

Banking and Financial Awareness:

- The IICA (Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs) and the IPPB (India Post Payments Bank) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the training of employees of the IIPB in the field of payments banking.
- The Reserve Bank of India is ready to issue Rs. 10 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.
- Government launches 7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds 2018.
- Paytm Payments Bank, IndusInd Tie up for FD Facility.
- RBI Initiates PCA Against Allahabad Bank.
- NABARD Sanctioned Rs 372.51 crore to Odisha.
- Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank Introduces Desktop ATMs in Rural India.
- SBI, NABARD Tie up to Promote Joint Liability Groups in Bengal.
- India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline.
- IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc. at the 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).
- Retail inflation crossed the RBI's comfort level and rose to 5.21 percent in December on rise in prices of food items, egg and vegetables, dashing hopes of interest rate cut in the near future. The retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 4.88 percent in November.
- In the financial year 2016-17, total FDI of US \$ 60.08 billion has been received, which is an all-time high. The Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved amendments in FDI Policy and further liberalized few of the policies of FDI.

- World Bank has projected India's growth rate at 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 for the next two years. According to the 2018 Global Economics Prospect release, despite initial setbacks from demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST), India's economy is estimated to have grown at 6.7 percent in 2017.
- The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections up to December 2017 show that net collections are at Rs. 6.56 lakh crore which is 18.2% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.
- IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc. announced their plan to introduce the first battery-powered Interactive Payment Cards at the 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES).
- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has launched Global Manufacturing Index which is topped by Japan.
- IRFC's Green Bonds: India INX lists 1st Debt Security at IFSC.
- Amplus Energy Solutions announced entering into a pact with private sector lender Yes Bank for strategic tie-up to co-finance projects in the solar energy space in India.
- HDFC Bank Becomes 1st Indian Bank to Cross Rs5 trillion Market Capitalisation.
- Bank of Baroda Partners with Invoicemart as a TReDS Partner.
- IDFC Bank, Capital First to merge in Share Swap Deal.
- Indian Overseas Bank and NHB tie up for Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme.
- Small Finance and Payments Banks to Offer Atal Pension Yojana.
- The government has announced 88,139 crores rupees' capital infusion in 20 public sector bank

Appointments

- Vijay Keshav Gokhale who served as an ambassador to China and currently serving as the secretary (economic relations) has been named as India's next foreign secretary.
- Former RAW chief Rajinder Khanna appointed as the new Deputy National Security Advisor.
- Abhay has taken charge as the new chief of the NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau).
- Pankaj Jain Assumes Charge as IIFCL Managing Director.
- Vinay Sahasrabuddhe Named ICCR Chief.
- Diplomat T S Tirumurti has been appointed as the Economics Relations Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry.

- The Chief Minister of Sikkim Pawan Chamling officially declared A R Rahman to be the new Brand Ambassador of Sikkim.
- Dilip Asbe has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India), an umbrella organization for retail payment systems in India.
- Rocket scientist K. Sivan, currently Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre has been appointed as the Chairman of the Space Commission and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for three years.
- The Indian Olympic Association appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
- Supreme Court collegium recommended senior advocate Indu Malhotra as the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the apex court.
- Senior Sports Administrator Anil Khanna was named as the Chairman of the Finance Commission of the IOA (Indian Olympic Association)
- Market regulator SEBI has approved the appointment of Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of the country's largest agri-commodity bourse NCDEX.
- Om Prakash Rawat appointed new Chief Election Commissioner.
- S Somnath appointed Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
- Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD and CEO, Allahabad Bank, has been elected the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- FICCI Appoints Dilip Chenoy as Director General.
- Sudeep Lakhtakia Appointed New DG of National Security Guard.

Honour and Awards

- MAS Chief Ravi Menon Named Best Central Bank Governor in Asia-Pacific.
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- Australia captain Steve Smith has been crowned the International Cricket Council's Test Player of the Year for a second time.
- Indian captain Virat Kohli has been honoured twice in the ICC's annual awards.
- Actor Sudhir Dalvi Gets Janakavi P Sawlaram Award

- 'Hindi Medium' bagged honours in the categories of Best Film and Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) for Irrfan Khan's impeccable performance.
- Vidya Balan won her 6th Filmfare award when she was awarded her 4th Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) award for Tumhari Sulu.
- Padma Awards 2018 were announced on 25th January 2018. Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian awards of the country.
- Gallantry Award to Army on 69th Republic Day.
- Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards 2017 Given to 44 people.
- Shah Rukh Khan Honoured with Crystal Award at World Economic Forum.

MoUs and Partnerships

- Cabinet approves MoU between India and UK in transport.
- Cabinet approves Indo-Myanmar agreement on land border crossing.
- MoU between India and Israel on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector Approved.
- HDFC Bank Partners with Rajasthan Govt. to Promote Start-up Culture.
- India and Saudi Arabia signed the Bilateral Annual Haj 2018 Agreement.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the GCCI (Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and South Korea for Business Corporation
- India and Vietnam Release First-Ever Commemorative Stamps.
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Signs MoU with IL&FS for Construction of Zojila Tunnel.
- India and Cambodia Ink 4 Agreements.
- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) signed an MoU with SME Corporation Malaysia.
- Andhra Pradesh-Zurich Sign Sister State Agreement.

Important News- World

- Nepal bans solo climbers from scaling Mount Everest and its other mountains to avoid accidents.
- A very unique language called "The Bird Language" or "The Whistle Language" of a Turkish village has become a part of UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- For the first time ever Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced the VAT (Value Added Tax).

- Israel has filed a notice to withdraw from the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) along with the United States.
- 6 new countries comprise of Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands Entered to the United Nations Security Council.
- Egypt's Mohamed Salah has been awarded the Confederation of African Football Player of the Year Title 2017.
- Saudi Arabia, UAE introduce VAT for first time.
- China develops underwater surveillance networks in Indian Ocean, South China Sea.
- US puts Pakistan on Special Watch List for severe violations of religious freedom.
- Iceland Becomes 1st Country to Legalise Equal Pay.
- Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 Kicked off at Kathmandu.
- Pakistan State Bank Allows use of Chinese Currency Yuan for Bilateral Trade & Investment Activities.
- The Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Iceland becomes the first country in the world to legalize equal pay in the workplace for equal work.
- The world's largest ice festival "International Ice and Snow Festival" was organized in China's Harbin.
- The Bloomberg Billionaires Index showed that the founder and CEO of Amazon, Jeff Bezos has become the richest man in the history.
- American and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercise named Iron Fist. The 13th annual Iron Fist exercises kicked off in the U.S. western state of California.
- China became Nepal's second internet service provider, breaking India's monopoly in providing internet access to Nepal.
- UN Environment and the World Health Organization have agreed a new, wide-ranging collaboration to accelerate action to curb environmental health risks that cause an estimated 12.6 million deaths a year.
- By providing Internet access to Nepal, China has become the second Internet service provider of Nepal, breaking India's monopoly in doing so.
- American and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercise named Iron Fist.
- Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena reimposed a four-decade-long ban on women buying alcohol, just days after his finance minister had lifted the restriction.

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- The third edition of the Raisina Dialogue was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the 16th of January.
- The two-day International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR) successfully concluded on the 16th of January, setting the stage for taking the dialogue on resilient infrastructure forward at the global level.
- The 10th edition of Global Forum for Food & Agriculture was held in Berlin, Germany from 18th -20th January 2018.
- The World Economic Forum summit at Davos, Switzerland commenced on 22nd January 2018. themed "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World".
- Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018.

Important News- India

- Metro Cards for Public Buses from 31st March 2018.
- A Book Tribute to Pratibha Patil on her completed 50 glorious years in politics.
- The Cabinet of India approved National Medical Commission Bill 2017 which led to doctors' strikes for 12 hours.
- The Minister of Women and Child Development inaugurated online portal NARI in New Delhi to empower women and provide women citizens with easy access to information on various government schemes and initiatives for women.
- Govt. Of India announced Customers will not be charged any transaction charges up to Rs 2000 on making payments through debit cards, BHIM app and Aadhar-enabled payment system.
- Income Tax Department launches on-line chat service.
- The Union Finance Minister, Mr. Arun Jaitley unveiled the contours of the Electoral Bonds scheme to clean the political funding system by ensuring that there is a flow of clean money to the political parties without revealing the names of the donors.
- The Union Government has approved the Rs 680 crores strategic Zojila pass tunnel project in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Namami Gange projects worth Rs 295 crore approved by NMCG (National Mission for Clean Ganga).

- A new, highly effective vaccine for typhoid (developed by India) has been approved by the WHO (World Health Organization) for global use.
- GAIL commissions India's second largest rooftop solar plant in UP.
- Core sectors' record 6.8% growth in November 2017.
- Government launches NARI portal and e-Samvad portal.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs exempts cruise tourists with e-visa from biometric enrolment till 2020.
- Atal Pension Yojana reaches subscriber base of 80 lakhs.
- World's Biggest Cleanliness Survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan 2018' Launched.
- The Union Minister for Human Resource and Development (HRD), Prakash Javadekar released the AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education) for the year 2016-17 in New Delhi.
- The Sports Minister launched the Khelo India logo at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, which has three-stroke Khelo India logo designed by Ogilvy India, has built-in modularity, which offers flexibility in adapting to numerous pictorial forms.
- Centre Proposes e-Sansad and e-Vidhan for Paperless Functioning on 18th Whips Conference started in Udaipur from 8th January 2018.
- The Supreme Court has modified its November 30, 2016, interim order and made it optional for the cinema halls to play the National Anthem before every show.
- The Research arm of the Ministry of Railways, RDSO (Research Design and Standards Organization) has launched the New Online Vendor Registration System.
- First PIO (Persons of Indian Origin) Parliamentary Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Railways has launched the Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) Application.
- A new concept of Virtual ID is introduced by the UIDAI to address the privacy concerns. From 1st June 2018, it would be mandatory for all agencies that undertake authentication to accept the Virtual ID from their users.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference on "State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions" at Rajgir in Nalanda district.
- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)'s India International Exchange listed the first bond on its Global Securities Market.

- Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF) was held on 12th January 2018 in New Delhi, India.
- 5th bilateral meeting on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between India and Malaysia was held in New Delhi.
- In order to sensitize the people of Delhi about the grave issue of air pollution, the government will begin a two-week awareness campaign (**Clean air campaign**) from 10th Feb, 2018.
- A month-long event of the PCRA (Petroleum Conservation Research Association) 'Saksham 2018' will commence on the 16th January 2018 in a mega inaugural function to be held at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.
- The Minister of State for Tourism, K J Alphons launched the 'Incredible India Digital Calendar- 2018'.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lyonpo Damcho Dorji jointly unveiled the 'Special logo' in India and Bhutan through video-conference.
- India and UK have signed two agreements on the return of the illegal Indian migrants and sharing criminal records and intelligence.
- Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in the Indian capital six months after his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, visited Israel becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to do so.
- India and United States, in order to enhance the military co-operation will be organising another addition of Vajra Prahar military exercise which will be held in Seattle.
- During the India-Israel Business Summit held in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu launched the maiden call for joint R&D projects under the 'India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)'
- Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurates Gigabit Connectivity with Sri Lanka.
- Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), has launched a competition for college and university students to foster a culture of innovation and creativity in the youth.
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2016 to an eminent group of musicians, dancers, and theatre artists.

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the centre has decided to launch "Operation Digital Board" soon across all government schools in India over the next five years to help students view diagrams and presentations through digital tools.
- Prime Minister Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu dedicated to the nation, the iCREATE facility located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad on the 17th of January.
- The 60th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) was inaugurated on the 17th of January by Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The NITI Aayog launched the first course on Sustainable Urban planning using remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) at IIT Kanpur's outreach centre in Noida.
- The Annual Status of Education Report 2017 carried out by NGO Pratham was released in New Delhi.
- India has joined the Australia Group export control regime and has become the 43rd Member of that Group.
- The Housing & Urban Affairs Minister announced the commencement of the Liveability Index Programme in 116 cities.
- National CSR Data Portal & Corporate Data Portal launched
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) Crosses One Crore Mark
- India formally became the 43rd member of the Australia Group (AG).
- India Ranks 62nd on WEF's Inclusive Development Index.
- India's to Launch Automated Ocean Pollution Observation System
- IMF: India to Grow at 7.4% in 2018.
- India will host a two days International Conference on dam safety at Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram.
- India Signs \$120 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank to improve access to water supply in peri-urban areas in Uttarakhand.
- India Ranks 81st On Global Talent Competitiveness Index.
- India, 5th Most Attractive Market for Investments: PwC Survey.
- India will host the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting that is going to be held in New Delhi
- Book by Sheila Dixit "Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After 1998" released.

- Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI)- India Ranks 81st
- A one-day International Conference on 'Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Election Process' was hosted by the Election Commission of India in New Delhi.
- India Ranks 177 In Environmental Performance Index.
- India to host informal WTO Ministerial gathering in March 2018.

Business, Science and Technology

- Humanoid Sophia, who got citizenship from Saudi Arabia is on India's visit.
- NASA to launch Parker Solar Probe to explore sun's outer atmosphere.
- NASA to launch two missions — GOLD and ICON to explore the ionosphere.
- India GDP Growth Likely at 6.5% in 2017-18: CSO
- India's GDP Growth at 6.5% in FY18, will Accelerate to 7.6% in FY20: HSBC.
- Flipkart's payment arm PhonePe has partnered with mobile wallet company FreeCharge to allow the customers of FreeCharge pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- India unveils 'Pratyush' its fastest supercomputer. Pratyush is the fourth fastest supercomputer in the world dedicated for weather and climate research and follows machines in Japan, USA and the United Kingdom.
- India successfully test fired AGNI 5 missile a surface to surface all weather missile ranging nearly 5000 KM.
- MeitY Launches Cyber Surakshit Bharat to Strengthen Cybersecurity
- Vodafone India has partnered with e-commerce marketplace Flipkart to provide a range of entry-level smartphones at an effective price of Rs 999.
- 4 Schemes to Promote Young Scientists Announced by the Centre.
- Reliance Industries (RIL) become the first Indian company to cross the Rs6-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation.
- NIIF has partnered with DP World.
- ONGC Acquires 51.11% Stake in HPCL.

Defence

- India and Pakistan exchange list of nuclear sites for 27th consecutive year.
- Defence Ministry gives final nod for Barak missiles, PGM bombs.
- Defence Ministry clears Rs.2420 Crore worth contracts for Navy, Army.

- Alpha Design Technologies wins firing simulator order from India Army.

Important News- States

- Uder Vikas Samiksha Yatra Bihar Chief Minister laid down foundation stones for more than 100 projects worth Rs 700 Crore in Nalanda district.
- Arunachal Pradesh became the second state in the North-East after Assam to become Open Defecation Free. The three remaining districts of Upper Subansiri, Siang Changlang were declared ODF.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has given New Year gift to the farmers of the state by launching a 24-hours power supply free of cost.
- The Karnataka government announced that Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE) which will be the largest B2B event of the country will be held from 28th February 2018.
- APGVB (Andhra Pradesh Gramin Vikas Bank) introduced desktop ATMs in rural India.
- Bhanakpur village of Haryana has become the second village in the country and first in Haryana to sing National Anthem on loudspeakers daily.
- Goa will be hosting the 3rd Edition of the Science Film Festival of India from January 16-19.
- Karnataka receives approval for purchase of electric vehicles under FAME India scheme.
- CCEA approves construction of bi-directional Zojila Tunnel in J&K.
- NMCG approves five Namami Gange projects in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- West Bengal CM Unveils Official Emblem of West Bengal Government.
- Karnataka to Hold 'Largest B2B Travel Event' in the Country.
- 1st Draft of National Register of Citizens in Assam Released.
- The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamta Banerjee unveiled the official emblem of the state government which has features the Ashoka Pillar on the top with the theme of "Biswa Bangla" at the centre and was recently approved by the centre.
- Haryana has become the first state in India to launch the High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal.
- India's second FTII (Film and Television Institute of India) to be set up in Arunachal Pradesh.

- The Karnataka government announced that Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE) which will be the largest B2B event of the country will be held from 28th February 2018.
- Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index- Gujarat tops.
- Bhopal becomes the first state to have a 'Happy Nari' sanitary napkin vending machine in the railway station.
- Bandicoot Robots will soon replace men in cleaning up sewer holes in Kerala, ending the age-old practice of manual scavenging in Kerala.
- To commemorate 50 years of the Special Olympics programme, a three-day programme was organized in Kerala.
- NFHS-4 wealth index released: Delhi declared the richest state.
- Maharashtra Unveils Public Cloud Policy.
- Centre Sanctions Projects over Rs. 10,000 cr in North East for Better Network Connectivity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the project commencement of the Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra in Barmer district.
- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Manohar Parrikar launched the 'Protocol for Star Rating of Garbage-Free Cities' in Goa.
- Fourth Edition of India International Science Festival to be held in Lucknow
- India's 1st Garbage Festival Organised in Chhattisgarh.
- A replica of the iconic Qutub Minar made out of municipal waste, costing Rs 16 lakh, has been erected in a newly-created street roundabout near the Delhi international airport.
- Telangana, Tokyo Body Sign MoU for Municipal Waste Incineration.
- Delhi Declaration of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.
- Gol, Uttarakhand, And World Bank Sign \$120 Million Loan Agreement for Water Supply.
- 7th Asia Steel International Conference to Be Held in Bhubaneswar.
- Himachal CM Launches 'Shakti' App for Women's Safety.
- Kolkata Becomes 1st Indian Metro to Get a Floating Market.
- AYUSH Minister Lays Foundation Stone for Homeopathy Research Institute in Jaipur.
- Punjab Government Launches Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana.

Sports News

- Vidarbha Claims Maiden Ranji Trophy in the 84-year long history of the Indian domestic tournament by Delhi by nine wickets at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.
- Indian Golfer Shiv Kapur Wins Royal Cup at Pattaya.
- Meghalaya signs host city contract for 39th National Games in 2022.
- G Sathiyam Becomes India's Highest-Ranked Player in Latest ITTF Rankings.
- Vidarbha Claims Maiden Ranji Trophy in the 84-year long history of the Indian domestic tournament by Delhi by nine wickets at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.
- India's Aanchal Thakur created history by winning a medal at the Alpine Eder 3200 Cup in Turkey organised by The Federation Internationale de Ski, which is International Medal in Skiing.
- Professional player Aditya Mehta won the Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship in the capital city of West Bengal, Kolkata.
- Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million). With this, transfer of Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History.
- Gilles Simon of France has lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy. In the summit clash in Pune, the unseeded French player defeated second-seeded Kevin Anderson in straight sets
- Former world silver medallist Sarjubala Devi claimed the gold medal at the National Women's Boxing Championship.
- Khelo India School Games 2018, a brainchild of Olympian and sports minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, will be held at multiple venues across Delhi from 31st January 2018.
- The Indian cricket team won the blind world cup 2018 by beating arch-rivals Pakistan by 2 wickets in the final.
- West Indies to Host 2018 Women's World T20.
- Lifter Rakhi Halder Creates New National Record.
- Shuttler Siddharth Singh Wins Swedish Open Junior Badminton Title.

Important Dates

- 24th January- National Girl Child Day theme for this year was "A girl is flower, not a thorn".

- National Voters' Day 2018 in India: 25 January
The theme of this year's National Voters' day is 'Accessible Elections'.
- Nation Celebrates 69th Republic Day.
- Uttar Pradesh Diwas- 24 January.
- With an aim to make India a better country with the involvement of youth, National Youth Day is celebrated across the country on 12th January every year.

Obituaries

- Veteran Bengali Actress Supriya Devi Passes Away.
- Ursula K. Le Guin, Best-Selling Science Fiction Author Passes Away.
- Hugh Masekela, 'Father of South African Jazz' Passes Away.
- Famous Cartoonist Chandi Lahiri passed away after a brief period of illness, marking the end of a chapter in Bengal's history of the cartoon. Lahiri was 86.
- Basketball Hall of Famer Jo Jo White, a two-time NBA champion with the Boston Celtics and an Olympic gold medalist, has passed away.
- Former Union Minister Raghunath Jha Passes Away.
- TV actress Charu Rohatgi, known for her roles in serials like 'Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon?' and 'Uttaran', passed away.
- Baldev Raj, the director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, and a renowned administrator of nuclear power technologies in the country has passed away. He was 70 years old.
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- Powerlifting world champion Saksham Yadav died of his injuries after road accident near Delhi. He was injured in car accident.
- Peter Sutherland, the first Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), has passed away in Dublin, Ireland. He was 71.
- Legendary astronaut John Young, who walked on the Moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died at 87.
- Veteran Poet Anwar Jalalpuri Passes Away.
- Odia actor, director Ananta Ojha passes away.

- Politician, R Margabandhu passes away.
- Former Maharashtra Minister Madhukarrao Kimmatkar passes away.

List of Festivals organized in January 2018

Name of the Festival	Purpose	Organized by	Held at
The 171st Araadhanai Music Festival	Over 1,000 musicians from all over the world are expected to pay homage to Saint Thygaraja	The state government of Tamil Nadu	Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu
Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE)	Aims to improve the State's visibility in the tourism market.	The Karnataka government	Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Bangalore, Karnataka
Science Film Festival of India titled as SCI-FFI Goa	Aims to boost the culture of science films.	The state-based Vidnyan Parishad, Goa's Department of Science and Technology, the Entertainment Society of Goa and the Goa College of Art.	Goa
The 26th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair	Burning environment issues like climate change, global warming, and water pollution will be the main theme for this year's	The National Book Trust (NBT), India, in association with India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).	New Delhi

	New Delhi World Book Fair		
International Balloon Festival		Organised by media company Global Media Box and The Slaves, a Pollachi-based restaurant, with the support of the State Tourism Department and Adhiban Fincorp.	Pollachi near Coimbatore.
The seventh edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav,	To promote engagement among the people of different states to enhance mutual understanding and bonding.	organised by the Ministry of Culture	Karnataka
The fourth edition of the India International Science Festival		Union Minister for Science & Technology, Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan.	Lucknow
Ramayana Festival, marking 25 years of the Indo-ASEAN		Organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations.	New Delhi
Kachra Mahotsav 2018	aimed to increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively, and to	The Raipur Municipal Corporation	Chhattisgarh

	showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labelled as garbage		
Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF)	To promote Poetry work	The state government of Rajasthan	Diggi Palace, Amber Fort and Hawa Mahal of Rajasthan

List of Web portals, Apps and schemes January 2018

List of Web portals and Apps Launched

Name of the portal or Apps launched	Launched by	Aim
NARI App	Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi	To empower women with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.
e-Samvad portal	Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi	To facilitate a platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development
Allied and Healthcare Professionals' database portal.	Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare	Aims to ensure better systems and frameworks for the healthcare workforce of the country.
Digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series	Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary of Health and Family Welfare	Aimed at educating doctors in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various forms of cancers
High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal	The Haryana Government	Helps in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases up to the basic level and also ensures their timely referral to

		the civil hospitals for further management and delivery by specialists.
e-Sansad in Parliament and e-Vidhan in State Legislatures	Ananth Kumar Proposed, The Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	To make the functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures paperless, participative, responsive, transparent, productive and more accountable. This environment friendly initiative is also in line with the Go Green initiative of the government
Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App	The Ministry of Railways	To plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations. With this application, movement of freight trains on Geographic Information System (GIS) view can be tracked. Both passenger and freight trains can be tracked over through this application.
Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS)	The Odisha state government launched	To provide a computerized platform for online recording of clinical parameters of patients and reporting of performance criteria of hospitals. According to the system, patients can be registered online and can view and download their individual electronic health records at their doorstep through web portal or mobile application
Management Information System (MIS) portal	Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shri Rakesh Srivastava	For Anganwadi Services Training Programme and to submit applications/estimates by NGOs for carrying out Anganwadi Services (ICDS) Training through AWTCs/MLTCs.

Shakthi app	Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur	Quick police response cases of crimes against women
'Rail Yatri Guide' kiosk	The Chairman of Railway Board, Ashwani Lohani,	A single point enquiry station for answering all the queries of passengers including guidance and navigation for accessing various facilities available at the station, read an official note

List of Schemes Launched

Name of the Scheme launched	Launched by	Aim
Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana'	The Haryana government	To assure farmers of fair prices for their produce and emphasising on diversification of crops
24x7 power supply	The Telangana government	To provide free power supply to farmers
'Electoral Bonds' scheme	The central government of India	To ensure the flow of clean money to political parties
Integrated solar based micro irrigation scheme (ISBMI)	The Haryana state government	To save electricity and water considerably economical for the farmers
7.75 per cent Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018	The Government of India	
Vikas Samiksha Yatra'	Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar	
Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana (MMKSY)	Odisha governmnet	To give Financial assistance to Artists
Balasaheb Thackeray Shaheed	The Maharashtra	Under the scheme family members

Sanmaan' scheme	government	of martyrs would be provided jobs with the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC). The wives of martyrs would also be provided with lifetime free bus passes
Phase -1 of Rapid Reporting System for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.	The Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development Shri Rakesh Srivastava	Monitoring for the Scheme for Adolescent Girls
Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE) Scheme, Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship scheme, Distinguished Investigator Award and Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research (AWSAR) scheme.	The Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan	Focus on youth to empower, recognise and motivate them
'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana'	Punjab chief minister	The objective was to give the distressed sections the help they need, socially or economically or psychologically
Saksham 2018'	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Aims at creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people centric activities and efficient use of petroleum products leading to better health and environment.
first Khelo India School Games	The Central government of India	To revive the sports culture in the country at the grass-root level

Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative	The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)	To strengthen the cyber security ecosystem in India and it also aims to 'Digital India'
Stree Swabhiman	The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY)	To provide adolescent girls and women, an easy access to affordable sanitary products.

List of appointments January 2018

Name of the Person	Designation
IAS officer N C Goel	Chief Secretary of Rajasthan
Vijay Keshav Gokhale	Foreign secretary
Pankaj Jain	Additional charge of Managing Director in India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).
Salil Parekh	IT giant, Infosys
UB Pravin Rao	Chief Operating Officer and a whole-time Director
Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga	New Prime Minister of Mali
Rajinder Khanna	Deputy National Security Adviser
Dilip Asbe	Managing Director and CEO of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
K Sivan	New Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
Harjinder Singh	Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games
Sunny Verghese	Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.
Indu Malhotra, a senior advocate	first woman lawyer as judge of the apex court
V J Mathew	Chairman of Maritime Board

Anil Khanna	Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association
Vijay Kumar	Managing Director and CEO NCDEX
S Selvakumar	Additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL)
Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel	New Governor of Madhya Pradesh
Om Prakash Rawat	Chief Election Commissioner
Ashok Lavasa	Election Commissioner
IPS officer Sudeep Lakhtakia	Director general of National Security Guard (NSG).
Music composer AR Rahman	Brand ambassador of Sikkim
Dilip Chenoy	Director general of Industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Shri Srikumar Menon	Ambassador of India to the Republic of Angola
S Somnath	The new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
Jerome Powell	Head of the Federal Reserve
Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank	The first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
Milos Zeman	Second five-year, Czech Republic's pro-Russia president
Vikram Singh Sisodia	Chef-de-Mission for the upcoming Commonwealth Games

List of Obituary January 2018

Name of the Personality	Field
Anwar Jalalpuri	Urdu poet

Radha Viswanathan	Carnatic singer,
Peter Sutherland	Former World Trade Organization Director General
Saksham Yadav	Powerlifting world champion
John Young	Legendary American astronaut
Shrivallabh Vyas	Bollywood actor
Baldev Raj	Atomic scientist and IAS Director
Gnani Sankaran	Veteran Tamil writer, journalist and theatre personality
Raghunath Jha	Former Union minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
Jo Jo white	American Basketball player
Kashinath	Veteran Kannada actor
Chandi Lahiri	Famous Cartoonist
Major FKK Sircar	Longest living Indian Army veteran
Hugh Masekela,	Legendary jazz musician and activist also known as 'Father of South African jazz',
Ursula K Le Guin	Science fiction and fantasy author
Supriya Devi	Famous actress from West Bengal
Chandrashekhara known as 'Edakallu Guddada Mele'	Noted Kannada actor
Billionaire IKEA	Founder of Swedish multinational group
Kalamandalam Geethanandan	Ottanthulal artist

List of MoUs signed between India and other Nations in January

India signed MOU with	Purpose of the MOU
India and Myanmar	On land border crossing
India and Italy	Cooperation in the field of renewable energy
India and Israel	Cooperation in the oil and Gas Sector
India and Belgium	Cooperation in the field of ICT&E

India and Transport for London	To improve public transport in India
India and UK	For the return of illegal Indian Migrants, sharing of criminal records
Rajasthan and HDFC Bank	Tie up to help start-ups
India and Saudi Arabia	Haj agreement
India and Canada	For cooperation on science and technology
Gujarat and South Korea	For business cooperation
India and Sri Lanka	4 agreement for collaboration in ICT sector
India and Israel	<p>sign 9 MoUs to boost cooperation in various fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on cyber-security cooperation • MoU on Protocol between India and Israel on Amendments to the Air Transport Agreement • MoU between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Energy on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector. • MoU on filmmaking • collaboration in the field of medicine • MoU with Technion- Israel Institute of Technology • MoU for exchanging information on investment opportunities, relevant laws and regulations, policies and government initiatives • For cooperation in the area of metal-air batteries. • for cooperation in the area of concentrated solar thermal technologies.
ASSOCHAM and Football Delhi	To strengthen commercial profile
India, Vietnam	On I&B, Space Cooperation
India, Cambodia	Ink four pacts to strengthen bilateral ties
India and Seychelles	to build military infrastructure on Assumption Island
Andhra Pradesh-Zurich	Sign Sister State Agreement
Water resources Ministry signed MOU with Bihar and Jharkhand	For completion of North Koel reservoir project

Johnson & Johnson partners with Maharashtra government	on health interventions
Punjab gov. inks MOU with IOC	To set up Biogas, Bio-CNG plants
Centre, Jammu and Kashmir	For education reforms
NITI Aayog and Andhra Pradesh government	To develop an online dashboard
Telangana government signed MOU with the Clean Authority of Tokyo	for municipal solid waste incineration

