

CURRENT AFFAIR 2018 (JANUARY-2018)

(SBI CLERK 2018)

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National News

1.Vinay Sahasrabuddhe becomes ICCR Chief.

- Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, also a member of Rajya Sabha, has been appointed the President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations.
- He will replace Lokesh Chandra who was appointed in Oct 2014.

2.Arunachal Pradesh declared open defecation free.

- The milestone was achieved after the state announced an incentive of Rs.8,000 in addition to the Rs.12,000-grant provided by the Centre for building toilets.
- Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh were declared open defecation free in Oct 2017.

3.1.9 cr legal citizens recognized in first NRC draft in Assam.

- The first draft of the National Register of Citizens(NRC) for Assam recognized 1.9 crore people as Indian citizens. The verification process for the rest 1.39 crore applicants is still on.
- Assam, which has witnessed an influx of migrants from Bangladesh, became the only state to have NRC in 1951.

4.Muslim women freed from Triple Talaq: PM Modi.

- PM Modi said that Muslim women have found a way to free themselves from the practice of Triple Talaq after years of struggle.
- PM Modi also hailed the Centre's decision to remove the practice that banned Muslim women from performing Haj without the company of a male guardian.

International News

1.N Korea could visit S Korea for Winter Olympics.

- Kim Jong-un said that the nation could send a delegation to S Korea to take part in the 2018 Winter Olympics. Winter Games will take place from Feb 9 to 25.
- He added that the Olympics will “serve as a good chance to display our Korean people's grace toward the world and we sincerely hope the games will be a success”.

2.Solo climbing on Mount Everest banned by Nepal.

- This law has been revised to make mountaineering safer and to decrease deaths.
- Avtar Singh Cheema was the first Indian to climb Mount Everest successfully.

3.Israel withdraws from UNESCO.

- Israel has filed notice to withdraw from the UNESCO alongside the United States. Both Israel and US have filed its own withdrawal notice in Oct 2017.
- Israel was the member of UNESCO since 1949.

4.US Vice President trolled with “Make America Gay Again” flag.

- US Vice President Mike Pence was trolled with a rainbow flag stating “Make America Gay Again” by his neighbors.
- The Vice President is opposed to same-sex marriage and had previously opposed a law prohibiting discrimination against LGBT people in the workplace.

Business News

1.GST e-way bill system to be implemented from Feb 1.

- The GST provision requiring transporters to carry an electronic waybill or e-way bill when moving goods between states will be implemented from Feb 1.
- This is done to check rampant tax evasion and boost revenues by up to 20%.

2.Maruti reported 10.3% increase in total sales.

- The country’s largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India(MSI) reported 10.3% increase in total sales at 1,30,066 units in Dec 2017 compared to 1,17,908 units in the same month of 2016.
- The company’s domestic sales stood at 1,19,286 units, up 12.1% from 1,06,414 units in Dec 2016.

3.Bandhan Bank to offer 11.9 crore shares in IPO.

- Bandhan Bank has filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus with SEBI for an Initial Public Offer(IPO) next fiscal offering 11.9 crore equity shares.
- The bank proposes to offer up to 119,280,494 equity shares of face value of Rs.10 each at a price to be determined through a book building process including premium.

Sports News

1.Shiv Kapur won third Asian Tour title of 2017.

- Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won his third Asian Tour title of 2017 by lifting the Royal Cup in Thailand.
- Kapur first won on Asian Tour in his debut season in December 2005.

2.Ponting to coach Australia for T20 WC.

- The Cricket Australia is negotiating with Ricky Ponting who earlier had served as an assistant coach for T20I team in 2017.
- Ponting, meanwhile, will also assist Lehmann for T20I series against England and New Zealand.

3.Manchester City’s record 18-game win streak ends with 0-0 draw.

- Manchester City’s record-setting 18-match win streak came to an end with an 0-0 draw against Crystal Palace.
- City were two wins away from breaking Bayern Munich’s record of 19 consecutive top-flight wins in Europe’s top five leagues.

National News

1. Kolkata to get its first floating market

- ‘The Floating Market of Patuli’ is likely to be open for public in January.

- The market will house over 200 shops.
- **2. 2.9 lakh doctors go on a strike against NMC Bill**
- The doctors from across the country's private hospitals are opposing the National Medical Commission Bill.
- Doctors claim the bill, seeking to replace the Medical Council of India with a new body is anti-poor.
- **3. India ranks third in world in nanotechnology: Harsh Vardhan**
- Union Minister of Science Harsh Vardhan was addressing an event commemorating scientist SN Bose's 125th birth anniversary.
- He said that India is fifth in terms of scientific publications.
- **4. Delhi Police to learn foreign languages**
- They are planning to provide better assistance to foreign nationals by learning Russian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and French besides English.
- They are taught basic words and sentences of foreign languages.
- **International News**
- **1. UN Chief issues global 'red alert'**
- In his New Year's message, Antonio Guterres has pointed out that 2017 was marked by conflicts and new dangers.
- He further urged the world leaders to bridge the divides and rebuild trust by bringing people together.
- **2. California legalises sale of marijuana**
- The US State of California has legalised the sale of recreational marijuana 20 years after legalising its medical use.
- It has become the 6th US state to do so, however, the cannabis remains classified as an illegal narcotic under the US law.
- **3. US mulls H-1B visa changes**
- The US administration is considering a proposal to end the provision of granting extensions to H-1B visa holders whose applications for Green Card had been pending.
- 7.5 lakh Indian H-1B visa holders could be deported from the US if the proposal gets implemented.
- **Business News**
- **1. Saudi Arabia, UAE introduce VAT**
- This comes as the Gulf nations aim to diversify their revenue generation from sources other than oil and cope with low oil prices.
- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar have also committed to introducing VAT.
- **2. E-commerce sites must show MRP**

- The Centre has made it mandatory for the firms to display the maximum retail price on goods from today.
- The companies have to display manufacturing and expiry date, net quantity, country of origin and consumer care details on the label.

3. Foreign bank ATMs in India fell 18%

- The number has fell from 1141 to 934 over the last 3 years.
- The reason for the reduction is mainly due to the banks closing their retail operations in India.

Sports News

1. S Korea offers talks with N Korea on Olympics participation

- The talks are with respect to the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in South Korea.
- This comes after Kim Jong-un said that the nation could send a delegation to S Korea to take part in the games.

2. Manchester United beat Everton

- Manchester United defeated Everton 2-0 to register their first victory after 3 successive draws in the Premier League.
- United moved to the 2nd place and are 12 points behind the city rivals Manchester City.

National News

1.GAIL commissions India's second largest rooftop solar plant in UP.

- State-owned utility GAIL India Ltd has installed a 5.76MWp(Mega Watt peak) solar plant at its petrochemical complex at Pata in Uttar Pradesh.
- Tata Power Solar commissioned a 12MW solar rooftop project in Amritsar, Punjab which is India's largest rooftop solar plant.

2.Open defecation will have Rs.500 fine in Maharashtra.

- According to the rules framed by the state govt of Maharashtra, a spot fine of Rs.500 will be imposed on people found defecating in open.
- While a fine of Rs.180 will be imposed for littering and Rs100-150 will be imposed for spitting in public.

3.FIR filed against Mewani over provocative speech before Maha riots.

- Police complaint has been filed against Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mewani and JNU student Umar Khalid for allegedly making inflammatory speeches in Maharashtra a day before the Bhima-Koregaon violence broke out.

- A 28-year-old man was killed in the violence sparked in Pune.

4.No plan to make all vehicles In India electric by 2030: Govt.

- There are no plans to make all vehicles electricity-powered by 2030, said Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Babul Supriyo.
- Earlier, Minister of State for Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal stated no petrol or diesel cars should be sold by 2030.

International News

1.6 nations join UNSC as non-permanent members.

- Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru and Poland formally joined the United Nations Security Council as non-permanent members while Egypt, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay left the council last week.
- The UNSC has 15 members, of which five members are permanent while ten non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

2. Turkey's endangered 'Bird language' entered in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

- UNESCO has accepted the "bird language" of Black Sea villagers as an endangered part of world heritage in need of urgent protection.
- This "bird language" is unusual and very efficient whistle language used as a means of communication by villagers in remote northern Turkey.

3. Iran re-opened two border crossings with Iraq's Kurdistan.

- Iran closed the border posts in last year in response to the region's independence vote which was deemed illegal by the Iraqi government.
- Over 92% Iraqi Kurds had voted in favour of independence from Iraq in the referendum. Kurds are the fourth-largest ethnic group in Middle-East.

4. Yuan for Bilateral trade and Investment activities allowed by Pakistan.

- According to Pakistan external affairs ministry, both public and private sector enterprises of Pakistan and China are free to choose Yuan for bilateral trade and investment activities.
- Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan, as per current foreign exchange regulations.

Business News

1. SBI, NABARD tie up to promote Joint Liability Groups in Bengal.

- SBI and NABARD have signed an agreement with 5 NGOs in Bengal for the promotion of 2,500 joint liability groups (JLGs) in select districts of State.
- JLGs are informal groups of 4-10 members engaged in similar economic activities and willing to jointly undertake the responsibility to repay loans taken by the group from a bank.

2. HDFC Bank partners with Rajasthan Govt. to promote startup culture.

- HDFC bank, India's largest private bank by market capitalisation, has announced a partnership with Rajasthan govt to promote and nurture startups in the state.
- RBI has labelled HDFC bank as 'domestic systematically important bank' i.e. too big to fail.
3. India's GDP growth will accelerate to 7.6% in FY20: HSBC.
- HSBC, headquarters at London, reported that India's growth rate is expected to accelerate at around 6.5% in 2017-18 and is likely to improve further to 7.6% by 2019-20.
- The result is expected as key sectors would revive from disruptions related to the implementations of GST and Demonetisation.
4. RBI bond schemes being replaced by Saving bonds scheme.

- RBI bonds has not been closed but the interest rates on such papers have been lowered to 7.75%, according to the finance ministry.
- The 8% Saving bond scheme, also known as RBI bond scheme, is not being closed but is being replaced by 7.75% Saving Bond Scheme.

Sports News

1. G Sathiyam became Highest Ranked player in ITTF for India.

- G Sathiyam has become India's highest-ranked player in the latest International Table Tennis Federation rankings.
- The current ranking of Sathiyam is 49. He surpassed his compatriot Sharath Kamal who has 51st rank.

2. Colin Munro became the 1st batsman to hit 3 T20I hundreds.

- New Zealand opener Colin Munro became the first cricketer to hit 3 centuries in T20I cricket after smashing a 47-ball ton against West Indies.
- Munro scored 104 runs off 53 balls to help New Zealand post their highest-ever T20I total of 243/5.

National News

1. Karnataka CM gives free laptops to SC/ST students

- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah provided free laptops worth Rs.45 cr ahead of the state Assembly polls scheduled this year.
- 1.5 lakh laptops will be distributed to SC/ST students under a scheme rolled out in 2016-17.

2. Centre declares Hyderabad as open defecation free

- Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation undertook measures such as the construction of 98 public toilets.
- The GHMC Commissioner said they will take measures to retain the ODF tag.

3. AIADMK to launch new TV Channel, Newspaper

- The newspaper will be named as Nam Amma while the channel will be named as Amma TV.

- Namadhu MGR daily and Jaya TV Network are now controlled by jailed leader VK Sasikala and her family.

4. Over 300 detained, 16 FIRs filed in Mumbai during Maha Bandh

- Incidents of road and rail route blockades were reported during the bandh.
- BR Ambedkar's grandson had called for the bandh over the clashes that erupted on Bhima Koregaon battle's 200th anniversary.

International News

1. Jadhav thanks Pakistan, blames India

- Pakistan has released a video in which ex-Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav is thanking Pakistan for allowing him to meet his mother and wife last week.
- He also said he felt his mother and wife were scared during the meeting as an Indian diplomat was shouting at them.

2. Power prices go negative in Germany due to overproduction

- Consumers were paid to consume electricity as power grids were loaded due to overproduction.
- This is a frequent occurrence in the country as electricity produced from sources like Sun and wind.

3. Pakistan test-fires indigenously-built naval cruise missile

- 'Harba' is capable of hitting the target from surface to surface and ground assault.
- The missile was launched from PNS Himmatt which is fitted with state-of-the-art sensors and weapons.

Business News

1. Salil Parekh to get Rs.16.25 cr as salary

- Infosys CEO will receive a salary of Rs.16.25 cr which includes a variable pay of Rs.9.75 cr.
- His predecessor Vishal Sikka's total remuneration in 2016-17 was about Rs.45 cr.

2. 'New' RCom to be India's largest B2B business : Anil Ambani

- The company had recently announced its exit from mobile business and signed an agreement with Jio to sell off its wireless assets.
- Ambani added that RCom will have a strategic partner in the next few months.

3. SRL becomes 1st Indian diagnostic firm to hit Rs.1k cr revenue

- SRL Diagnostics treats over 15 million patients annually in 600 cities across India.
- The firm is also the lab partner for UNICEF's Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey.

Sports News

1. CSK retains MS Dhoni, RCB keeps Virat for IPL 2018

- 2 time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings are returning to the tournament after 2 years.
- Mumbai Indians retained Rohit Sharma.

2. SC directs BCCI to allow Bihar to take part in Ranji Trophy

- Bihar, who last played Ranji Trophy in 2003-04 were omitted after Jharkhand won the right to play in India's premier domestic tournament.

- The SC order comes in the wake of plea by Cricket Association of Bihar.

National News

1.Meghalaya signed host city contract for 39th National Games.

- Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association(IOA) for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.

- Meghalaya had made the bid to host the 39th National Games after successfully co-hosting the South Asian Games in 2017.

2.Goa will host 3rd edition of Science Film Festival.

- This festival, titled SCI-FFI Goa, is being organized by the state-based Vidhyan Parishad, Goa Department of Science and Technology.

- The competition aims to boost the culture of science films, all the films submitted should be related to science and technology.

3. 'Swachh Sarvekshan Survey 2018' launched in India.

- The world's biggest 'Swachh Sarvekshan 2018' was launched in India by PM Modi. It will be conducted from the 4th January to 10th March.

- Under the first survey, Swachh Sarvekshan 2016, Mysuru had topped the list while in Swachh Sarvekshan 2017, Indore emerged as the cleanest city.

4.Union budget will be presented on Feb 1.

- The cabinet committee said that the budget session of Parliament will commence from Jan 29 and the Union Budget 2018 will be presented on Feb 1.

- This will be the last full budget before polls.

International News

1.Pakistan excluded from the SAARC initiative.

- India has excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of-the-art National Knowledge Network(NKN) for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.

- The SAARC Secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

2.No evidence that Saudi was involved in 9/11 attack.

- Saudi Arabia said that there is no evidence to support the US lawsuit alleging that the Kingdom was involved in the 9/11 terror attack in the US.

- As many as 15 of the 19 terrorists involved in the 2001 attack were Saudi citizens.

3.Security aid to Pak cut by US.

- The US has suspended around 900 million dollars in security assistance to Pakistan for failing to take action against terrorist groups Afghan Taliban and Haqqani Network.
- The US recently cut a 255 million dollars military aid to Pakistan over its terrorist safe havens.
- **4.Saudi Arabia arrests over 3 lakh foreigners living illegally.**
- Saudi Arabia has arrested over 3.3 lakh foreigners, most of them without residence or work permits, in a nationwide crackdown against violators of the Kingdom's residency and labour regulations.
- Almost 32 lakh Indians live in Saudi Arabia. Indians form the Kingdom's largest expatriate community.

Business News

1.After finding a security flaw in chips, Intel shares fall by 2%.

- The fall was after the researchers found a security flaw in the company's chips, that could affect computers and the phones globally.
- Intel admitted the flaw and said that exploits do not have the potential to delete the data.

2.Govt seeks approval for bank infusion plan.

- The govt has sought Parliament's approval to issue bonds worth Rs.80,000 crore to fund capital infusion into public-sector banks.
- The govt is expected to issue recapitalization bonds worth Rs.1.35 trillion under the plan.

3.Ripple co-founder richer than Google Founders.

- As Ripple rose to as much 3.84 dollars, Bitcoin's rival Ripple's co-founder Chris Larsen, with net-worth of 59.8 billion dollars on paper is now richer than Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin.
- Ripple became the world's second largest cryptocurrency surpassing Ethereum.

4.Ethereum crosses \$1000 for the first time ever.

- Ethereum surpassed the 1000 dollar milestone for the first time to reach a record high of \$1045.
- Ethereum is the third largest cryptocurrency and now has a market capitalization of over \$100 billion.

Sports News

1.Mohamed Salah named as African footballer of 2017.

- Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah was named as the African footballer of the year 2017.
- Salah got 625 points from the voting panel, helped Egypt reach the African Nations Cup final and qualify for this year's World Cup.

2.Serena William withdraws from Australian Open.

- Serena Williams, 23 times Grand slam champion, has withdrawn from the Australian Open 2018 edition of the tournament.

- She withdrew claiming that her preparations had fallen short and said that she just doesn't want to compete.

National News

1. Kerala police to wear body cams to improve security

- The cameras will be a part of the uniform and have features such as live streaming, infrared facilities and 8 hrs of battery backup.
- This would also help to record behaviour and conduct of police officers.

2. Lalu sentenced to 3.5 yrs in Jail

- Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad Yadav was sentenced to three and a half years in prison and fined Rs 5 lakh in the Rs.89 lakh fodder scam case.
- The scam was exposed in 1996, leading to Yadav's resignation as the Bihar CM.

3. Mamata Banerjee unveils official emblem of West Bengal govt

- The emblem featuring the 'Biswa Bangla' logo has been designed by the chief minister herself.
- She said that a proposal seeking to change the name of the state has also been sent to the Centre.

4. Maharashtra to form its own international school board

- The Maharashtra International Education Board will be an autonomous body which will design curriculum for schools and conduct examinations.
- The board will help students who can't afford an international-level education at private schools.

International News

1. China may deploy naval destroyer in Indian Ocean

- The 10,000 tonne naval destroyer is equipped with anti-missile and anti-submarine weapons.
- This comes after reports suggested that China has built an underwater surveillance network in the Indian Ocean.

2. ISIS declares war on terrorist organisation Hamas

- ISIS declared a war on Hamas for failing to stop US' decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
- The Egyptian wing of ISIS also accused Hamas of fighting its supporters in Gaza and called on its followers to carry out attacks against the militant group.

3. Handshake ban in churches in Northern Ireland

- A Catholic diocese in Northern Ireland has banned handshake in its masses due to the risk of infection from the flu that has spread across the UK and Ireland.
- The flu was first discovered in Australia and has claimed 72 lives.

Business News

1. GDP growth to be more robust in next fiscal : NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog VC Rajiv Kumar said that India's economic activity has been picking up for the last three quarters.
- The Indian economy grew at 7.1% in 2016-17.
- **2. TRON surges 13,800% in one month**
- TRON has become the world's sixth largest cryptocurrency.
- The market capitalisation of TRON has increased from 139m to 19.7 bn in the last one month.

3. SBI may cut minimum balance limit in savings accounts

- SBI is planning to bring down the limit from Rs.3000 to Rs.1000.
- This comes after a Finance Ministry report that showed SBI collected Rs.1771 cr as charges from customers who didn't maintain the minimum balance.

Sports News

1. Simona Halep wins Shenzhen Open

- Simona Halep beat defending champion Katerina Siniakova in the final of the Shenzhen Open.
- Halep broke her opponent three times in the final set to seal the win.

2. Hockey India names players for junior men's national camp

- Hockey India named 33 members for junior men's national camp, to be held from January 7 to March 15.
- The camp will be held in Bengaluru.

National News

1. Railways to equip country's all 8,500 stations with Wi-Fi

- It is expected to be complete by March 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs.700 cr.
- Presently, 216 railway stations are offering Wi-Fi under the Digital India initiative.

2. Over 900 flights to be cancelled before Jan 26th

- Delhi International Airport Limited has asked airlines to cancel all domestic flights scheduled from Jan 18 to Jan 26.
- This may lead to cancellation of more than 100 domestic flights each day for Republic Day parade rehearsals.

3. Haj House in UP repainted

- The outer walls of the Haj House in UP which were painted saffron by the govt have been repainted white.
- Painting the walls saffron had triggered opposition from various political parties and seminary Darul Uloom.

International News

1. 22 killed in 'bomb cyclone' along US' east coast

- Temperature fell as low as -42 degree Celsius.
- The cold weather disrupted flight services and also caused power outages.

2. Iran declares victory over anti-govt protests

- The IRGC blamed countries including the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia for the unrest.
- More than 1,000 were arrested during the protests that began in December.

3. China's space lab could fall to Earth by March

- Tiangong-1 had been declared "out of control" by China in 2016.
- Most of the 8.5 tonne station is expected to burn during re-entry to Earth, but humans can come in contact with the remnants of toxic rocket fuel.

Business News

1. 1,400 bad loan accounts owe govt banks over Rs.100 cr each

- SBI alone had 265 accounts with bad loans totalling to Rs.77,538 cr.
- PNB had 143 such bad loan accounts owing the bank Rs.45,973 cr.

2. Benchmark to sell 15% of Uber stock for \$900 mn

- Benchmark Capital will sell about 15% of its stock to SoftBank and other buyers.
- Uber's co-founder Travis Kalanick is also planning to sell 29% of his Uber stake for about \$1.4 bn

3. Ending extension of H-1B visas bad policy : US industry body

- The policy would be contrary to the goals of a merit-based immigration system.
- The proposal, if implemented, would also result in self-deportation of around 7 lakh Indians.

Sports News

1. PV Sindhu defeats world number 1 in PBL

- PV Sindhu defeated world number 1 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the Premier Badminton League.
- Chennai later won the tie against Ahmedabad 2-1.

2. Cook youngest to 12,000 runs

- England's Alastair Cook beat Sachin's record of being the youngest cricketer to reach 12,000 test runs.
- Cook beat Tendulkar by a margin of over 2 years.

National News

1.Haryana to launch High Risk Pregnancy Portal.

- Haryana has become the first state to launch High Risk Pregnancy(HRP) Portal.
- This web application has been designed to track every high risk pregnant woman till 42 days after delivery so that she receives adequate treatment.

2.Indian Navy and Cochin Port Trust(CPT) signed MoU.

- The Indian Navy has inked an MoU with Cochin Port Trust(CPT), Kerala towards leasing of 228 meters of berths at Mattancherry Wharf for a period of 5 years.
- This is the first time such an agreement has been signed between Indian Navy and CPT.
- **3.FTII to be set up in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Jitendra Singh, Minister of State(I/C) of the ministry of Development of North-Eastern region, announced that Arunachal Pradesh will get Film and Television Institute of India(FTII).
- The first FTII was set up in Pune in 1960 having current Chairman as Anupam Kher.
- **4.Rs.32,000 cr Make in India Warship project cancelled by Govt.**
- The project was aimed at constructing 12 advanced minesweeper warships in collaboration with South Korea at the Goa shipyard.
- The warships destroy underwater mines laid by enemy forces. Only four minesweeper are presently operating.

International News

1.Dormant volcano located in Papua New Guinea erupts for the first time.

- This volcano is located on the Kadovar Island has erupted for the first time in the known history.
- 500-600 people inhabit this island. Now 60% of the island has been covered by lava and experts warned that tsunamis may be generated due to the explosive nature of the magma.

2.Russia is trying to influence Mexican presidential election: US NSA.

- US National Security Advisor HR McMaster said that Russian govt has launched a campaign to influence the Presidential Elections 2018.
- Russia has been earlier accused of influencing presidential elections in US and France.

3.Iran urged Muslim nations to unite to counter US' divisive policy.

- Ali Shamkhani, the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, urged Muslim nations to forge closer cooperation to counter US' Dishonest and divisive policy.
- He also said that US' national security strategy increases insecurity and instability in the world. Iran recently banned English in schools over fear of cultural invasion.

4.Palestine denies reinstating Pak envoy after recalling him.

- Palestine had recalled Walid Abu Ali over his presence at a rally organized by 26/11 mastermind and Jamaat-ud-Dawah chief Hafiz Saeed last month.
- Palestine had assured India that they would not engage with those who commit acts of terror against it.

Business News

1.Capital One's CEO became billionaire as bank's stock hit high.

- US banking firm Capital One's CEO Richard Fairbank became billionaire with a fortune of about \$1.1 billion after the bank's stock hit record high.
- Fairbank is the fourth US bank CEO to become billionaire, according to Bloomberg.
2.Global debt is over 3 times the size of world economy.
- According to the Institute of International Finance, Global debt has hit an all time high in 3rd quarter of 2017, which is over three times the global economy.
- The UN calculates the global population at 7.6 billion, suggesting that the world's per capita debt is over \$30,000.
3.Yang Huiyan's wealth increases by \$2 billion in 4 days.
- She is the Vice Chairman of China's real estate firm Country Garden and is controlling shareholder of Country Garden.
- According to Bloomberg, she is the richest woman and youngest billionaire while fifth richest person in the country.

Sports News

1.Gilles Simon won Inaugural Tata Open Title.

- By defeating Kevin Anderson in the summit clash in Pune, Gilles Simon won the Inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis Trophy.
- Simon is ranked 89 in the world while Anderson is ranked 14.
2.Victoria Azarenka withdraws from Australian Open.
- Victoria Azarenka, 2-times Aus Open champion, withdraws from the 2018 edition of the Grand Slam.
- Recently, Serena Williams has also withdrawn from the Australian Open 2018 edition of the tournament.
3.ICC U-19 WC captains welcomed in New Zealand.

- The captains of the teams participating in ICC U-19 World Cup in New Zealand were welcomed with Haka, a traditional war dance in the Maori culture of New Zealand.
- India is in Group B along with Australia, Zimbabwe and Papua New Guinea.

National News

1. Bihar bans electronic cigarettes

- Bihar govt has banned manufacture, sale, purchase, display of electronic cigarettes in the state.
- E-cigarettes are smoked through electronic nicotine delivery system.

2. UIDAI blocks Aadhaar data access of 5,000 officials

- The action came after a news report which claimed that demographic details of Aadhaar holders were available for Rs.500.
- UIDAI has decided to give access only through biometrics of the person whose details were sought.

3. Playing national anthem in cinema halls optional : SC

- The SC modified its order and said it's not mandatory to play the anthem.
- This comes a day after the Centre urged the apex court to recall the order.

International News

1. ISIS increased its presence in Pakistan in 2017

- Over 150 people were killed in at least 6 terrorist attacks claimed by the terrorist group.
- However, Pakistan has repeatedly denied that ISIS has an organised presence in the country.

2. N Korea agrees to participate in Winter Olympics in S Korea

- This comes as the two nations held their first official talks in more than two years.
- S Korea also proposed that the two Koreas march together during the Games opening and closing ceremonies.

3. US drops H-1B visa bid

- The US govt is not considering any proposal that could force deportation of H-1B visa holders.
- Up to 7.5 lakh Indian H-1B visa holders could have been deported if the govt had decided to go ahead with the proposal.

Business News

1. Bitcoin not a way to evade tax : Unocoin Founder

- Indian Bitcoin exchange Unocoin's Co-founder Sunny Ray has said that people should not see Bitcoin as a way to evade taxes.
- He further said that people think Bitcoin is a mechanism to save your wealth and see your net worth go up.

2. Jeff Bezos now worth more than Bill Gates ever was

- Jeff Bezos's worth reached 105 billion dollars which is above Bill Gates' 1999 high of 100 billion dollars.
- Amazon's market capitalisation reached 600 billion dollars after its shares gained 6.6% this year.

3. Patanjali may partner with Amazon, Flipkart

- Patanjali Ayurved is likely to partner with eight leading e-retailers to push the online sale of its FMCG products.
- These partnerships will be in addition to its online portal 'patanjaliayurved.net'

Sports News

1. Ponting to be Australia's assistant coach

- Ricky Ponting is set to be Australia's assistant coach for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand and England.
- He will also coach the Delhi Daredevils team in IPL 2018.

2. Yusuf Pathan suspended by BCCI for doping

- He has been handed a 5 month back dated suspension for testing positive for a banned substance.
- Yusuf inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance Terbutaline, which can be commonly found in cough syrups.

National News

1. First sanitary napkin vending machine to be set up at railway station.

- Bhopal railway station has become the first railway station to have sanitary napkin vending machine.
- This machine is named as “Happy Nari” and is installed by the Railway Women Welfare Association of Bhopal.

2. Indigo rated as 4th most punctual ‘mega carrier’ in the world.

- A travel analyst firm OAG in an annual review rated Indigo as the world’s fourth most punctual ‘mega carrier’.
- The list was topped by Japan Airlines with on-time performance (OTP) of 85.27%.

3. 1.5 lakh tonnes e-waste per year to be generated by Delhi by 2020.

- An industry body ASSOCHAM has said that, Delhi NCR will likely generate 1.5 lakh tonnes of e-waste.
- E-waste contain toxic substances like lead. India has limited awareness regarding disposal of the e-waste.

4. Govt has asked to avoid plastic flags as they are not bio-degradable.

- An advisory has been issued by Home Ministry against usage of plastic flags as they are not bio-degradable and their proper disposal with dignity is a practical problem.
- An advisory also said that paper flags are not discarded and they should be disposed in private, consistent with the flag’s dignity.

International News

1. An earthquake of magnitude 7.6 hit the Caribbean Sea.

- 7.6 magnitude earthquake hit islands belonging to Honduras in the Caribbean Sea.
- A tsunami advisory was earlier issued after the earthquake but was later retracted as subsequent model forecasts indicated no tsunami threat to the region.

2. Bangladeshi Court upheld ban of marriage between its citizens and Rohingyas.

- Bangladeshi Court upheld the govt ruling banning marriage between Bangladeshis and Myanmar’s Rohingya refugees.
- Bangladesh banned marriages with Rohingyas in 2014.

3. US president Trump named as world’s most oppressive leader towards press freedom.

- New York-based non-profit organization committee to Protect journalists has named Trump as most oppressive leader.
- Chinese president Xi Jinping was named the highest on “Tightest Grip on Media” .

4. Indian man loses naturalized citizenship under Trump.

- An Indian-origin man Baljinder Singh has become the first person to lose naturalized US citizenship under Donald Trump administration.
- According to the US Justice Dept, he arrived in 1991 without any travel documents or proof identity and dodged a deportation order in 1992.

Business News

1. PhonePe signed a deal with FreeCharge.

- PhonePe, Flipkart's payments arm, has inked a pact with mobile wallet company FreeCharge to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- CEO of FreeCharge is Sangram Singh and it is owned by Axis Bank.

2. PNB and NSFDC tied up for assisting SC families.

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to SC families living below Double Poverty Line.
- PNB would act as a channelising agent for the loan schemes of NSFDC.

3. 7.3% Growth rate for India is projected by World Bank in 2018.

- World Bank has projected 7.3% growth rate in 2018 and 7.55 for the next two years.
- India's economy is estimated to have grown at 6.7% in 2017.

Sports News

1. First ever 'Baby Olympics' likely to be hosted by Bahrain.

- Bahrain has announced plans to host the first-ever Baby Olympics where 2-4 year old will take part in the games in April.
- This move is aimed at creating awareness among youngsters to practice sport.

2. Aanchal Thakur won Bronze medal in skiing.

- Aanchal Thakur won India's first ever International medal in skiing.
- She bagged bronze medal in the coveted Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup. The championship was organized by the Federation Internationale de Ski, in Erzurum, Turkey.

National News

1. Railways cut cost of booking tours through IRCTC by 10%

- Railway Board Chairperson Ashwani Lohani has directed the reduction in the service charge for booking tour charges with IRCTC by 10%.
- IRCTC previously levied 25% service charge for it.

2. Women Navy officers brave storm in Pacific Ocean

- The Indian Navy's first all-women sailing crew braved their way through a storm in the Pacific Ocean while on the way to Falkland Islands.

- The crew is on an 8-month tour around the globe.

3. Pak accuses India of distracting it from anti-terror efforts

- It claimed that an alleged nexus of India's and Afghanistan's intelligence agencies is working to undermine Pakistan's internal stability.
- Pakistan also accused India of terrorism in the form of IED attacks against civilians in Pakistan side of the LoC and the Wagha border.

International News

1. Bill to increase Green Card allotments by 45% proposed in US

- A bill to increase the green Cards from the current 1.2 lakh to 1.75 lakh annually has been introduced in the US House of Representatives.
- Indian-American technology professionals who come to the US mainly on H-1B visas are expected to be benefitted if the bill is implemented.

2. Australia to build world's largest solar thermal power plant

- The 150 megawatt plant which worths over Rs.3,200 cr will create 650 construction jobs and 50 ongoing positions when completed.
- The facility will power 90,000 homes with eight hours of full load storage.

3. US approves Rs.800 cr anti-ballistic missile sale to Japan

- The US State Department gave preliminary approval for the sale of SM-3 anti-ballistic missiles to Japan.
- This comes as North Korea said that its weapons are aimed exclusively at the US and not South Korea, Russia or China.

Business News

1. Kodak's value rises by \$430 mn after crypto announcement

- Eastman Kodak revealed plans to launch its own cryptocurrency KODAKCoin.
- Kodak's shares surged as much as 320% since the announcement giving the firm a market capitalisation of \$565 mn.

2. Louis Vuitton fund wants to invest in Patanjali

- The L Catterton private equity fund wants to invest Rs.3,200 cr in Baba Ramdev's Patanjali.
- A Patanjali spokesperson said that they don't hesitate to use foreign funds for the country's benefit.

3. I-T dept attaches Benami properties worth Rs.3,500 cr : Govt

- The FM said the Income Tax Department has attaches more than 900 Benami properties worth over Rs.3,500 cr.

- These include plots of land, flats, shops, jewellery, vehicles, deposits in bank accounts and fixed deposits among others.

Sports News

1. Actor Madhavan qualifies for national finals of golf meet

- R Madhavan has qualified for the national finals of the Mercedes Trophy golf tournament by winning the qualification round of the Mumbai leg.
- The national finals of the tournament will be played in Pune from April 4-6.

2. Indian cricket team to tour Ireland

- This is India's first visit to the country since 2007.
- The two T20I will be held in Dublin on June 27 and June 29 and will be followed by India's 2 month tour of England.

National News

1.ISRO successfully launched its 100th satellite today.

- ISRO launched its 100th satellite from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, along with the 30 other satellites.
- 3 satellites were from India and the remaining 28 were foreign, including micro and nano-satellites from six countries.

2.Women BSF bikers will take part in Republic Day parade for the first time.

- An all women bikers contingent named 'Seema Bhavani' from the Border Security Forces will be a part of Republic day parade this year for the first time.
- The women contingents of Army, Navy and Air Force made their debut in 2015.

3.Gujarat will not release 'Padmaavat' says CM Vijay Rupani.

- Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani has said that film 'Padmaavat' will not be released in the state.
- Rupani earlier said that the state banned it because of the way women have been represented in the film.

4.Danone will shut down its dairy business in India.

- The company said that despite repeated efforts, dairy businesses accounted for only around 10% of the company's revenue in India.
- It also said that it will have a sharper focus on growing its nutrition portfolio in India, which accounted for over 90% of its businesses in the country.

International News

1.PM Modi named No.3 world leader.

- Gallup International Association(GIA) has ranked Indian PM Modi as the number three world leader in its annual survey. This is the highest ever ranked bagged by any Indian PM in GIA global polls.

- Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin were ranked at the 11th and 6th position respectively.
- **2.Why should US allow immigrants from shithole nations: Trump.**
- Donald Trump said, “Why are we having all these people from shithole countries come here?” rejecting an immigration deal to allow immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti and certain African nations.
- His remarks sparked criticism with Democrats accusing him of racism.

3.NASA finds ice buried under Mar’s surface.

- 8 sites with thick deposits of ice beneath Martian surface are exposed on eroding slopes found by NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter mission.
- A cross-section of underground ice is seen in blue in the enhanced-colour image shared by NASA.
- **4.1st women only car showroom opened in Saudi Arabia.**

- A Saudi private company opened the Kingdom’s first car showroom exclusively for women.
- This comes after Saudi Arabia’s King Salman granted women rights to drive, abolishing an almost three-decade ban based on religious reasons.

Business News

1.Shares of crypto-related firms have risen 218,000% in 2 years.

- Share prices of 32 publicly traded firms worldwide, that use “blockchain” or “crypto” to describe what they do, have risen 218,000% over the past two years.
- US-based Long Island Iced Tea’s shares had surged nearly 300% after it changed its name to ‘Long Blockchain Corp’.

2.IBM names James Kavanaugh as Chief Financial Officer.

- He replaced Martin Schroeter from the position who took over the position in 2014.
- Kavanaugh previously served IBM and AT&T as Controller and CFO respectively.

3.Shree Cement to acquire majority stake in UAE’s Union Cement.

- West Bengal-based cement producer Shree Cement has agreed to acquire a majority stake in the United Arab Emirates-based Union Cement Company, the Company revealed.
- Established in 1972, the Union Cement Company was the first cement producer established in the UAE.

Sports News

1.Rabada is the youngest ever top-ranked Test Bowler.

- South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, who recently became the top ranked bowler in Test Cricket, is the youngest bowler, aged 22, ever to top the ICC Test rankings for bowlers.
- Rabada achieved this record surpassing the record of former England bowler George Lohmann, who became the highest ranked Test bowler.

2.India’s Test Triple centurion Nair hits 48-ball 100 in T20.

- India's second Test triple centurion Karun Nair smashed a hundred off 48 balls in a T20 match against Tamil Nadu.
- Nair and Sehwag are the only two players to hit 300 for India. Sehwag slammed 300-plus twice in his career.

National News

1. Gadkari proposes creating world's largest garden

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said the Mumbai Port Trust will create world's largest garden by reclaiming 350 hectares of land.
- He further requested CM Devendra Fadnavis to clear the proposal.

2. India leading climate change fight : UN

- UN Chief Antonio Guterres said that India and China are assuming the leadership in a fight against climate change when others are failing.
- He said that the developing countries are climate change's biggest victims.

3. Bihar poorest state in India, Delhi richest : Survey

- National family Health Survey on around 6 lakh households in 2015-16 has revealed this.
- The survey classifies all households into five quantiles, of which Bihar has more than half of its households in bottom quantile while Delhi has over 60% households in top quantile.

International News

1. Turkmenistan bans women from driving

- President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov issued the order at the request of Interior Minister Isgender Mulikov who claimed that women drivers were responsible for the majority of car accidents in the country.
- Officials have started seizing the licenses of female drivers and impounding their cars.

2. Trump cancelled UK visit as he is not welcome : London Mayor

- Sadiq Khan said Trump cancelled his UK visit as he had got the message from Londoners that he isn't welcome in the country.
- This comes after Trump claimed that he didn't want to open the new US embassy in London and hence cancelled the visit.

3. S Korea, N Korea to install artificial reefs against China

- The reefs will be installed near a disputed maritime border between the two Koreas preventing illegal fishing by Chinese ships.
- It is believed that the Chinese ships took advantage of the tensions between the two Koreas.

Business News

1. IDFC announces merger with Capital First

- IDFC Bank will take over financial firm Capital First with shareholders of Capital First getting 139 shares of IDFC Bank for every 10 held.

- The merger will form a combined entity with assets under management of Rs.88,000 cr, branch network of 194 and customer base of over 5 mn.

2. JP Morgan lost 143 million dollars on a single trading client

- JPMorgan Chase & Co has said that its equities trading business booked a 143 million dollars loss linked to South African retailer Steinhoff which unveiled accounting issues.
- The bank said equity markets revenue would have been up by 12% without the client loss in Q4.

3. Bitcoin's share of crypto market hits record low of 32.6%

- Bitcoin has a market valuation of 240 billion dollars while combined market valuation of all cryptocurrencies in 740 billion dollars.
- Ethereum hit an all-time high of 1417 dollars surging nearly 90% this year.

Sports News

1. Pak dismissed for 74

- NZ clinched the 5 match ODI series with 3-0 at Dunedin.
- NZ set up a target of 257 and Pak lost by 183 runs.

2. Over 1,000 players sign up for IPL 2018 auction

- The auction will take place in Bengaluru on Jan 27 and 28.
- A total of 1,122 players will participate of which 58 players are from Australia.

National News

1.Entry and exit of horses to be banned in Delhi.

- Due to the outbreak of Glanders disease, the Delhi govt has decided to ban the entry and exit of horses, mules and donkeys.
- Glanders, a fatal disease that can be contracted by human beings, has been reportedly detected in around 30 horses in the city over two months.

2.India should introduce cervical cancer vaccine.

- India should introduce the HPV vaccine as cervical cancer kills 70,000 women year in the country, said WHO official Dr Soumya Swaminathan.
- This comes after the Home Ministry decided not to introduce the vaccine following objections raised by RSS-affiliated Swadeshi Jagran March.

3.PM Modi received Israeli PM at the airport.

- PM Narendra Modi broke protocol by receiving Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who is on six-day visit to India.
- Netanyahu is the 1st Israeli PM to visit in 15 years.

4.Haryana records its highest sex ratio at birth in 2017.

- Haryana recorded its highest sex ratio at birth with 914 girls per 1,000 boys in 2017, according to government officials.
- Haryana had recorded its worst sex ratio at birth in the 2011 Census with 834 girls per 1,000 boys.

International News

1.UN Chief calls for 'Balance of Power' in UNSC.

- In order to make United Nations Security Council(UNSC) more democratic, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called for 'Balance of Power'.
- Several nations have demanded reforms in the UNSC such as extending veto power to more nations and increasing permanent members to make the body more representative.

2.India's monopoly on Internet in Nepal ended by China.

- Nepal opened a new optical fibre link to China ending its dependence on India for Internet services.
- Earlier, Internet services to Nepal were provided by Bharti Airtel and Tata Communications. Internet was first introduced in Nepal in 1993.

3.Phones across Hawaii received a false alert of incoming ballistic missile.

- An emergency alert warning people of an incoming ballistic missile was mistakenly dispatched to mobile phones across US" Hawaii.
- Officials sent a corrected message around 40 minutes later adding that the alarm was caused due to human errors.

4.Trump called African nations 'shitholes', confirmed by US Senator.

- Democratic US Senator Dick Durbin, a key negotiator in immigrant talks, said that he personally heard Trump say the words which were hate filled, vile and racist.
- US President has denied making any derogatory comments about the nations.

Business News

1.InnoVen Capital likely to invest 100 million dollars in Indian startups in 2018.

- The venture debt firm's India CEO Ashish Sharma said that InnoVen Capital may invest upto \$90-100 million in Indian startups this year.
- InnoVen Capital loaned 75 million dollars to startups in 2017.

2.Ethereum hits new high of 1,430 dollars.

- World's second largest cryptocurrency Ethereum reached its all-time high of 1,430 dollars (Rs 91,000).
- 18% of the total crypto market is comprised of Ethereum and now it has market capitalization of 138 billion dollars.

3.Ola acquired 100% stake in Foodpanda India.

- Ola acquired Foodpanda India from Delivery Hero Group for 31.7 million dollars.
- This acquisition can be seen as the return of Ola in Indian online food delivery space after Ola Café shut down in 2016.

Sports News

1.Yuki Bhambri qualifies for Australian Open 2018.

- By defeating Canada's Peter Polansky in the final qualification round, Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri qualified for the Australian Open.
- Bhambri will appear for the third time in the Australian Open men's singles main draw. He won Australian Open boys singles title in 2009.

2.US' first openly gay man to participate in Winter Olympics.

- Adam Rippon, American figure skater, is set to become the first openly gay man to compete for the USA in the Winter Olympics.
- Rippon will join openly gay Canadian skater Eric Radford at the Winter games.

3.India thrashed Australia by 100 runs to begin their U19 World Cup.

- This was India's seventh consecutive win against Australia in Youth ODIs.
- India also had become the first team to score over 300 runs in an Under 19 World Match against Australia.

National News

1.Maximum no. of illegal mining cases recorded by Maharashtra.

- Maharashtra has recorded 1.39 lakh cases of illegal mining which are highest in the country between 2013-17, as per the data revealed by the Union Environment Ministry in Rajya Sabha.
- India recorded 4.16 lakh cases during this period in which Maharashtra accounted for 33.5%.

2.Israeli PM Netanyahu is having six-day visit to India.

- India and Israel have agreed to enhance co-operation in the areas of agriculture, science and technology and security.
- Benjamin Netanyahu is the second Israeli PM after Ariel Sharon to visit India.

3.Crisis going on in the Supreme Court has been sorted out: Attorney General.

- Attorney General KK Venugopal said that the crisis has been sorted out and there are no differences now between Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and other 4 senior-most SC judges who took the conference on Friday.

- This comes after the four judges attended the court and took up their routine work.

4.Maharashtra govt formalized a partnership with Johnson & Johnson.

- Maharashtra's mine workers who face increased risk of TB will be part of this awareness programme on the illness.

- This collaboration would also look at infection prevention, diabetes, obesity and menstrual hygiene and support healthcare professionals and nurses in the State to develop skills in these areas.

International News

1. India contributed USD 50,000 to UN Youth Envoy's Office.

- USD 50,000 has been contributed by India to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals.
- This contribution is voluntary and is in addition to the regular payments India makes. UN was founded in 1945 and has headquarters at New York.

2. Taliban has claimed responsibility for Benazir Bhutto's murder.

- In a book written by a senior Taliban leader, the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the assassination of former Pakistan PM Benazir Bhutto.
- According to the author, two suicide bombers were assigned to carry out the attack on Bhutto. She was killed in a gun and bomb attack in 2007 while addressing an election rally

3. New bill introduced aims to ban govt agencies from using Huawei and ZTE phones.

- US state Texas representative Mike Conaway has introduced a bill called 'Defending US Government Communications Act' aiming to ban govt agencies from using Huawei and ZTE phones.
- According to him, technology coming from Chinese companies poses a threat to national security. Huawei overtook Apple as 2nd largest phone maker.

4. Sri Lanka re-imposed ban on alcohol sale to women.

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena reimposed a 62-year old ban that kept women from legally buying alcohol in the country.
- Government said that the law is 'discriminated against women'.

Business News

1. SoftBank plans 18 billion dollars IPO of mobile phone unit.

- Masayoshi Son-led SoftBank Group is reportedly planning an Initial Public Offering (IPO) of its mobile phone unit SoftBank Corp this year.
- The IPO, potentially the biggest by a Japanese company in nearly two decades, could raise around 18 billion dollars.

2. India ranked 30th on Global Manufacturing Index by WEF.

- The World Economic Forum, established in 1971, has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index.
- Among BRICS nations, China ranked 5th, Russia ranked 35th, Brazil 41st and South Africa at 45th place.

3.80% of all Bitcoin mined as of 13 January.

- Out of total 21 million Bitcoin, 16.8 million Bitcoin i.e. 80% of Bitcoin have been mined.
- All the 21 million Bitcoin, which are awarded to miners who validate Bitcoin transactions, will have been mined in 2140. The Bitcoin reward decreases by half every four years and currently is 12.5 Bitcoin for every block(set of transactions) validated.

4.Xiaomi pics Morgan Stanley, others banks as sponsors for IPO.

- Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi has reportedly selected Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs among international banks for its planned Initial Public Offering(IPO).
- Xiaomi, which was valued at 45 billion dollars in 2014, could be the biggest IPO since Alibaba's 25 billion dollars debut.

Sports News

1.India beat Nepal to enter Blind Cricket World Cup semis.

- Defending champions India defeated Nepal by eight wickets to enter the semi-finals of the Blind Cricket World Cup.
- India will face Bangladesh in the semi-finals on January 17 at the Ajman Oval.

2.Kohli equals Bradman's record of most 150+ scores as captain.

- Virat Kohli equaled cricket legend Don Bradman's record of most 150+ scores by a captain in Test cricket by registering his eighth such score against South Africa.
- Kohli slammed four 150+ scores in 2016, equaling record of most 150+ scores by captain in a year before adding three in 2017. Kohli's highest score in Test Cricket is 243.

National News

1. Govt withdraws Haj subsidy for pilgrims

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that the subsidy would be redirected for the education of minority girls.
- He added that the main beneficiary of the Rs.700 cr Haj was Air India.

2. Army to launch Aadhaar-based grievance redressal system

- Army Chief Bipin Rawat said that a new mobile app is being developed for soldiers to report their grievances.
- He also added that the Army will start a law college near Pune.

3. Lucknow metro starts a contest

- 'Share your Selfie' is aimed at attracting passengers.
- Passengers must click selfie inside the metro and the top 50 selfies will be displayed at an exhibition in Charbagh next month.

International News

1. People flee as lava flows out of Philippine volcano

- 15,000 people fled their homes after lava rolled down the slopes of Philippine volcano Mount Mayon.
- The most destructive eruption of the volcano is believed to have happened to 1814.

2. Ukraine nuclear site transformed into solar plant

- Chernobyl nuclear disaster site has been transformed after 32 years, however, it would take 24,000 yrs before people can inhabit.
- 4000 solar panels capable of providing electricity to 2000 homes are being installed to the site.

3. Rocket lands in Indian Embassy

- A rocket landed in the premises of Indian embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- The residential compound of India's ambassador in Kabul was hit last June.

Business News

1. Bitcoin falls to its lowest since December

- Bitcoin fell to 11,440 dollars and is down more than 40% from its record high of 19,700 dollars achieved in mid-December.
- Ethereum and Ripple also fell more than 20% each in the past 24 hrs.

2. Construction company Carillion collapses

- UK's second largest construction company announced that it is liquidating its assets after rescue talks with govt and banks failed.
- The company had 1.38 billion dollars debt and an \$827 mn pension deficit.

3. Hindustan Unilever crosses 3 trillion dollars market capitalisation

- It is the 8th Indian company to achieve the milestone.
- The company's shares surged by 66% in the last one year.

Sports News

1. Karthik back in Test team after 8 yrs

- Indian wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik is set to return to the Indian Test team for the first time since 2010.
- He will replace injured Wriddhiman Saha in the third Test in Johannesburg.

2. Captain hits India's 85% runs in 10-wkt win

- India's U-19 captain Prithvi Shaw scored 57 of India's 67 runs over Papua New Guinea.
- India will face Zimbabwe next.

National News

1. The Center sanctioned Rs 10,000 cr worth projects in North East for better network connectivity.

- Two MoUs have been signed to cover the uncovered areas in the North east including Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

- Manoj Sinha, Telecommunication minister, has been given to upgrade the network connection in border areas.

2. Defence Minister flies in IAF's supersonic jet.

- Nirmla Sitharaman became the first full-time Defence Minister to fly in the Air Force's supersonic Sukhoi-30MKI jet.
- The 45-minute flight was aimed at reviewing the operational preparedness and combat capabilities of the armed forces.

3. Bollywood-themed posters shared by Railway Minister.

- Piyush Goyal has shared Bollywood themed posters on Twitter. The advisory on the poster read that boarding a moving train can be life-threatening with a caption "Na Simran Na" showing a scene from movie Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge.
- Another poster advising people not to defecate on railway tracks is captioned with "Neele Gagan ke Tale".

4. Plans to launch a 24x7 helpline for complaints of poaching by Forest Dept.

- To allow the public to anonymously file complaints of illegal activities like tree felling and poaching, Forest Dept is planning to launch '1926', a 24x7 national helpline.
- This is the first time the dept has set up a dedicated provision for the service. There will be 30 lines to receive complaints and 6 individuals to man them.

International News

1. China has built 'world's biggest air purifier'.

- China has constructed a 330 foot tall air purifier tower which is being tested by researchers, has produced more than 10 million cubic meters of clean air since launched.
- The air purification system works through greenhouses covering about half the size of a soccer field around the base of the tower.

2. US refuses UN aid to Palestine after Trump's threat.

- The US said that it will withhold an aid of over Rs 415 cr that it provides to UN agency which supports the Palestinian refugees.
- This has come after the US President threatened to cut the financial aid for Palestine, accusing Palestine of being unwilling to engage in peace talks with Israel.

3. Pakistan PM referred 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed as 'Sahab'.

- Pakistan PM Shahis Abbasi said that his country won't take any action against 'Sahab' as no case is registered against Hafiz Saeed in Pakistan.

- Hafiz Saeed was released from house arrest by Pakistani Court in November last year after being detained for 10 months.

4. Most expensive embassy officially opened in London.

- The US officially opened its new embassy in London which is believed to be world's most expensive embassy.
- The Embassy worths over Rs 6,400 crore and is designed like a crystalline cube.

Business News

1. TCS has signed a deal with M&G Prudential of over \$690 million.

- TCS, India's largest IT services firm, has signed a deal with M&G Prudential, The UK and European savings and investments business of Prudential plc.
- Under this contract, TCS will digitally transform M&G Prudential's business and deliver enhanced service for its UK savings and retirement customers.

2. IBM and Maersk form blockchain firm for international cargo.

- A joint venture of IBM and Maersk have been announced by IBM that uses blockchain technology to track international cargo movement.
- Maersk, which owns the world's largest container shipping line, will be the first to use the new platform.

3. For the first time, sensex closes above 35,000.

- Sensex rose 310.77 points to close at 35,081 while Nifty closed 88.10 points higher at 10,788.
- The markets were boosted by the government's plan to cut extra borrowing for 2017-18 to Rs 20,000 crore from Rs 50,000 crore.

4. Crypto hedge funds gave 1,100% returns in the year of 2017.

- Nine cryptocurrency hedge funds gave combined returns of 1,167% in 2017 compared to Bitcoin's 1,400% gain, as tracked by research firm EurekaHedge.
- The Altana Digital Currency Fund had warned its clients that they should invest only an amount they can afford to lose.

Sports News

1. India lose their first Test series in 3 years.

- India has been defeated by South Africa by 135 runs in the Centurion Test.
- South Africa took a 2-0 series lead and has ended India's record streak of nine consecutive series wins. The last Test will start from Jan 24 in Johannesburg.

2. Cheteshwar Pujara, first Indian to get run-out twice in a Single Test.

- Cheteshwar Pujara got run-out in the second innings of the Centurion Test.

- Pujara was run-out for his first Test golden duck. He is the 23rd player overall to be run-out twice in a Test.

3. Ronaldinho retires from football.

- 2002 World Cup winner and Brazilian legend Ronaldinho announced his retirement from football.
- He was widely known for his creativity, dribbling skills and the 'elastico' move. He won the UEFA Champions League and the Ballon d'Or award as a Barcelona player.

National News

1. UP to start metro services in Agra, Kanpur, Meerut

- UP will start the services by 2024 at an estimated cost of Rs.43,800 crore.
- Kanpur metro will be 30 km long and Meerut metro will be 33 km long.

2. Telangana police launch survey to geo-tag criminals

- Telangana Police dept will prepare a database to easily identify and track the criminals whenever there is an offence.
- Its database will also include photographs and fingerprints.

3. India test-fires Agni-V missile

- The intercontinental ballistic missile Agni-V has a range that includes northernmost part of China.
- It is capable of carrying nuclear or traditional warhead of about 1.5 tonnes.

International News

1. Gates Foundation to settle Nigeria's polio debt

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has agreed to pay off Nigeria's \$76 mn polio debt to Japan.
- The decision came as the African nation met the condition of achieving over 80% vaccination coverage in at least one round each year in very high risk areas.

2. India re-approves scrapped deal with Israel

- India has re-approved a deal to buy 1,600 Israeli anti-tank guided missiles.
- This comes as PM Benjamin Netanyahu is marking the first visit by an Israeli PM to India in 15 years.

3. Facebook to investigate Russian meddling in Brexit vote

- The company said it will look for coordinated activity to spread misinformation before the vote.
- Earlier, Facebook's investigation revealed that a Russian-backed agency had spent just \$1 on Facebook ads during the Brexit campaign.

Business News

1. HDFC Bank becomes the 1st Indian bank to cross Rs.5 tn market cap

- The bank is also only the 3rd Indian company to achieve this milestone after TCS and Reliance Industries.

- In the last one year, the bank's shares have gained around 55%.
- **2. Money invested in Bitcoin a month ago now worth nearly half**
- Bitcoin's market capitalisation is now \$160 bn.
- With this fall, Rs.1 lakh invested in Bitcoin in December is now worth around Rs.48,000.
- **3. India recorded highest investments and exits in 2017**
- Investments worth \$26.8 bn were recorded across 589 deals.
- There were 257 exits amounting to \$13 bn which is almost double the previous high in 2016.
- **Sports News**
- **1. Rohit, Bumrah in ODI Team of the Year with Kohli as the captain**
- Rohit, who scored his third double century recently was also included in the team.
- South Africa's AB de Villiers has featured for the 7th time.
- **2. India thrash Japan 6-0 in first game of hockey meet**
- The Indian team defeated Japan in their opening match of the Four Nations Invitational Tournament in New Zealand.
-
- Vivek Prasad and Dilpreet Singh scored a brace each.
- **National News**
- **1.India is first in producing science and engineering bachelors.**
- According to 2018 US government report, India accounts for 25% of the estimated 75 lakh science and engineering bachelor's degree awarded across the world in 2014.
- US tops the charts in research and development spending and is awarded the largest number of science and engineering doctoral degrees(40,000) in 2014.
- **2.Disqualification of 20 AAP lawmakers is recommended by EC.**
- The Election Commission has recommended disqualifications of 20 AAP lawmakers for allegedly holding offices of profit as parliamentary Secretaries.
- AAP legislator Sukhbir Singh called this move as 'murder of democracy'. AAP has approached Delhi HC against the order.
- **3.GST Council reduced the tax on some goods and services.**
- The GST Council has reduced the tax on 29 goods and 53 services.
- GST on theme-park tickets, second hand medium and large cars and SUVs has been reduced from 28% to 18%. The tax on diamonds and precious stones has also been lowered from 3% to 0.25%
- **4.S Selvakumar is appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of SPMCIL.**
- S Selvakumar, ex-IAS officer, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd(SPMCIL).

- He has replaced Anurag Agrawal. SPMCIL produces banknotes, coins, postage stamps, non-judicial stamps and other official documents. There are four mints in India located at Mumbai, Noida, Kolkata and Hyderabad.

International News

1. For the first time, there will be full gender parity in UN leadership.

- The top leadership of the UN has assumed full gender parity for the first time in 72 years. The UN first agreed to achieve full gender parity near 18 years ago.
- The UN's Senior Management Group comprises of 44 positions of which 23 are currently held by women.

2. Cape Town feared to run out of water.

- The city officials of South Africa's Cape Town are feared to have a "Day Zero" in 100 days, where taps would be turned off and people have to queue for water, due to three-year drought.
- The City is building additional desalination plants and aquifers to extract drinking water. The residents are asked to recycle water for other purposes.

3. There is rise in number of Indians in becoming US citizens.

- According to a Pew Research Centre study, Indians registered a 12% point increase in the US naturalization rate during 2005-15, the biggest increase in the no. of immigrants who obtained the US citizenship.
- Minimum age for US citizenship eligibility is 18 years.

4. UN's staff claims that sexual harassment goes unpunished.

- Some current and former employees at UN have claimed that sexual harassment, including rape, goes unpunished, according to the Guardian report.
- As per the victims, on reporting sexual harassment against their seniors they were forced to leave their jobs or threatened with termination of their contract of work.

Business News

1. The Center and CII have signed a MoU for Development of Logistics Sector.

- Government of India and Confederation of Indian Industry have signed a MoU in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu to enhance import and export performance.
- The task of integrated development of the logistics sector has been entrusted to the Department of Commerce.

2. Country's economic growth to improve in the next fiscal.

- India Ratings and Research has projected the country's economic to improve to 7.1% in 2018-19 from 6.5% in 2017-18.

- According to the agency, there will be gradual pickup in growth momentum owing to structural reforms like GST and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

3. Yes Bank and Amplus Energy Solutions signed a pact.

- Yes Bank inked a contract with Amplus Energy Solutions to co-finance projects in the solar energy space in India.
- The MoU was signed at International Solar Alliance pavilion at the World Future Energy Summit, Abu Dhabi.

Sports News

1. India won against Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in ICC U-19 WC.

- The Indian Team beat Zimbabwe and registered their second straight 10-wicket win in the ICC Under-19 World Cup.
- Shubham Gill was named as the Man of the Match.

2. T20I tri-series of India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh postponed.

- The T20I tri-series between India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh scheduled in March has been postponed.
- The tri-series will feature all the three teams playing each other twice.

3. Sachin Tendulkar congratulated Virat on becoming ICC Cricketer of the Year.

- Sachin Tendulkar took Twitter to congratulate Virat Kohli for becoming ICC Cricketer of the year.
- Virat is the fourth Indian to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy. The first-ever to win the award was Rahul Dravid. Sachin Tendulkar and R. Ashwin also have won the award.

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National News

1. Govt announces India's first-ever 'Livability Index'

- Minister of State Hardeep Singh announced the commencement of 'Livability Index' to assess the living standard in 116 cities.
- The cities will be assessed on 15 core parameters like governance, social infrastructure, education, employment, health, and safety and security.

2. Indian crypto traders get tax notices

- The I-T Dept has sent tax notices after a nationwide survey showed over \$3.5 bn (Rs 2,235 crore) worth of transactions were conducted over a 17-month period

- The dept has asked people dealing in Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies to pay tax on capital gains.
- **3. Rahul Gandhi suggests topics for 'Mann ki Baat'**
- Congress President Rahul Gandhi suggested 3 topics for PM Modi's monthly radio address 'Mann ki Baat'.
- The topics are 'Get our youth JOBS', 'Get the Chinese out of DHOKA-LAM' and 'Stop the RAPES in Haryana'.

International News

1. 9 refugees found frozen near Syrian-Lebanon border

- The bodies of nine Syrian refugees who crossed into Lebanon were found frozen near the country's border with Syria.
- The bodies were discovered on a people-smuggling route in the Suweiri area.

2. Pakistan needs to change mindset on terrorism : India at UNSC

- Indian Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin told the UNSC said Pakistan needs to change its mindset on terrorism which differentiates between good and bad terrorists and refuses to see reason in peace.
- Pakistan in response accused India of subversion against it referring to the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav.

3. US govt shuts down as Senate fails to pass new Budget

- The US govt officially shut down after the Senate failed to agree on a bill to fund the govt until Feb 16, causing the 4th govt shutdown in 25 years.
- Many govt services except the national security and disaster assistance will close down until a new budget is agreed.

Business News

1. Apple named the world's most admired company for 2018

- Technology giant Apple has topped Fortune magazine's list of the 'World's Most Admired Companies' for 2018.
- Amazon has retained its 2nd spot followed by Google's parent Alphabet.

2. FM Jaitley performs 'halwa' ceremony ahead of Budget 2018

- The ceremony marks the commencement of the printing process for Budget 2018-19.
- The Finance Ministry officials are not allowed to leave the printing press until the Budget is presented in February 1.

3. Banks freeze accounts of top Indian crypto exchanges

- SBI, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Yes Bank and ICICI Bank have suspended accounts of top Bitcoin exchanges in India over suspicion of fake transactions.

- The banks are verifying current accounts held by India's top 10 cryptocurrency exchanges including Zebpay, Unocoin and BTCXIndia.

Sports News

1. 360 Indians among 578 players to be auctioned for IPL 2018

- The original number of 1,122 players was brought down to 578 after the teams submitted their preferences.
- Further, the list features 10 players from Afghanistan.

2. India defeats Pakistan to win Blind Cricket World Cup

- India won the cup for the second consecutive time.
- With two titles, India is now the joint-most successful team along with Pakistan.

National News

1. 11 dead in 4 days due to ceasefire violations

- 11 people have died due to continuous ceasefire violations by Pak along the LoC and International Border in J&K .
- The people killed included 6 civilians, 3 Indian Army jawans and 2 BSF personnel.

2. President's order to disqualify 20 MLAs unconstitutional : AAP

- President Ram Nath Kovind approved the Election Commissioner's recommendation to disqualify 20 AAP MLAs.
- The party has approached the Delhi High Court seeking relief in the matter and the case is listed for hearing on Jan 22nd.

3. India loses 4% of GDP to malnutrition : Report

- A joint report by Assocham and Ernst&Young says India has lost 4% of GDP to malnutrition.
- The report pointed out that India is home to 50% of the world's undernourished children.

International News

1. Global freedom declined in 2017 for 12th straight year : Report

- NGO Freedom House says, with 71 countries witnessing net declines in rights and civil liberties global freedom declined for the 12th straight year.
- In 'Freedom in the World 2018' report, it is specified that only 45% of the world's countries are free.

2. No substitute for US in peace process : Israel

- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has said that no country other than the US can act as mediator in the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- This comes after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that the US was no longer suitable for the role of the mediator.

3. Turkey launches military operation against Kurds in Syria

- The military operation began in Syria's Kurdish controlled Afrin region.
- Turkey considers the Kurdish militant groups as terrorist organisations.

Business News

1. India should sell bad loans online like US : RBI Dep Gov

- RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya has called for setting up an online trading platform to sell bad loans similar to the one in the US.
- He added that such a platform will help India achieve a thriving market for the sale of bad loans.

2. India to be fastest growing large economy in 2018 : Report

- As per a report by Sanctum Wealth Management, India will surpass China as the fastest growing large economy in 2018 and its equity market will become world's fifth largest.
- The report said the country is focussed on achieving 7.5% growth when developed nations are managing 2-3% growth.

3. Oil-backed cryptocurrency to be launched to curb volatility

- A US-based team is claiming to develop the world's first legally compliant cryptocurrency backed by oil called OilCoin.
- Each token will represent the value of one reserve barrel of crude oil and is aimed at giving users protection from cryptocurrency volatility.

Sports News

1. England win bilateral ODI series in Australia

- England won their first ever bilateral ODI series in Australia after taking a 3-0 lead in the 5 match series in Sydney.
- This is Australia's 1st bilateral ODI series loss on home soil since Nov 2010.

2. Nadal to remain number 1

- Rafael Nadal ensured that he will remain world number 1 after he reached the Australian Open's quarterfinal.
- The other two players comprising tennis 'Big Four' competing in the Australian Open, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic have reached the pre-quarters.

National News

1. First garbage festival of India organized in Chhattisgarh.

- The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh organized the three-day 'Kachra Mahotsav 2018' which is India's first Garbage Festival.
- Its aim was to increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively, and to showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labelled as garbage.

2.Sudeep Lakhtakia has been appointed as new DG of National Security Guard.

- Sudeep Lakhtakia, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new Director General(DG) of the 'black cats' commando force NSG.
- He is currently serving as a Special DG in the CRPF, headquarters in New Delhi.

3.An MoU signed by Telangana and Tokyo Body for Municipal Waste Incineration.

- A MoU has signed between Telangana govt and the Clean Authority of Tokyo in connection with municipal solid waste incineration in Hyderabad.
- These two bodies exchanged knowledge in municipal solid waste incineration facilities and make a effort to realize human resource exchanges in view of technical cooperation in the future.

4.First Post Office Passport Seva Kendra inaugurated by Sushma Swaraj.

- Smt. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the first Post office Passport Seva Kendra(POPSK) of Puducherry at Karaikal.
- The POPSK at Karaikal is the 60th POPSK to have become functional since the launch of the scheme in January 2017.

International News

1.First missile attack drill held by Tokyo since WW-II.

- Tokyo held an evacuation drill simulating a missile attack since World War II.
- The drill comes amid tensions over North Korea's missile programme which had threatened to sink the country and turn it into ashes.

2.Valletta named European Capital of Culture.

- In a ceremony held, Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.
- The 'European Capitals of Culture' initiative aims to highlight the diversity of the European culture and to increase the citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area.

3.Global Freedom declined in 2017 for the 12th straight year.

- According to the Freedom House, a non-governmental organization, 71 countries are witnessing net declines in rights and civil liberties, and global freedom declined for the 12th straight year in 2017.
- Only 45% of the world's countries are free, it said in the 'Freedom in the World 2018' report.

4.India ranked 62nd on WEF's inclusive Development Index.

- On an Inclusive Development Index of World Economic Forum, India ranked 62nd among emerging economies.
- Norway is the world's most inclusive advanced economy while Lithuania topped the list of emerging economies.

Business News

1. Seeking tax relief on hybrids, EVs in the budget: Japan envoy.

- Kenji Hiramatsu, Japan's Ambassador to India, has sought tax relief for hybrid and electric cars in the upcoming budget as an incentive to foreign carmakers.
- He added that a focus on infrastructure in the budget will be a good sign for foreign investors.

2. Richest 1% held 73% wealth generated in 2017 in India: Survey.

- The survey released by the International rights group Oxfam has revealed that the richest 1% in India held 73% of the wealth generated in 2017 in India.
- The survey also showed that 67 crore people constituting India's poorer half increased their wealth by 1% last year .

3. Currency in circulation at 97% of level before note ban.

- India's total currency in circulation has reached nearly 97% of the level before demonetization on Nov 8, 2016, RBI data has revealed.
- At the time of note ban, the total currency in circulation was Rs 17.97 lakh crore.

Sports News

1. Colin Munro missed world record by 1 run.

- New Zealand's Colin Munro, was stranded 49* in the seven-wicket win over Pakistan.
- He missed equaling Chris Gayle and Brendon McCullum's world record of scoring 50+ scores in four consecutive T20Is.

2. New Zealand beat Pakistan to take 1-0 lead in T20I series.

- New Zealand defeated Pakistan by seven wickets in Wellington to take 1-0 lead in the three-match T20I series.
- In the innings, Pakistan's Babar Azam became the second fastest cricketer to complete 500 runs in T20I cricket.

National News

1. 'Made in India' luxury trains to reduce travel time by 20%

- Two trains, called Train 18 and Train 20 have been designed by a Chennai factory and can run at a speed of up to 160 kmph.
- Train 18 is expected to be manufactured by June 2018.

2. Modi 1st Indian PM to address World Economic Forum in 20 yrs

- PM Modi addressed the Plenary Session at the World Economic Forum 2018 in Switzerland's Davos becoming the 1st Indian PM to do so in 20 yrs.
- The last time an Indian PM visited the forum was Deve Gowda in 1997.

3. BJP ally Shiv Sena announces to contest 2019 elections alone

- Shiv Sena has announced that it would contest the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections scheduled for 2019 alone.

- Currently, the Maharashtra govt is being run by the coalition of BJP and Shiv Sena.

International News

1. China invites Latin America to join Belt and Road initiative

- China has invited Latin America and Caribbean countries to join its Belt and Road initiative.
- China said that the region was a natural fit for the initiative which aims to connect Asia, Africa and Europe through a network of rail and sea projects.

2. Spain develops AI that can predict corruption in govt

- The AI system can predict the likelihood of corruption in a govt as well as the conditions that favour their appearance.
- The computer model based on neural networks claims that the probabilities of corruption increase when the same political party stays in power for more number of years.

3. US asks Pakistan to act against Taliban

- The US has asked Pak to arrest or expel Taliban leaders who are carrying out terror activities in Afghanistan after the group claimed the attack on the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul.
- The US called on Pakistan to prevent the militant group from using its territory for terror activities.

Business News

1. Sensex, Nifty close above 36,000 and 11,000 for first time

- Sensex closed 341 points higher at 36,139.98 while Nifty rose 117 points to close at 11,083.70
- Nifty touched 10,000 for the first time on July 25 whereas Sensex reached 35,000 on Jan 17 this year.

2. US to overtake Saudi as 2nd biggest oil producer : Report

- The US' output is expected to surge above the historic high of 10 million barrels per day rivalling the largest producer Russia.
- Russia produced around 10.9 million barrels a day in 2017.

3. Axis bank December quarter profit jumps 25%

- The profit grew by 25.3% year-on-year to Rs.726.4 cr.
- The net interest income a bank earns by giving loans grew by 9.2% to Rs.4,732 cr.

Sports News

1. Sachin meets Indian women ahead of SA tour

- The team is scheduled to play 3 ODIs and 5 T20Is in South Africa.
- Sachin wished them ahead of their series.

2. Nadal out of Australian Open

- Rafael Nadal retired due to an injury after his quarter final against Croatia's Marin Cilic.
- The Spaniard reached the final of the tournament last year.

National News

1.S Somnath became new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

- S Somnath, ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Center(LPSC) director, now became director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Center.
- He replaced K Sivan. Vikram Sarabhai Space Center is ISRO's lead center for launch vehicles.

2.Uttarakhand, Gol and World Bank signed a loan agreement for water supply in Uttarakhand.

- In order to increase access to improved water supply services in peri-urban areas in the state of Uttarakhand, Gol, Govt of Uttarakhand and World Bank Board has signed a \$120million loan agreement.
- The \$120 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development(IBRD) and has grace period of 5 years.

3.16th International Energy Forum Meet to be hosted by India.

- The 16th International Energy Forum(IEF) Ministerial meeting will be hosted by Gol in New Delhi and will be co-hosted by Government of China and South Korea in April 2018.
- There will be 92 representatives participating in the conference, of which 72 will be of member countries while 20 from guest countries. India last hosted the IEF ministerial conference in 1996.

4.Delhi trial court became the first to have national Flag across the country.

- Patiala House Court in Delhi has become the first trial court to have permanent national Flag across the country, as said by the New Delhi Bar Association.
- Delhi HC Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal unfurled the 50-feet high tricolour.

International News

1. Bhubaneshwar will held 7th Asia Steel International Conference.

- The 7th Asia Steel International Conference will be held in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha in Feb 2018. The last Asia Steel Conference was held in Japan, 2015.
- This conference is held every three years and provides platform for the exchange of knowledge on various aspects of the global steel industry.

2.Asia Pacific to add 23 million jobs in 2017-19: ILO.

- According to the report by International Labour Organization(ILO) about 77% of workers in India will have vulnerable employment by 2019.
- The report further said that the number of jobless in India will increase to 18.9 million in 2019 against 18.3 million in 2017.

3.World Economic Forum Summit concluded in Switzerland.

- 48th annual meeting of World Economic Forum has been concluded in Davos, Switzerland.
- Indian PM Narendra Modi became the first prime minister in two decades to join the world's top business leaders in the Swiss resort town of Davos.

4.The Global Environmental Performance index has been released.

- According to the Global Environmental Performance index rankings, India ranked 177 among 180 countries in curbing environmental pollution. India is among five worst countries in curbing pollution.
- Switzerland has topped the list while Nepal, India, Congo, Bangladesh and Burundi are the bottom five nations.

Business News

1.100% foreign holding in banks is not good: Uday Kotak.

- Uday Kotak said that 100% foreign investment in Indian banks is not a great idea.
- The government reportedly plans to raise foreign investment limit in private sector banks to 100% from 74% and to 49% from 20% in the state-run banks.

2.RIL, India's 1st firm to cross Rs 6 lakh crore market capitalization.

- Reliance Industries(RIL) become the first Indian company to cross the Rs 6 lakh crore mark in market capitalization as its shares touched a 52-week high of Rs 974.5.
- HDFC Bank is the first lender to cross Rs 5 lakh crore mark in market capitalization.

3.NIIF makes its 1st investment, partnered with DP World.

- 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.

Sports News

1.Pujara took 54 balls to score his 1st run in third Test.

- Cheteshwar Pujara took 54 balls to get off the mark in the first innings of the third Test against South Africa.
- Rajesh Chouhan holds the record for India for playing the most balls(57) to open his account while the world record was set by England's John Murray(80 balls) in 1963.

2.Rakhi Halder creates New National Record.

- Lifter Rakhi Halder created a new national record in clean and jerk to a gold medal in the 63kg women's category in the 33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships, in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- Rakhi lifted 128kgs in the clean and jerk for a total of 230kgs to create a new national record, bettering Karnam Malleswari's feat(127kg) created in Athens in 1999.

3.Man makes basketball shot from 200 mts, breaks world record.

- Australian Youtube channel 'How Ridiculous' has broken its own previously set world record for the greatest height from which a basketball shot is made.
- Atop a Southern African waterfall, the channel's Derek Herron managed to net a basketball from over 200 meters, crossing their own world record of 180 meters, which was set in 2016.

National News

1. Karnataka Bandh over Mahadayi water issue

- The bandh has been called in demand of Centre's intervention into the Mahadayi water-sharing issue with Goa.
- A separate Bengaluru bandh has been announced for Feb 4th .
- **2. 15,000 students set record for 1.46 cr Surya Namaskars**
- The students at institutes run by Nashik Shikshan Prasarak Manda in Maharashtra have created a record of completing 1,45,95,786 Surya Namaskars within a year.
- The record was registered by the World Amazing Records and Wonder Book of Records at the 'Surya Namaskar-Ek Avishkar' event.

3. Technical courses syllabus revamped to meet industry demands

- The AICTE has revamped curriculum for engineering and technical courses to meet industry demands.
- The credits required for theory have been reduced from 220 to 160, out of which 14 credits have been made mandatory for summer internships.

International News

1. US city to give poor residents over Rs.30,000 a month

- The US city of Stockton will give several hundred of its low income residents \$500 a month as part of an experimental program hoping it will eliminate the city's economic burden
- Stockton had filed for bankruptcy in 2012.

2. UK govt announces dedicated unit to combat fake news

- The unit, which will be headed by the UK Cabinet office, will consistently flag false information on social media platforms.
- It will systematically deter adversaries and help deliver on national security priorities.

3. Pak-made explosives used in Kabul attack : Afghanistan

- The spy agency recovered a van full of explosives which the militants failed to detonate.
- At least 22 people, including 14 foreigners were killed in the 13-hr siege.

Business News

1. TCS overtakes Reliance as India's most valued firm

- TCS also became the 2nd Indian company to cross a market value of Rs.6 tn

- TCS' market capitalisation reached as high as Rs.6.24 tn while Reliance has a market value of Rs.6.12 tn

2. Govt to infuse Rs.88,000 cr in 20 state-run banks

- IDBI Bank will get the most at Rs.10,610 cr followed by Bank of India and SBI.
- This is the first batch of the Rs.2.11 lakh cr recapitalisation plan announced last year.
- **3. Banks don't penalise poor over low balance : Ex-SBI Chief**
- SBI collected Rs.1,771 cr during April-November 2017 as fine from customers who didn't maintain monthly average balance in their accounts.
- She also clarified that Jan Dhan Yojna account holders are exempted from maintaining minimum average balance.

Sports News

1. Afghanistan thrash NZ to enter U-19 WC semis

- Afghanistan will face Australia in the semi-final.
- Pakistan will face winner of the quarter-final match between India and Bangladesh.

2. Bopanna enters maiden Australian Open mixed doubles semis

- Rohan Bopanna has entered the Australian Open mixed doubles semi-finals for the first time in his career.
-
- Bopanna has won one Grand Slam mixed doubles title so far.

National News

1. R-Day parade had more than 2 Chief Guests

- As 10 ASEAN leaders attended the Republic Day Parade, more than 2 Chief Guests were invited for the 1st time in 69 years.
- The parade saw the first ever tableau by All India Radio and Income Tax Department.

2. Mobile Dental Hospital launched in Telangana

- The vehicle was launched as a part of the social dental service programme.
- The vehicle has 2 dental operation theatres with 2 doctors, personnel, equipment and drugs.

3. Freedom fighter, snake bite healer among 2018 Padma awardees

- The Centre announced the 2018 Padma Shri recipients including the 99 yr old freedom fighter who runs schools and orphanages for the poor.
- Rajagopalan, who developed a method to construct roads using plastic waste has also been felicitated.

International News

1. Jerusalem is off the negotiating table : US Prez

- In a bilateral meeting with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, both the leaders pledged to make efforts to restart Israeli-Palestine peace negotiations.
- Trump also called on Palestine to return to peace talks if it wanted to continue receiving the financial aid from the US.

2. JeM declares India as number one enemy

- JeM chief Masood Azhar's brother Talha Siaf declared India and PM Modi as the outfit's enemies during a rally in Pakistan.
- He also incited Muslims to follow the path of Jihad during the rally.

3. Bitcoin must be regulated to prevent use by criminals: UK PM

- UK PM Theresa May has said cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin must be regulated to prevent them from being used for criminal activity.
- Her Chancellor Philip Hammond said cryptocurrencies need to be regulated before they destabilise the global economy.

Business News

1. Your days are numbered : Billionaire to Google, FB

- Billionaire investor George Soros has said govts would soon start regulating FB and Google as they control over half of all internet advertising revenue.
- He also predicted the tech giants would compromise themselves to access markets like China.

2. Fake website offers JioCoin

- Following reports that Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio is planning to create its own cryptocurrency called JioCoin, a fake website started offering JIO COIN at a launch price of Rs.100 per coin.
- It asked people to register on the website and said all the coins will be credited in the 'JIO COIN Wallet'.

3. Google Play reach all-time record 19 bn downloads in Q4

- In 2017 Q4, Google Play Store reached its highest ever quarterly app downloads at 19 billion, taking a record lead of 145% over Apple's App Store.
- The downloads were driven by emerging markets including India, Indonesia and Brazil.

Sports News

1. Roger Federer enters his 30th Grand Slam final

- Swiss tennis player Roger Federer entered his 30th Grand Slam final after his opponent retired due to an injury.
- Federer, gunning for his 20th Grand Slam and 6th Australian Open title will face world number 6 Marin Cilic.

2. Kidambi Srikanth conferred with Padma Shri award

- Alongside Srikanth, Saikhom Mirabai and Somdev Devvarman were also conferred with the award.
- India's first Paralympic gold medallist Murlikant Petkar was also given the award.

National News

1. Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks will offer Atal Pension Yojana.

- "Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks" will offer social security scheme Atal Pension Yojana, announced by the Ministry of Finance.
- There are 11 Payments banks and 10 Small Finance banks that have received the license from the RBI to start their operations. The APY was launched in 2015 by PM Narendra Modi.

2. 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' launched by Punjab CM.

- Amarinder Singh, Punjab CM, launched 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana' which is aimed at the inclusive growth of the distressed sections of the society.
- His government was committed to the total implementation of its farm debt waiver scheme by Nov 2018.

3. 3,014 lost their lives on Mumbai railway tracks in 2017.

- Government Railway Police responded to an RTI query that as many as 3,014 commuters got killed in train accidents in Mumbai in 2017.
- Maximum number of deaths (1,651) were because of crossing tracks.

4. NEET will have same questions in all languages: CBSE

- CBSE told SC that national Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2018 will have the same questions for all languages.
- CBSE was earlier criticized over claims that paper of regional languages had different difficulty levels.

International News

1. First ever Commemorative stamps released by India and Vietnam.

- To mark the long term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries, India and Vietnam released the first ever commemorative postage stamps.
- The two sets of stamps released carry picture of Sanchi Stupa and Thien Mu Pagoda.

2. Clashes over 'Azad Kashmir' erupt in London.

- Outside the Indian High Commission, London, clashes erupted after Pakistani-origin British lawmaker Nazir Ahmed led a 'black day' protest demanding freedom of the Indian state of J&K.
- The protestors accused India for oppressing minority communities. Pakistan Foreign Minister said at Davos that Kashmir is a cause of fractured world.

3. Bangladeshi hackers hacked DU Law Centre website.

- Delhi University Law Centre's website was hacked allegedly by Bangladeshi hackers.

- A message was left on website, “Hey admin, your system is not secure. If you do not patch, we will again arrive. We are Bangladeshi.”

4.PM Modi’s editorial was published by 27 newspapers in ASEAN countries.

- The External Affairs Ministry tweeted, that as many as 27 newspapers in 10 ASEAN countries have published PM Modi’s Republic day opinion editorial in 10 languages.
- The article titled ‘Shared values, common destiny’.

Business News

1.One or few crypto-currencies are coming: Starbucks.

- “One or few crypto-currencies are coming, but Bitcoin won’t be one of them”, said by coffee giant Starbucks’ Founder Howard Schultz.
- He clarified that Starbucks was not adopting or investing in any crypto-currency.

2.About \$500 million go missing in largest crypto-currency hack.

- Coincheck, Japanese crypto-currency, has lost about \$524 million after suffering a hack while stole 500 million NEM tokens.
- NEM, 10th largest cypto-currency by market value, fell 11% over a 24-hour period following the hack.

3.AirAsia India passenger volume up by 79% in Q3.

- AirAsia India carried 1.42 million passengers in the December quarter, a growth of 79% over the same period last fiscal.
- AirAsia India is 51:49 joint venture between Tata Sons and Malaysian carrier AirAsia.

4.BlockEx is launching its own crypto-currency.

- BlockEx, headquartered at London, provides a financial exchange platform for blockchain based digital assets, has raised over \$24 million.
- BlockEx is also launching its crypto-currency Digital Asset Exchange Token(DAXT), with sale beginning from Feb 10.

Sports News

1.Saina Nehwal reached Indonesia Masters final.

- Indian shuttler reached the final of the Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament by beating Thailand’s Ratchanok Intanon.
- Saina earlier has beaten compatriot PV Sindhu to reach the semifinal, will face either of Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei or China’s He Bingjiao in her sixth final in Jakarta tomorrow .

2.India beat Japan in Four Nations Invitational Tournament.

- India beat Japan 4-2 in the second leg of the Four Nations Invitational Tournament in New Zealand.

- India have secured a place in the final of the second leg of the tournament. India thrashed Japan in their pool match in the first leg of the tournament. India reached the final of the first leg also.

National News

1. 'Shakti' app launched by Himachal Pradesh CM.

- Jai Ram Thakur, Himachal Pradesh CM, launched the 'Shakti' app for women's safety in the state.
- The app is available in Hindi and English. It also have a panic button and would not require internet connectivity. It was developed by the National Informatics Centre(NIC) of the Himachal Pradesh government.

2. 'Aadhar' announced as Hindi Word of the year 2017.

- 'Aadhar' has been declared as the 'Hindi Word of the Year 2017' at the Jaipur Literature Festival by the Oxford Dictionaries.
- Other shortlisted words were 'Mitron', 'Notebandi', 'Bahubali', 'Gaurakshak', 'Vikas' and 'Swachh' were also considered for the title.

3.'Kailash' documentary won top prize at Sundance.

- The documentary 'Kailash', about Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and his efforts to end child slavery, won the 'US Grand Jury Prize: Documentary'.
- 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan', Satyarthi's charity, has been credited with freeing at least 80,000 child slaves in India over 30 years .

4.PM Narendra Modi praises women-run Matunga Railway Station in 'Mann Ki Baat'.

- PM Narendra Modi praised Maharashtra's Matunga Railway Station which is run by women during the first 'Mann Ki Baat' address this year.
- PM Modi also said that India's Nari Shakti has contributed a lot.

International News

1.Four agreements has been signed by India and Cambodia.

- India and Cambodia has signed four agreements in the field of cultural exchange, an exchange line of credit of \$26.9 million, MoU to cooperate in legal matter and an agreement on prevention of human trafficking.
- Also New Delhi has agreed to set up a centre of IT excellence in Cambodia.

2.Pakistan called on all nations to cooperate in order to combat terrorism.

- Following the Taliban attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, that killed nearly 100 people and injured over 150 others, Pakistan has called on all nations to cooperate in order to combat and eliminate terrorism.
- Pakistan conveyed its sympathies to those affected by the attack.

3.Shutting down Uber is not a solution: Theresa May on safety issues.

- Discussing about the working conditions and safety issues, British PM Theresa May said that shutting down Uber is not a solution but instead comply with safety standards.
- She also said that Uber's behavior had made the case to strengthen laws against exploitation by powerful tech platforms.

4.90% foreign debts of Sri Lanka under previous government unaccounted for.

- Maithripala Sirisena, Sri Lankan President, has said that 90% of the country's foreign loans amounting to over Rs. 3 lakh crore which were borrowed by the previous govt was unaccounted for.
- He alleged that the previous govt had transferred money from the country's treasury to private companies.

Business News

1.Govt saved Rs. 65,000 crore through DBT schemes: Amitabh Kant.

- Amitabh Kant, NITI Aayog CEO, said that Direct Benefit Transfer(DBT) mechanism in several government schemes helped the govt to save around Rs. 65,000 crore.
- As per his opinion to end corruption, the govt schemes should be linked to DBT. He also said that about 300 schemes are implemented through DBT.

2.GST stabilized in India in very short time: Finance Minister.

- As compared to several other countries, GST has stabilized in a very short time in India, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said.
- He added, GST has brought about an entire change in the country's indirect tax system.

3.India is the second cheapest country after South Africa: GoBankingRates survey.

- A survey revealed by GoBankingRates observed that India is the second cheapest country to live as per its local purchasing power, rent, groceries and consumer price after South Africa.
- A person would need just Rs. 18,121 monthly to survive in an Indian city like Kolkata.

Sports News

1.Saina Nehwal finishes 2nd at Indonesia Masters.

- Saina Nehwal lost to Tai Tzu Ying and finished as runner-up at the Indonesia Masters.
- This was Saina's first appearance in an international competition's final since her title triumph at Malaysia Masters in January last year.

2.Bopanna finishes as runner-up in Grand Slam Final.

- Rohan Bopanna, Indian tennis player, finished as runner-up in his 3rd Grand Slam final after losing the Australian Open mixed doubles final. Bopanna has lost 2 of his 3 Grand Slam finals.

- Bopanna and his Hungarian partner Timea Babos lost to Croatian-Canadian team of Mate Pavic and Gabriela Dabrowski. Interestingly, Bopanna had won his first Grand Slam with Dabrowski at French Open last year.

3.First Nepal player to get into IPL.

- Sandeep Lamichhane, 17-year old spinner, was bought by Delhi Daredevils, becoming the first Nepal player to be picked in IPL.
- He has played nine List A matches and is yet to play a professional T20 match.

National News

1.An Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering would be held in New Delhi .

- India announced that it will host an informal WTO Ministerial Gathering in March 2018. The meeting would be held in New Delhi on March 19-20.
- Trade ministers from various countries like Japan, Australia and Switzerland met for an Informal WTO ministerial gathering in Davos, Switzerland.

2.There is not a single Aadhar data breach in 7 years: UIDAI CEO.

- Ajay Bhushan Pandey, UIDAI CEO, said that there hasn't been a single incident of Aadhar data breach or data theft in seven years, during a live Q&A session on Twitter.
- He also added that the best technologies from different companies have been used for data protection.

3.Proud moment as Kumbh Mela is given UNESCO Culture Heritage tag: President.

- President Ram Nath Kovind said that Kumbh Mela being recognized by UNESCO as the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' is a matter of pride for India.
- UNESCO also designated Ahmedabad as 'Heritage City' and Chennai was included in the list of 'Creative Cities' by UNESCO.

4.Sports Ministry Republic Day Tableau adjudged the best among ministries.

- Among all the ministries which participated in the Republic Day parade, the tableau of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports was adjudged the best.
- The theme of the tableau was 'Khelo India'.

International News

1.11 killed while 15 injured in ISIS attack in Kabul.

- In an Islamic State attack on a military academy in Kabul, Afghanistan, at least 11 soldiers were killed while 15 others were injured.
- This comes two days after a Taliban attack in Kabul, which killed more than 100 people.

2.Intel warned Chinese firms about security flaws within its processor chips.

- The Wall Street Journal reported that Intel warned some customers, including several Chinese firms about security flaws within its processor chips before informing the US govt.
- An Intel spokesperson said the company wasn't able to tell everyone because the news was made public earlier than expected.

3. '24K Magic', Bruno Mars' album wins 7 Grammy awards.

- The album '24K Magic' by Bruno Mars won seven awards including the Album of the Year and Best R&B Album at the 60th Grammy Awards this year.
- His single 'That's What I Like' was named Song of the Year.

4. Trump says he would be tougher in Brexit talks than Theresa May.

- Criticising UK PM Theresa May regarding negotiating Brexit with the EU, Donald Trump said that he would take a "tougher" approach to the talks.
- He also said that EU is going to be a big upset.

Business News

1. Economy Survey predicts India's GDP growth to be 7-7.5% in 2018-19.

- Economic Survey 2017-18, tabled by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the Parliament, predicts India's GDP growth at 7-7.5% in 2018-19.
- The survey added that retail inflation during 2017-18 averaged to the lowest in the last 6 years at 3.3%.

2. Stressed loans of India declined for the first time since 2015.

- At the end of September quarter last year, India's banks' stressed loans declined for the first time since 2015.
- Stressed loans shrink from record peak to Rs. 9.46 lakh crore. Stressed loans represent 12.2% of the total loans.

3. Foreign operators are showing interest in 49% Air India stake: Civil Aviation Minister.

- Gajapathi Raju, Civil Aviation Minister, said that a foreign operator has shown interest in buying 49% stake in Air India.
- Recently, the government allowed 49% FDI in Air India with prior government approval.

4. There is 50% increase in indirect taxpayers post GST: Economic Survey.

- According to preliminary analysis quoted by the Economic Survey 2017-18, there has been a 50% increase in the number of indirect taxpayers after the introduction of GST.
- The survey further revealed that Maharashtra, UP, TN and Gujarat are the states with the most GST registrants.

Sports News

1. Roger Federer won in men's single in Australian Open 2018.

- Roger Federer won in the men's single while Caroline Wozniacki won in the women's single in Australian Open 2018.
- Caroline Wozniacki became the first Danish player to win a Grand Slam singles title.
2. Pakistan becomes world number 1 in T20I side.
- After beating New Zealand in the third and final T20I, Pakistan became top-ranked T20 side in international cricket.
- New Zealand is on second position while India is on the third.
3. Kohli moved past Brian Lara in all-time Test rating points list.
- With 912 points, Virat Kohli moved from 31st position to 26th position surpassing Brian Lara, Kevin Pietersen, Hashim Amla and Michael Clarke.
- Don Bradman is on top of the list with 961 points while Steve Smith is second with 947 points.
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National News

1. Amazon Alexa can now play PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat

- The segments of PM Narendra Modi's monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat' are now supported on Amazon voice assistant software Alexa Skill.
- Users can listen to all previous episodes that have been aired since January 2015.

2. No Indian city meets WHO air quality standards : Study

- A report by Greenpeace studied around 630 million Indians .
- It revealed that close to 550 million people including 47 million children below 5 years of age, lived in areas where PM10 is above national standards.

3. India has 21 million 'unwanted' girls : Economic Survey

- There are unwanted girls because couples keep having children until they produce a desired number of sons.
- The survey further acknowledged that the government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana scheme are all steps in the right direction.

International News

1. Russia accuses US of meddling in presidential elections

- Russia accused US of trying to influence its upcoming presidential election by releasing a sanctions report.
- The document will list names of senior Russian political figures having close links to President Vladimir Putin, who is standing for re-election.

2. N Korea cancels performance with S Korea ahead of Olympics

- N Korea has cancelled a joint cultural performance with S Korea ahead of the Winter Olympic Games.
- S Korea's Ministry of Unification said the decision to cancel the joint performance was regrettable.
- **3. Iran wants to turn Lebanon into a giant missile site : Israel**
- Earlier, Israel PM Netanyahu had accused Iran of building military bases in Syria and Lebanon to eradicate Israel.
- Iran's support to the Lebanese militant group has been a major cause of its strained relations with Israel.

Business News

1. 50% increase in indirect taxpayers post GST : Economic Survey

- There were 98 lakh unique GST registrants as of Dec 2017.
- Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are the states with most GST registrants.
- **2. Jio to raise up to Rs.14,000 cr to fund RCom deal**
- Reliance Jio will raise the amount in debt to fund the purchase of RCom wireless assets.
- In Dec, Jio agreed to purchase RCom's wireless assets that include 43,000 towers and fibre optic network for an undisclosed sum.
- **3. Tencent leads \$5.4 billion investment in Wanda Commercial**
- Tencent along with Suning Holdings, Sunac China Holdings, and JD.com, will acquire 14% stake in the company.
- Wanda Commercial will utilise the online resources owned by Tencent and other investors.

Sports News

1. Prakash Padukone given BAI's 1st Lifetime Achievement Award

- Former world number 1 badminton player Prakash Padukone was conferred BAI's inaugural Lifetime Achievement award for his contribution to the sport.
- He was conferred the award in the presence of his family and several top badminton players.

2. India thrash Pak in Cricket U-19 World Cup semis

- India thrashed Pakistan to enter ICC U-19 WC final.
- Indian team beat the opponents by 203 runs.

National News

1. Third Scorpene-class submarine launched by Indian Navy.

- 'INS Karanj', the third of the six indigenous Scorpene-class submarines, is launched by the Indian Navy. It was built at Mumbai's Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited.
- The first Scorpene-class submarine was INS Kalavari while the second one was INS Khanderi.
- **2. First Khelo India School Games launched by PM Modi.**

- PM Narendra Modi launched the first Khelo India School Games at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- The Khelo India School Games are being held from 31st January to 8th February 2018 in New Delhi.
3.Environment Minister launches PetaFlop Super Computer.
- 2.8 PetaFlop capacity high performance computer system 'Mihir' has been launched by Environment Minister Harshavardhan in Noida.
- India's fastest and first PetaFlop supercomputer is named as 'Pratyush' .
4.Indian government has signed an loan agreement with ADB.
- Indian govt and Asian Development Bank have signed a 250 million dollar loan finance to finance the construction of all-weather rural roads in five states namely, Assam, Chhatisgarh, MP, Odisha and West Bengal under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- Asian Development Bank was founded in 1966 and has its headquarters in Manila.
International News
- **1.New app named 'Bulletin' is introduced by Google.**
- This 'Bulletin' app allows anybody to submit stories for and about their communities.
- The app is made for contributing hyperlocal stories about your community. The application has been launched as a limited pilot project and is available in Nashville, Tennessee and Oakland, California.
2.A report by New World Wealth has been revealed.
- India has been ranked 6th in the list of the wealthiest countries. The list was topped by the United States of America.
- China and Japan are on the second and third positions respectively.
3.There has been no formal head for NASA for over an year.
- Barack Obama appointed Charles Bolden resigned as NASA administrator on Jan 2017 and since then there has been no formal head.
- Donald Trump had appointed a candidate but couldn't gather enough votes in Senate to appoint him. NASA has been led by acting administrator Robert Lightfoot since then.
4.UK will build memorial for Sikh soldiers who fought for them.
- A plan has been approved by UK govt to build a memorial in London to honour the Indian Sikh servicemen who fought for Britain during WWI and WWII.
- About 83,000 Sikh soldiers died in the two world wars.
Business News
- **1.Govt is seeking to curb tobacco firms by ending right to trade.**
- According to the filing seen by Reuters, the govt has urged the SC to enforce a rare policy by withdrawing the tobacco industry's legal right to trade.

- The govt argued that it should have power to regulate business and to mitigate evils to safeguard public health. The govt clarified that it is not planning on banning the tobacco.

2.SBI has increased its bulk deposit rates by 50-140 points second time in two months.

- With this, the bank will offer 5.25% instead of earlier 4.75% on deposits for up to 45 days, while it has been increased to 6% from 5.25% for deposits up to more than 3 years.
- However, the SBI is expected to increase interest rates in the wake of a possible spike in loan demand.

3.Axis Bank launches the 4th edition of “Evolve”.

- The fourth edition of “Evolve” has been launched in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu by Axis Bank.
- It is an annual multi-city knowledge series for Bank’s small and medium-sized enterprises(SME) customers.

Sports News

1.The final of 2020 World T20 to be hosted by Melbourne.

- Both the men’s and women’s World T20 will be hosted by Melbourne Cricket Ground when the tournaments come to Australia in 2020.
- It will mark the first time the tournaments are held as stand-alone events in the same year in the same country.

2.Sharath Kamal wins Table Tennis National Championship.

- Sharath Kamal won the men’s single title for the 8th time by beating Anthony Amalraj.
- Suthirta Mukherjee emerged the new women champion beating Nationals winner Manika Batra.

3.Kohli is the only player to remain with the same IPL team for 11 years.

- RCB captain Virat Kohli is the only player to be associated with the same team for 11 years.
- Harbhajan who represented Mumbai Indians for 10 years was bought by Chennai Super Kings in the 2018 IPL auction. Kohli has 2nd most runs in IPL, first being Suresh Raina