks.
- ⇒ Meghalaya has signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.

Awards

- ⇒ The International Cricket Council (ICC) annual awards for 2017 –
 - Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Men's Cricketer of the Year – Virat Kohli
 - Men's Test Cricketer of the Year – Steve Smith
 - Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year – Virat Kohli
 - Men's T20 Performance of the Year – Yuzvendra Chahal
 - Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year – Hasan Ali
- ⇒ Deepak Unnikrishnan, a teacher at New York University Abu Dhabi, was honoured with the Hindu Prize, 2017 for his novel 'Temporary People'.
- ⇒ The 2018 Republic Day Parade Best Tableau Award was given to Maharashtra. The tableau was titled 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Coronation'.
- ⇒ Soumitra Chatterjee has been awarded France's highest civilian award Legion d'Honneur in recognition of his remarkable contribution to Indian cinema.
- ⇒ Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with the 24th Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.



- ⇒ 63rd Jio Flimfare Awards, 2018, important awardees –
- 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'.
 - Critics' Award for Best Actor (Female) – Zaira Wasim for 'Secret Superstar'.
 - Critics' Award for Best Actor (Male) – Rajkumar Rao for 'Trapped'.
 - Best Director – Ashwiny Iyer for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'.
 - Best Debut Director – Konkana Sensharma for 'A Death in the Gunj'.
 - Best Dialogue – Hitesh Kewalya for 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan'.
 - Best Screenplay – Shubhashish Bhutiani for 'Mukti Bhavan'.

Persons

- ⇒ Dr. K. Sivan has been appointed new Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He replaced A. S. Kiran Kumar.
- ⇒ Anandiben Patel, former Gujarat Chief Minister has been appointed new Governor of Madhya Pradesh.
- ⇒ Om Prakash Rawat, the Election Commissioner has been appointed Chief Election Commissioner. He succeeded A.K. Joti.
- ⇒ Ashok Lawasa has been appointed new Election Commissioner (EC). Sunil Arora is the other EC.
- ⇒ Park Geun-Hye, the ousted South Korean President has been charged with accepting bribes from the State spy agency.
- ⇒ Nus Ghani, a Kashmiri-origin parliamentarian in the UK has made history by becoming the first female Muslim minister to speak from the British Parliament dispatch box.
- ⇒ Vijay Keshav Gokhale has been appointed new Foreign Secretary. He succeeded S Jaishankar.
- ⇒ Actress Kajol, an active supporter of eradicating preventable deaths from hygiene-related issues, has become an advocacy ambassador for a Swachh Aadat Swachh Bharat initiative.
- ⇒ A R Rhaman has been named brand ambassador of Sikkim at the inauguration ceremony of Red Panda Winter Festival at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok.
- ⇒ Anushka Sharma has been named PETA's Person of the Year by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for her efforts to help protect dogs from fireworks.
- ⇒ Dilip Chenoy is the new Director General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He was the CEO and MD of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Died

- ⇒ Doodhnath Singh, an eminent Hindi writer passed away.
- ⇒ Buddhadev Dasgupta, the eminent sarod maestro passed away.
- ⇒ Baldev Raj, one of India's most renowned nuclear scientists passed away.
- ⇒ Anwar Jalalpuri, the famous Urdu poet who translated the Bhagwad Geeta into Urdu in Shayari format, passed away.
- ⇒ Prof. Baldev Raj, the atomic scientist, passed away.
- ⇒ Saksham Yadav, a former power-lifting world champion passed away in a road accident.
- ⇒ John Young, an American astronaut becoming the first person to fly six space missions passed away. He was the only person to have piloted, and been commander of four different classes of spacecrafts – Gemini, the Apollo Command/Service Module, the Apollo Lunar Module and the Space Shuttle.

Miscellaneous

- ⇒ Union Ministry of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi announced that the Centre would phase out subsidies for the annual Haj Pilgrimage. The decision followed a 2012 Supreme Court order asking that subsidies for the Haj be phased out by 2022.
- ⇒ The 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference was held at Rajgir, in Nalanda district of Bihar. The conference was held in collaboration with the India Foundation, Ministry of External Affairs and the Vietnam Buddhist University. The theme of the conference was 'State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Tradition'.
- ⇒ The Central government recently told the State and UT governments to ensure strict compliance of the provisions contained in the Flag Code of India. The government urged not to use a national flag made of plastic. However, besides cloth, flags made of paper only can be used by public.
- ⇒ India's first National Park for Differently Aabled People has been inaugurated at Hyderabad.
- ⇒ The Union government has drawn up tailor-made action plans for 115 identified 'most backward' districts in the country to improve their socio-economic profiles by making available basic services like healthcare, sanitation, education, drinking water supply and infrastructure by the year 2022, to mark the 75th year of India's independence.
- ⇒ India for the first time took part in a meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India and Pakistan joined the SCO is which China plays an influential role.



- ⇒ The 18th All India Whips' Conference, 2018 was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Around 90 delegates including Ministers, Chief Whips and Whips in Parliament and State Legislatures participated in it.
- ⇒ Gujarat topped the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index, a logistic index chart released by the Commerce Ministry.
- ⇒ The Election Commission (EC) has constituted a 14-member Committee headed by Umesh Sinha to suggest changes to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) in view of the social media expansion. The committee will study the impact of new media and social media during the 'silence period', i.e., during the 48 hours period prior to the election.
- ⇒ The Matunga Railway Station in the Mumbai Division of Central Railway has made it in the Limca Book of Records 2018 for being India's first all-women railway station.
- ⇒ The Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has installed a 5.76 MW rooftop solar power plant at its Petrochemical Complex at Pata in UP as part of India's target to achieve 40 Giga Watts (GW) of rooftop photovoltaics by 2022.

It is India's second largest rooftop solar power plant. World's largest single rooftop solar power plant of 11.5 MW was inaugurated in Beas near Amritsar in Punjab.
- ⇒ Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari recently flagged off the cargo movement through the National Waterway 2, from Pandu in Guwahati to Dhubri in Assam.
- ⇒ Hindi feature film 'Modi Kaka Ka Gaon', loosely inspired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development agenda has been released. The film is produced by Suresh K Jha and directed by Tushar A Goel.
- ⇒ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was recently on a visit to Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore as part of India's Act East Policy.
- ⇒ Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C 40) successfully placed 31 satellites, including 28 foreign satellites into two different orbits from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. It was the 100th launch by ISRO.
- ⇒ Indian Navy's all-women crew 'INSV Tarini' hoisted the tri-colour as a mark of achievement after crossing Cape Horn, Chile. INSV Tarini is on its mission of global circumnavigation tour.
- ⇒ Nepal was totally dependent on India on internet access. But recently Nepal has signed an agreement with China in this regard, ending India's monopoly.
- ⇒ Iceland has become the first country in the world to make it mandatory for both public and private firms to pay equal wages to men and women for same work. Iceland ranked first on the World Economic Forum's global gender equality index.
- ⇒ Archaeologists have found stone tools dating back to the Middle Stone Age on a hill next to Manori beach, north Mumbai. This indicates human habitation in the area 10,000 to 15,000 years ago.
- ⇒ Union Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer to the nation at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. Christened as 'Pratyush', it is the fourth fastest supercomputer in the world dedicated for weather and climate research. It can deliver a peak power of 6.8 petaflops. Petaflop is a unit to measure a computer's processing speed.
- ⇒ Russia and Saudi Arabia are the world's first and second largest producers of crude oil. The USA is expected to surpass them by the end of 2018.
- ⇒ The foundation of Dubai Creek Tower, the world's tallest structure (928 metres, i.e., 3045 feet) has been completed. It is going to be 100 metres taller than Burj Khalifa which has been the world's tallest building since it was built in 2010.
- ⇒ Teesta Rangeet Tourism Festival, a five day festival was held in Darjeeling.
- ⇒ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Dornier 228 has become the first Made in India plane to be used for civilian flights.
- ⇒ The government has refused to allow captive breeding of the Tibetan antelope 'Chiru', whose under-fur is used for making the famous 'shahtoosh' shawls. In recent years, chiru has become endangered due to poaching. Sale and possession of the shawl made from them is banned in India and in many other countries.
- ⇒ IIT Kharagpur has got the National Accreditation Board for Calibration and Testing Laboratories approval. This empowered the IIT Kharagpur to establish its first food testing lab at its campus.
- ⇒ Tamil Nadu's RS Puram Police Station won the award for the best police station in the country in the category of SMART Police Station. The acronym SMART stands for – S : Sensitive and Strict; M : Modern with mobility; A : Alert and Accountable; R : Reliable and Responsive and T : Trained and Techno-savy.
- ⇒ The Assam government has published the part draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) which includes names of 1.9 crore of people of total 3.29 crore people in the State. The complete NRC will be published within 2018. The NRC has been done under the guidance and instruction of the Supreme Court.



EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

Jadavpur : 9433267091, 033-24187224; Dumdum : 9748326310, 033-25483118

- ⇒ India's second Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) is going to be opened in Arunachal Pradesh. The first FTII, an autonomous institute operating under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, was set up in Pune.
- ⇒ A crisis surfaced in the highest judiciary when four senior judges of the Supreme Court openly criticised the functioning of the top court headed by the Chief Justice of India Dipak Mishra. They expressed dissatisfaction over the allocation of cases. Later the Attorney General K K Venugopal said that everything had been settled.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ India has extended a fresh financial assistance of \$ 45 million for upgrading Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour in Northern Sri Lanka into a commercial port.
- ⇒ 'Kachra Mahotsav', the garbage festival was organised by the Raipur Municipal Corporation, Raipur in Chhattisgarh. It was India's first such festival conducted to educate people on how effectively they can manage their waste.
- ⇒ The Telengana government and the Clean Authority of Tokyo signed an MoU in the field of Municipal Solid Waste Incineration Facilities.
- ⇒ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced face authentication as an additional means of Aadhaar authentication along with fingerprint and iris scan.
- ⇒ The first International Dam Safety Conference was held at Kovalam in Kerala. Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) is the name of the software programme launched during the conference.
- ⇒ According to the Amazon India's Annual Reading Trends Report for 2017, Bengaluru has emerged as the most well-read city in India, followed by Mumbai and Delhi.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched the official anthem for 'Bharat Ke Veer', sung and composed by Kailash Kher.
- ⇒ The 238th anniversary of India's first newspaper The Hicky's Bengal Gazette was celebrated. It was founded by James Augustine Hicky and began publication on January 29, 1780.
- ⇒ President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the recommendation of the Election Commission to disqualify 20 MLAs of the Aam Aadmi Party, the ruling party in the national capital, for holding offices of profit.
- ⇒ Valletta, the capital city of Malta has been officially inaugurated as the European City of Culture, 2018.

Books & Authors :

- ⇒ Miss Laila, Armed and Dangerous – Manu Joseph
- ⇒ A Biography of Innovations : From Birth to Maturity – R. Gopalakrishnan
- ⇒ The Shoonyam Quotient – Mickey Mehta
- ⇒ A World of three Zeroes – Mohammad Yunus
- ⇒ Dreamers : How Young Indians Are Changing Their World – Snigdha Poonam.
- ⇒ Dalit Panthers : An Authoritative History – J. V. Pawar
- ⇒ Temporary People – Deepak Unnikrishnan.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Utmost Happiness – Arundhati Roy
- ⇒ Leila – Prayag Akbar
- ⇒ The Small Town Sea – Anees Salim
- ⇒ When I Hit You – Meena Kandasamy
- ⇒ The Black Hill – Mamang Dai
- ⇒ Imperfect – Sanjay Manjrekar
- ⇒ Letters to a Young Philosopher – Ramin Jahanbegloo.
