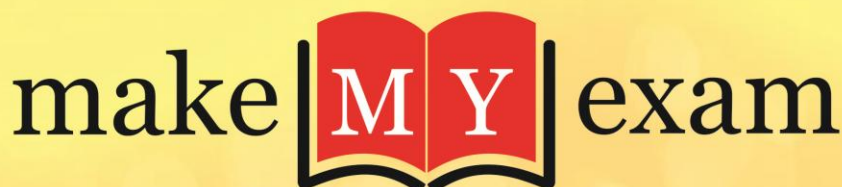


Monthly Current Affairs

1st December - 31th December, 2017



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Banking & Finance**1. Corporation Bank launches RuPay credit cards:**

- ✦ Corporation Bank has launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards.
- ✦ Personal accident insurance of Rs 10 lakh and Rs 2 lakh will be offered on RuPay Select Credit Card and RuPay Platinum Credit Card respectively.

2. RBI keeps Repo Rate unchanged:

- ✦ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the Repo Rate unchanged at 6% under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF).
- ✦ In its 5th bimonthly policy review for the financial year 2017-18, the Central Bank has maintained the status quo so as to achieve the medium-term inflation target of 4% within a band of +/- 2%.
- ✦ The Reverse Repo Rate has remained 5.75 % under LAF.

3. Government engages ICICI Bank for cashless payment on e-Nam:

- ✦ The Government has chosen India's largest private sector lender ICICI to enable online payments at 470 mandis integrated with the portal of e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).
- ✦ At present, the payments are done through bank branches, debit cards and net banking.
- ✦ With this, ICICI Bank will enable BHIM and UPI on the e-NAM portal for making cashless payments.

4. Allahabad Bank and United Bank of India to issue ESOP plan:

- ✦ Public sector lenders Allahabad Bank and United Bank of India have started the process of making employees as stakeholders by issuing employee stock option (ESOP).
- ✦ The step has been taken as a part of capital raising plan.

5. India to host 3rd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB:

- ✦ India will host the 3rd edition of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Mumbai, Maharashtra in June 2018.
- ✦ The theme for this year will be 'Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration'.

6. Government signs \$250 million loan agreement with World Bank for SANKALP:

- ✦ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will provide a loan of US \$250 million for the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project to support livelihood.
- ✦ For this, the Union Government has signed an agreement with the World Bank.
- ✦ The project aims to enhance the skills, training and quality for the work force.

7. ADB forecast India's GDP as 6.7% for 2018:

- ✦ The Asian Development Bank has lowered India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal year by 0.3% to 6.7% due to demonetization and large scale tax reforms.
- ✦ It has also anticipated the GDP for the next fiscal year to 7.3% due to rising global crude oil prices.

8. Government extends deadline to link Aadhaar with bank accounts till 31st March 2018:

- ✦ The Union Government has extended the deadline for linking Aadhaar with the bank accounts to 31st March, 2018 or 6 months from the date of activation of account, whichever is later.
- ✦ Earlier, 31st December was the deadline.

9. Government to introduce first tranche of Bank Recapitalisation Bonds:

- ✦ The Union Government is going to bring first tranche of Rs 1.35 lakh crore bank recapitalization bonds in the upcoming batch of Supplementary Demand for Grants during the winter session of the Parliament.
- ✦ Non-Performing Assets of banks has increased from Rs 2.75 lakh crore in March 2015 to Rs 7.33 lakh crore in June 2017.

10. Government directs NGO's to open account in designated banks integrated with PMFS:

- ✦ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the FCRA, 2010 has directed all the NGOs receiving foreign funds to open accounts in any of the 32 designated banks within one month.
- ✦ These accounts will be integrated with Central Government's Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

11. Small saving interest reduced by 0.2%:

- ✦ The Government has cut down the interest rate on small savings schemes such as Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) by 0.2% for the January-March quarter.
- ✦ The saving account interest rate and Senior Citizen Saving scheme remains at 4% and 8.3% respectively.

12. World Bank to provide loan for UP Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project:

- ✦ The Union Government has signed a loan agreement of \$40 million with the World Bank for the Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project.
- ✦ The 5 year long project will cost approximately \$57.14 million, of which \$40 million will be given by the World Bank and the rest of the amount will be funded out of the state budget.

13. SEBI tightens the norms for credit rating agencies and mutual funds:

- ✦ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has tightens the norms for credit rating agencies and mutual funds to reduce the conflict of interest.
- ✦ It has increased the net worth of the rating agencies from 5 to 25 crores.
- ✦ It has also made it mandatory for the promoter entity to maintain at least 25% stake in the rating agency for a period of 3 years.

National News.

1. Government launches National Strategic Plan and Mission SAMPARK:

- ✦ With an aim to eradicate AIDS by 2030, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the National Strategic Plan 2017-24 on the occasion of World AIDS Day (1st December).
- ✦ Mission SAMPARK was also launched to find individuals who are left to follow up and will be brought under Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART).

2. UP, first state to endorse Triple Talaq Draft Bill:

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to endorse the Centre's draft bill that considers instant triple talaq a cognizable and non-bailable offence.
- ✦ According to the draft bill, a Muslim man, if found guilty of giving divorce to his wife by uttering talaq three times, will have to face imprisonment for three years and fine.

3. 12th Annual Convention of CIC inaugurated:

- ✦ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the 12th Annual Convention of Central Information Commission at VigyanBhawan in New Delhi.
- ✦ The specific agenda of the convention was to maintain transparency and accountability by the Government.

4. Andhra Pradesh Assembly passes Kapu Reservation Bill:

- ✦ The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed Kapu Reservation Bill, 2017 to provide 5% quota to Kapu community in education and employment.
- ✦ Kapu community has been included in the Backward Class list.
- ✦ With this, the total reservation in the state reaches to 55%, beyond the 50% limit set by the Supreme Court for reservations.

5. MP passes a bill for Death Penalty for raping girls aged 12 or less:

- ✦ The Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh has unanimously passed a bill for awarding death sentence to those found guilty of raping girls aged 12 or less.
- ✦ With this step, Madhya Pradesh has become the first state of India to frame such a law.

6. National Commission for Minorities sets up committee to look into Minority status for Hindus:

- ✦ A 3-member committee has been set up by the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to consider the matter of giving minority status to Hindus in 8 states where their population is less than 50%.
- ✦ George Kurien, the Vice Chairman of NCM will be the head of the committee.
- ✦ The committee will submit its report in three months.
- ✦ According to 2011 census, Hindus are in minority in eight states: Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Punjab.

7. Health Ministry and Rotary India sign MoU for Immunization:

- ✦ With an aim to achieve the immunization target, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Rotary India National Polio Plus have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ✦ The MoU aims to intensify the efforts under Polio Eradication Programme, routine immunization including Mission Indradhanush and Intensified Mission Indradhanush.

8. UP's Shamli becomes 23rd district to be included in National Capital Region:

- ✦ Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh has become 23rd district to be included in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- ✦ With this, the NCR now includes 13 districts from Haryana, 8 districts from UP and 2 districts from Rajasthan.

9. Aircraft Museum inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh:

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind is on a 2-day visit to Andhra Pradesh to inaugurate an Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam.

10. MSME Sambandh: Public Procurement Portal for MSMEs launched:

- ✦ With an aim to monitor the implementation of public procurement from MSMEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has launched a new portal 'Sambandh'.
- ✦ The new portal will help the Ministry and CPSEs to assess their performance in the procurement process according to the Procurement Policy, 2012.

11. Bodhi Parva held in New Delhi:

- ✦ Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of BIMSTEC, India hosted the 'Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC festival of Buddhist Heritage' at New Delhi.
- ✦ The festival has showcased the International and Indian Buddhist art and architecture.

12. Kacheguda: India's first energy efficient railway station:

- ✦ Kacheguda railway station in Hyderabad has become the first energy efficient railway station in the country.
- ✦ The station has achieved 100% energy efficient status by replacing 1312 conventional lights with light emitting diode.

13. Bihar Government launches Safe City Surveillance Scheme:

- ✦ With an aim to control crime against women, the Government of Bihar has launched Safe City Surveillance Scheme.
- ✦ Under the scheme, all the major public places will be monitored under the close circuit television (CCTV) cameras. These cameras will be connected to the control room and monitored by the police round the clock.

14. West Bengal Government launches Life insurance scheme for pilgrims:

- ✦ West Bengal Government has launched a life insurance scheme of Rs.5 lakh for the pilgrims visiting the state for the upcoming Gangasagar Fair, the second biggest pilgrimage fair after Kumbh.
- ✦ The premium will be taken care of by the State Government.
- ✦ Around five to six lakh pilgrims will attend the fair on the occasion of MakarSankranti during the second week of January.

15. India's only ISO 9000 certified home in Chennai:

- ✦ The Surana family in Chennai has acquired an ISO 9000 certification for their home.
- ✦ This is the one and only ISO 9000 certified home in Chennai.

16. World Telegu Conference in Hyderabad:

- ✦ The World Telegu Conference will be hosted by the Telangana Government from 15th to 19th December.
- ✦ President Ram NathKovind will be the Chief Guest at the valedictory function of the event.

17. Government to provide Rs. 174 crore to six states for border development:

- ✦ The Union Home Ministry has decided to provide Rs. 174 crore to six states which shares international borders under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP).
- ✦ The programme will cover all the villages which are located within 10 kilometers of the international border in 17 states.

- ✦ The beneficiary states will be Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur.

18. Rajasthan becomes first state to provide e-mail IDs in Hindi:

- ✦ Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to provide free email addresses in Hindi for its residents.
- ✦ The aim of this step is to ensure and enhance the people participation towards e-governance and ensure that people must avail maximum government facilities in vernacular language.

19. Tripura Government introduces child care leave for women employees:

- ✦ The Government of Tripura has launched Child Care Leave (CCL) for women employees with minor children for 730 days in their entire service life.
- ✦ The Child Care Leave will be granted to the women employees of the state having children less than 18 years for maximum period of 730 days in the entire service life.

20. Cabinet approval for National Medical Commission Bill:

- ✦ In order to introduce medical education reforms, the Union Cabinet has approved the National Medical Commission Bill 2017.
- ✦ The new bill will replace the Medical Council Act 1956.
- ✦ The bill aims to eradicate corruption and unethical practices in the medical sector.
- ✦ It will replace the Medical Council of India (MCI) with National Medical Council (NMC) to ensure transparency. NMC will have 25 members.

21. NITI Ayog launches ATL Community Day:

- ✦ National Institute of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog' Atal Innovation Mission has launched Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) day in New Delhi.
- ✦ The day aims to provide 25 young mentors to more than 200 students who are not enrolled in the formal education sector.

22. Cabinet approves North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme:

- ✦ With an aim to develop infrastructure in North East, the Union Cabinet has approved North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme from 2017-18.
- ✦ It will be entirely funded by the Central Government to create infrastructure in specified sectors till 2020.
- ✦ The scheme will focus upon the Physical infrastructure that includes water supply, power and tourism and Social infrastructure including health and education.

23. New Rules for MDR charges:

- ✦ The Union Cabinet has declared that the Government will borne the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on transactions up to Rs 2000 made through

debit cards, BHIM UPI or Aadhaar-enabled payment system to promote digital transactions.

24. Cabinet approval for agreement with UNESCO on the establishment of ITCOO in Hyderabad:

- ✦ The Government has given approval to establish the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOO) as a category-2 centre of UNESCO in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✦ The training centre has been established with a purpose to develop capacity for countries on the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR), African countries bordering Indian and Atlantic Ocean under the framework of UNESCO.

25. Exhibition of rare coins in Pune:

- ✦ An exhibition of rare coins will be conducted in Pune from 15th-17th December with the name 'Coinex Pune 2017'.
- ✦ In this exhibition, Lifetime achievement award will be presented to ArvindAthavale and Ran Vijay Singh, the two well-known coin collectors.

26. Third World Telugu Conference begins in Hyderabad:

- ✦ The third edition of the World Telugu Conference has been organized in Hyderabad to promote the rich heritage and culture associated with the language and its literature.
- ✦ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has formally inaugurated the conference.

27. Cabinet approves continuation of National AYUSH Mission:

- ✦ The Union Cabinet has given approval to continue National AYUSH Mission (NAM), a centrally sponsored scheme from April 2017 to March 2020.
- ✦ NAM was launched in 2014 to provide cost-effective universal access to AYUSH services.

28. Meghalaya launches India's first social audit law:

- ✦ The Government of Meghalaya has launched 'The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017'.
- ✦ With this, Meghalaya has become the first state in the country to do so.
- ✦ The law will make the social audit of Government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.

29. Eastern India's first CNG station inaugurated in Odisha:

- ✦ Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, DharmendraPradhan has inaugurated the eastern India's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations for scooters in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ✦ The CNG station is a part of GAIL's PradhanMantriUrja Ganga and City Gas Distribution project in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

30. Power Finance Corporation to help 100 divyaang children under CSR:

- ✦ The Power Finance Corporation, under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), has decided to help 100 children under 6 years of age with hearing disability.
- ✦ Under this, it will help the children under the Cochlear Implant Scheme of the Government of India.

31. Prime Minister inaugurates 60 MW Tuirial Hydro Power Project in Aizwal:

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 60 MW Tuirial hydropower project in Aizwal, Mizoram.
- ✦ It is the Central Government's first large hydropower project to be commissioned in Mizoram.
- ✦ With this, Mizoram has become the third power surplus state in North-East after Sikkim and Tripura.

32. Andhra Pradesh Government approves schemes for transgenders:

- ✦ The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved a scheme to provide a number of facilities to the transgenders.
- ✦ Under the scheme, a pension of Rs 1,500 will be provided.
- ✦ They will also be provided skill development, ration cards, plots and scholarships.
- ✦ They will also be entitled to apply for loans and special toilets will be built in public places like malls and cinema halls.

33. India's first National and Transportation University at Vadodara:

- ✦ The Union Cabinet has sanctioned the proposal of Railway Ministry to establish the first ever National Rail and Transport University in Vadodara to enhance the human resources and build capability.
- ✦ The first academic programme is expected to be launched in July 2018.

34. Methanol Economy Fund:

- ✦ NITI Aayog is going to establish a Methanol Economy Fund to promote the production and use of clean fuel.
- ✦ The fund worth Rs 4000-5000 crore will be utilized for producing cheaper, safer and pollution free methanol fuel by converting high ash content coal and stranded gas assets into methanol.

35. Strive Project:

- ✦ India has signed financial agreement with the World Bank for International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$125 million for Skill Strengthening and for the Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project.
- ✦ The project will include improved teaching and learning to impart quality and market driven vocational training and apprenticeships.

36. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project gets environmental clearance:

- ✦ The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has given the environmental clearance for Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) in Telangana.
- ✦ The project, costing Rs. 80,499 crores is the costliest irrigation project to be taken up by any state in the country.

37. Project DARPAN launched:

- ✦ With an aim to improve the financial inclusion of the rural India, the Union Ministry of Communications has launched Project DARPAN (The Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India).
- ✦ It is an IT modernization project that aims to realizing financial inclusion of un-banked rural population.

38. Government launches Ganga Gram Project:

- ✦ With an aim to provide all round sanitation development in the villages on the banks of River Ganga, Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched Ganga Gram Project at the Ganga Gram SwachataSammelan in New Delhi.
- ✦ The Project has been launched under the Clean Ganga Programme also known as NamamiGangaProgramme.

39. UP assembly passes a bill for death penalty for illegal liquor trade:

- ✦ The Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh has passed a bill to award death penalty and life imprisonment to those indulge in spurious liquor if its consumption leads to any death.
- ✦ The Uttar Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Bill 2017, provides for death penalty, life imprisonment and fine up to Rs 10 Lakh and not less than Rs 5 Lakh in case of death caused due to consumption of spurious liquor.

40. Indian Economic Association Summit held in Hyderabad:

- ✦ President Ram NathKovind has inaugurated the Indian Economic Association Summit at the AcharyaNagarjuna University in Hyderabad.

41. Odisha: Champion State for exports:

- ✦ The Central Government has recognized Odisha as a Champion State for achieving the highest growth in exports during 2016-17.
- ✦ The state has witnessed a growth of 17.60 % in terms of shipments.

42. India's first Runway on Sea Bridge to be built at Agatti Airport:

- ✦ The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has given approval to extend Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport. With this, India will get its first runway on a sea bridge soon.

43. Government launches e-HRMS:

- ✦ On the occasion of Good Governance Day (25th December), the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has launched the electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS).
- ✦ The e-HRMS launch is a part of Government's goal of minimum government, maximum governance.

44. PM inaugurates Delhi Metro's Magenta Line:

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the Magenta Line of Delhi Metro.
- ✦ The Magenta line which is a 12.6 km long stretch between Delhi's Kalkaji Mandir and Noida's Botanical Garden, is equipped with communication-based train control technology.

45. India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard BND-4201 launched:

- ✦ India Government Mint (IGM) has launched India's first home grown high purity gold reference standard- Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201).
- ✦ The BND-4201 is reference material for gold of '9999' fineness (gold that is 99.99% pure with impurities of only 100 parts per million).

46. Bengaluru: 1st city to get its own logo:

- ✦ Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to have its own logo.
- ✦ The logo is 'Bengaluru-Be U'.
- ✦ With this, Bengaluru has joined the cities like New York, Melbourne and Singapore to have its own tourism logo.

47. Odisha Government to split tourism and cultural department:

- ✦ With an aim to promote Odia language by setting up an Odia Language Commission, the Government of Odisha has decided to separate the tourism and culture department.
- ✦ The Government has also decided to set up a "Heritage Cabinet" which will take the necessary steps to preserve the rich culture, language and literature of the state.

48. Uttar Pradesh Government launches "Prakashai to vikashai" Scheme:

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Government has launched a free household power connection scheme "Prakashai to vikashai".
- ✦ The scheme was launched on the occasion of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayi's birthday.

- ✦ Under the scheme, the Government has set a target of covering 16 million people by the end of 2018.
- ✦ Initially, two villages Lohban and Gausana in the Mathura district have been chosen for 100% electrification.

49. Lok Sabha passes GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017:

- ✦ Lok Sabha has passed the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017.
- ✦ This bill will amend the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 and replace an ordinance promulgated in September 2107.

50. President inaugurates Fiber Grid Project:

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Fiber Grid Project.
- ✦ The Project aims to provide affordable high speed internet service to every household in the state at a nominal rate.
- ✦ The Project, also known as Triple Play2 Services will provide internet, television and telephone services to more than one lakh households in the state.

51. Lok Sabha passes Triple Talaq Bill:

- ✦ The Lok Sabha has passed the Muslim Women (protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill 2017.
- ✦ The bill declares instant triple talaq illegal and prescribes three years of imprisonment for the husband.
- ✦ It makes triple talaq (either in written or electronic form) as illegal and void.

52. Indian History Congress at Kolkata:

- ✦ 78th edition of the Indian History Congress was held at the Jadavpur University in Kolkata.
- ✦ The 3 day congress aims to promote the scientific study of Indian History and publishing historic memorials.

53. Government launches Livestock Disease Forewarning Mobile App:

- ✦ Livestock Disease Forewarning- Mobile Application has been launched by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in New Delhi.
- ✦ The app will be helpful for consumers and stakeholders indulge in the disease control programmes as the app will provide early disease warning and information about clinical samples for diagnosis in case of epidemics.

International News & Foreign Affairs**1. BIMSTEC members discuss draft text of Coastal Shipping Agreement:**

- ✦ With an aim to boost trade between the member countries through facilitating coastal shipping, the first meeting of the Working Group of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was recently held.
- ✦ The member countries have discussed the draft text of BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement.
- ✦ The agreement has been drafted by Indian Ministry of Shipping.

2. Japan will host the Ministerial meeting of UNSC:

- ✦ Japan is going to host a ministerial meeting of the United Nations Security Council on 15th December.
- ✦ The aim of the meeting is to find peaceful ways to put pressure on North Korea to halt its nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

3. Inauguration of the 1st phase of Chabaharport in Iran:

- ✦ Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has inaugurated the 1st phase of Chabahar port in Iran.
- ✦ This port will be utilized as a transit route between India, Iran and Afghanistan.

4. Venezuela launches new virtual currency 'Petro':

- ✦ Venezuela has launched its own crypto-currency 'Petro' to circumvent US-led financial sanctions.
- ✦ The currency is expected to help the country to advance in issue of monetary sovereignty.

5. US withdraws from UN Global Compact on Migration:

- ✦ The United States has withdrawn from UN Global Compact on Migration.
- ✦ The present Donald Trump Administration has given an official statement that the Obama led previous Government's stand is inconsistent with the country's immigration and refugee policies.

6. UAE and Saudi Arabia separate from GCC:

- ✦ The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have recently formed a new economic group named Joint Cooperation Committee, separating from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- ✦ This step has been taken as half of the member countries of GCC have boycotted Qatar accusing it for supporting and funding terrorism.

7. India, China and Russia to hold trilateral meeting:

- ✦ According to the External Affairs Ministry, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov are expected to visit India to attend a trilateral meeting.
- ✦ The meeting is expected to review the global as well as regional issues of utmost importance along with the discussions on trilateral exchanges and activities.

8. Saudi Crown Prince wins poll for TIME Person of the year:

- ✦ Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman has won the reader's poll for the TIME's Person of the Year 2017 award.
- ✦ He secured 24% votes with #Me Too movement against sexual assault and harassment.

9. Russia banned from 2018 Winter Olympics:

- ✦ The International Olympic Committee has banned Russia to participate in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
- ✦ The decision has been taken due to Russia's orchestrated doping programme.
- ✦ However, some Russian athletes will be allowed to participate in the event under Olympic flag.
- ✦ The IOC has also banned Russia's deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko for lifetime from having any involvement in the Olympic Games.

10. India and Cuba signs MoU in Health Sector:

- ✦ The Governments of India and Cuba have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for increasing mutual cooperation in the health sector.
- ✦ The MoU aims to provide training to doctors, health care professionals and experts and developing human resources.
- ✦ It also aims to regulate pharmaceuticals, medical devices and exchange of information in the concerned field.

11. India becomes new member of Wassenaar Arrangement:

- ✦ Multilateral export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement has decided to admit India as its new member.
- ✦ With this, India has become the 42nd member of the regime.
- ✦ Wassenaar Arrangement along with NSG, MTCR and Australian Group, regulate the conventional, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and technologies.

12. Russia to build Egypt's first nuclear power plant:

- ✦ A deal has been signed between Russia and Egypt for building the first nuclear power plant of Egypt. The project is expected to be completed by 2028-2029.

13. First 2+2 Dialogue between India and Australia:

- ✦ The first 2+2 dialogue between India and Australia was recently held in New Delhi.

- ✦ The dialogue which aims to highlight the need to maintain Asia-Pacific region as a free and open zone, included the foreign and defence secretaries of both the countries.

14. China opens World's largest automated container terminus:

- ✦ China has started the trial operations of world's largest automated container terminal at Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai.
- ✦ The system will be used at the port to maintain safety and efficiency.

15. 7th International Ground Water Conference held in New Delhi:

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has organized the 7th edition of International Ground Water Conference in New Delhi from 11th to 13th December 2017.
- ✦ The theme of the conference was- 'Ground water vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges and Climate Change Adaptation'.

16. World's first camel hospital in Dubai:

- ✦ With an to conduct research and development of camel medicine, a hospital exclusively for camels has recently opened in Dubai.
- ✦ This hospital has the operating theatres, state-of-the-art medical equipment and a mini race track.

17. 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue in New Delhi:

- ✦ India hosted the 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue in New Delhi.
- ✦ India's Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar, Australia's Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade Frances Adamson and Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Shinsuke J. Sugiyama participated in the dialogue.
- ✦ The three sides confirmed their commitment for the peace and economic growth of the Indo-Pacific region and their support for ASEAN.

18. WHO declares Gabon as polio free:

- ✦ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Gabon, a Central African country as a polio free country.
- ✦ The status has been accorded due to lack of new reported or suspected cases in the country.
- ✦ Now Polio is endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

19. Saudi Arabia allows women to drive:

- ✦ Ending the ban on women driving, Saudi Arabia has allowed women to drive trucks and motorcycles.
- ✦ King Salman in September, issued an order according to which women will be able to drive from next June as a part of an ambitious reform push in the Kingdom.

20. World's steepest funicular railway line opens in Switzerland:

- ✦ World's steepest funicular railway line has been opened in Switzerland.
- ✦ The railway line is 1300 meters above the sea level.

21. India will host the WTO member countries meeting on food security:

- ✦ India is going to host the meeting of World Trade Organisation (WTO) member countries in 2018 to discuss food security and other critical issues including investment facilitation, e-commerce, gender equality and reducing subsidy on fisheries.

22. India: Country with the largest diaspora population in the world- UN Report:

- ✦ According to the UN World Migration Report released by the International Organisation for Migration, India has the largest diaspora population in the world.
- ✦ As per the report, more than 15.6 million Indian people live overseas.

23. India and Sri Lanka finish the 2nd phase of joint oceanographic survey:

- ✦ Indian and Sri Lankan Navy have successfully completed the second phase of joint oceanographic survey conducted off the South Western Coast of Sri Lanka.
- ✦ The survey aims to update all the navigational charts covering the southern Sri Lankan waters with the latest hydrographic data.

24. France imposes ban on oil and gas production:

- ✦ The Parliament of France has passed a bill prohibiting all the exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within the country and its territories.
- ✦ Under this, the existing drilling permits will not be renewed and new exploration licenses will not be granted.

28. 'Youthquake'- word of the year:

- ✦ Youthquake has been declared by the Oxford Dictionary as the word of the year.
- ✦ The dictionary defines the word as a significant cultural, political or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people.

29. India-Switzerland Agreement on Tax Info:

- ✦ Indian Government has signed an agreement with Switzerland that would allow the automatic sharing of tax-related information.
- ✦ The agreement was signed by the CBDT Chairman Sushil Chandra and Swiss Ambassador to India Andreas Baum in New Delhi.

30. President of Cuba Raul Castro to step down in 2018:

- ✦ The President of Cuba, Raul Castro will step down in April 2018.

- ✦ The elections will take place on 19th April.

31. Trilateral talks between China, Afghanistan and Pakistan start in Beijing:

- ✦ The first ever trilateral China, Afghanistan and Pakistan Foreign Minister's dialogue was recently conducted in Beijing.
- ✦ The 3 countries have agreed to enhance cooperation for counter-terrorism operations.

32. India: Largest importer of LPG in the World:

- ✦ LPG imports in India has reached 2.4 million tons in December, surpassing the Chinese imports (2.3 million tons).
- ✦ With this, India has become the largest importer of LPG in the World.

33. India and Afghanistan launches 2nd Air Cargo route:

- ✦ The second air cargo route between India and Afghanistan, linking Kabul to Mumbai was officially inaugurated at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.
- ✦ The first air corridor between the two countries, linking Kabul to New Delhi was inaugurated in June 2017.

34. Anti-Dumping Duty on Chinese Antibiotic:

- ✦ The Union Government (Ministry of Commerce) has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on the Chinese antibiotics.
- ✦ The decision has been taken as the domestic industry is suffering from huge losses due to this dumping.

35. China Successfully tested its first Photovoltaic road:

- ✦ China has successfully tested its first photovoltaic highway.
- ✦ The solar highway has the wireless charging system for electric vehicles.
- ✦ With this, China has become second country in the world to construct a photovoltaic highway after France which has done the same in 2016.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. A Surya Prakash reappointed as PrasarBharati Chief:

- ✦ The Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry has reappointed A Surya Prakash as the Chairperson of PrasarBharati till 2020.

2. AnshuPrakash appointed as Delhi Chief Secretary:

- ✦ Senior IAS officer (1986 batch) Anshu Prakash has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of the Delhi Government.

3. Yuvraj Singh launches UNICEF-ICC's Adolescent Campaign:

- ✦ Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh has launched the 'Power of Sports to shape the Future of Adolescents' campaign in South Asia.
- ✦ Through this, he will promote UNICEF sports initiative for young players in the region with support from the ICC.

4. Mamta Kalia chosen for Vyas Samman 2017:

- ✦ Renowned Hindi writer Mamta Kalia has been chosen for Vyas Samman for her novel 'Dukham Sukham'.
- ✦ She was selected by the selection committee headed by renowned author Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.

5. Rahul Gandhi: New President of Congress:

- ✦ Rahul Gandhi has been elected as the new Congress President.
- ✦ Elected unopposed, he has succeeded his mother Sonia Gandhi, who has held the top post for a considerable period of 19 years.

6. Jitesh Singh Deo becomes Mr India 2017:

- ✦ Jitesh Singh Deo has been declared as the Mr India 2017.
- ✦ Indian Footballer Prathamesh Maulingkar won the title of Mr India Supranational.

7. 3 astronauts return to Earth after 139 days:

- ✦ NASA's Randy Bresnik, ESA's Paolo Nespoli and Roscosmos' Sergey Ryazanskiy have landed in Kazakhstan after spending 139 days aboard the International Space Station.

8. Manish Dawar: New CFO of Vodafone India:

- ✦ Manish Dawar has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of Vodafone India.
- ✦ He has succeeded Thomas Reisten.

9. Sebastian Pinera becomes new President of Chile:

- ✦ Sebastian Pinera, a billionaire businessman has won the Chile's presidency by defeating his opponent Alejandro Guillier.

10. Justice Salvi appointed as the Officiating Chief of the NGT:

- ✦ Justice UD Salvi has been appointed as the officiating chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) following the superannuation of Justice Swatantar Kumar.

11. Samiran Panda- New NARI Chief:

- ✦ India's renowned scientist and pioneer in the AIDS research programme, Dr Samiran Panda has been appointed as the Director of National AIDS Research Institute (NARI).
- ✦ He will succeed Dr RR Gangakhedkar.

12. KumiNaidoo: New Secretary General of Amnesty International:

- ✦ KumiNaidoo has been appointed as the new Secretary General of Amnesty International.
- ✦ The South African Human Rights activist will succeed Salil Shetty from India in August 2018.

13. Jairam Thakur: New CM of Himachal Pradesh:

- ✦ As BJP has come in power in Himachal Pradesh, its veteran leader Jairam Thakur has been appointed as the Chief Minister of the State.
- ✦ He has served five times as an MLA in the state.

14. Belgium becomes first country to appoint female envoy to Saudi Arabia:

- ✦ Dominique Minuer has been appointed as the envoy of Belgium to Saudi Arabia.
- ✦ With this, Belgium has become the first country in the world to appoint a female diplomat as its ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

15. BCCI appoints Saba Karim as General Mnager:

- ✦ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed the former Indian wicket-keeper Saba Karim as the General Manager, Cricket Operations.
- ✦ Karim will take charge from 1st January 2018 and will be responsible for implementing operational plans, budgeting, monitoring the playing conditions for the match and the administration of the domestic programme.

16. Abhay: New DG of Narcotics Control Bureau:

- ✦ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Senior IPS officer Abhay as the Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- ✦ Currently he is working in CRPF.

17. Sumita Misra- Joint Secretary in PM-EAC:

- ✦ 1990 batch IAS officer Sumita Misra has been appointed as the Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PM-EAC) for 5 years.
- ✦ Bibek Debroy is the Chairman of the Council.

18. Amardeep Singh appointed as Director of SFIO:

- ✦ 1993 batch senior IAS officer Amardeep Singh Bhatia has been appointed as the new Director of the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- ✦ SFIO is the coordinating agency with the Income Tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

19. George Weah to become the new President of Liberia:

- ✦ George Weah will be the next President of Liberia.
- ✦ It will be the first independently run election since the end of its continuous civil wars.

Books & Author

1. Vinita Deshmukh's new book 'Grieving to Healing' released:

- ✦ Journalist, RTI activist and author Vinita Deshmukh has recently released her book titled 'Grieving to Healing' in Pune.

Defence & Science

1. Akash missile successfully test fired:

- ✦ The Surface to Air Akash missile with indigenous radio frequency seeker was successfully test fired against the target UAV Banshee.
- ✦ It was the first supersonic surface to air missile with indigenous seeker.

2. International Solar Alliance becomes Treaty-based International Intergovernmental Organisation:

- ✦ Indian brainchild International Solar Alliance (ISA) has become treaty-based International Intergovernmental Organisation.
- ✦ With this, ISA has become the first treaty based international government organization to be based in India. 46 countries have signed the treaty so far.
- ✦ ISA was jointly launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of France, Francois Hollande in 2015 in Paris on the sidelines of COP-21 of UN Climate Conference.

3. Flag4: Joint Military Exercise between US, UK, France and UAE:

- ✦ A two week exercise named 'Flag4' has recently been conducted in Abu Dhabi.
- ✦ Armed forces of US, UK, France and UAE have participated in the exercise.

4. India's first mobile food testing lab launched:

- ✦ India's first mobile food testing laboratory providing on the spot food safety test facility has been launched in Goa.
- ✦ It was launched by ManoharParrikar.
- ✦ This is the first ever 'Food Safety on Wheel' mobile laboratory in the country.

5. Country's first Electronic Manufacturing Cluster to be set up in Andhra Pradesh:

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) has announced to launch India's first Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ The cluster will be designed and developed to provide facilities for manufacturing mobiles and allied products.
- ✦ For this purpose, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Sri VenkateswaraMobiles and Manufacturing Hub Private Limited was set up in 2015.

6. India-Maldives bilateral exercise 'Ekuverin 2017':

- ✦ The 8th edition of the bilateral military exercise 'Ekuverin' was recently held between India and Maldives in Karnataka.
- ✦ The exercise aims to emphasize on counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations.

7. US makes world's strongest superconducting magnet:

- ✦ MagLab of USA has successfully tested the world's strongest superconducting magnet, producing 32 teslas which is 33% stronger than the previous record.

8. Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with Alphabet InC.' X for FSOC technology:

- ✦ Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Alphabet InC.' X to bring Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) technology to India.
- ✦ The FSOC project aims to provide high quality and affordable digital services through internet under Fiber Grid Project.

9. HAMESHA Vijayee: Southern Command conducts major exercise in Rajasthan:

- ✦ With an aim to evaluate the capabilities of armed forces during an integrated air-land battle, the Southern Command of the Indian Army conducted a major army exercise called HameshaVijayee in Rajasthan from 16th to 22nd December 2017.

10. Two more women fighter pilots in IAF:

- ✦ Pratibha from Rajasthan and Shivangi from Varanasi were commissioned in the Indian Air Force as fighter pilots during the Combined Graduation Parade of Pilots and Ground Duty Officers at the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad.
- ✦ With this, the total number of women fighter pilots has gone up to five in IAF.

11. China launches land exploration satellite:

- ✦ China has launched a land exploration satellite into a preset orbit for remote sensing operations.
- ✦ It was launched by Long March-2D rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.

12. China successfully launches remote sensing satellite to detect electromagnetic environmental probes:

- ✦ China has successfully launched remote sensing satellites on a Long March-2C carrier rocket to conduct electromagnetic environmental probes.

13. J&K Government guidelines to employees on social media behaviour:

- ✦ The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued a notification containing detailed guidelines for over 4.50 lakh employees about how to behave on social media.
- ✦ The employees have been directed not to post, comment or share public information on matters related to their work or the department.

14. 1st AC local train in Mumbai:

- ✦ Mumbai got its first ever AC local train.
- ✦ The train will initially operate only on Churchgate-Borivili section.

15. WHO to classify Gaming Disorder as a mental health condition:

- ✦ The World Health Organisation (WHO) is going to classify gaming disorder as a mental health condition in its upcoming 11th edition of International Classification of Diseases (ICD) in 2018.
- ✦ The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-V, published by the American Psychiatric Association, has already classified gaming disorder as a mental health condition.

16. Prithvi Missile successfully test fired:

- ✦ Advanced Air Defence supersonic interceptor missile 'Prithvi' has been successfully test fired from a test range in Odisha.
- ✦ The indigenously developed missile is capable of destroying any incoming ballistic missile in low altitude range.

17. NASA to launch WFIRST in 2020:

- ✦ NASA is going to launch the Wide Field Infrared Telescope (WRIST) that will provide the largest picture of the celestial objects with the depth and clarity greater than the Hubble Space Telescope.
- ✦ The telescope will be launched in mid 2020s.

Important days

1. 2nd December: International Day for Abolition of Slavery:

- ✦ The International Day for Abolition of Slavery is observed by the United Nations General Assembly every year on 2nd December.
- ✦ The day marks the date of adoption of a resolution by the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and Exploitation of the Prostitutions (Resolution 317 (iv)).

2. 2nd December: National Pollution Control Day:

- ✦ The National Pollution Control Day is celebrated every year on 2nd December in India to pay tribute to the people who have lost their lives because of Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

3. 2nd December: World Computer Literacy Day:

- ✦ With an aim to promote awareness about computer literacy and electronic devices, the World Computer Literacy Day is celebrated every year on 2nd December.

4. 3rd December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

- ✦ The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on 3rd December.
- ✦ The theme for this year is- 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all'.

5. December 4: Navy Day

- ✦ The Indian Navy Day is observed every year on 4th December to acknowledge the valour, maritime achievements and technological progress of Indian Navy.
- ✦ This was the 46th Navy Day.

6. 5th December: World Soil Day:

- ✦ The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations celebrates World Soil Day every year on 5th of December every year.
- ✦ The day aims to highlight the importance of soil quality for food security and healthy ecosystem.
- ✦ The theme for this year is- 'Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground'.

7. 5th December: International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development:

- ✦ International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development is observed worldwide on 5th December every year.
- ✦ The international observance has been designated by United Nations since 1985.
- ✦ The aims to spread awareness to raise an opportunity for volunteer organisations and individual volunteers to make their contributions at local, level and international levels.

8. 7th December: Armed Forces Flag Day:

- ✦ The Armed Forces Flag day is observed every year on 7th December to commemorate the sacrifices of the soldiers.
- ✦ The day is being celebrated since 1949 to give honour to the brave martyrs.

9. 9th December: International Anti-Corruption Day:

- ✦ With an aim to raise awareness about corruption and the possible ways to fight against it, the International Anti-Corruption Day is observed on 9th December every year across the globe.
- ✦ The theme for this year is- 'United against corruption for development, peace and security'.

10. 10th December: World Human Rights Day:

- ✦ World Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10th December across the globe.
- ✦ On this day, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris.

11. 11th December: International Mountain Day:

- ✦ The International Mountain Day is observed worldwide on 11th December every year to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development.
- ✦ The theme for this year is- 'Mountains under Pressure: Climate, Hunger, Migration'.

12. 15th December- International Tea Day:

- ✦ International Tea Day is observed on 15th December every year.
- ✦ The day is celebrated by the major tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia since 2005.

13. 18th December: Minorities Rights Day:

- ✦ With an aim to promote and preserve the rights of religious and linguistic minorities, India celebrates Minorities Rights Day on 18th December every year.

- ✦ The day was adopted by the United Nation's General Assembly.

14. 18th December: International Migrants Day:

- ✦ International Migrants Day is observed every year on 18th December ensure the protection of migrants.
- ✦ The day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990.
- ✦ Theme for this year is "Safe Migration in a World on the move".

15. 20th December- International Human Solidarity Day:

- ✦ The day is observed annually on 20th December with an aim to create awareness about the importance of solidarity for working towards eradicating poverty.
- ✦ The day was officially adopted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

16. Vijay Diwas celebrated:

- ✦ Vijay Diwas was celebrated on 16th December to commemorate the victory of Indian Army over Pakistan in 1971 war.
- ✦ This was the 46th anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan in the Bangladesh Liberation War.

17. 22nd December: National Mathematics Day:

- ✦ National Mathematics Day is celebrated in India every year on 22nd December to commemorate the birth anniversary of the famous Mathematician SrinivasaRamanujan.
- ✦ The day was declared as the National Mathematics Day by the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2012.

18. 23rd December: National Farmer's Day:

- ✦ National Farmer's Day or KisanDiwas is observed every year on 23rd December to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India ChaudharyCharan Singh.
- ✦ Famous with the name of 'KisanNeta', ChaudharyCharan Singh strived for the welfare of the farmers in the country.

19. 25th December: Good Governance Day:

- ✦ The Good Governance Day is celebrated every year in India on 25th December to mark the birthday anniversary of the former Prime Minister AtalBihariVajpayi who always advocated the idea of accountability in the Government.

Sports

1. India wins first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Championship:

- ✦ India has won the first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship by defeating Nepal in Guwahati.
- ✦ India defeated its neighboring country by 3-0.

2. India to host 2023 Cricket World Cup:

- ✦ India will host the One Day International Cricket World Cup in 2023.
- ✦ This will be for the first time India alone would host an ODI World Cup. Earlier it has co-hosted ODI World Cup on three occasions- in 1987, 1996 and 2011.

3. Union Government is going to launch Khelo India Programme:

- ✦ Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has announced that the Ministry is going to launch Khelo India Programme from 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- ✦ He also announced that the year 2018 will be celebrated as the 'Year of Sports'.
- ✦ The programme aims to impart comprehensive impact on the sports ecosystem including the infrastructure, talent identification, community sports, competition and sports economy.

4. England's women cricket team: BBC Team of the Year:

- ✦ England's women cricket team has won the BBC Team of the Year Award.
- ✦ Britain's Mo Farah has won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award.

5. Sushil Kumar and Sakshi Malik win gold at Commonwealth Wrestling Championship:

- ✦ Sushil Kumar has defeated New Zealand's AkashKhullar in the men's 74 kilogram freestyle category to win his first international wrestling gold medal since 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow where he had clinched Gold.
- ✦ Sakshi Malik also won gold by defeating New Zealand's TaylaTuahine in the 62kg women's freestyle category.

6. Official Emblem for Beijing 2022 Winter Games unveiled:

- ✦ The emblems of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have been named as "Winter Dream" and "Flight" respectively.

7. Indian Football Team ranks 105 in FIFA Rankings:

- ✦ According to the latest report, the Indian Football Team has ended the year at 105th spot in the FIFA rankings.

8. India clinches 3 gold medals at Kazakh tournament:

- ✦ K Shyam Kumar (49 kg), Naman Tanwar (91kg) and Satish Kumar (91+ kg) have won the gold medal at the Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament in Kazakhstan.

9. Washington Sundar: Youngest T20 debutant for India:

- ✦ Spin Bowler Washington Sundar has become the youngest debutant for India in T20s.
- ✦ Sundar, who played his first match against Sri Lanka aged 18 years and 80 days is also the 11th youngest T20 player in the world.

10. Viswanathan Anand wins World Chess Title 2017:

- ✦ Chess Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand by defeating Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev, has won the World Rapid Championship Title 2017.
- ✦ The Championship was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

11. World Chess Games in Saudi Arabia:

- ✦ Saudi Arabia is going to host a World Chess Tournament for the first time after the country's top religious preachers issued a religious decree against playing the game.
- ✦ There will be a women's chess tournament alongside the open championship.

Awards**1. 'Dangal': Best Asian Film at Australian Cinema Awards:**

- ✦ Movie 'Dangal' has won the award for the best Asian Film at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards 2017.

2. Mohammad Al Jounde wins Children's Peace Prize:

- ✦ Mohammad Al Jounde from Syria has been awarded with the International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to fight for the Syrian refugee children.
- ✦ The 16 years old Al Jounde, a refugee of the Syrian crisis has established a school in a Lebanese refugee camp that is currently providing education to 200 children.
- ✦ He received the prize from Malala Yousafzai.

3. Palestinian film Wajib won the Suvarna Chakoram Award:

- ✦ Palestinian film Wajib has won the Suvarna Chakoram Award at the 22nd International Film Festival of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✦ The movie is based on father-son relation.

4. Telangana wins SKOCH Award:

- ✦ Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department of Telanganahas won the SCOCH Award for bringing major reforms and using latest technologies for the accurate assessment of properties and the related taxes.

5. Cristiano Ronaldo wins Globe Soccer Award:

- ✦ Cristiano Ronaldo has won the Globe Soccer best player of the year award by defeating Barcelona's Messi.
- ✦ Real Madrid has won the best team of the year award.

6. Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Priyanka Chopra:

- ✦ Priyanka Chopra has been awarded with the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice.
- ✦ The award has been given for her work in helping the refugees with food, shelter and education.

Obituary**1. Actor Heather Menzies-Urich dies:**

- ✦ Actor Heather Menzies-Urich, well known for her role in the 1965 Oscar-winning film "The Sound of Music" has died at the age of 68.
- ✦ The film won 5 categories of Oscars.

2. Bengali actor ParthMukhopadhyay passes away:

- ✦ Veteran Bengali Actor ParthMukhopadhyayhas passed away at the age of 80.
- ✦ He has acted in many Bengali classics during the 1970s and 1980s.

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