

## GENERAL AWARENESS- 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 TO 5<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2018

### INDIA CURRENT AFFAIRS

- I4Fund-
  1. The 'I4Fund Call for Proposal' was announced with the joint launch of the website by India and Israel.
  2. The "India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)" was announced in July, 2017
  3. established a 40 million US dollar Fund
- CIPAM-
  1. Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)
- IPrism - invites students to submit films on piracy and counterfeiting under two categories of 30 and 60 seconds
- **Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav)** is an annual flagship event of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India.
- **Sanjay Manjrekar** launched his **autobiography** named '**Imperfect**', in Mumbai
- **India test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-V inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM)**, which has a **strike range of over 5,000km**.
- **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik** has launched the '**Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Jojana**' (**MMKSJ**) – an assistance scheme for Artists in the state. Around 50,000 artists will be benefited from this. The government has decided to give Rs 1,200 per month as artist assistance.
- **Maharashtra** has become **the first state in the country that has come out with a public cloud policy**, virtually mandating its departments to shift their data storage onto the cloud. This move has created a USD 2- billion opportunity for the industry.
- The **fourth edition of the India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**
- **President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled a book** on heartfulness techniques and principles titled '**The Heartfulness Way**'. **Kamlesh D. Patel is the author of this book**.

- **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, announced the 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat' initiative in association with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**
- **The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh** organised the three-day 'Kachra Mahotsav 2018'. It is India's first Garbage Festival.
- **Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat** was appointed as the **next chief election commissioner (CEC)** of India. Mr Rawat is the **22nd CEC** of India. **He succeeded Achal Kumar Joti.**
- **Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel** has been named as the **new governor of Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has got the consent for acquiring controlling stake in fellow PSU **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)**. The transaction will be for Rs36,915 crore.
- **Gol, Uttarakhand, and World Bank Sign \$120 million Loan Agreement for Water Supply in Uttarakhand**
- **Uttar Pradesh Diwas is observed on 24th of January**
- **Indian Overseas Bank** has signed an **MoU with National Housing Bank** for the **Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHIS)**
- An MoU was signed between **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL)** under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, and **M/S IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd** for construction of the 14.150 km long, 2-lane bi-directional **Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir.**
- **India ranks 177 among 180 countries** in the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018**
- **Vodafone India** has partnered with e-commerce marketplace **Flipkart** to provide a range of entry-level smartphones at an effective price of Rs999.
- **Kolkata** has become the **first Indian Metro** to get a Floating Market
- **Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh** launched the release of benefits under '**Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana**' (**MGSVY**) aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.
- **The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur** launched the '**Shakti**' app for women's safety in the state

- **Indian, Vietnamese Armies Hold 1st Military Exercise- VINBAX (in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh)**
- **Oxford Dictionaries has chosen 'Aadhaar' as the Hindi word of 2017**
- **A three-day international bird festival** will be held at the **Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh**
- **Mobile payments company Paytm and Alibaba Group-owned AGTech Holdings Ltd** have formed a joint venture to launch '**Gamepind**' a gaming platform aimed at mobile users in India.
- **Environment Minister Harshvardhan launched a 2.8 PetaFlop capacity high-performance computer system 'Mihir'**
- **Indian Navy launched 'INS Karanj', the third of the six indigenous Scorpene-class submarines**
- **India has overtaken the US** to become the **world's third-largest steel producer** and the country is now looking to bag the second spot from Japan. **Country's crude steel production grew by 6.2% to 101.4 million tonnes, MT**
- **India has slipped to 42nd place** on an annual **Global Democracy Index** according to the data compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). India has moved down from 32nd place last year.
  1. Topped by Norway
  2. The index ranks 165 independent states (167 this year)
- India has pledged multi-year contribution of \$100 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund, earmarked for South-South cooperation
- The Chief of US Air Force, General David L Goldfein flew a sortie in indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- The book "Exam Warriors" authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is released by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at a function in New Delhi. The book aims to inspire youth to face the difficult moments of examinations and life with fresh and new energy. It emphasizes the importance of play, sleep and travel
- The Floating Treatment Wetland (FTW) was inaugurated on World Wetlands Day (February 2) in Nekkampur Lake in Hyderabad to clean and purify the polluted waterbody. Plants planted on FTW can clean the lake by absorbing nitrates and other pollutants in the water
- The Union Government has announced Rs.1.4 lakh-crore Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme for promoting solar farming i.e.

decentralised solar power production of up to 28,250 MW to help farmers. The Union Budget 2018-19 has allocated Rs. 48,000 crore for the scheme for the ten-year period

1. KUSUM scheme will start with building 10,000 MW solar plants on barren lands and providing 1.75 million off-grid agricultural solar pumps
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) signed project agreement with World Bank and for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) i.e. National Waterway-1 on Ganga River from Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) to Haldia (West Bengal). It also inked US \$375 million loan agreement for the project
  - The Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Production) constituted a 17 member task force headed by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran to study use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military. The task force will study the whole gamut of issues surrounding strategic implications of AI in national security perspective, in global context
  - The 7th India Energy Congress (IEC) 2018 was held in New Delhi. The theme for this edition of conference was Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030
  - India has joined Ashgabat Agreement which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf to significantly boost up trade and investment
  - The Maharashtra Government has approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as new wildlife sanctuary in the state.
  - Punjab Government's Department of Agriculture has issued directions to discontinue the sale of 20 pesticides (insecticides) including Endosulfan harmful to health of humans and environment with immediate effect
  - India and Pakistan have extended agreement of Thar Link Express, second solitary rail service between both countries for three more years i.e. till 2021. The Thar Express links Jodhpur (India) and Karachi (Pakistan) via Munabao (Rajasthan)-Khokhrapar (Sindh province) border crossing and carries only passengers
  - Himachal Pradesh Government has launched Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project to promote organic farming
  - The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has issued notification to provide quota to people with autism, mental illnesses, intellectual disability and victims of acid attacks in Central government jobs
  - In case of direct recruitment, 4% of the total number of vacancies, up from existing 3%, in groups A, B and C will be reserved for people with Benchmark disability i.e. person with not less than 40% of a specified disability. The additional 1 % reservation

to existing 3% reservation is as per the provision Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has launched Stree Swabhiman Initiative. Its aim is to create sustainable model for providing adolescent girls and women an access to affordable sanitary products by leveraging Common Service Centres (CSCs)
- India and Lao PDR have signed civil aviation cooperation agreement for providing SkyRev360, a comprehensive e-data gathering, invoicing and collection system
- Rotavac became first Indigenously developed vaccine from India to be pre-qualified by World Health Organisation (WHO). It means that vaccine can be sold internationally to several countries in South America and Africa
- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched beneficiary module (i.e. Phase -1) of Rapid Reporting System (RRS), a web based on line monitoring for Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG)
- SARAS PT1N, the new upgraded version of indigenous transport aircraft SARAS developed by National Aeronautics Laboratory (NAL) successfully made its maiden flight in Bengaluru, Karnataka
  1. SARAS PT1N is a 14-seater passenger aircraft designed and developed by CSIR-NAL, a frontline aerospace research laboratory. The production version aircraft will have 19-seat capacity
- (MoHUA) has launched the 'Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities' in Goa. It has been developed under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban for rating cities on 7-star rating system based on multiple cleanliness indicators for solid waste management
  1. Cities will be rated as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 star based on their compliance with protocol conditions specified for each of rating. City will be given rating of 3 star or above only after it is declared ODF (Open Defecation Free)
  2. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs (MoHUA) launched the Liveability index to rate 116 Indian cities. Liveability index is tool that aims to measure quality of life in 99 smart cities, capital cities and those with a population of over one million. It will be funded by the World Bank and ranking of these cities is expected to be ready by June 2018.
- Manipur Government has launched the Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT), a health assurance scheme for the poor and disabled people
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched official anthem for "Bharat Ke Veer" sung and composed by singer Kailash Kher. Bharat Ke Veer is an initiative with corpus fund to help the families of paramilitary troopers killed in the line of duty. So far, it has raised Rs. 12.93 crore for kin of paramilitary personnel killed in the line of duty

- German auto major Mercedes-Benz has unveiled India's first BS-VI-compliant S Class car produced at its Pune facility.
- Government has approved 2018 as National Year of Millets to boost production of the nutrient-rich millets and the sunrise agri industry involved in it.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended allowing mobile telephony and Internet services for passengers during air travel in country through both satellite and terrestrial network. TRAI's recommendation comes on request of Department of Telecom over proposal to introduce voice, data and video services over Indian airspace for domestic, international and overflying flights in Indian air space
- India's first automatic Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) will be commissioned by March 2018 in Odisha. The project aims to establish fool-proof communication system to address existing gaps in disseminating disaster warning up to community level
- Maharashtra Government has approved Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjivani Yojna, a Rs.4,000-crore project aimed at promoting climate-resilient agriculture. It will be roll out in 2018-19 and continue till 2023-24
- The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has decided to end Haj subsidy from this year as a part of its policy to empower minorities with dignity and with dignity and without appeasement. This decision was taken based on the recommendations of Afzal Amanullah Committee and May 2012 Supreme Court order
- Sikkim Government has allowed people from state to forge fraternal ties with trees
- The Indo-US joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' will be held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle
- As announced in Union Budget 2018, providing Permanent Account Number (PAN) will be mandatory for any entity entering into a financial transaction of Rs 2.5 lakh or more with effect from April 1, 2018.
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** signed a project agreement with World Bank for **Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP)**, aimed at enhancing navigation on National Waterway-1 (NW-1) from Varanasi to Haldia.
- **India's first defence industrial corridor to connect Chennai and Bengaluru**
- Government will build a tunnel through the Sela Pass in Arunachal Pradesh. **Sela pass is located at an elevation of 13700 ft between Tawang and West Kameng districts of Arunachal Pradesh.**

- **Prime Minister-appointed Group of Infrastructure, headed by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** constituted a high-level committee to look into procedures for sharing of infrastructure for utilities like water pipes and telecom cables.  
**Details about the committee:**
  1. **The committee will be headed by telecom secretary**
- **Indian Railways' first high speed electric locomotive which can run at a maximum speed of 120 kmph** will be launched in March 2018. **produced in collaboration with Alstom**
- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the Mahesra Bridge at Sonauli-Gorakhpur National highway. The Mahesra Bridge links Gorakhpur and other eastern Uttar Pradesh districts with Nepal.
- The Jammu and Kashmir government has formed a committee to study the scope and definition of horticulture in Government of India and other states. The committee is **headed by the chief secretary of Jammu Kashmir** Bharat Bhushan Vyas
- **AGTech and Paytm have announced the launch of Gamepind, a mobile platform offering social and casual games.**
- As per **Airpocalypse II, a report by environmental Non-governmental organization (NGO) Greenpeace India**, 47% of the population in India is living in areas where there is no air quality monitoring.
- **The Assam Assembly is to introduce digital budget in its upcoming session, instead of the conventional printed booklet.**
- There has been a drop in Indian School of Business (ISB) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) -Ahmedabad's ranking in this year's **Financial Times London's Global MBA Ranking 2018.**
- ISB, which was ranked 27th in 2017 slipped to 28 in 2018, while IIM Ahmedabad, which was at 29th position last year, is now at 31.
- **IIM-Bangalore improved significantly as it climbed to 35th as compared to 49<sup>th</sup> rank last year.** Similarly, **IIM-Calcutta too improved its position to 95th last year from 78<sup>th</sup> this year.**
- On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** launched the 'Shakti' app that features a panic button, for the safety of woman, in Himachal Pradesh.
- launched the '**GUDDIYA' helpline number 1515** and '**Hoshiyar Singh' helpline number 1090.**
- "**Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After 1998**", a pictorial book, by former Delhi chief minister **Sheila Dikshit has been released.**

- **Union Health Minister, J P Nadda** has stated that his ministry is working to increase the number of AMRIT pharmacy stores by four times (from the existing 111 outlets) by the end of 2018.
- Maharashtra government announced that, it has banned the sale of tobacco at stores that sell Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) items.
- Harman International has named actress Priyanka Chopra as the global brand ambassador for its JBL and Harman Kardon audio brands.
- Odisha Government has won 'Geospatial World Excellence Award-2018' for successful IT application for tracking of mineral production, dispatch and value accrued on real-time basis through its i3MS web-based software
- Uttar Pradesh State Cabinet approved 'one district, one product' scheme to promote products indigenous to every district.

### WORLD CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Romania's left-wing Prime Minister Mihai Tudose resigned after losing the backing of his party due to internal power struggles, barely seven months after his predecessor suffered the same fate.
- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the 3rd edition of the geopolitical conference, 'Raisina Dialogue'**. PM Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the inaugural session of the three-day event.
  1. This year's topic of Raisina Dialogue is '**Managing Disruptive Transitions - Ideas, Institutions and Idioms.**' This is the first time when any foreign head of state has participated in this dialogue.
- **Bangladesh, India and Nepal** have given nod to operating procedures for movement of passenger vehicles in the sub-region **under Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) motor vehicles agreement**.
  1. For seamless flow of passenger and cargo traffic in the region, BBIN motor vehicles agreement (MVA) was signed by the transport ministers of the BBIN countries in Thimphu, Bhutan in June 2015.
- **India and Sri Lanka** signed **four agreements** for collaboration in the Information and communication technology (ICT) sector, setting up of an e-office system and connecting of National Knowledge Network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics.
  1. With the move, **Sri Lanka has become the first country to be connected to India's NKN through a Gigabyte optical fibre network.**

- **Facebook-owned instant messaging platform WhatsApp** has rolled out a **feature that connects small businesses with customers**. Currently, only Android users can access the feature and they can avail of it through the latest update of the app.
- The new feature will be available first in **Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, UK and the US**
- **Valletta, the capital of Malta**, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.
- **The 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial meeting** will be held in **New Delhi in April 2018**.
- WEF Meet- Mr Modi outlined climate change, terrorism and protectionism as three global threats
- **Google Introduces a New App Named "Bulletin"**
- Sweden has signed Strategic Partnership Agreement with United Nations for committing record \$370 million dollars to UN World Food Programme. The contribution is for next four years i.e. 2018-2021
- Britain's fertility regulator Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has allowed doctors to create country's first 'three-parent' babies through mitochondrial donation therapy (or MRT)
- Indian-origin boy Mehul Garg (10) in United Kingdom became youngest applicant in decade to achieve highest score in Mensa IQ test, beating geniuses like Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking. He scored maximum score of 162 to become a member of Mensa. His score is two points higher than Einstein and Hawking
- China has constructed Xian smog tower, an experimental air purifying tower touted to be the world's biggest at height of over 100 meters (328 feet) in an attempt to fight air pollution
- Government of China, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Government of Pakistan have signed a USD 4 million agreement to provide assistance to help the people of Fata and Balochistan region in Pakistan
- **Rwanda has become the first low-income country in the world to provide universal eye care for its 12 million citizens.**
- **Google has announced its deal of USD 1.1 billion with HTC**, and its acquisition of HTC talent.
- Google has launched **"Bulletin" app that allows anyone to submit stories related to their local communities.**

- **Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi** automakers alliance has overtaken Volkswagen as the world's biggest seller of light vehicles in 2017.
- Finland's incumbent President, **Sauli Niinistö** has won second six-year term with an overwhelming **62.7%** of the vote
- **Rachel Morrison has become the first female cinematographer to be nominated for Oscar awards.**
- The Sri Lankan government has announced that, the ban on import of vehicles that are not fitted with air bags and seat belts and below the emission levels as per Euro IV standard, will come to act on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

### APPOINTMENTS

- **Market regulator SEBI** has approved the **appointment of Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of the country's largest agri-commodity bourse NCDEX.**
- **Facebook** has appointed outgoing **American Express CEO Kenneth Chenault to its board**, making him the **first African-American to be on the board.**
- The government appointed senior IAS officer **S Selvakumar as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL).**
- Senior IPS officer **Sudeep Lakhtakia** has been appointed as the **new Director General (DG) of the 'black cats' commando force NSG.**
- **Industry Chamber Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** has appointed **Dilip Chenoy as its Director General**
- ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) director **S Somanath** has taken charge as **the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**
- **Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD and CEO, Allahabad Bank**, has been elected **the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).**
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed senior bureaucrat **Neelam Kapoor as Director General (DG) of the Sports Authority of India**
- Justice **Syed Mahmud Hossain** has been appointed as **Chief Justice of Bangladesh**
- **John Hennessy was appointed as Chairman of Alphabet's Board**

- Thanglura Darlong has been appointed as Indian Ambassador to Romania
- **Indian Olympic Association (IOA) named Vikram Singh Sisodia as the Chef-de-Mission for Commonwealth Games (CWG) that will be held in Gold Coast, Australia from April 4 to 15, 2018.**
- Rajesh Agarwal was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Niger.
- Tsewang Namgyal was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Poland.

## SPORTS

- Khelo India Anthem by Sports Ministry-
  1. Mascot- Vijay the tiger and Jaya the black buck
  2. Now when an athlete wins a medal at Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympics, the coach gets incentive.
- **North and South Korea** have agreed to **march together under a single unified Korea flag** at Winter Olympics in the South.
- **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year** - Virat Kohli (India)
- **ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year** - Steve Smith (Australia)
- **ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year** - Virat Kohli (India)
- **ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year** - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
- **ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year** - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- **ICC Men's T20I Performance of the Year** - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England) (India)
- **David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year** – Marais Erasmus
- **ICC Spirit of Cricket** - Anya Shrubsole (England)
- **ICC Fans Moment of the Year** - Pakistan stuns India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.
- **Virat Kohli was named the captain of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test and One-Day International (ODI) teams of the year** that included four other Indians as well.
- **India beat Pakistan by two wickets to win the Blind Cricket World Cup 2018**
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced, the **2018 edition of the Women's World T20** will be hosted by **West Indies in November 2018.**

- **Young Indian shuttler Siddharth Pratap Singh** secured his maiden international title, bagging the **Swedish Open Junior International Series**
- **Sandeep Lamichhane** became **the first cricketer from Nepal to land a deal an IPL contract**
- **The world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan** has defeated **Saina Nehwal in the finals of the Indonesia Masters in Jakarta**
- **Melbourne Cricket Ground** will host the final of **both the men's and women's World Twenty20** when the tournaments come to **Australia in 2020**.
- **India's leading squash player, Saurav Ghosal** jumped five places to **No. 14** to become **the highest ranked Indian in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings**.
- **Malaysia's Lai Jia Yi** won the **4th edition of International Young Chef Olympiad (YCO) in Kolkata**.
- **M C Mary Kom** won gold medal at the **SpiceJet India Open International Boxing tournament** at the **Thyagraj Indoor Stadium in New Delhi**.
- On **28<sup>th</sup> January 2018**, **Football Delhi** announced that, **Indian football Captain Sunil Chhetri's birthday** will be celebrated as **Delhi's Football Day**.
- **Leander Paes and James Cerretani** have won the **men's doubles title of the Newport Beach Challenger event**, held at **California, United States**.

### **BANKING/ FINANCE**

- **Digital invoice discounting marketplace - Invoicemart** has tied up with **state-run lender Bank of Baroda** to discount invoices for **MSMEs**. Buyers and sellers registered in the marketplace will now be able to access funding from **Bank of Baroda**.
  1. **Invoicemart** is a joint venture between **Axis Bank Ltd and junction services ltd**. **Bank of Baroda** had recently announced that it was stepping up its focus on supply chain financing.
  2. **Invoicemart CEO & MD- Kalyan Basu**.
- **India's most-valued lender HDFC Bank Ltd** crossed **Rs5 trillion market capitalisation for the first time**, making it only the third Indian company to achieve this milestone.

- **Amplus Energy Solutions** announced entering into a pact with **private sector lender Yes Bank** for strategic tie-up to co-finance projects in the solar energy space in India.
- **India Ratings and Research** has projected the **country's economic growth to improve to 7.1 percent in 2018-19 from 6.5 percent in 2017-18**
- **India has joined the Australia Group export control regime and has become the 43rd Member of that Group**
- **Mauritius was the largest source of foreign investment in India** (21.8 per cent share at market value), **followed by the US and the UK**, according to a census by **the Reserve Bank of India**.
- **Banking finance company AU Small Finance Bank** has signed an MoU with **LIC** to offer **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**
- The theme of the WEF Annual Meeting this year is '**Creating a shared future in a fractured world**'.
- **India was ranked at the 62nd place** among emerging economies on an **Inclusive Development Index of World Economic Forum (WEF)**. In the report, China is on 26th position and Pakistan is on 47th.
- **Norway remains the world's most inclusive advanced economy, while Lithuania again tops the list of emerging economies.**
- **India has emerged as the fifth most attractive market** for investments and the optimism over global economic growth is at a record level, as per the survey of CEOs by global consultancy PwC.
- **The US remains the top spot for global investment.**
- **Reliance Industries (RIL) become the first Indian company to cross the Rs6-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation.**
- **The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has made its First investment.** NIIF has **partnered with DP World** to create an investment platform for ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India.
- **India has moved up on a global index of talent competitiveness to the 81st position** in the report that was released in the first day **the 48th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Switzerland has topped the list.**
- **India is ranked second only to South Africa as the cheapest country to live or retire,** according to a recent survey of 112 countries **by GoBankingRates.**

- **Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen** has been elected as the **Vice Chairman of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum**. It is a new organisation set up to enhance business relations between India and the US.
- **India Ranks 6th in the List of Wealthiest Countries**
- **The Central Statistics Office (CSO)** revised the **gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for 2015-16 to 8.2%** from the earlier estimates of 8% and **kept the 2016-17 growth unchanged at 7.1%**
- **CriSidEx, India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises (MSEs)** developed jointly by CRISIL & SIDBI.
- CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of 8 parameters and measures MSE business sentiment on a scale of **0 (extremely negative) to 200 (extremely positive)**.
- The Union Government has inked \$250 Million Loan Agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Improve Rural Connectivity in 5 States
- According to latest survey released by the international rights group Oxfam, richest 1% in India cornered 73% of the wealth generated in country in 2017. The survey shows worrying picture of rising income inequality
- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has made its first investment by partnering with DP World to create \$3-billion investment platform for ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India
- **India's annual financial allocation to Nepal (through Union Ministry of External Affairs) for 2018-19 has nearly doubled to Rs. 650 crore.**

### **Financial Times London's Global MBA Ranking 2018 – Top 5**

1	Stanford Graduate School of Business, US
2	INSEAD, France/Singapore
3	University of Pennsylvania: Wharton, US
4	London Business School, UK
5	Harvard Business School, US

- In a bid to strengthen the existing channels of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) distribution, **Government has allowed Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks to sell APY to their customers.**
- Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank announced that it has entered into an agreement with the National Housing Bank (NHB) for implementation of the **Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHSS)** of Union Ministry of Rural Development. **3% interest subsidy is offered on a loan amount of Rs two lakh for a tenure of 20 years.**
- **Bhopal-based Prodigee Finance Limited** has received Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC-ND) license from Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **'ND' indicates Non-Deposit accepting NBFC.**

### IMPORTANT DAYS

- **The 7th Asia Steel International Conference** will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in February 2018
- **8th National Voters' Day across the country** on 25th January
- The World Cancer Day (WCD) is observed every year on 4 February across the world to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. Its primary goal is to reduce the illness and related deaths by 2020
- The World Wetland Day (WWD) is observed every year on 2 February to raise awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet
- The World Leprosy Day is observed internationally every year on last Sunday of January month to raise global awareness of Leprosy. This year it was observed on 28 January
- **32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela** began on February 2, 2018 in Surajkund, Haryana. It was **inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. UP is the theme state**
- **On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, World Wetlands Day was observed all over the world**
- On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018, **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** was observed all over the world.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, **International Customs Day** was observed all over the world.
- **On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 8th National Voters' Day was observed all over India.**

- On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, National Girl Child Day was celebrated all over India. The first phase of Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls was launched on National Girl Child Day (24 January 2018)

### AWARDS

- Actor Sudhir Dalvi was honoured with the Janakavi P Sawlaram award
- Well-known dancer Jaishree T was bestowed with the Ganga Jamuna award

Category	Winner
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 (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Trapped'
Critics' Award for Best Actor (Female)	Zaira Wasim for 'Secret Superstar'
Best Director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
Best Debut Director	Konkona Sensharma for 'A Death in the Gunj'
Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Meher Vij for 'Secret Superstar'
Best Dialogue	Hitesh Kewalya for 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan'
Best Screenplay	Shubhashish Bhutiani for 'Mukti Bhavan'
Best Original Story	Amit Masurkar for 'Newton'
Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film	Jackie Shroff for 'Khujli'
Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film	Shefali Shah for 'Juice'
People's Choice Award for Best Short Film	'Anahut'
Best Short Film (Fiction)	'Juice'
Best Short Film (Non Fiction)	'Invisible Wings'
Best Music Album	Pritam for 'Jagga Jasoos'
Best Playback Singer (Male)	Arijit Singh for 'Roke na ruke naina' - 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania'

- **Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan** was honoured with the **24th Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Shah Rukh Khan received Crystal award for raising awareness about human rights issues and his work for acid attacks victims**
- **Here's the list of winners of the 60th Grammy Awards.**
  1. **Album Of The Year:** Bruno Mars
  2. **Song of the Year:** Bruno Mars', That's What I Like
  3. **Record Of The Year:** Bruno Mars, 24K Magic
  4. **Best Pop Solo Performance:** Ed Sheeran, Shape of You
  5. **Best Pop Vocal Album:** Ed Sheeran, Divide
  6. **Best Dance Recording:** LCD Soundsystem, Tonite
  7. **Best Music Film:** The Defiant Ones
  8. **Best Children's Album:** Feel What U Feel, Lisa Loeb
  9. **Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media:** La La Land
  10. **Producer of the Year, Classical:** David Frost



### Here is the complete list of Winners of Australian Open:

S.No.	Category	Winner
1.	<b>Men's Singles</b>	Roger Federer (Switzerland)
2.	<b>Women's Singles</b>	Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)
3.	<b>Men's Doubles</b>	Oliver Marach (Austria) Mate Pavic(Croatia)
4.	<b>Women's Doubles</b>	Kristina Mladenovic (France) Tímea Babos (Hungary)
5.	<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) Mate Pavic (Croatia)

- **Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle** will be given the '**Yash Chopra Memorial Award**'.
- **Shabnam Asthana** was awarded the '**Times Power Women of the Year 2017**
- Magahi writer **Shesh Anand Madhukar** was honoured with **Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman** award.

- Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee (83) was awarded France's highest civilian award, Legion d'Honneur
- India's highest peacetime military decoration Ashok Chakra (31) posthumously to Indian Air Force (IAF) Garud commando Corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala. He had laid down his life after gunning down two terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir
- President Ram Nath Kovind has felicitated 112 exceptional women achievers at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. These women achievers 'FIRST LADIES' are those who are first to set milestone of achievement in their respective fields. This 'First Ladies' is second leg of the '100 Women Achievers' campaign of the Ministry
- Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust in Odisha has won prestigious United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Award for Innovation in Tourism Enterprise at 14th UNWTO Awards ceremony held in Madrid, Spain
- **Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma won the Maybank Championship, at the Saujana Golf and Country Club, in Malaysia.**

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- **TReDS stands for** Trade Receivables Discounting System.
- **The world's oldest man Francisco Nunez Olivera** has died just over a month after celebrating his 113th birthday.