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Yearly Review of Persons in News 2017

Current Affairs Capsule in PDF

January 2017

- **Father of Pac-Man passes away**
 - Masaya Nakamura, the “Father of Pac-Man” who founded the Japanese video game company behind the hit creature-gobbling game, has died. He was of 91 years.
 - Nakamura, founded Namco, part of Bandai Namco, in 1955.
 - It started out as just two mechanical horse rides on a department store rooftop but went on to pioneer game arcades and amusement parks.
- **Russian envoy Alexander Kadakin died**
 - Russian Ambassador Alexander Kadakin, a Hindi-speaking career diplomat who was considered a “great friend” of India, died at a hospital here on Thursday after a brief illness.
 - He was 67.
 - Serving as the Ambassador here since 2009, Kadakin was credited with playing a significant role in promotion of relations between India and Russia.
- **World’s first trillionaire**
 - Microsoft founder Bill Gates will be world’s first trillionaire in the next 25 years.



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- According to research firm Oxfam International, the world would get its first trillionaire in the next 25 years.
- A report by Oxfam International said that considering that Bill Gates' fortune is growing at 11% per year since 2009, he could become the world's first trillionaire soon.

- **PM Congratulates Mr. Pravind Jugnauth**
 - The PM Modi congratulate Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth on his assumption of office as the PM of Mauritius.
 - The Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Jugnauth affirmed their shared commitment to further strengthen the time-tested and unique relationship between India and Mauritius.

- **Viral V Acharya takes charge as RBI DG**
 - Acharya who joined the RBI on January 20 with a three year-term is expected to give crucial inputs for the forthcoming monetary policy scheduled on February 8.
 - New York University Economics Professor Viral V Acharya, considered an expert in credit risk.
 - He will also be part of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI.

- **Foreign Secretary get extension**
 - Jaishankar is the first Foreign secretary, since the post became a fixed two-year-term position in 2009, to get an extension.
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal for extension in service of Dr S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary for a further period of one year.





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- Secretary (Economic Affairs) Shaktikanta Das has also been given an extension for another three months.

- **Mridangam vidwan honoured**

- Noted mridangam vidwan Tiruchi Sankaran was honoured with 'TCM Lifetime Achievement' award at a function organised by Trichy Carnatic Musicians
- K Natarajan, Head of Programmes, All India Radio, Tiruchi station, presented the award which is instituted by the Trichy Carnatic Musicians He had been honoured with awards by Sangeet Natak Akademi and received 'Sangita Kalanidhi' title

- **Gionee Signs Kohli as Brand Ambassador**

- Mobile handset brand Gionee has roped in Indian test captain Virat Kohli as the brand ambassador.
- The announcement of Kohli's appointment was made alongside the announcement of Gionee clocking 1.2 crore customers in India.
- Gionee has two manufacturing units in India.
- It is continuously beefing up its brand and marketing initiatives with the aim to grow as much as 2.5 times in 2017.

- **Portugal Father of Democracy Soares Dies**

- Ex-Portuguese President Mario Soares, regarded as a father of the country's democracy, has passed away.
- He was founder of Portugal's Socialist party.
- He was president from 1986 to 1996 after serving as foreign minister & prime minister, and later became a European lawmaker.





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- He played a key role after the 1974 Carnation Revolution, a military coup that put an end to 48 years of Salazar rule.

- **Sitar Maestro Abdul Halim Jaffer Dies**

- Noted sitar player Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan has passed away.
- He was a recipient of Padma bhushan & Sangeet Natak Academic awards. He was the last survivor of the Sitar Trinity that comprised Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan.
- During his music career spanning over six decades, Khan played the sitar for various films, including Mughal-E-Azam, Kohinoor, Goonj Uthi Shehnai among others.

- **David Syiemlieh is the New UPSC Chairman**

- David R Syiemlieh has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Syiemlieh is from Meghalaya and was a UPSC member.
- He will remain the head of the organisation till his retirement on January 21, 2018 or till further orders.
- He will take over from Alka Sirohi, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

- **Bipin Rawat, Dhanoa Assume Charge**

- General Bipin Rawat assumed charge as India's new army chief.
- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa took over as the new chief of the Indian Air Force.
- They succeed General Dalbir Singh and Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha respectively.





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- The new appointments were announced on December 16 by the government.
- Chief of Naval staff Admiral Sunil Lanba will head the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

February 2017

- **Kabir Bedi appointed brand ambassador**

- India's most famous international actors Kabir Bedi was appointed as the honorary brand ambassador of Sightsavers India to prevent avoidable blindness by RN Mohanty, CEO of Sightsavers on February 17, 2017.
- Kabir's association would help the organisation towards a focused journey with amplified impact in the coming days.

- **Gopal Baglay becomes MEA spokesperson**

- Indian Foreign Service officer Gopal Baglay will replace Vikas Swarup as the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Swarup was on February 16 appointed as the Indian high commissioner to Canada.
- Baglay, a 1992 batch IFS officer, has earlier served as deputy high commissioner to Pakistan.
- He was also a press counsellor at the Indian embassy in Kathmandu.

- **Shilpa to be Swachh Bharat ambassador**





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- The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as a brand ambassador for the Indian government cleanliness initiative 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.

- She will feature in TV and radio campaigns aimed at discouraging people from littering on roads. Soon, campaign posters featuring her will be displayed at various places across the country.

- **Nobel-Winning Kenneth J. Arrow Dies**
 - Nobel-winning economist, mathematician Kenneth J Arrow has died on 21st February 2017.
 - He was 95.
 - Kenneth J. Arrow. Kenneth received the Nobel memorial prize in economic science for their pioneering mathematical work on general equilibrium theory in 1972.

- **Sujata Mehta appointed UPSC member**
 - Former diplomat Sujata Mehta and Air Marshal Ajit Shankarrao Bhonsle have been appointed as members in UPSC in New Delhi.
 - President has appointed Mehta and Bhonsle to the posts for a period of 6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, an order issued by Personnel
 - With these appointments, the strength of the Commission has gone upto seven.

- **Shah Rukh to host Hindi 'Ted Talks'**
 - Shah Rukh Khan will host the Hindi version of popular international show TED Talks.





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- Star India will air the Indian version TED Talks 'India Nayi Soch', a global first Hindi TV talk show created in partnership with TED, non-profit devoted to ideas worth spreading.
- Uday Shankar, CEO, Star India said, In an age of high volatility, the role of ideas to fuel positive change cannot be overstated.

- **Neelam Damodaran is Bank of India new ED**

- The Government has appointed Neelam Damodaran as Executive Director of Bank of India.
- His tenor is up to November 30, 2019. Prior to his elevation as ED, Damodaran was General Manager with Bank of Baroda.
- He took charge on 16 February 2017.
- With this appointment, Bank of India now has two EDs. R A Sankara Narayanan has been ED of the bank since May 15, 2015.

- **Edappadi Palaniswami sworn in as TN CM**

- Ending the political impasse in Tamil Nadu, Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao administered the oath of office to Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the 13th Chief Minister along with a Council of 30 Ministers.
- Mr. Palaniswami said he would take a floor test in the Assembly at 11.a.m. on Saturday to prove his majority.
- Earlier Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam resigned from the post.

- **Nilesh appointed as ICAI president**

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) elected Nilesh Shivji Vikamsey as president and Naveen N D Gupta as vice-president.
- They have been elected for the year 2017-18, ICAI said in a release.





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- Vikamsey, who served as vice-president, has been a member of the ICAI since 1985.
- Gupta has been a chartered accountant for more than 20 years.
- **Al Jarreau passes away**
 - Al Jarreau, the jazz-pop musician best known for the hits "Breakin' Away,"
 - "We're in This Love Together" died.
 - He was 76. Nicknamed the "Acrobat of Scat", he was one of the few performers of his day who successfully bridged pop, jazz and R&B.
 - He released more than 20 albums and won seven Grammy Awards.

March 2017

- **Girl swims from Sea Link to Gateway**
 - Gauri Singhvi, 14-year-old girl became the first girl to explore the route from Sea Link near Worli Koliwada to the Gateway of India.
 - She completed the 36 km long distance route in 6 hours and 30 minutes.
 - Singh is a resident of Udaipur and a class 8th student. From her childhood, she started swimming and wanted to swim in the international channel, and therefore eyed the Arabian Sea.
- **Beasley to head UN World Food Program**
 - Former South Carolina Gov. David Beasley has been appointed to head the Beasley is a supporter of President Donald Trump who was recommended for the job by U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley.





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- He will replace another American, Etharin Cousin, who has been the WFP executive director since 2012

- **BSF's first woman combat officer**
 - Tanushree Pareek, a resident of Rajasthan's Bikaner who became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned by the Border Security Force.
 - The Border Security Force is the primary Border guarding force of India. It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of the Union of India.
 - BSF is a Union Government Agency under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs.

- **Bhattacharya among top 50 leaders**
 - SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya has been ranked 26th in the Fortune's top 50 greatest leaders.
 - She is the only Indian corporate leader in the list.
 - By this, Arundhati Bhattacharya becomes the only Indian corporate leader to be featured in the list.
 - Bhattacharya is the first-ever woman to chair the country's largest lender.

- **Litterateur Thiagarajan passes away**
 - A noted Tamil litterateur, Thiagarajan, popularly known as Asokamitran passed away in Chennai last night after a brief illness.
 - A well known novelist and essayist, Ashokamitran was noted for his subtlety and refreshing creativity in expression.





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- His work "Appavin Snegithargal", a collection of short stories won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1996.

- **Upendra as Director General of ISA**

- Govt decided to appoint Mr. Upendra Tripathy, as the Interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a full time basis.
- ISA was launched on 30th November, 2015 as a coalition of the solar resource rich countries jointly by PM Modi and Mr. Francois Hollande, President of France in the Paris Climate Conference or CoP21.

- **Madhabi Puri appointed as SEBI Member**

- Madhabi Puri Buch was appointed as a Whole-Time Member of capital markets regulator SEBI.
- She is founder-director of Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd and currently at the New Development Bank in Shanghai, China.
- Buch has been appointed to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) post for a period of three years, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

- **Jason Kothari as CEO of Freecharge**

- Snapdeal has appointed Jason Kothari to the position of Chief Executive
Kothari's appointment to the role comes a month after former Freecharge CEO Govind Rajan quit the company.
- Snapdeal's investment of \$20 million in Freecharge will ensure the company has enough working capital in the near future.





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- **Poet and writer Chinu Modi passed away**
 - Noted Gujarati poet and ghazal writer Chinu Modi passed away who has made a great contribution to Gujarati literature with his
 - Chinu Modi has written over 50 books of poetry, drama, novel, stories, poetry, plays, novels and stories. critics, biography, collection, songs and translation.
 - Chinu Modi had received Sahitya Academy award in 2014.

April 2017

- **Snehlata appointed as Secretary General**
 - Snehlata Shrivastava, a 1982-batch retired IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the first woman Secretary General of the Lok Sabha.
 - Her appointment to this post was made by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
 - She will replace Anoop Mishra, who is Secretary with effect from December & retiring on November 30, 2017.
 - She will have the rank and status of Cabinet
- **Badri appointed as first chairman of NAA**
 - Badri Narain Sharma, a Rajasthan cadre IAS officer of 1985 batch, has been appointed the first chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority.
 - This body was set up under the goods and services tax to ensure that the benefits of lower taxes under the new regime are shared with consumers.
 - Sharma, at present is an additional secretary in the department of revenue in the finance ministry
- **Suu Kyi stripped of Oxford Award**





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- Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been stripped of the Freedom of Oxford award.
- It is done due to her "inaction" in handling the raging Rohingya refugee crisis and turning a "blind eye to violence" in the country that forced over 600,000 people to flee to Bangladesh.
- Oxford City Council in London voted unanimously to permanently remove the honour given to her in 1997.
- **Thodupuzha Vasanthi passes away**
 - Popular Malayalam stage, movie and television actor Thodupuzha Vasanthi passed away at a private hospital in Thodupuzha, Kerala.
 - Thodupuzha Vasanthi was 65 years old. She was battling cancer.
 - Her film career began in 1975. She had acted in over 450 films.
 - had won the state government award for theatre acting.
- **She NK Singh as Chairman of Fin. Commission**
 - The Central government has appointed NK Singh as chairman of 15th Finance Commission.
 - The commission will make recommendations after reviewing several important aspects of federal fiscal finance including the deficit, cash balances, debt levels, and fiscal discipline efforts of the Union and the states.
 - It will make recommendations, by October 2019, for five years commencing April 1, 2020.
- **Pradeep appointed as Air India CMD**
 - Senior IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India.
 - Pradeep, a Karnataka cadre IAS officer, would replace Rajiv Bansal, who has been serving as the interim CMD for a little over three months.





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- Currently, Pradeep Singh Kharola is the Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
- **5 Russians banned for Doping**
 - 5 more Russian competitors from the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics have been banned for life over anti-doping rule violations by IOC.
 - Dmitrii Trunenkov and Aleksei Negodailo, both in the gold-medal winning four-man bobsleigh team, plus biathlon relay silver medalists Yana Romanova and Olga Vilukhina, who also won silver in the 7.5 km event.
 - Sergei Chudinov was also disqualified for doping.
- **Kohli makes 10 int. hundreds in an year**
 - Virat Kohli has become the first captain to score 10 international hundreds in a calendar year.
 - On 26th November 2017, Virat Kohli struck his 19th hundred in Test as India played against Sri Lanka at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur.
 - It was also his fifth double hundred in Test cricket.
 - Virat Kohli reached his fourth Test hundred in 2017 in just 130 balls.
- **Om Prakash Saraf passes away at 95**
 - Om Prakash Saraf, former MLA of Jammu Kashmir, passed away in Jammu Kashmir.
 - Om Prakash Saraf, former MLA from Jammu Kashmir, passes away at 95.
 - He has become the first person in Jammu Kashmir, who in his lifetime had decided to donate his body to the medical college.
 - There was no cremation of his body. Instead, his body was handed over to the Government Medical College, Jammu.
- **2017 Miss Universe**
 - South Africa's Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters has won Miss Universe 2017 crown.





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- The 66th annual Miss Universe pageant had 92 contestants vying for the crown, which is the largest number since Miss Universe 2011 and 2012 when 82 contestants fought for the title.
- Miss Colombia Laura Gonzalez was adjudged the first runner up while Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett became the second runner-up.

May 2017

- **PC to get Dadasaheb Phalke Academy Award**

- Actress Priyanka Chopra will be conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Academy Award for being an international icon.
- She will be given the award under the newly introduced 'Internationally Acclaimed Actress' category
- Actor Johny Lever, Mithun Chakraborty and chairperson of CBFC are members of the Dadasaheb Phalke Academy Board.
- This Award is India's highest award in cinema.

- **1st Indian PM to visit Spain in 30 years**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian prime minister to visit the country since 1988.
- The previous Indian PM to visit Spain was Rajiv Gandhi, in 1988.
- Modi will hold discussions with his Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy to deepen bilateral engagement, including in the high-tech sector.
- PM Modi is on a four-nation tour to boost bilateral relations and seek investment

- **Lionel Messi wins fourth Golden Shoe.**

- Lionel Messi has won the European Golden Shoe for a record fourth time.
- With this fourth Golden Shoe Messi has drawn level with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo.





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- Messi has scored 37 goals this season in the Spanish league.
- The award goes every season to the leading goal scorer from every top division national league in Europe.
- **BSF officer summits Everest 6th time.**
 - BSF officer Loveraj Singh Dharamshaktu became the first Indian mountaineer to conquer the world's highest peak Mount Everest for a record sixth time.
 - He works as an assistant commandant with the Border Security Force in Dehradun.
 - He was awarded the Padma Shri by Government of India in 2014.
 - He hails from Uttarakhand and scaled the Everest first in 1998.
- **Rout gets Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar**
 - Satyabrata Rout has been awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for the year 2016.
 - He has been awarded for developing a unique method of teaching and practising direction and design.
 - He is one of the pioneers of 'visual theater' in India, and has 'Scenography: An Indian Perspective'.
 - The Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar is the highest Indian recognition given to practicing artists.
- **Sherpa scales Mt Everest 21 times.**
 - Kami Rita Sherpa from Nepal created history by scaling Mt. Everest for a record 21 times.
 - He became one of the three climbers in the world to hold the record for most of the summits on Mt Everest.
 - Apa Sherpa and Phurba Tashi Sherpa have also scaled the highest peak 21 times.





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- He has already climbed most of the peaks above 8,000 m including K2, Cho-oyu, Lhoste and Annapurna among others.
- **Indian Navy civilian scales Everest.**
 - Brijmohan Sharma has become the first civilian from the Indian Navy to summit Mount Everest.
 - His first attempt to conquer the Everest in 2015 was obstructed by earthquake-induced avalanche in which he was buried under heavy snow.
 - In 2016, He gained rookie entry in the world's toughest foot race, Badwater and earned himself the position of being the 2nd and the fastest Indian at the event.
- **Indian-American wins NatGeo Bee contest.**
 - 14-year-old Indian-American student, Pranay Varada has won the prestigious National Geographic Bee competition.
 - He was declared the winner as he won the first tie breaker question.
 - He will get \$50,000 in scholarship.
 - Indian-Americans have won the National Geographic Bee competition for the last six consecutive years.
- **Shrinivas Kulkarni wins Dan David prize.**
 - Indian scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni has won the prestigious Dan David prize for his contribution in the field of astronomy.
 - 3 Dan David prizes of 1 million dollar each are given every year in the categories of "Past", "Present" and "Future" to people around the world who have made outstanding contributions to humanity in the sciences, humanities, or through their work in civil society.
- **Jamsenpa scales Everest for fourth time.**
 - Anshu Jamsenpa, the Indian mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh conquered Mount Everest for the fourth time, thus becoming the first Indian woman to achieve this feat.





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- She also holds the record of being the only woman in the world to have scaled the highest peak twice in a season.
- She had scaled the world's highest peak twice in 2011 and once in 2013.

July 2017

- **Raveesh Kumar to be MEA spokesperson**

- Consul General of India in Frankfurt Raveesh Kumar will be the next Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson.
- This comes after Senior diplomat and current MEA spokesperson Gopal Baglay was appointed as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.
- He joined Indian Foreign Service in 1995 and started his career at Indian Mission in Jakarta, after which he was posted in Thimpu and London.

- **Deepika to become an Academy member**

- Deepika Padukone has been inducted as one of the newest members of the Academy of Motion Picture of Arts & Sciences, Class of 2017.
- Deepika made her Hollywood debut with Vin Diesel's "xXx: Return of Xander Cage.
- AMPAS has invited 774 new members from 57 countries around the world to join the organisation's ranks.
- Apart from Deepika, Priyanka Chopra has also joined the Academy Class of 2017.

- **Gill elected to key Parliament panel**

- Britain's first woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill has been elected to Home Affairs Select Committee in the UK Parliament.
- Labour Party candidate Preet Kaur Gill became Britain's first female Sikh to be a member of parliament after she won her Birmingham Edgbaston seat in the June 8 snap general election.





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- She has also been chosen to lead the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs.
- **Ex-Brazil Prez sentenced to 9 years**
 - Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been convicted of corruption charges & sentenced to 9 & a half years in prison.
 - He was found guilty of accepting an apartment as a bribe in a corruption scandal linked to state oil company Petrobras.
 - He served 8 years as president until 2011, has expressed interest in running again in next year's elections for left-wing Workers' Party.
- **Mallya quits as India's representative**
 - Vijay Mallya has quit as Indian motorsport body's top representative in the world body FIA after intervention from the sports ministry.
 - He resigned ahead of the last meeting of FIA's World Motor Sport Council in June following ministry's directive to Federation of Motor Sports Club of India.
 - Mallya was also removed as FMSCI honorary chairman as a result of his mounting troubles.

August 2017

- **Bridgestone India ropes in PV Sindhu**
 - Bridgestone India has announced Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu as its 1st brand ambassador
 - As part of the 3 year agreement, Sindhu will be included in Bridgestone's activations around its Worldwide Olympic Partnership
 - Sindhu's journey is an epitome of perseverance & is a setting example to youth to 'Chase Your Dream' which echoes with Bridgestone's global association with Olympic Games





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- **Indian Boy gets top score in Mensa IQ**
 - A 13-year-old Indian-origin boy, Dhruv Garg in the UK has got the highest possible score of 162 on a Mensa IQ test.
 - This score qualifies him amongst the rare one per cent of the population who take the Mensa exam worldwide in both the exams.
 - He also scored in the highest mark in the second test, known as the Culture Fair scale, getting 152.
- **Sunil Sanghai resigns**
 - HSBC India's vice chairman and investment banking head Sunil Sanghai quit British banking giant.
 - Sanghai has joined hands with the Dinesh Kanabar-promoted tax & regulatory firm Dhruva Advisors to start a merchant banking division.
 - Before joining HSBC, Sanghai worked as Goldman Sachs' managing director & co- head for investment banking & also has had stints with Morgan Stanley & JM Financial.
- **Tobe Hooper passes away**
 - Tobe Hooper, best known for his work in the horror film genre, passed away at the age of 74.
 - He rose to prominence after his 1974 fantasy thriller "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre."
 - He continued working in television and film throughout the 1990s and 2000s.
 - He made his directorial debut with the movie, "Eggshells" in 1969.
- **Uber chooses new CEO**
 - Uber has chosen Expedia CEO Dara Khosrowshahi as its new CEO.
 - The embattled ride-hailing startup has been without a CEO since founder and former CEO Travis Kalanick resigned in June.





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- Khosrowshahi was not among those reported to have been in the running. The short list included Jeff Immelt, the former CEO of General Electric, and Meg Whitman, the head of Hewlett Packard Enterprise.
- **Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong jailed**
 - A court in South Korea has found Lee Jae-yong, Vice chairman & de facto head of Samsung, guilty of corruption & has sentenced him to 5 years in prison.
 - He was convicted of bribery in a scandal that also saw impeachment of South Korea's former president.
 - Prosecutors alleged that Lee paid millions of dollars to Park in an attempt to cement control of world's leading smartphone & chip maker.
- **LinkedIn Power Profiles List of 2017**
 - PM Modi & Priyanka Chopra have found a spot in LinkedIn Power Profiles List of 2017.
 - Through the list, LinkedIn recognises 50 such professionals, who have successfully invested in building their professional brand on the platform.
 - Modi with his 2.2 million followers on the platform, is a 3rd time return to the list.
 - Other influencers are Kailash Satyarthi, Shashi Tharoor & Manu Kumar Jain.
- **Highest paid actors**
 - Forbes has released its list of world's 20 highest paid actors of 2017 featuring 3 Indian actors - Shahrukh Khan, Salman Khan & Akshay Kumar among top 10.
 - The list is topped by Hollywood star Mark Wahlberg with earning of \$68 mn.





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- Wahlberg replaced last year's top-ranked star, Dwayne Johnson who comes in at the 2nd spot with \$65 mn earnings while Vin Diesel with \$54.5 mn got the 3rd spot.
- **Aryaman creates golf history**
 - 10 year-old golfer, Aryaman Singh wrapped up the season on a high note, blazing his way through the first five events of the Indian Golf Union-West Zone.
 - Singh remains undefeated at the zonal level for four years, winning every tournament he has played.
 - His winning streak now extends to 1,266 days, which is the longest in the history of junior golf in India.
- **Uber India appoints Vishpala as CPO**
 - Uber has roped in former American Express executive Vishpala Reddy as the chief people's officer for its India & South Asia operations.
 - Prior to joining Uber, Vishpala was Vice-President & Head of HR for American Express in India. She has also worked with Hewitt Associates as a senior consultant.
 - For Uber, India is one of its largest markets outside US & has witnessed over 100% YoY growth.

September 2017

- **First Indian woman to scale Mt Manaslu**
 - An Indian Police Service Officer of UP Cadre, Aparna Kumar became the first Indian woman to scale Mount Manaslu, which is the 8th highest mountain peak in the world.
 - Exactly at 10.00 am on September 25, Kumar took up a mission to climb Mount Manaslu in the west-central part of Nepal.





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- She has already successfully scaled the highest peaks of six continents out of seven continents.
- **PC among highest paid female TV actors**
 - Priyanka Chopra has made it to Forbes' annual top 10 highest paid female TV actors list that has Sofia Vergara on the No.1 spot.
 - With her earning of \$10 million, she is on the eighth position on the list, nudging House of Cards star Robin Wright (\$9 million) to the ninth spot.
 - Priyanka made her acting debut in the West with TV show Quantico.
- **Nooyi, Kochhar, Shikha on biz women list**
 - 2 Indians Chanda Kochhar & Shikha Sharma have made it to the rankings of most powerful women in business outside US drawn up by Fortune magazine.
 - The list which was topped by Banco Santander group Executive Chairman Ana Botin, placed ICICI Banks Kochhar at 5th spot while Axis Banks Sharma has been ranked 21st
 - PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi came in at No. 2 on US Most Powerful Women in Business list
- **Tyagi named among world's top regulators**
 - According to a report, Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi has been named among the top 10 regulators in the world.
 - Tyagi, who took over the reins of SEBI this year, has been ranked at 7th position among the top 10 regulators worldwide.
 - Rankings are part of World's Most Influential People in Market Structure, also known as Exchange Invest 1000
 - The list is topped by EU's Commissioner Margrethe Vestager
- **P.V. Sindhu for Padma Bhushan**
 - Olympic silver medallist shuttler P.V. Sindhu has been recommended for the prestigious Padma Bhushan by the Sports Ministry.





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- World No. 2 Sindhu has been in stellar form since winning a silver medal at Rio Olympics and is the second athlete after MS Dhoni to have been nominated for the honour this year.
- In March 2015, Sindhu was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri.
- **President Kovind's first foreign trip**
 - President Kovind will make his 1st foreign trip as head of state to strategically-significant African continent in October.
 - Presidential visit to Ethiopia & Djibouti is seen as a reiteration of importance govt gives to continent where Chinese have made considerable inroads.
 - Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia is the seat of African Union, had hosted 1st India-Africa summit outside India in 2012
- **Mary Kom to be AIBA representative**
 - Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be picked as International Boxing Association's representative for IOC Athletes' Forum.
 - She has been invited to attend the 8th International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Forum in Lausanne from November 11 to 13.
 - Mary Kom is an Asian Games gold-medallist besides being a multiple-time Asian champion.
- **Hui Ka Yan Becomes Asia's Richest Man**
 - Hui Ka Yan, the chairman of big China real estate developer China Evergrande Group, has become Asia's richest man.
 - Hui's estimated fortune of \$42.2 billion puts him ahead of Tencent Holdings Chairman Ma Huateng (\$39.1 billion) and Alibaba Group Chairman Jack Ma (\$38.9 billion).





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- Hui's wealth advance has been driven by an extraordinary rally in Hong Kong-listed Evergrande's share price.
- **100 greatest living business minds**
 - 3 Indian entrepreneurial legends, Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal & Vinod Khosla have been included in Forbes's list of world's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds'.
 - Other Honorees featured on the list include Donald Trump, Mark Zuckerberg and others.
 - List includes individuals who have either created something with a lasting impact on world or innovated in a way that transcends their given field
- **Brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat**
 - Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced appointment of Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.
 - Objectives of Swachh Bharat are to reduce or eliminate open defecation through the construction of individual, cluster and community toilets.
 - Akshay Kumar was also appointed as the brand ambassador for cleanliness drive by Uttar Pradesh Govt.

October 2017

- **Playboy features first transgender model**
 - Men's magazine Playboy has featured its first ever transgender model as 'playmate' in its November 2017 issue.
 - This has been done in a move to create way for all women including transgenders in fashion and other sectors.
 - Ines Rau, a French fashion model has become the first transgender model to appear as a centerfold in the Playboy magazine's 64-year history.





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- **Varun Dhawan to get a wax statue**
 - Varun Dhawan has become one of the Bollywood celebrities to get his wax statue at the Madame Tussauds.
 - His statue would be unveiled at Madame Tussauds Hong Kong where he is the second Bollywood actor after the legendary Amitabh Bachchan to get a wax statue.
 - More than 200 measurements were taken. The team also matched the hair and eye colour of the actor.
- **Choirul dies in collision with teammate**
 - Indonesian goalkeeper Choirul Huda died following an on-pitch collision with a teammate.
 - Persela Lamongan keeper, Huda, sustained injuries after impact with the knee of Ramon Rodrigues.
 - Huda had been a part of the team since 1999 and had 503 appearances for the club. He spent nearly 18 years with the team.
- **Documentary on Arvind Kejriwal**
 - A documentary on Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is being released.
 - Titled as 'An Insignificant Man', the film will hit theatres on November 17.
 - Directed by Khushboo Ranka and Vina Shukla, An Insignificant Man, is a non-fiction political thriller that chronicles the rise of Arvind Kejriwal from a social activist to the chief minister of Delhi.
- **5 Students Selected For NASA Challenge**
 - Five students from Warangal, Telangana have been selected to take part in the 5th annual NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge.
 - The challenge has been scheduled to be held in April 2018 in the US.
 - For selection in the final challenge, these student had to submit a moon buggy design report that make their buggy work on the surface of moon, ensuring the safety of its passengers.





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- **Yuvraj Sing becomes Laureus' ambassador**
 - Yuvraj Singh has become the first Indian ambassador of Laureus.
 - Laureus works to improve the lives of young people through sport, and uses the power of sport to end violence, discrimination and disadvantage.
 - Laureus consists of Indian cricket legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Kapil Dev.
- **Jagdish Mukhi to be Governor of Assam**
 - Jagdish Mukhi was sworn in as new Governor of Assam. He was administered oath of office by Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajit Singh.
 - Before this, Mukhi served as the lieutenant governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - He succeeded Banwarilal Purohit who has been appointed as the governor of Tamil Nadu.
- **Bismoy Kumar Mohanty passes away**
 - Noted journalist Bismoy Kumar Mohanty died following a heart attack at Puri. He was 62 years old.
 - Mohanty was the president of Odisha Small and Medium Newspaper Organisation.
 - He was also associated with a number of social and cultural organisations. His wife Bijay Laxmi Mohanty is also publisher and editor of language daily "Sambad Bahika".
- **Kundan Shah passes away**
 - Veteran director Kundan Shah, best known for the dark comedy Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, passed away. He was 69.
 - Shah passed away after suffering a heart attack.
 - He had studied direction at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune and made his feature film debut in 1983 with the cult classic Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983).





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- **Purushottam Lal Kaushik Passes Away**
 - Former Union minister and socialist leader Purushottam Lal Kaushik died due to age-related ailments. He was 87.
 - He had served as tourism and civil aviation minister in the then Prime Minister Morarji Desai's cabinet during 1977- 1979.
 - He headed the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in the then Prime Minister Charan Singh's cabinet during July 1979-January 1980.

November 2017

- **Snehlata appointed as Secretary General**
 - Snehlata Shrivastava, a 1982-batch retired IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the first woman Secretary General of the Lok Sabha.
 - Her appointment to this post was made by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
 - She will replace Anoop Mishra, who is retiring on November 30, 2017.
 - She will have the rank and status of Cabinet Secretary with effect from December 1.
- **Badri appointed as first chairman of NAA**
 - Badri Narain Sharma, a Rajasthan cadre IAS officer of 1985 batch, has been appointed the first chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority.
 - This body was set up under the goods and services tax to ensure that the benefits of lower taxes under the new regime are shared with consumers.
 - Sharma, at present is an additional secretary in the department of revenue in the finance ministry
- **Suu Kyi stripped of Oxford Award**





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- Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been stripped of the Freedom of Oxford award.
- It is done due to her "inaction" in handling the raging Rohingya refugee crisis and turning a "blind eye to violence" in the country that forced over 600,000 people to flee to Bangladesh.
- Oxford City Council in London voted unanimously to permanently remove the honour given to her in 1997.
- **Thodupuzha Vasanthi passes away**
 - Popular Malayalam stage, movie and television actor Thodupuzha Vasanthi passed away at a private hospital in Thodupuzha, Kerala.
 - Thodupuzha Vasanthi was 65 years old. She was battling cancer.
 - Her film career began in 1975. She had acted in over 450 films.
 - She had won the state government award for theatre acting.
- **NK Singh as Chairman of Fin. Commission**
 - The Central government has appointed NK Singh as chairman of 15th Finance Commission.
 - The commission will make recommendations after reviewing several important aspects of federal fiscal finance including the deficit, cash balances, debt levels, and fiscal discipline efforts of the Union and the states.
 - It will make recommendations, by October 2019, for five years commencing April 1, 2020.
- **Pradeep appointed as Air India CMD**
 - Senior IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India.
 - Pradeep, a Karnataka cadre IAS officer, would replace Rajiv Bansal, who has been serving as the interim CMD for a little over three months.





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- Currently, Pradeep Singh Kharola is the Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
- **5 Russians banned for Doping**
 - 5 more Russian competitors from the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics have been banned for life over anti-doping rule violations by IOC.
 - Dmitrii Trunenkov and Aleksei Negodailo, both in the gold-medal winning four-man bobsleigh team, plus biathlon relay silver medalists Yana Romanova and Olga Vilukhina, who also won silver in the 7.5 km event.
 - Sergei Chudinov was also disqualified for doping.
- **Kohli makes 10 int. hundreds in an year**
 - Virat Kohli has become the first captain to score 10 international hundreds in a calendar year.
 - On 26th November 2017, Virat Kohli struck his 19th hundred in Test as India played against Sri Lanka at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur.
 - It was also his fifth double hundred in Test cricket.
 - Virat Kohli reached his fourth Test hundred in 2017 in just 130 balls.
- **Om Prakash Saraf passes away at 95**
 - Om Prakash Saraf, former MLA of Jammu Kashmir, passed away in Jammu Kashmir.
 - Om Prakash Saraf, former MLA from Jammu Kashmir, passes away at 95.
 - He has become the first person in Jammu Kashmir, who in his lifetime had decided to donate his body to the medical college.
 - There was no cremation of his body. Instead, his body was handed over to the Government Medical College, Jammu.
- **2017 Miss Universe**
 - South Africa's Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters has won Miss Universe 2017 crown.





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- The 66th annual Miss Universe pageant had 92 contestants vying for the crown, which is the largest number since Miss Universe 2011 and 2012 when 82 contestants fought for the title.
- Miss Colombia Laura Gonzalez was adjudged the first runner up while Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett became the second runner-up.

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