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Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
Dec 2017- February 2018

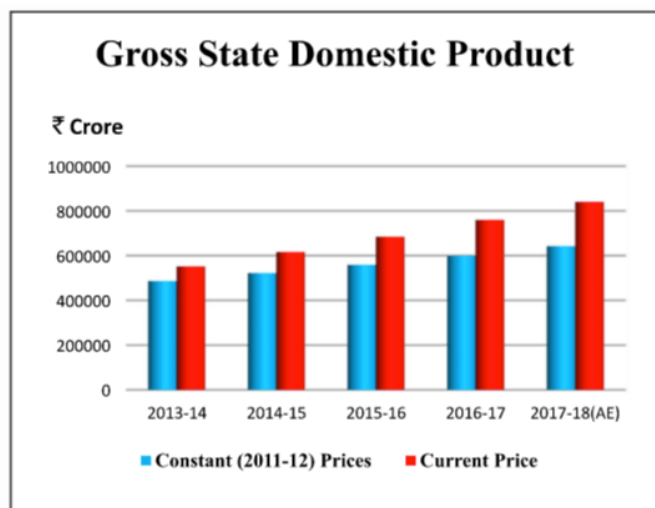
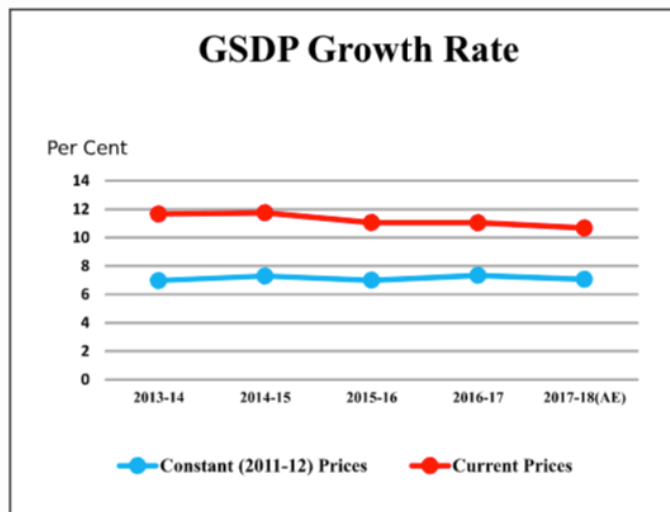
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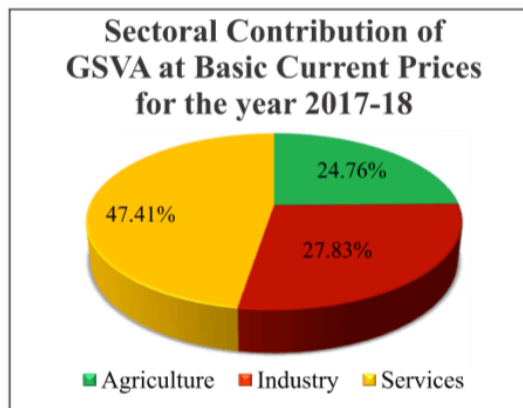
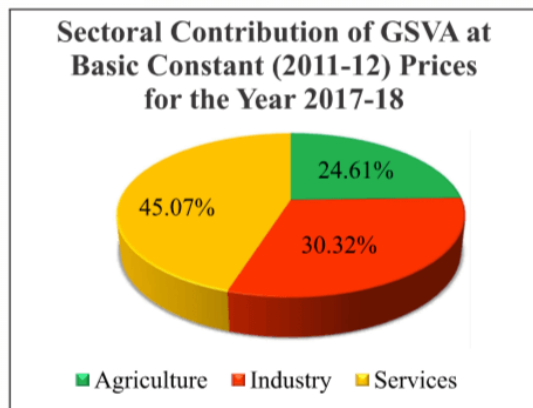
Rajasthan Economy: Important Indicators 2018

Key Macro Indicators of Economic Development 2017 (Based on Economic Review 2017-18, Published Feb-2018)

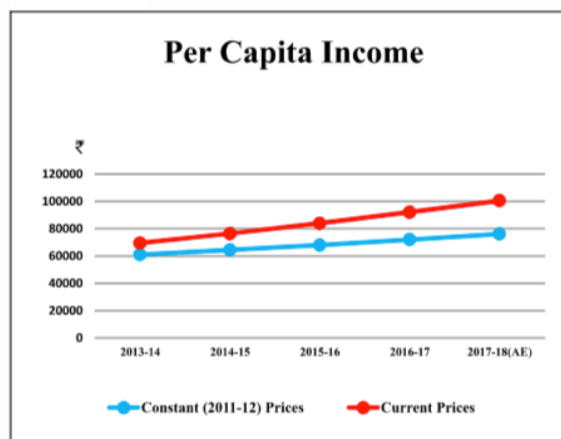
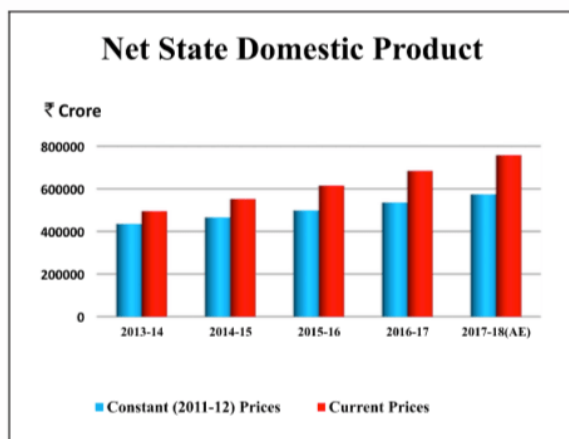
- Gross State Domestic Product of [Rajasthan](#) at:
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: **6,41,940 Crores**
 - (b) Current Prices: **8,40,263 Crores**
- Economic Growth Rate as per GSDP at:
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: **7.16%**
 - (b) Current Prices: **10.67%**



- Sectoral Contribution of GVA at Current Prices by
 - (a) Agriculture: **24.76%**
 - (b) Industry: **27.83%**
 - (c) Services: **47.41%**



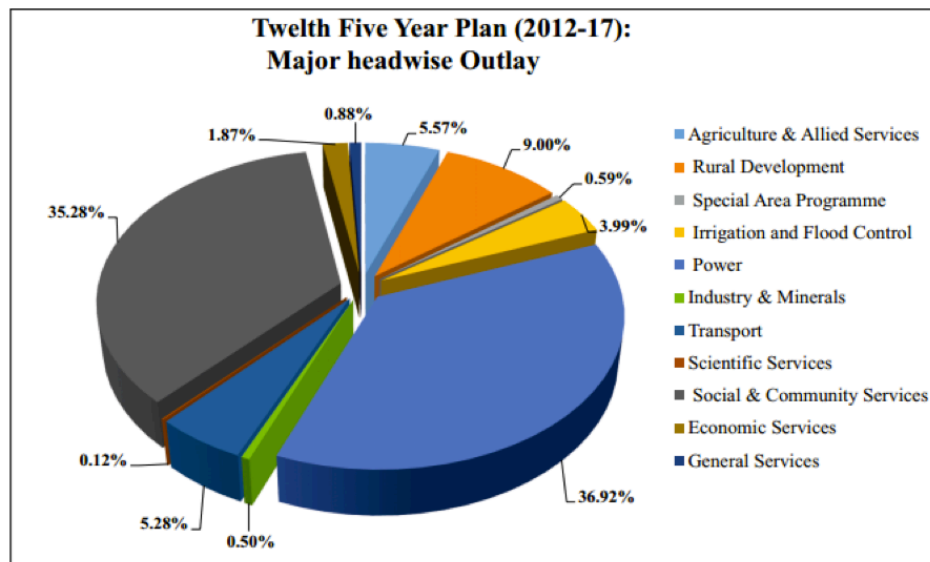
- Net State Domestic Product at
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: **573,628 Crores**
 - (b) Current Prices: **757,483 Crores**
- Per Capita Income at
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: **76,146 INR**
 - (b) Current Prices: **100,551 INR**



****Quote above figures in answers related to Economy of Rajasthan**

Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17)

An outlay of **1, 96,992 crore** has been proposed for Twelfth Five Year Plan. The major head-wise proposed allocations are:



Economic Growth Targets:

(Per cent)	
Sector	Target for Twelfth Plan for Rajasthan
Agriculture	3.50
Industries	8.00
Services	9.50
Total Growth Rate	7.70

Price Inflation Indices Rajasthan:

- The [Directorate of Economics and Statistics \(DES\)](#) has been collecting the wholesale and retail prices of the essential commodities regularly, since 1957 from selected centres across the State on weekly basis.
- The Consumer Price Indices for industrial workers are prepared and released by the Labour Bureau, Shimla for [Jaipur](#), [Ajmer](#) and [Bhilwara](#) centres of the State.
- The DES also prepares Building Construction Cost Index for Jaipur Centre.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Rajasthan

- Base Year 1999-2000=100
- The primary use of the state level WPI is in computation of GSDP as an indicator.
- WPI serves as an important determinant in formulation of trade, fiscal and other economic policies by the government.
- It is also widely used by the banks, industries and business circles. It is released on **monthly**
- It covers 154 commodities, of which 75 are from 'Primary Articles' group, 69 from 'Manufactured Products' group and 10 from 'Fuel and Power' group.
- The Wholesale Price Index for all commodities moved from 282.61 in the year 2016 to 290.55 in the year 2017 (upto Nov., 2017) registering an increase of **2.81 percent**.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- At present there are four different types of Consumer Price Indices are being constructed every month. They are Consumer Price Index for
 - Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)
 - Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)
 - Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) and
 - Rural, Urban (CPI-R&U).
- The first three indices are constructed and released by the Labour Bureau, Shimla and the fourth one by the Central Statistical Office (CSO), New Delhi.
- The General index of consumer price for the year 2017 recorded an increase (upto Nov., 2017) of 4.28%, 1.17% and 1.86% at Jaipur, Ajmer and Bhilwara Centre respectively over the previous year.

Rajasthan Salient Facts:

Rajasthan has been divided into 7 divisions and 33 districts, comprising 295 panchayat samities, 9,891 village panchayats, and 43,264 inhabited villages.

Indicators	Year	Unit	Rajasthan	India
Geographical Area	2011	Lakh Sq. Km.	3.42	32.87
Population	2011	Crore	6.85	121.09
Decadal Growth Rate	2001-2011	Percentage	21.3	17.7
Population Density	2011	Population Per Sq. Km	200	382
Urban population to total Population	2011	Percentage	24.9	31.1
Scheduled Caste population	2011	Percentage	17.8	16.6
Scheduled Tribe Population	2011	Percentage	13.5	8.6
Sex Ratio	2011	Female Per 1,000 Male	928	943
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Year)	2011	Female Children Per 1,000 Male children	888	919
Literacy Rate	2011	Percentage	66.1	73.0
Literacy Rate (Male)	2011	Percentage	79.2	80.9
Literacy Rate (Female)	2011	Percentage	52.1	64.6
Work Participation Rate	2011	Percentage	43.6	39.8
Birth Rate	2016*	Per 1,000 Population	24.3	20.4
Death Rate	2016*	Per 1,000 Population	6.1	6.4
Infant Mortality Rate	2016*	Per 1,000 Live Birth	41	34
Maternal Mortality Ratio	2011-13*	Per Lakh Live Birth	244	167
Life Expectancy at Birth	2011-15*	Year	67.9	68.3

*SRS bulletin: Office of Registrar General of India

Rajasthan Budget 2018-19: Key Figures

Receipt				Expenditure	
(2,12,000 Cr) (with Uday Scheme)				2,12,000 Cr (with Uday Scheme)	
Revenue		Capital		Revenue	Capital
1,51,000 Crore		60,000 Crore		1,69,000 Core	43,000 Crore
State Tax Revenue	58000 Cr	Recovery of Loan	15000 Cr		
Central tax Share	43000 Cr	Public A/c	44000 Cr		
Non-Tax Revenue	20000 Cr				
Grant-in-Aid	29000 Cr				

Rajasthan Budget 2018-19: Key Parameters

S. No	Parameter	Formula & Value
1	Revenue Deficit	Revenue Expenditure - Revenue Receipt
		1,69,000 - 1,51,000 Crore
		17,000 Crore
2	Budgetary Surplous	Revenue A / c Deficit + Capital A / C Deficit
		(Revenue Receipt- Revenue Expenditure) + (Capital Receipt - Capital Expenditure)
		(-17,000) +(17,000) Crore
		Exact= +50 Crore (Budget is Surplous)

3	Fiscal Deficit	Non Debt Receipt - Total expenditure
		-28,000 Crore
4	Primary Deficit	Fiscal Deficit - Interest Payment
		-6,500 Crore

Rajasthan Budget 2018-19: Government Income

- **In Revenue Receipts:** State Own Tax Revenue > Central Tax Revenue > Grant-in- Aid > Non-Tax Revenue
- **In State Own Tax Revenue:** State Goods and Service Tax (SGST)> Sales Tax > State Excise Duty > Taxes on Vehicles > Taxes on Electricity > Stamps & Registration > Land Revenue
- **In Share in Central Taxes:** Goods and Service Tax (GST)>Corporation Tax > Income Tax > Custom Duty > Union Excise Duty > Service Tax
- **In Non-Tax Revenue:** Interest Receipts is the major source.

Rajasthan Budget 2018-19: Government Expenditure

- In Rajasthan, Revenue Expenditure > Capital Expenditure
- In Capital Expenditure: Capital Outlay > Repayment of internal & central loans > loans & advances

Highlights of Schemes/Projects Outlay 2018-19

- **107,865.40 crore** are proposed as Schemes/Projects Outlay in the Budget Estimate 2018-19 presented in the Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly. The major head-wise break-up of the Schemes/Projects outlays are as under:-

(₹ in crore)

S. No.	Head of Development /Sectors	Proposed Outlay	% to Total
1.	Agriculture & Allied Services	6744.84	6.25
2.	Rural Development	14473.29	13.42
3.	Special Area Programme	293.33	0.27
4.	Irrigation & Flood Control	3126.54	2.90
5.	Power (of which ₹15,000.00 crore for conversion of loan of DISCOM into Grant/Equity under UDAY)	27053.42	25.08
6.	Industry & Minerals	1148.20	1.06
7.	Transport	6601.88	6.12
8.	Scientific Services	35.64	0.03
9.	Social & Community Services	44135.20	40.92
10.	Economic Services	1486.83	1.38
11.	General Services	2766.23	2.57
Total		107865.40	100.00

[Rajasthan Budget 2018-19: Announcements](#)

Rajasthan Budget 2018 especially targeted farmers, youth, poor and women.

Important Highlights:

- **Rajasthan Farm Loan Waiver Scheme (Karj Mafi Yojana / Fasal Rin Mafi Yojana)**
 - Onetime Loan waiver upto Rs 50,000 for small and marginal farmers in the overdue and outstanding category of short-term crop loan provided by Cooperative Banks.
 - The loan waiver would cost Rs 8,000 crore to the exchequer
 - Constitution of Rajasthan State Farmer Debt Relief Commission.
- **Road Transport:**
 - Establishment of State Level Road security training centers in Jaipur.
 - Free travel in RSRTC Buses for old age people beyond 80 yrs and 50% concession for one attendant.
- **Education:**
 - New Medical College in Dhoulpur district
 - New Government colleges to be established at 17 Sub Divisions in the State
 - New Agriculture College at Kota and Nougavan, Alwar
- **Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Swarojgar Antodaya Yojana**
 - Under this scheme, loan upto 50 thousand will be provided to 50 thousand families at 4% interest without collateral.
- **Youth Icon Scheme**
 - To promote sports in the state.
 - Shri Kamlesh Nagarkoti has been awarded Rs 25 Lakh for his outstanding performance.
- Scooty to total 200 girls securing more than 85% in 10th Board and to 200-200 girls (total 600) securing more than 85% in each of Science, Arts, Commerce subjects in 12th Board.

- Providing Bhamashah Surksha Kawach with accidental insurance of upto 1 lac to the members of Bhamashah Card holder NFSA families-4.50 crore beneficiaries.
- New Divyang Kosh with provision of 1 Crore for welfare of specially-abled. This would provide subsidy 1 lac to Adult orphans leaving govt, orphanage and joining mainstream society.
- Maximum two years childcare leave.
- Payment of arrears of 7th Pay Commission from 01.04.2018.
- Making Secretariat a green building.
- Establishment of the Sardar Patel Global Centre for security, counter terrorism and anti-insurgency.
- Amer to be developed as “Iconic Tourism Destination” of the state
- Establishment of Museum at Mangarh Dham.
- Establishment of Continues ambient air quality monitoring stations in 26 districts.
- 1000 additional Bhamashah ATMs in rural areas.

Trader Welfare

- 'The Trader Welfare Board' would be constituted for speedy disposal of problems related to dealers, their social security and insurance needs and for making suggestions on Acts/Rules etc. 'Trader Welfare Fund' would also be created with initial corpus of Rs. 10 Crore.

Persons in NEWS

2018 Padma Awardee from Rajasthan

- **Narayan Das Maharaj** and **Maharao Raghuveer Singh** from Rajasthan have been awarded Padma Shri in 2018.
- Shri Narayana Das ji Maharaj, an awardee from Spiritualism field, has provided notable contribution in the field of spirituality and by making a significant contribution in the field of literature and education.
- Shri Raghuvir Singh of Sirohi who has been awarded from Literature & education field, is specially knowledgeable in history and Sanskrit and is working for preserving historical and religious places.

Bhuvneshwar Rathore

- Rajasthan's only NCC warrant officer, Bhuvneshwar Rathore, was awarded by defense minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently. He was one of the 4 officer selected from throughout the country.

Vikas Jhakhad

- Assistant Commandant in CRPF, Vikas Jhakhad from Jhunjhunu has been awarded Shaurya Chakra for bravery in Naxalite attack in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Pankaj Gehlot

- The Lalit Kala Akademi recently announced the names of the fifteen winners of the National Academy Awards 2017-18
- Pankaj Gehlot from Rajasthan would be awarded for his work *Save Earth by Nature*.

Deepika Choudhary

- Deepika Choudhary from Barmer Rajasthan led the NCC contingent at Republic Day parade 2018 in New Delhi.

Vasundhara Raje

- On 22, January 2018 Computer Society of India facilitated Rajasthan CM Raje with e-Ratna of India Award, at a function in Kolkata.

Jaipur women honored with First Ladies Award

Three Jaipur women - Dr Asha Pande, Chhavi Rajawat and Manju Devi Yadav were among the 112 women honoured by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards - instituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development - were given to women who are the first ones to set a milestone in their respective fields.

- Professor Asha Pande, founder director of Rajasthan University's Master in European Studies Programme, has promoted French language and culture in the state for more than four decades.
- Chhavi Rajawat set a milestone in 2010 when she was elected as the first MBA Sarpanch of Soda village, Tonk.
- Manju Devi Yadav, works as Coolie at Jaipur Railway Station. She has helped break Gender bias.

O P Galhotra

- Rajasthan government Thursday appointed 1985-batch IPS officer Om Prakash Galhotra as the new director general of police (DGP).
- Galhotra took charge from Ajit Singh.

N C Goel

- Nihal Chand Goel, a 1982 batch IAS officer has been appointed the new chief secretary of Rajasthan.
- Along with being the chief secretary, Goel will also handle the additional responsibility of being the chairman of Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals, Udaipur, until further orders.

Radhey Shyam Garg

- Radhey Shyam Garg has been appointed as the new chairman of RPSC

Kamlesh Nagar Koti

- Kamlesh Nagar Koti from Rajasthan was selected as part of team for under 19 Cricket World cup championship in New Zealand.

Azaharuddin

- Azaharuddin from Rajasthan, won bronze medal in Commonwealth Wrestling championship held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Pratibha Punia

- Pratibha Punia from Churu, Rajasthan became the State's second & India's fourth Female Air-force pilot.
- Earlier in 2016, Mohana Singh from Jhunjhunu became a fighter pilot.

Vijaykumar Rajsoni

- Vijaykumar Rajsoni from Pratapgarh Rajasthan was awarded by President Kovind for his work "*Shahi Savari*".
- Earlier in 1966, his father RamPrasad Rajsoni was felicitated by President for contribution made to Thewa Art.

Bansilal Khiladi

- Bansilal was awarded Dr. Komal Kothari memorial lifetime achievement award for his contribution to folk art.
- Bansilal from Nagaur is famous for Kuchamani Khayal.

February 2018

Rajasthan By-Polls Results:

- On 29 January 2018, Election Commission of India conducted by-polls, for 2 Parliamentary constituencies and 1 State Assembly Constituency.
- Congress won both **Alwar** and **Ajmer** Parliamentary seats.
- Additionally, Congress also won the **Mandalgarh** Legislative Assembly seat.
- Interesting thing to note is 27,603 voters choose the option of **NOTA** (None of the above) in these by-polls in State.

7 proposed medical colleges

- Rajasthan Government is still hopeful that 7 proposed medical colleges in the state will become operational July 2018.
- The seven medical colleges are proposed in [Bhilwara](#), [Bharatpur](#), [Churu](#), [Pali](#), [Dungarpur](#), [Barmer](#) and [Sikar](#).
- However, the [medical council of India](#) (MCI) inspected these proposed medical colleges and found shortcomings such as shortage of faculties, staff, infrastructure and equipment.
- As a result, MCI had recommended to the centre to not give permission for the establishment of seven proposed medical colleges.
- Now, medical education department officials are busy in taking measures to fill the gaps and apply for another inspection of MCI for final call.

Exclusion of buffalo from Bovine Act

- The state cabinet in a major decision proposed to exclude buffaloes and its progenies from the definition of Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 1995.

- As per Minister, the relaxation was made in tune with the central law which also makes a distinction between cow and buffaloes and excludes it from the list of bovine.

Government nod to foundation on Mukundra tiger reserve

- The state government has given its nod to constitute Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) foundation ahead of shifting tigers by March.
- Now, under Section 38 X of the *Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972*, the department will constitute foundation for MHTR with the general objectives to facilitate and support the management for conservation of tigers and biodiversity and to take initiatives in eco-development by involvement of people in such development process.
- The tiger foundation will also open the door for MHTR authorities to raise funds through its own resources. "The foundation would be a registered body under the *Society Registration Act, 1860* and is authorized to accept assistance from individuals and companies for the purpose of fulfilling its objectives.

SC extends sand mining ban in Rajasthan till March 13

- The Supreme Court on Friday extended the sand mining ban in the state till March 13 and issued notice to the state government and the Union ministry of forest and environment (MoEF) for its move to mine sand from agricultural land.

Yamuna Water in Rajasthan

- The state water resources minister Dr Rampratap told the Vidhan Sabha that Yamuna water would be brought to Rajasthan.
- The water will be brought to Churu district via pipeline from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh and would be utilized for drinking and irrigation needs of districts, including Churu, Jhunjhunu and Sikar.
- This would be a separate project in addition to Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project - [ERCP](#).

Rajasthan eGyan Portal

- State education department's eGyan portal developed over the last six months have chapters or contents in high definition audio-visual animated form for Anganwadi children to Class VIII (all subjects) and from IX to XII (limited subjects).
- The portal has content in four categories—video, textbook, for teachers and importance of education. It also allows students to practice chapters and self-assessment.
- Meanwhile, state is also coming up with a digital library by providing access to the digital books, journals etc to the common man.

Panel to decide on PPP mode for 300 schools

- The decision to give 300 schools on public private partnership (PPP) mode has been put on hold and a three-member ministerial committee has been constituted to study the petitions and complaints against public private partnership model.
- The committee includes, home minister Gulab Chand Kataria, parliamentary affairs minister Rajendra Rathore and State Education minister Vasudev Devnani.

Agricultural machinery museum inaugurated in Suratgarh

- India and Russia celebrated 70 years of bilateral relations in the field of agriculture at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- The old agriculture machinery donated by the then USSR has been placed in a museum inaugurated jointly by both the ministers of the two countries.

NITI Aayog picks four districts for improvement

- The NITI Aayog has picked up four districts from Rajasthan—Jaisalmer, Karauli, Sirohi and Baran—for the inspirational districts programme.
- The districts were chosen due to poor performance in health, nutrition, agriculture and education sectors.

- NITI Aayog in association with the state government, will carry out remedial measures to improve these parameters in the selected districts.

Smart transmission management system launched in Rajasthan

- Pushpendra Singh, minister of state for energy, launched the smart transmission operation management system through web in the state.
- Through this system, functions of scheduling of generation and demand, deviation settlement, energy accounting and billing, approval of open access, etc., are automated through web-based services.

Raj Prashasti

- Recently, Raj Prashasti was in NEWS for lack of care that it is getting.

What is Raj Prashasti ?

- Raj Prashasti is the largest and longest stone etchings in India, on the embankment of the lake, Raj Samand.
- It is one of the most authentic and dated histories of the Mewar royals and 'Guhil Rajvansh'.
- On 25 marble slabs are inscribed in 24 chapters-1,106 Sanskrit shlokas narrating the minutest details of rulers from the 7th to 17th century.
- Each marble slab is 3feet long and 2.5 feet wide. Every slab carries chronological narration of important events, victories and sufferings. It also contains physiological details, rivers, flora-fauna of Mewar.
- Maharana Raj Singh got it made to commemorate the construction of Rajsamand Lake, however, Maharana Jai Singh got the Raj Prashasti installed.
- The inscription was written by king Ranchhod Bhatt, a Telengana Brahmin from Karnataka who prefixed 'TelanganadhiPati' title before his name.
- Besides Mewar, the inscriptions also have details of royals of Jaipur, Bikaner, Bandhavgarh and Sironj (Madhya Pradesh), Brajbhoomi and Sauronji (Uttar Pradesh), Pratapgarh, Banswara and Dungarpur.

Rajasthan State Government announces framework for Rs 500 crore Startup Fund

Rajasthan's Principal Secretary of IT and Communications shared the framework through which it will provide loans and equity funding from its Startup Fund of Rs 500 crore to further boost for startups based in Rajasthan.

- Of the Rs 500 crore overall fund, Rs 100 crore is set aside for "Women Startups" and Rs 50 crore for "Green Startups". The Rs 50 crore for Green Startups will be payable from funds available with Rajasthan state pollution control board.
- The Fund will provide both loan and equity to startups that are registered in Rajasthan based on recommendations of the Committee set up for this purpose. The Principal Secretary of IT and Communication will be the sanctioning authority for grant of loan or equity, based on the recommendation of the Committee.
- There is a funding cap of Rs 25 lakh per startup. The amount will be based on the ranking of the startup on the state's portal, istart.rajasthan.gov.in.
- In case of equity funding, the maximum period of funding will be seven years with a lock-in of three years from the Government. Startups will have the share buyback option from the time of receiving funding.
- In case of loan, the maximum period will be three years, with no lock-in period. Startups can repay the security-free loan at anytime in this period without any additional charges. The interest rate is set at five percent with reducing balance.
- The government will also provide Seed Funding of up to Rs 2 lakh as loan, with the same requirements as the regular loan.

Fourth liquor free village in Rajasthan

- Through a referendum, the villagers voted to shut a decade-old liquor shop in Foga in Churu District.
- With this, *Foga* joins the league of three other villages—*Kachhbali*, *Rojda* and *Mandawar*—which have already been declared as liquor free villages over the past two years.

Other Important Current Affairs for February 2018 from Rajasthan:

- Jaipur will have the state's first Divyangjan University. The place has been decided in *Jamdauli*. Draft has been prepared, this University will open the courses for making independence of the students of the Divisions.
- State's first *Biogas CNG Plant* will begin in Bhilwara from March 17. The plant has been developed by Barani Agricultural Research Center of Bhilwara and has been installed at आरजिया center.
- Gandhi Nagar in Jaipur becomes Rajasthan's first and India's second all-woman managed railway station.
- An international educational institution for minorities will be built in Alwar as part of the Centre's ambitious plan to set up five such institutes across the country. For setting up a world-class educational institution for minorities, 100 acres of land has been allotted for an institute in Alwar, Rajasthan. The government is mulling to proffer 40 per cent reservation for girls at these institutes.
- Rajasthan's first rowing academy to be set up in Kota.

January 2018

African crow spotted for first time in Jodhpur

- African Crow has been spotted for the first time in India at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The sole Pied Crow (*corvus albus*), smaller than the crows native to India and with white chest and belly, was spotted by an avid bird watcher.

State-level R-Day function in Bharatpur this year

- The state-level celebration of the 69th Republic Day will be held at the Lohagarh stadium in Bharatpur.

Tenders for two heritage hotels by March

- The Rajasthan government will issue tenders for the lease of two heritage hotels—Khasa Kothi in Jaipur and Anand Bhawan in Udaipur--by March.
- The two properties are not being sold but are being given on lease on a public-private-partnership model for operating and maintaining for a period of 30 years.

Rajasthan to digitise all historical records

- To protect old and fragile documents, the Rajasthan government is digitising 10,000 pages daily to preserve administrative and historical records of Rajputana's princely states.
- The online records will help research scholars, administrative departments of state government, judiciary and general public.
- Currently, Rajasthan State Archive has more than 30-40 crore administrative and historical records of 22 princely states. However, it selected 3-4 crore documents for digitisation, which are important for scholars, general public, government and judiciary.

JK Lon hospital

- State's first newborn screening laboratory has started functioning at Jaipur's JK Lon Children's Hospital.

Additional stations of NWR to get Wifi

[North-Western Railways](#) (NWR) which had already installed high-speed Wi-Fi at its 13 stations is now extending the facility to more stations. Now, Bhilwara, Rani, Marwar, Suratgarh, [Sri Ganganagar](#), Hissar, Bhiwani, Lalgah, Bandikui, Rewari, Barmer, Nagaur and Pali (Marwar) will also soon have access to the facility of high-speed internet in coming days.

NWR had earlier decided to install Wi-Fi at all the A1 category and A category railway stations. Under this, in the first phase, internet facility was given at [Jaipur](#), [Ajmer](#), [Udaipur](#) and [Jodhpur](#) stations.

Republic Day celebrated in Bharatpur

- **Governor** Shri Kalyan Singh flagged off the state-level **Republic Day celebrations** held in Lohgarh stadium of Bharatpur.

'Night tourism' in Jaipur

CM Raje recently launched 'night tourism' in Jaipur. The launched first phase includes ensuring illumination of the walled city covering Chaura Rasta, Tripolia Gate and New Gate in the city. The Department of Archaeology and Museums has been appointed as the executive agency for carrying out the project. The illumination work includes the external façade lighting of Johari Bazar, Tripolia Bazar and Chaura Rasta.

Mothers Milk Bank launched in Dholpur

- Recently, District hospital in Dholpur got mothers milk bank. This is the 12th mothers' milk bank of the state.

IUCAW teams to be launched in 7 districts

- Investigation Unit for Crime Against Women (IUCAW) has been planned to launch in 7 districts of state to prevent crime against women.
- The IUCAW team will be launched in Ajmer, Sri Ganganagar, Alwar, Udaipur, Pratapgarh, Jhalawar and Jodhpur.
- This team will have a deputy SP, two CIs, one SI and a Sepoy cum driver.

New Biodiversity Park

- State Government has approved launch of new Biodiversity park in Alwar.

'Best Performing Smart City' survey results

Ministry of Urban Development and Housing had recently conducted survey in 20 cities in the smart city project. The evaluation was done on the basis of project selection, implementation and monitoring. In this survey, Udaipur has achieved the fourth position in the ranking.

Barmer Refinery

Barmer Refinery Project worth Rs 43,000 will be a project of many firsts in our country:

- 1st Ultra Modern Refinery & Petrochemical Complex
- 1st Indian Greenfield Refinery designed to produce BS-VI grade fuel.

Next Gram Agritech Meet in Jodhpur

- After Udaipur in 2017, the next GRAM Agritech meet will be organised in Jodhpur.

Fairs & Festivals in Rajasthan in January

- Jaisalmer Desert Festival
- Nagaur Fair

December 2017

Museum to commemorate sacrifice of tribal martyrs

- Chief minister of Rajasthan laid the foundation stone of National Tribal Freedom Struggle Museum at Mangarh Dham of [Banswara](#) district.
- The project worth Rs 12.37 project has been undertaken by the Rajasthan Heritage Conservation and Development Authority.
- On November 17, 1913, British forces, supported by the forces of the princely states, opened fire on tribals who had gathered on the Mangarh hillock. Around 1500 tribals were massacred but the historically important site still remains neglected.

TRIFED signs MoU with e-commerce platforms

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) has signed a MoU with Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal and GeM for selling 5,000 tribal items.
- As a result, Tribal artists from the state will soon be able to sell their article or hand-made items in international market through e-commerce platforms.
- TRIFED promote products of tribals with a brand name — Tribe India.

RVPN gets 'best utility' award for performance

- The Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) has adjudged Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd (RVPN) for "Best Performing power Transmission Utility" award 2018 in India.

Open Defecation Free new districts of Rajasthan

- Jaipur, Jaisalmer, and Sirohi districts in Rajasthan becomes **Open Defecation Free**.

Transport voucher scheme

- The Transport Voucher Plan 2017-18 is being launched by the State Government to provide free transportation facilities to boys and girls of the age group of 6 to 14 years.
- All the students from class I to VIII studying in rural schools, who does not have any State Primary School under one kilometer and secondary school 2 Km distance from their residence, will get the benefit of this scheme.
- All the children of 6 to 14 years of age living in less populated areas, where the school operations are not feasible, will also get benefit from the Transport voucher scheme.
- Under this, students will get a the transport voucher worth Rs 10 for attendance in case of distance of more than one kilometre from class 1 to 5 in schools. And will get voucher of Rs 15 per attendance at a distance of more than two kilometres from class 6 to 8th.

Govt. plans to sell camel milk through Saras Counters

- Rajasthan State government is planning to sell camel thorough the Saras counters of Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF) from January 2018.

Banswara to have 'temple' for kids to promote child rights

BJP MP from Banswara-Dungarpur, Manshankar Ninama, has proposed the construction of Kids temple in tribal-dominated Ghatol block where statues of young achievers from the area would be installed alongside the idols of Laddoo Gopal (Lord Krishna's baby form), Bal Ganesha, Bal Kartikeya and Bal Hanuman.

The objective of this exercise is to create awareness for children's rights. A Baal-Chalisa would be inscribed on the temple wall narrating the rights of children and the visitors would be given a booklet on the same as 'prasad'. (Source: [TOI](#))

Japan To Offer Grant For Vocational Training Centre In Rajasthan

- Japan has decided to offer a grant worth 8.4 million Yen for the construction of a vocational training centre for poor women and youth in Rajasthan's Baran district

National Energy Conservation Awards

REIL

- President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind presented the “*National Energy Conservation Award -2017*” to Shri A.K. Jain, Managing Director, REIL in the ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 14th December 2017, in recognition to its efforts in energy Conservation in Office & BPO Building Category.
- REIL has been given this prestigious award for its dedicated efforts in the field of Energy Management.
- REIL: Rajasthan Electronics and Instrument Limited (REIL) is a ‘mini ratna’ public sector enterprise based at Jaipur.

Rajasthan DLB

- In the same function, Rajasthan DLB was awarded for exemplary work in ‘Street Light’ category.

JMRC

- The Jaipur Metro Railway Corporation (JMRC) has been awarded in two categories of the Rajasthan Energy Conservation Award 2017. The metro corporation has been awarded in government department category and the JMRC Chandpole station has been awarded for energy conservation in the commercial building category.

Mission Antyodaya Programme

- Mission Antyodaya is a convergence framework for measurable effective outcomes on parameters that transform lives and livelihoods. Ministry of Rural Development has taken up the task of collecting comprehensive information on the Gram Panchayats.
- Around 50 thousand Gram Panchayats have been accessed and ranked. 1909 panchayats from state have also been ranked. Aava GP from Kota has secured 12th rank & Arania Gram Panchayat from Sikar has secured 13th rank.

Dholpur Lift Irrigation Project

- CM Raje laid the foundation for Dholpur Lift irrigation project at Muraina in Dholpur district. The project will be completed by 2022 and will take water from Chambal River.

Parwan Multipurpose Project

- Union road surface and water minister, Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stones and inaugurated development works worth Rs 6,490 crore of Parwan Multipurpose Project.
- After completion, it will become lifeline of Baran, Jhalawar and Kota districts.
- It will provide the region with drinking water for over 820 villages and irrigation water for over a lakh hectare agricultural land.
- The dam will be built in Akawad village of Jhalawar district.

Third Phase of MJSA launched

- Rajasthan government launched the third phase of the Mukhyamantri Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan (MJSA) which is aimed at making the desert state self reliant in water.
- Rajasthan Home Minister Gulab Chand Katari launched the campaign in the state capital while Union minister P P Chaudhary launched it in Pali.

Sardar Patel Global Centre For Security Counter Terrorism And Anti Insurgency

- The Union Government has approved upgradation of Sardar Patel Global Centre for Security, Counter Terrorism and Anti Insurgency in Jaipur.

Kolana Airport

- The state government is going to build an international airport at Kolana in Jhalawar district.
- It will be constructed in three phases.
- First phase of the airport for domestic travellers is likely to be ready by August 2018.

Tile plant from Stone Slurry

- The Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) at Roorkee has developed a technology to convert the slurry into building material. The institute took up the research on Kota stone slurry and come with the solution on a research commissioned by the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board (RPCB).
- RPCB, Nagar Nigam & RICCO will form a joint venture to install Plant, which would be run by women self-help group.
- The plant will help manufacture bricks, tiles and building material using the Kota stone slurry and small pieces of the stone generate during processing.

Committees & Commissions

Committees & Panels can be part of Preliminary Question Paper as a Match of the following or Who head What committee and on What topics. This post highlights important committees, commissions and panels formed during 2017, which can be important for IAS preliminary examination 2018.

Important Committees, Panels & Commissions 2017

S. No	Name of Committee	Chairman	Work Area
1	Empowered Expert Committee (EEC)	N Gopalaswami	To select top 20 educational institutes of eminence
2	YH Malegam Committee	YH Malegam	To monitor bad loans, rising cases of frauds, audits - BY RBI
3	Umesh Sinha Committee - by ECI	Umesh Sinha	To suggest changes to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) in view of social media expansion
4	Amitabh Kant Committee	Amitabh Kant	To address problem of Non-performing assets (NPAs) or stressed assets in India's power sector
5	15th Finance Commission	N K Singh	President of India has constituted 15th Finance Commission which will make recommendations for the five years commencing 1 April 2020 till 31 March 2025
6	Water Resources Management in NER	Rajiv Kumar	For proper management of water resources in North Eastern Region (NER)
7	Economic Advisory Council EAC to PM	Dr Bibek Debroy	Five member of council - will analyse any issue economic or otherwise referred to it by the Prime minister
8	Empowered Steering Committee (ESC)	Abhinav Bindra	To shape and influence India's preparation for multi-disciplinary events, including 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.
9	National Commission for Minorities (NCM), New Delhi	NCM vice-chairman George Kurien	To look into a petition filed by BJP activist Aswini Upadhyay for granting minority status to Hindus in eight states
10	Technical and safety standards of India's pod taxi scheme	S K Dharamadhikari	To invite fresh bids incorporating strictest safety standards on the lines of those prescribed by an American body

11	Inter-ministerial committee - Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC)	Rajyavardhan Rathore	To look into complaints of violation of programme and advertising codes by TV channels.
12	Task force to simplify income tax laws	Arbind Modi	Six- member panel, Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian will be a permanent special invitee.
13	committee to Curb custodial deaths	Sudhir Shrivastava	The committee will recommend measures so that people get proper treatment at police stations
14	Price Stabilization Fund	Avinash K Srivastava	It has decided to import the onions through a government agency to increase the availability of the same, in the market on moderate prices.
15	High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India.	Yeshwant M. Deosthalee.	Propose a state-of-the-art information system and suggest a roadmap for developing a transparent, comprehensive and near-real-time PCR for India.
16	Market Infrastructure Institutions (MII)	R Gandhi	Reviewing norms related to stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depository participants.
17	Artificial Intelligence Policy:		By Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
18	Artificial Intelligence Task Force	Dr. V. Kamakoti	Artificial Intelligence (AI) for India's Economic Transformation.
19	AI application in Military	N Chandrasekaran	To study use and application of artificial intelligence (AI) in military
20	Commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary	PM	
21	Sports Code committee	Injeti Srinivas	To suggest improvements in the National Sports Development Code functioning of sports federations.
22	Timothy Gonsalves Committee	Prof. Timothy Gonsalves	Suggested to create 20 percent reservation seats for the girl students in IITs
23	Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) administrative committee	Vinod Rai	Supreme Court Appointed Vinod Rai as BCCI Committee's Head
24	Kang committee	N.S. Kang	To frame uniform rules for the states to avoid delay in proper implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Act across the country

25	Defence Procurement Organisation	Dr. Pritam Singh	To integrate and streamline the long and complex process of defence acquisitions
26	Committee on Cyber Security	RBI Executive Director Meena Hemchan	To review the threats emerging from the use of technology, study adoption of new technology standards and suggest appropriate policy interventions to strengthen cyber security and resilience.
27	Krishna River Management Board (KRMB)	A K Bajaj	To look into the Water sharing between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
28	DB Shekatkar Committee	DB Shekhar	To reform the military financial management
29	Girdhar Malviya committee	Justice Shri Girdhar Malviya	To prepare draft Ganga Act submitted its report to the Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
30	Chitale Committee	Madhav Chitale	To recommends measures for desiltation of river Ganga
31	Virtual Currency Committee	Dinesh Sharma	To propose new regulations related to digital currencies or virtual currencies
32	Kewal Kumar Sharma committee	Kewal Kumar Sharma	To review UGC recommendations on 7th Pay commission in educational institutes
33	Agricultural Produce Market Committee	Mr. Ashok Dalwai	To establish a regulated wholesale agri- market at a distance of every 80 km
34	Panel on National Education Policy	Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan	To draft the National Education Policy
35	Committee on Corporate Governance	UdayKotak	To improving the standards of corporate governance of listed companies
36	Data Protection	Justice B.N Srikrishna	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) appointed an expert panel committee that would study various issues relating to data protection
37	Mineral Policy Committee	K RajeswaraRao	To review the National Mineral Policy, 2008, and for submission of a report for a new National Mineral Policy.
38	Second National Judicial Pay Commission	P V Reddi	New salary structure for judges of lower courts in India

39	New Haj policy 2018-22	AfzalAmanullah	to improve Indian Government's current Haj policy and also to look into issue of Haj subsidy in light of 2012 Supreme Court order on gradually reducing and abolishing it by 2022
40	Committee to roll out 5G technology in India by 2020.		Includes Secretaries of the ministries of Communications, Information Technology and Science and Technology, representatives from industry and academics.
41	Hate speech on internet	T.K.Viswanathan	The committee has suggested that section 78 of the IT Act needs to be substituted and Section 153 & 505A of the Indian PenalCode needs to be amended
42	Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism	Justice BN Srikrishna	
43	Madhukar Gupta Committee	Madhukar Gupta	Border Protection
44	Working Group on Migration	Partha Mukhopadha	Recommended Legal framework to protect interests of migrants
45	RBI Overseeing Committee	Pradeep Kumar	To look at the stressed assets of the banking sector.
46	RBI Panel on Hedging commodities in global markets	Chandan Sinha	It has recommended a list of commodities (which includes gold, silver, zinc, tin, crude oil and its derivatives, coal, natural gas, tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa) which can be hedged in the overseas markets by all residents i.e. by both domestic users and exporters/importers.
47	Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)	Urjit Patel	
48	Review of GST laws	M Vinod Kuma	Committee has been set up to provide suggestions for smoothening the GST regime, especially for small businesses who have been complaining of a an increase in compliance burden
49	Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC)	Prime Minister NarendraModi	Inter-State Council investigates and advises on disputes between states
50	N.K. Singh Committee	N.K. Singh	To review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.
51	Amitabh Chaudhry committee	Amitabh Chaudhry	To analysis the existing framework of IRDA-linked and non-linked insurance product regulations

52	IRDAI panel	Dilip C Chakraborty	To help in implementing the new risk-based capital (RBC) regime and it will also enhance protection to policyholders.
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Science & Technology

- The Chinese electronic device and smartphone maker Huawei unveiled Balong 5G01, world's first 5G chip at Mobile World Congress 2018 held in Barcelona, Spain.
- Scientists from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have identified new plant species named *Drypetes kalamii* from Buxa and Jaldapara National Parks in West Bengal. It has been named after former President of India, Dr APJ Kalam. The new species is close relative of medicinal plant known in Sanskrit as Putrajivah.
- Bharti Airtel and Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei successfully conducted India's first 5G (fifth generation) network trial. The trial was conducted at Airtel's network experience centre in Manesar, Gurugram (Haryana) and was able to achieve over 3 gigabit per second (Gbps) data speed.
- India's indigenous developed **light transport** aircraft SARAS PT1N has successfully completed second test-flight.
- Richard Branson's Virgin Group has signed an intent agreement with Maharashtra Government to build world's first hyperloop transportation system. Scientists have confirmed discovery of nearly 100 new exoplanets outside our solar system based on data from second mission of NASA's Kepler Space Telescope (K2 mission) released in 2014. With this total number of exoplanets found using NASA's K2 mission has reached almost 300.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to introduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection technology in its Gandhar oil field in Gujarat. It will be first large scale CO₂-injected project in Asia.
- Russian space agency Roskosmos successfully launched Progress MS-08, an unmanned cargo spacecraft for the International Space Station (ISS).
- Google launched '#SecurityCheckKiya' campaign in India to create awareness around Internet safety. It was launched on the occasion of Safer Internet Day (6 February).
- Rotavac became first Indigenously developed vaccine from India to be pre-qualified by World Health Organisation (WHO). Rotavac protects against childhood diarrhoea caused by the rotavirus. It was developed under the joint collaboration between India and United States in area of medical research.

- India's fastest and first multi-petaflops (PF) supercomputer named Pratyush was unveiled at Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)
- California-based Private spaceflight company SpaceX has launched secret Zuma Mission for US government. It was launched on board of SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, US.
- This year, NASA will launch two missions — GOLD and ICON to explore the ionosphere, located 96 km above Earth's surface.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given its pre-qualification to Typbar Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TVC) developed by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech. Typbar TCV is world's first typhoid vaccine clinically proven to be administered to children from six months of age to adults, and confers long-term protection against typhoid fever.
- China's indigenous AG600, also known as 'Kunlong', the world's largest amphibious aircraft took off from the southern city of Zhuhai and land after roughly an hour-long flight.
- India ranked 109th out of 122 countries in the mobile internet speed and 76th out of 133 countries in broadband speed in the November 2017 Speedtest Global Index. The index was released by Ookla. Norway had the highest mobile internet speed.
- Scientists from New Zealand have developed world's first artificial intelligence politician named SAM.
- ISRO is set to launch first solar mission Aditya-L1 in 2019. It will be India's first dedicated scientific mission to study Sun.