National Doctors Day: 1 July

It is celebrated on 1st of July on the birth and death anniversary of the most famous physician of India Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy (Dr. B C Roy) to pay lots of honor and tribute.

India and Bangladesh have decided to construct bridge along Mizoram Border - a bridge over Mizoram’s Khawthlangtuipui river (also known as Karnaphuli river) to facilitate trade and to improve communication between the two countries.

TransStadia officially launched by PM Modi

In Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The multi-purpose sports complex also hosts a 20000 seater state-of-the-art football stadium, the first of its kind in the state. The Arena by TransStadia is a Rs. 550 crore project, built on a unique Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, and is hailed as India’s first convertible stadium.

Prime Minister inaugurates Textiles India 2017

India’s first ever mega textiles trade fair, held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Addressing the gathering, PM said that based on Make in India, the textile industry is being infused with the mantras of ‘skill, scale, speed’ & ‘zero-defect, zero-effect’.

GST comes into force

The Goods and Services Tax (GST), India’s biggest tax reform since independence came into force on July 1 after 17 years of debate. Prime Minister termed the new levy as "good and simple tax" that marks economic integration of India. India is 161st country to launch GST.

Centre launches “GST Rates Finder” app

- Available on android platform and will soon be available on iOS platform as well.
- This Mobile app helps users to find rates of GST for various goods and services.
• CBEC has also provided a GST rate finder on its portal to help the taxpayers know the applicable GST rate on their supplies of goods and services.
• A taxpayer can search for applicable CGST, SGST, UTGST rate and Compensation Cess on a supply.

Mumbai's 'Vikrikar Bhavan' renamed as GST Bhavan - headquarters of Maharashtra government's erstwhile Sales Tax department.

Government merges Ministries of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

The Union Government has merged the Ministries of Urban Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to form the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. With this merger, the Union Government now has 51 ministries. The first government in independent India had just 17 ministries.

Union Government launches new training programme COMMIT for State Government officials

1. The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension has launched a new training programme Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) for State Government official.
2. The objective of COMMIT programme is to improve the public service delivery mechanism and provide citizen centric administration through capacity building of officials who interact with the citizens on day-to-day basis.

Mobile app eVIN:

• The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) is an online real-time vaccine logistics management system developed and implemented by the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
• eVIN is presently being implemented across 12 states in the country and aims to support the government’s Universal Immunization Programme.

Aaykar Setu: Government launches new tax payer service module

• Literally means “taxpayer’s bridge”.
• Launched in mobile responsive android application and also in desktop version to enhance mobile access as well as desktop access.
• This e-initiative aims provide better taxpayer services and also help in reducing the direct physical interface between assesses and tax assessing authorities.
• The tax payers will also be able to receive regular updates.
• It will also help people link their 12-digit biometric identifier Aadhaar with PAN card.
Walled City of Ahmedabad designated as India’s first World Heritage City

Walled City:

- Founded by Sultan Ahmed Shah I of Gujarat Sultanate in 1411.
- Located on the eastern banks of Sabarmati river.
- It presents a rich architectural heritage from the sultanate period.
- Notably the Bhadra citadel, walls and gates of the Fort city and numerous mosques and tombs, as well as important Hindu and Jain temples of later periods.
- It will be third city from the Indian subcontinent to enjoy this status along with Bhaktapur in Nepal and Galle in Sri Lanka.

India plans to invite Leaders of ASEAN countries for 2018 Republic Day celebrations

With respect to the focus areas of cooperation with ASEAN, the External Affairs Minister described them in terms of three Cs-Commerce, Connectivity and Culture.

ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- A Regional organization, came into existence on August 8, 1967, after ASEAN declaration (also known as Bangkok Declaration).
- Aims to promote intergovernmental cooperation and economic integration amongst its members.
- Member countries- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Founder members - Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand.

India and ASEAN: This year also marks the 25 years of dialogue partnership between India and ASEAN, 15 years of summit-level interaction, and five years of strategic partnership. India and ASEAN had upgraded their relationship to a strategic partnership in 2012.

“JIGYASA” – Student-Scientist connect Programme

- Launched by the government in New Delhi.
- Implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).

Salient Facts

- Main focus
a) to connect school students and scientists
b) to extend student’s classroom learning to a very well-planned research laboratory based learning.

- Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a new India and “Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)” of scientific community and institutions.

- The JIGYASA programme is expected to inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness and scientific temper on the minds of children and school teachers.

- The programme will connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR.

- Under this programme, the CSIR would launch a talent hunt among the visiting students for furthering the cause of scientific development.

- “JIGYASA” programme would be one of the major initiatives of the CSIR at the national level during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year.

HRD Ministry: No Detention Policy to be removed from next Academic Year

Under the Right to Education Act, no child will be detained or held back in any class or expelled till the completion of elementary education covering classes 1 to 8. As per the critics, the policy has resulted in remarkable improvement in enrollments but has brought down the academic standards.

No-Detention Policy

- Under this policy, the students up to class VIII are automatically promoted to the next class without being held back even if they do not get a passing grade.
- The policy was implemented to ensure all-round development of students.
- The basic objective behind the no-detention policy was to prevent dropouts.
- The policy also intends to free the students from the pressure and fear of examination and give them a stress-free academic environment and childhood.
- Committees The TSR Subramanian committee on Education had observed that the no detention policy in schools should be applicable till Class V and exams be held from Class VI onwards. Prior to this, the Vasudev Devnani committee had also recommended for the revocation of No-Detention Policy.
MERIT app and e-Bidding portal for utilization of domestic coal in IPP Power Stations launched

- Union Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal has launched the ‘MERIT app (Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency)’ and the e-bidding portal for offering an e-Bidding solution to States.
- Aimed at promoting the vision of ‘Minimum Government and Maximum Governancee’ through ‘Speed, Skill and Scale’.
- It would result in optimum utilisation of Coal and would save the consumer around Rs. 20,000 crores in the next five years. It would increase the transparency and accountability.

Advantages of MERIT app:

- Empowers the consumer.
- Promotes participative governance.
- Transparency in information dissemination relating to marginal variable cost and source wise purchase of electricity.
- Promotes economy and efficiency in operation.
- Optimises the procurement costs.
- Facilitates renewable integration and handling of the variability and uncertainty of renewables.

Foundation stone of country’s biggest Global Skill Park laid at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

About Global Skill Park

- The skill park will function on the spirit of ‘With Industry -For Industry’.
- The objective is to prepare skilled youths who could get jobs in private companies as per their requirements.
- Besides, the youths will be able to get employment opportunities in foreign countries.
- The park will have capacity to impart skill training to 1000 students every year by trainers of international standard.

Scheme for IPR Awareness – “Creative India; Innovative India”

1. To take forward the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016.
2. Aims at raising IPR awareness amongst students, youth, authors, artists, budding inventors and professionals to inspire them to create, innovate and protect their creations and inventions across India including Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 cities as well as rural areas in the next 3 years.
Reliance Jio launches world’s longest 100Gbps submarine cable system (Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system). It is claimed to be world’s longest 100Gbps technology-based submarine system.

Scientists discover reasons behind 2015 Chennai Floods

A study conducted by the University of Hyderabad and the Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay has found out that the extreme El Nino conditions and warming of the Bay of Bengal had resulted in unprecedented heavy rainfall in Chennai for three days between November 30th to December 2nd in 2015.

World Bank: India emerging as front-runner in fight against Climate Change

The World Bank has noted that India is gradually replacing coal energy with solar power as a source of energy.

BHEL signs pact with Japanese firm (Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd) for manufacturing of stainless steel coaches and bogies for metros trains.

FINO becomes payments bank

Besides FINO, the other applicants which have launched payment bank operations are Airtel M Commerce Services, Department of Posts and Paytm Payments Bank.

President receives first copy of book “PRESIDENT Pranab Mukherjee – A Statesman”

The book “President Pranab Mukherjee – A Statesman” has been published by The Statesman, one of India’s oldest English-language newspapers.

PM Narendra Modi adopts wrestlers’ Village Kakrahia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will adopt Kakrahia, a village known for its wrestlers and wrestling arenas, under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. In the previous two years, Modi adopted Jayapur and Nagepur, as his first and second villages.

Assam to raise new force, Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) for better protection of the one-horned rhinos in Assam.

Madhya Pradesh plants record 6.63 crore saplings in 12 hours

The current record of planting maximum saplings in least time is five crore in 24 hours which is held by Uttar Pradesh.

New Israeli flower named after PM Modi

A new fast-growing Israeli flower was named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a special gesture to mark the first visit of an Indian premier to the Jewish nation. Israeli Crysanthumun
flower will now be called “MODI”, officials said. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and Shekel is its currency.

**Bengaluru to host conference on social justice**

A three-day Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar international conference on social justice will be held in Bengaluru from July 21 to 23, organised by the Karnataka government.

**SBI in Nepal launches digital village**

The State Bank of India has launched a digital village initiative in Nepal by installing a cash recycling centre. Launched in Jarisingpouwa in Shankarapur Rural Municipality, 25 km east from Kathmandu. The cash counter enables the villagers to deposit and withdraw money through the automatic machine.

**Petroleum Minister (Shri Dharmendra Pradhan) to represent India at 22nd World Petroleum Congress International Conference at Istanbul, Turkey from 10 - 12 July 2017.**

The tri-annual WPC Conference is widely recognized as the `Olympics` of the oil and gas industry.

**Naqvi inaugurates first Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centre in Hyderabad**

Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that besides providing various job-oriented skill development courses, Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres of Ministry of Minority Affairs will also offer certificate course in Goods and Services Tax accounting/programming and other related subjects.

**Regional Conference on “Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices”**

Involving 12 States and 4 UTs of Northern, Western and Central Region of India was held, at Nainital.

**Nalco (National Aluminium Company Limited), IDCO to set up Aluminium Park in Odisha**

India’s Ambassador to Peru Sandeep Chakravorty has been appointed as the head of the Indian consulate in New York.

Guruswamy Jayraman, a 69-year-old Glenwood resident, **Indian-origin man awarded Australia's highest civilian award** for community work.

**India’s tallest ATC tower to be operational at Delhi airport by December**

The new 101.9-metre air traffic control (ATC) tower at the Delhi airport, touted to be the country’s tallest, is likely to start operations by December. The tower, among the tallest structures in Delhi,
will give a 360-degree view of the airport to the controllers who will be able to see all the three runways, aprons and taxiways.

**Pune NGO wins UN prize for sustainable farming model**

Swayam Shikshan Prayog, a Pune based NGO, has been awarded the United Nations Development Programme’s Equator Prize for devising an ecologically sustainable agriculture model to combat the adverse impacts of drought. It is the only Indian organisation to win the award. The prize-winning initiative is a women-led ‘climate resilient agro-ecological farming model’ for restoring land and soil.

**Karnataka launches ‘Elevate 100’ scheme for start-ups --** To identify and nurture 100 most innovative start-ups in the state to elevate them to the next level of success.

**Bank Unions to observe July 19 as ‘Save public sector banks’ day**

The United Forum of Bank Unions has decided to observe July 19, the 48th anniversary of nationalisation of major banks, as ‘Save public sector banks' day.

**India declares itself free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1 and H5N8)**

India has declared itself free from Avian Influenza (H5N8 and H5N1) from 6th June, 2017 and notified the same to OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)

**Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres to be established in 100 districts of the country**

To effectively ensure employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities.

**EPFO ties up with 5 banks to collect PF dues**

Retirement fund body EPFO has inked pacts with five banks for collections of PF dues. the five banks are Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

**India likely to clock GDP growth of 6.9 pc this fiscal**

Indian economy is expected to recover in the coming quarters and the country is expected to clock a real GDP growth of 6.9 per cent in this financial year, says a report.

**India-Thailand military exercise begins in Himachal**

A 14-day joint military training exercise Maitree 2017 between India and Thailand started in Himachal Pradesh, at Bakloh in Chamba district.

**Trilateral Malabar exercise to kick off on July 10**

The Malabar naval exercise involving Indian, American and Japanese navies started on July 10 in the Bay of Bengal.

**National Biopharma Mission launched**
Aimed at accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country was launched by Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan.

The programme named Innovate in India (i3) will witness an investment of USD 250 million with USD 125 million as a loan from World Bank.

It aspires to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.

**About Innovate in India (i3) program**

- i3 is a flagship program of the Government of India in collaboration with World Bank.
- It is committed to make India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions.
- It promises to boost the growth of domestic biopharma industry.
- Moreover it will enable sustainable networks for collaboration between industry and academia, and support entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- The program will help to innovate, co-create and co-facilitate scientific discoveries and offer young entrepreneurs an avenue to engage with the best in the industry.

**SPORTS**

**Asian Athletics Championships 2017: Manpreet Kaur and Govindan Laxman wins Gold**

Manpreet Kaur (Haryana) threw 18.28m to win a gold medal in the women’s shotput event. Govindan Laxmanan (Tamil Nadu) has won a gold medal in the men’s 5000 metres.

**The Asian Athletics Championships:**

- Event organised by the Asian Athletics Association.
- Held once in every two years.
- 2017 Asian Athletics Championship is the 22nd edition held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneshwar.
- Mascot: *Olly*, the Olive Ridley sea turtle.

**Germany wins 2017 Confederation Cup Football title**

Four-time FIFA World Cup winner Germany won maiden FIFA Confederation Cup Football title by defeating Copa America Champion Chile by 1-0 goals in the final match held at St Petersburg, Russia.

**Snooker: India clinches Asian championship**

India’s leading cueist Pankaj Advani teamed up with Laxman Rawat to demolish Pakistan in the final of the Asian Team Snooker championship.
Jehan Daruvala wins FIA F3 European Championship. FIA Formula 3 is the toughest junior racing category in the world.

Sindhu bags ‘Sportsperson of the Year’ award at the Maruti Suzuki Sports Awards.

Harinder Pal Sandhu Wins South Australian Open Squash Title

India tops medal tally at Asian Athletics.

India ranked 96th in FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Rankings

Indian football legend Subrata Bhattacharya honoured with 'Mohun Bagan Ratna'.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Indian origin boy Arnav Sharma – topped in MENSA Intelligence test- gets higher IQ score than Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.
- India ranked 23rd in second Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI). Singapore ranked first in the Index.
- Indian police officer, Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat (currently in Telangana) - has been recognised with the prestigious Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero award by USA.
- 2 Indian-Americans to be honoured with Great Immigrants award - Adobe Chief Shantanu Narayen and former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy (39) have been chosen for prestigious Great Immigrants: The Pride of America Award 2017.
- TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute, Government of India) ranked second among world's climate think tanks.
- India among 5 countries using wastewater for irrigation.
- Writer Preeti Shenoy bags Indian of the Year award at a function in New Delhi.
- Tata Steel bags PM’s trophy for best integrated steel plant.
- Hyderabad-headquartered Water Health wins global award.

**APPOINTMENTS**

- Achal Kumar Jyoti - India's new (21st) Chief Election Commissioner.
- Mr. John Joseph - GST intelligence agency’s new chief.
- KK Venugopal – India’s new (15th) Attorney General for India.
- R K Pachnanda - 29th Director General of , Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP).
- Sanjiv Goenka - Kharagpur chairman
- Sanjay Kumar - New National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) chief
• Carrie Lam - First female Chief Executive of Hong Kong.
• Saima Hossain - WHO's goodwill ambassador for autism in South-East Asia.
• Khaltmaa Battulga (Democratic Party) - Mongolia’s New President.

OTHERS

• Telangana to Have Separate Agriculture Budget from Next Year.
• India’s first university for Dalit students to come up in Hyderabad, Telangana.
• Indira Gandhi National Open University has decided to free education services to Transgenders.
• Chhattisgarh tops list of states in issuance of soil health cards.
• In a first, ‘White tiger’ spotted in Nilgiris.

• Jharkhand opens GST call centre.
• ‘Kambala' Buffalo Race Gets President's Assent.
• Jharkhand CM Raghubar Das inaugurates India’s largest fresh water aquarium at Ranchi (at the Birsa Munda Zoological Park).
• PM Modi inaugurates filling of Aji Dam at Rajkot by Narmada water under the scheme - Sauni Yojana.
• Govt reduces Tax Rate on Fertilizers from existing 12% to 5% under GST
• Indus OS partners with YES Bank to launch OS-integrated UPI platform.
• ADB (Asian Development Bank) grants $220 mn for better road connectivity, transport efficiency and safety on state highways in Rajasthan.
• AIIB (The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) approves USD 329 mn loan to build roads in Gujarat
• India - 4th largest investor into UK.
• Money in Swiss banks: India slips to 88th place; UK on top
• India contributes $500,000 to UN Peacebuilding Fund.
• UNESCO puts Old City of Hebron on its heritage in danger list.
• India, the world’s third-largest oil importer, for the first time will import crude oil from the United States.
• Informal BRICS Leaders Meeting in Hamburg.
• 10th Session of the India- Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) held in New Delhi
• 5th Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers held in Beijing
• Italy passes bill to make torture illegal
• Former Indian Ambassador to the US Naresh Chandra passes away.
• Veteran Marathi actor-writer Madhukar Toradmal passes away.

NATION

Union Cabinet approves Phase II of BharatNet project

BharatNet project:

• New brand name of National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN- 2011), to provide broadband connectivity to all gram panchayats (GPs) through optical fibre
• Renamed Bharatnet in 2015.
• Bharat Net is being funded through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Environment Ministry approves Projects in 3 States under NAFCC – Sikkim, Rajasthan, and Gujarat

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC):

• It is a flagship Scheme of Union Government launched in 2015 to provide 100% central grant to the State Governments for implementing climate change adaptation projects.
• The Scheme has been designed to fulfill the objectives of National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and operationalize the State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs).
• Implementing body - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

UIDAI launches mAadhaar app for Aadhaar data on phone

‘mAadhaar’:

• A new mobile application for syncing Aadhaar data on mobile phone.
• Allows users to have their Aadhaar profile on their mobile as a quick and convenient identification proof.
• The app also allows users to lock or unlock biometrics data.

India to host 8th International Theatre Olympics in 2018 for the first time. A 51-day carnival of theatre will begin on February 17, 2018. The mega international event will be organized by the National School of Drama (NSD) in coordination with the Union Culture Ministry.

President launches three digital initiatives in education sector

• Swayam: Courses would be offered through digital classrooms with online study material available free of cost in videos.
• Swayam Prabha: Would tap into the potential of Direct to Home Service wherein a person can install a dish antenna for about Rs 1,500 and have access to 32 digital educational channels run by the HRD Ministry.
• National Academic Depository: Verified educational records would be digitally stored by universities or a board to counter forgery.
Nivaran-Grievance Portal:

- By Indian Railways.
- The first IT application on the RailCloud.
- Serves as a platform for resolution of service-related grievances and also for serving former railway employees
- Will save significant revenue and improve user experience at same time.

Railways Launches 'SAARTHI' App for passengers.

- This new app will allow passengers to book tickets, enquiry, on-board cleaning and ordering meal on a single platform.
- The new SAARTHI app also includes features such as safety for women, complaint facility and suggestion for improvement.

Google launches job applicant management tool 'Hire' to help small and medium sized businesses recruit talent, and it will allow employers to track candidates' contact information, resume details and calendar invites.

Railways has launched Rail Cloud, a virtual server with an inbuilt security system that will enable faster connectivity at a reduced cost. Rail Cloud works on popular Cloud Computing system.

Saint Teresa’s blue-bordered sari - has been recognized as an Intellectual Property of the Missionaries of Charity by The Trade Marks Registry, Government of India.

Shri J P Nadda launches new family planning initiatives - ‘Mission Parivar Vikas’ on World Population Day (11 July) to focus on 146 districts in 7 states with high Total Fertility Rate. With a strategic focus on improving access through provision of services, promotional schemes, commodity security, capacity building, enabling environment and intensive monitoring.

India to host 8th international Theatre Olympics in 2018

- For the first time ever from February 17 – April 08, 2018 simultaneously in various cities across the country.

NITI Aayog forms four task forces, seeks road map to reduce pollution in the country.

The National Green Tribunal Sets Rs 50,000 Fine for Dumping Waste Within 500 Metres of Ganga. NGT Chairperson - Justice Swatanter Kumar.
‘NPS Mobile App’- National Pension System (NPS) - to improve the quality of services provided to the subscribers.

SOHUM: Indigenously developed low-cost hearing screening device for newborns launched by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

Ram Nath Kovind elected as India’s 14th President. He hails from Uttar Pradesh.

India contributes additional $1 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund. Union Cabinet approves establishment of Regional Centre for International Rice Research Institute in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

National Green Tribunal bans nylon, synthetic manja.

The First edition of WINGS 2017 – “Sab Uden, Sab Juden”- Expanding Regional Connectivity was hosted in New Delhi by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

India (the world's third-largest oil importer) to import US crude for first time.

NDA nominates Venkaiah Naidu as vice-presidential candidate.

Farooq Abdullah (Srinagar-Budgam parliamentary constituency), Kunhalikutty (Kerala - Malappuram Parliamentary constituency) take oath as Lok Sabha members.

India is among the fastest growing economies: World Bank.

Tata Motors develops country’s first Bio-CNG (bio-methane) bus which was unveiled recently at a bio-energy programme, ‘Urja Utsav’. Urja Utsav - held in Pune’s Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex.

STATES

J-K govt launches weekly festival at Dal Lake

The spectacular Dal Lake in Srinagar hosted first ever 'Culture of Cruise', a weekly cultural programme organised by the Jammu and Kashmir government aimed to bring artists from various fields on one stage.

Delhi Police to be equipped with 'super cop belt'

- ‘Super cop belt’ - a specially designed belt, widely used by Police in UK, USA, Russia and para-military forces like CRPF, CISF, NSG etc.
- This belt will help cops to keep things like Gun, Mobile Pouch, Security Batten, Wireless Set Pouch & ammunition pouch.

Maharashtra first state to have law against social boycott
With the President of India giving assent to the Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2016, Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to bring a law making social boycott a crime.

Delhi government to start online RTI portal

Delhi became the second state to launch e-RTI portal that will enable citizens to file online Right to Information (RTI). The Central government had launched its own online RTI application portal in 2013, which allowed users to file queries, pay application fee and submit requests for appeal.

Varanasi to have an international center for research on rice varieties - The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) at campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

Uttarakhand Government launches the “Super 30 coaching” - an innovative educational programme. The aim is to improve the standard of higher education in the state.

Automated test driving tract for the first time in Tamil Nadu – Karur.

Rani Chennamma University in Karnataka introduces GST in B. Com syllabus.

A.P., Telangana and Gujarat top in ease of doing business

Odisha to set up international standard sports city - Kalinga International Sports City in the state capital to organize mega international events in future.

Gujarat government to take out Narmada Rath Yatra - to celebrate the completion of Sardar Sarovar dam work on river Narmada - under the 'Maa Narmada Mahotsav' programme.

Rajasthan: First State to fix minimum education qualification for contesting elections to village cooperative societies and various other cooperative bodies.

Karnataka Government constitutes committee to study legalities for separate State flag.

Tamil Nadu reports first case of Zika virus in a man from a village in Krishnagiri district.

Health ministry, signs MoU with Government of West Bengal to set up a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine at Kolkata.

Training centre for high-speed rail to come up in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) to set up India’s first Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in Punjab

Operation Muskan (to rescue Odisha’s missing children) launched in Odisha.

Matunga (Mumbai’s suburban) becomes India's first railway station run by women

T R Zeliang (Naga People's Front) appointed new CM of Nagaland by Governor.

Shala Siddhi Prohatsan Yojana started in 25,000 MP schools to provide qualitative education to the students.

South Korea launches contest in Chandigarh to promote tourism in South Korea. Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan has been the Goodwill Ambassador of South Korea since April 2014.

“G-Ride”, a digital ride sharing app for techies has been launched by Kerala.

The 2017 Dree festival was recently celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh.

City to host the 2017 World Food India (WFI) - New Delhi

State government to host the 2017 International conference on “Reclaiming Social Justice, Revisiting Ambedkar” - Karnataka

17th International Children’s Film Festival venue – Kolkata.

WORLD

22nd World Petroleum Congress: Istanbul

Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan chaired a Ministerial Session on the subject “Current Economic Strategies in Indian Oil & Gas Sector”.

Australia (35th country) joins International Solar Alliance

International Solar Alliance:

- Head office – India.
- An initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2015 in Paris.
- It is co-led by India and France.
- The aim was to support developing countries to boost their solar production capacity.

Eighth meeting of SAARC Ministers of Law & Order held in Colombo.

US Navy tests world’s first Laser Weapons System.
UK’s first woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill elected to Home Affairs Select Committee.

US House of Representatives passes Bill on defence co-operation with India.

Country hosting the 41st annual UNESCO World Heritage Committee conference – Poland.

Okinoshima Island: Japan’s men-only island gets UNESCO heritage tag.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Saraswati: Indian scientists discover supercluster of galaxies**

It has been named “Saraswati”. It was discovered by astronomers from Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), both in Pune, Maharashtra.

**What is Supercluster?**

- A supercluster is a chain of galaxies and galaxy clusters.
- Bound by gravity consisting of tens of thousands of galaxies.
- It often stretches several hundred times the size of clusters of galaxies.
- These clusters of galaxies, in turn, are grouped together to form super clusters.
- The Milky Way, the galaxy in which earth is located is part of a supercluster called the Laniakea Supercluster.

**About Saraswati supercluster**

- Saraswati supercluster is one of the largest known structures in the nearby universe. The discovery of Saraswati supercluster will help astronomers in understanding galaxy formation and evolution, effect of superclusters on environment of the galaxies.

**Scientists from University of Cambridge, UK discover smallest star (EBLM J0555-57Ab) known in the universe**

**EBLM J0555-57Ab:**

- Smallest star known in the universe.
- Identified by SuperWASP, a planet-finding experiment run by several universities.
- Located about 600 light years away.
- Slightly larger than Saturn in size and may possibly have Earth-sized planets with liquid water in its orbit.

**New Doppler weather radar commissioned**
• Indigenous Doppler weather radar, capable of predicting with increased accuracy weather events such as cyclone occurring in 500-km radius from Kochi. The S-Band Doppler weather radar in Kochi was made with support from ISRO and Bharat Electronics.
• Doppler effect: It is an increase (or decrease) in the frequency of sound, light, or other waves as the source and observer move towards (or away from) each other.

Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inducts First DEMU (Diesel Electric Multi Unit) Train

• The first 1600 HP DEMU train with Solar Powered Coaches with a unique facility of Battery Bank.
• The entire electrical need of the coaches for Lighting, Fans and Information Display System will be met from the Solar Energy produced from the solar panels fitted on the roofs of coaches.
• Manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, its Solar panels and Solar systems have been developed and fitted by Indian Railways Organisation of Alternative Fuel (IROAF) Delhi.
• The train will run from Sarai Rohilla in Delhi to Farukh Nagar in Haryana.

AWARDS

• Chitraveena maestro N. Ravikiran has been selected for this year’s Sangita Kalanidhi award.
• Recipient of 2017 USIBC Global Leadership Awards - Adi Godrej.
• Jammu & Kashmir bags best award in adventure tourism destination.
• Indian NGO that has won the 2017 UNDP Equator Prize for sustainable farming model - Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP).
• Indian music composer who has been shortlisted for the 2017 World Soundtrack Awards – a public choice award - A R Rahman.
• Country that is hosting the 2017 Family Planning Summit - United Kingdom. IROAF (Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel) won Golden Peacock Award 2017 - for Eco-Innovation for substitution of fossil fuels (Diesel) by environment friendly CNG in DEMU passenger train services.
• Vijaya Bank MD & CEO Mr. Kishore Sansi gets Skoch award - ‘Personality of the Year’ by Skoch Consultancy Services.
• India ranks 116 out of 157 nations on Sustainable Development Goals index. Sweden leads the list, followed by Denmark and Finland.
• Raipur Airport (Swami Vivekananda Airport) Ranked First in Customer Satisfaction Index Survey.
• India emerges as top trusted government in the world with 73 per cent people voting for the current government. Greece stands last with 13 per cent.
• Indian – origin boy, 11-year-old Arnav Sharma tops in MENSA IQ test, has beaten Albert Einstein and Stephan Hawking’s IQ score.
• Indian-american student J.J. Kapoor wins top original orator contest in US.
BOOKS AND AUTHORS

• ‘Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives’ - book compiled by Professor C. Raj Kumar.
• “President’s Lady,” a book on Suvra Mukherjee, the late wife of President Pranab Mukherjee - authored by Sangeeta Ghosh.
• “Playing With Fire” – New novel of Former glamour model Katie Price.
• “Indira: India’s most powerful Prime Minister” – Sagarika Ghosh.

APPOINTMENTS

• Lilly Singh (Indian-origin Canadian YouTube star) appointed UNICEF’s Global Goodwill Ambassador - she will use her channel to showcase the organisation’s work and urge millions of her followers to work for children’s rights.
• Mukesh Kumar Jain appointed MD & CEO of Oriental Bank.
• Joyita Mondal Mahi, India’s first transgender judge for Lok Adalat at Islampur in the North Dinajpur, West Bengal.
• M. Ananda Krishnan - Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Curriculum Framework committee.
• Donald Trump nominates Indian-American Neomi Rao as Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.
• WHO goodwill ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region - Saima Wazed Hossain from Bangladesh.

SPORTS

• India’s Mithali Raj becomes first to score 6000 runs in women’s ODI cricket.
• India’s Harinder Pal Sandhu wins Victorian Open squash tournament held in Melbourne, Australia. In the final he defeated Rex Hedrick of Australia.

• India’s Sundar Singh Gurjar (Rajasthan) wins gold medal at World Para Athletics held at London in the men’s javelin throw event.

• The flag bearer for the Indian contingent in the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship (AAC)-2017 - Tintu Luka.
• Indian city hosting the International conference on sports “CII ScoreCard 2017” - New Delhi.
• The sports with which Govindan Laxman, who has won gold at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships (AAC), is associated – Sprint.
• BCCI appoints Ravi Shastri as new head coach of Indian cricket team, Zaheer Khan new bowling coach for cricket.
• Justice Vikramajit Sen appointed new BCCC chairperson.
• Former Indian batsman Sandeep Patil was named as the brand ambassador of the Indian Indoor Cricket Team.
• Lewis Hamilton wins record-equalling fifth British Grand Prix.
• Wimbledon:

1. Wimbledon is one of four Grand Slam tennis tournaments. The others are the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open.
2. Wimbledon takes place at the All England Lawn Tennis Club in London. Played on outdoor grass courts.
3. Roger Federer of Switzerland defeats Marin Cilic of Croatia in the men's single final.
4. Muguruza (Spain) defeated Venus Williams (United States) to win her first Wimbledon title in the women’s single category.
5. Men’s Doubles: Łukasz Kubot (Poland) and Marcelo Melo (Brazil) pair defeated Oliver Marach (Austria) and Mate Pavić (Croatia) pair.
6. Women’s Doubles: Russian pair Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina defeated Chan Hao-ching (Chinese Taipei) and Monica Niculescu (Romania).
• Mixed Doubles: Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) defeated Henri Kontinen (Finland) and Heather Watson (United Kingdom).

OTHERS

• Veteran water expert and former Cauvery Technical Cell Chairman A. Mohanakrishnan passes away.
• Popular painter and actor Veera Santhanam passed away in Chennai.
• Forensic expert Professor P. Chandra Sekharan passes away. He was the author of many books including "The first human bomb," based on the Rajiv Gandhi case and other scientific publications.
• The First Woman to Win Math's Highest Award Dies at 40. Maryam Mirzakhani, the first and only woman to win the prestigious Fields Medal, called the Nobel Prize of math, died.
• Liu Xiaobo (China’s most prominent political prisoner), who won Nobel prize, dies.
• Former Sikkim CM Nar Bahadur Bhandari passes away.
• Gopal Prasad Parajuli to be Nepal’s new SC Chief Justice.
• Oscar winning Hollywood Actor Martin Landau passes away.
• Kolkata to host global business meet in November.
• Maximum number of facebook users are from India

Tamil Nadu State government’s film awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Picture (First Prize)</td>
<td>Pasanga</td>
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<td>Mayandi Kudumbathar</td>
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<table>
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<td>Renuka (Ayan)</td>
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<td>Best Director</td>
<td>Vasantha Balan (Angadi Theru)</td>
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<td>Best Music Director</td>
<td>Sundar C. Babu (Nadodigal)</td>
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<td>Best Lyrician</td>
<td>Yugabharathi (Pasanga)</td>
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<td>Best Playback Singer (Male)</td>
<td>Balamuralikrishna (Pasanga)</td>
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<td>Vikram (Raavanan)</td>
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<td>Amala Paul (Myna)</td>
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<td>Y.G. Mahendra (Puthran)</td>
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<td>Lakshmi Ramakrishnan (Uchi Thanai Murgarnthaal)</td>
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<td>Best Director</td>
<td>A. L. Vijay (Deiva Thirumagal)</td>
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<td>Best Music Director</td>
<td>Harris Jayaraj (Ko)</td>
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<td>Best Lyricist</td>
<td>Muthulingam (Medhai)</td>
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<td>Best Playback Singer (Male)</td>
<td>Haricharan (Deiva Thirumagal)</td>
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<td>Best Playback Singer (Female)</td>
<td>Swetha Mohan (Many films)</td>
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<td>Best Picture (Third Prize)</td>
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<td>Best Actor</td>
<td>Jeeva (Nee Thane En Ponvasantham)</td>
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<td>Best Actress</td>
<td>Lakshmi Menon (Kumki and Sundarapandian)</td>
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<td>Vikram Prabhu (Kumki)</td>
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<td>Best Scriptwriter</td>
<td>S.R. Prabhakaran (Sundarapandian)</td>
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<td>Best Music Director</td>
<td>T. Imman (Kumki)</td>
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<td>N. Muthukumar</td>
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<td>K.G. Ranjith (Kumki)</td>
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<td>Shreya Ghoshal (Kumki)</td>
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<td>Best Scriptwriter</td>
<td>Balu Mahendra (Thalaimuraigal)</td>
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<td>Best Music Director</td>
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<td>Best Lyricist</td>
<td>Na. Muthukumar (Thangameenkal)</td>
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<td>Best Playback Singer (Male)</td>
<td>S.P.B. Charan (Pannaiyarum Padminiyum)</td>
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<td>Sandhiya (Pannaiyarum Padminiyum)</td>
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<td>Best Child Artist</td>
<td>Sadhana (Thangameenkal)</td>
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**Categories 2014**

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<td>Aishwarya Rajesh (Kaaka Muttai)</td>
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<td>Raghavan (Manja Pai)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Child Artist</td>
<td>Vignesh and Ramesh (Kaaka Muttai)</td>
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**President gives assent to Maharashtra Social Boycott Bill**

- President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2016.
- Maharashtra is the first state in the country to formulate a law to punish social boycott.
- The presidential assent paves the way for the state to strictly enforce the law to deal with the scourge of social boycott with an iron hand.
- The purpose of new law is to root out oppression carried out in name of social boycott by parallel justice delivery system (kangaroo court) by citing age old traditions, caste and religious practices.

**Lok Sabha passes Indian Institutes of Information Technology (PPP) Bill, 2017**

- To allow 15 IIITs established on a PPP model to grant degrees and get statutory status.
- The bill also seeks to grant institute of national importance status to IIITs on the lines of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs).
Salient Features of the Bill

Definition of PPP: The bill define PPP as a partnership under a scheme of the centre for establishment of institutes through collaboration between the centre, the state government and industry partners such as individuals, trusts, companies or societies.

Establishment of an institute: State government will identify at least one industry partner for collaboration to establish an institute and submit a proposal to the centre. The centre will examine the proposal based on certain criteria. The centre may reject or accept the proposal with modifications. Upon such acceptance, the centre will enter into a MoU with the concerned state government and industry partners to establish proposed institute.

Role of the industry partner: It will have powers for co-creating programs as per the requirements of the industry; actively participating in the governance of the institutes; and funding and mentoring startups in the institutions.

Board of Governors: It will be the principal policy making and executive body of the institute. The Board of each institute will comprise up to 15 members including Chairman nominated on the recommendation of the centre.

Senate: It will be the principal academic body of each institute. It will specify the criteria and procedure for admission to courses of study; recommend to the Board, creation of teaching and other academic posts; and specify academic content of programmes and courses of study.

Coordination Forum: It will deliberate on matters of common interest to all the institutes. It will advise the centre to include or exclude an institution from the schedule of the Bill.

Funds of the institute: Each institute will maintain a fund consisting of funds from the government and other sources including grants, fees and donations. Further, each institute will create corpus fund of the net income of the institute and donations for its long term sustainability.

National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Malaria Elimination

• The Union Health Ministry and Family Welfare for the first time has unveiled National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Malaria Elimination (2017-22).
• It has set malaria elimination deadline as 2027, three years ahead of the global deadline.
• The NSP is based on 2016 National Framework for Malaria Elimination framed with support of WHO’s Global Technical Strategy for Malaria, 2016-2030.

Features of the Plan

• The NSP is a year-wise roadmap for malaria elimination across the country.
• The plan aims to achieve universal case detection and treatment services in malaria endemic districts to ensure 100% diagnosis of all suspected cases, and full treatment of all confirmed cases.
• It seeks to maintain a malaria-free status for areas where transmission has been interrupted.

**Categorization of Districts:**

The plan divides country into four categories, from 0 to 3 based on their annual parasite incidence (API).

**Targets:**

The plan aims to eliminate malaria (zero indigenous cases) in all Category 1 and 2 districts by 2022. In Category 3, the target is bring remaining districts under a pre-elimination and elimination programme by 2022.

**Four components, based on recommendations WHO:**

• Diagnosis and case management
• Surveillance and epidemic response
• Prevention — integrated vector management
• Cross-Cutting interventions, which include communication, advocacy, R&D and other initiatives.

**Funding:** The resources required for the elimination of malaria is around Rs 10,653.16 crore over a period of five years (2017-2022). These resources will be managed from government sources, international donors, and the corporate sector as part of corporate social responsibility (CSR).

**Significance:**

• This is for the first time, the Union Health Ministry has come up with a roadmap for elimination of malaria in the country.
• Prior to it, effort was to “control” malaria under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDC).
• The NSP lays down detailed strategy with operational guidelines for all states towards set targets.
• It has also given a detailed breakdown of annual budgetary requirements over five years.

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**July 1:**
• National Doctors' Day (India).
• Chartered Accountants' Day (India)
• International Co-operative Day. 2017 Theme - Co-operatives ensure no one is left behind.

July 2: World UFO Day
July 4: Independence Day (United States)
July 6: World Zoonoses Day
July 7: International Day of Cooperatives

July 11:
• World Population Day. 2017 theme: “Family Planning- Empowering People, Developing Nations”.
• Save Public Sector Banks Day (SPSBD) in India.

July 12: Malala Day
July 14: Bastille Day
July 15: World Youth Skills Day. 2017 Theme is “Skills for the Future of Work”.
July 17: World Day for International Justice
July 18: Mandela Day
July 22: Pi Approximation Day
July 23: National Broadcasting Day
July 26: Kargil Vijay Diwas (Kargil Victory Day)
July 29: International Tiger Day
July 30: World Day against Trafficking in persons. 2017 Theme -“Act to protect and assist trafficked persons”

NATION

Ram Nath Kovind sworn in as 14th President of India on July 25, 2017

• He secured 65.5% votes.
• He became the second Dalit President of India after late President K.R. Narayanan.
• He is also the first person from Uttar Pradesh to hold the office of President since Independence.

• On August 8, 2015, Kovind was appointed governor of Bihar.

Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2017
Lokmat newspaper has taken a step towards honouring best Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members for their achievements by introducing the Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2017.

**Lok Sabha:-**

- Lifetime Achievement Award - LK Advani
- Best Parliamentarian Award 2016 - NK Premachandran
- Best Woman Parliamentarian Award 2016 - Kumari Sushmita Dev
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian Award 2016 - Meenakshi Lekhi

**Rajya Sabha:-**

- Lifetime Achievement Award - Sharad Yadav
- Best Parliamentarian Award 2016 - Sitaram Yechury
- Best Woman Parliamentarian Award 2016 - Jaya Bachchan
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian Award 2016 - Rajani Patil

**India to Host 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017**

- One of the world’s largest conferences on Cyber Space and related issues.
- Theme: ‘Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace’.
- To take place on 23rd & 24th of November 2017 in New Delhi.

**Ministry of Rural Development to launch Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana**

- To provide source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- By The Ministry of Rural Development.
- This will provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services like e-rickshaws, 3 and 4 wheeler motorised transport vehicles to connect remote villages with key services and amenities including access to markets, education and health for the overall economic development of the area.

**Parliament passes The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016**

Admiralty laws deal with cases of accidents in navigable waters or involve contracts related to commerce on such waters.

**Features of the Bill**
• The bill confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in coastal states of India, thus extending their upto territorial waters.
• It empowers central government to extend the jurisdiction of these High Courts.
• Under the earlier laws enacted during the colonial era, the admiralty was only by the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
• The bill now extends the provisions of admiralty jurisdiction to every vessel irrespective of place of domicile or residence of owner.
• It does not apply to naval auxiliary, warships and vessels used for non-commercial purposes.
• It empowers High Courts to exercise jurisdiction on maritime claims arising out of conditions such as disputes regarding ownership of a vessel, mortgage on a vessel, construction, repair, or conversion of the vessel, disputes between co-owners of a vessel regarding employment or earnings of the vessel, disputes arising out of the sale of a vessel, and environmental damage caused by the vessel, etc.

**Lok Sabha passes The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017**

• The Bill amends RTE Act, 2009 to extend the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.
• Through the amending measure inadequately qualified teachers as on March 31, 2015, working after enactment of the RTE Act, 2009 are being given last chance to acquire minimum qualifications within a period of four years i.e. by March 31, 2019 to hold their jobs as teachers.

**Key facts**

• The amendments to RTE Act, 2009 will enable the in-service untrained elementary teachers to complete their training and ensure that all teachers at the elementary level have certain minimum standard of qualifications.
• It will ensure that all teachers attain minimum qualifications as considered necessary to maintain the standard of teaching quality.
• It will ultimately result in improvement in overall quality of teachers, teaching processes and learning outcomes of children.
• It will reinforce Government’s emphasis on improvement of quality of elementary education

**Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana for senior citizens:**

• Launched by The Union Finance Ministry in the national capital.
• A pension scheme exclusively for senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
• Under this scheme, senior citizens will get a guaranteed interest of 8% for 10 years depending upon the investment made by them.
• Available from 4th May, 2017 to 3rd May, 2018.
• The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the sole privilege to operate this Scheme.

President inaugurates Bicentenary Celebration of Paika Rebellion by the Union Ministry of Culture in New Delhi.

Many scholars, researchers and historians have opined that the Paika Rebellion of 1817 was India’s first organized armed rebellion against British Raj.

IISER (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research) Kolkata Researchers develop flame-proof, rust-resistant material. The hybrid material was synthesised by combining polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane (POSS) and diphenylalanine.

Union Home Minister chairs first meeting of Islands Development Agency (IDA)

• In New Delhi.
• The Union Home Minister presented the vision for developing India’s maritime economy while preserving the natural eco-system and addressing the security concerns.
• He emphasized upon the need for sustainable development of Islands with people’s participation.

Islands Development Agency:

Set up on June 01, 2017 following the Prime Minister’s review meeting for the development of islands.

Mobile App for Road Maintenance “Aarambh launched

• Its usage will enhance the service delivery of the state level institutions in planning and implementing performance based rural roads maintenance contracts.
• This would simplify the maintenance management of rural roads.

‘SHe-box’ portal for sexual harassment complaints

• By The Minister of Women & Child Development.
• An online complaint management system titled Sexual Harassment electronic–Box (SHe-Box) for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace in New Delhi.
• To ensure the effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
• An initiative to provide a platform to women working or visiting any office of Central Government to file complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace under the SH Act.

Reliance Defence launches naval patrol vessels Shachi and Shruti

• Reliance Defence launches first two naval patrol vessels Shachi and Shruti (NOPVs) – ‘Shachi’ and ‘Shruti’ – at their shipyard in Pipavav, Gujarat.
• ‘Shachi’ and ‘Shruti’ — are the first warships to be launched by a private sector shipyard in India.

Others:

• The Food Safety and Authority of India (FSSAI) bans stapler pins in tea bags from January 2018.
• India Partners With Israel to Develop Missile Defense System.
• India third largest terror target after Iraq and Afghanistan: US report
• India 132nd out of 152 Countries for Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index. Sweden ranked the highest. Nigeria ranked the lowest.
• India, Bangladesh to establish new waterways using the Brahmaputra.
• India witnessed third highest terror attacks in 2016: US
• ADB cuts India inflation outlook to 4% in 2017-18.

STATES

Centre, Haryana Govt. ink pact to revive River Saraswati

The Centre and the Government of Haryana joined hands to revive the long lost River Saraswati and provide water to the drought-prone areas of India.

Telangana puts cap on school bag weight - Telangana School Education Department issued strict guidelines to reduce the weight of school bags for children in the State.

Janahitha
• In Telangana, an innovative programme christened Janahitha was launched to receive complaints from public through a special portal.
• Aimed at facilitating the public to submit their complaints online and get speedy redressal.

**Odisha CM dedicates Odisha’s longest bridge to nation**

• Named it after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
• The 2.88 km bridge over the river Kathajodi will connect the state capital of Bhubaneswar with Cuttack reducing the distance between the two cities by 12 km.

**RIWATCH Museum**

Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju has inaugurated the Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, Culture & Heritage (RIWATCH) Museum at Roing, Arunachal Pradesh.

**Lucknow Metro**

• To be India’s 1st with own FM radio station, which will provide entertainment and information on metro safety.
• It also will offer travellers with ‘Go Smart’ cards drinking water, toilet facilities and WiFi free of charge.

**Bengaluru hosted international meet on social justice**

A three-day Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar international conference on social justice was held in Bengaluru from July 21 to 23.

**Others:**

• Rameswaram (Shraddha Setu) Express - from Rameshwaram to Faizabad via Ayodhya - inaugurated by Prime Minister on July 27, 2017.
• Dhanuskodi linked with mainland through National Highway – 49 (New NH No. 87), by 9.5 km stretch from Mukundarayar Chathiram to Arichalmunai; giving a new lease of life to cyclone ravaged Dhanuskodi after 53 years.
• Three day national banana festival 2017 held at Madurai.
• Special postal envelop launched on the eve of inauguration of Abdul Kalam Memorial at Pei Karumbu, Rameshwaram.
• Tamil Nadu’s first children’s park for mentally retarded and physically challenged children comes up at Madurai.
• Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates scheme on Distribution of petrol scooter for physically challenged.
• Malaria Research Centre of Indian Medical Council to come up at Coimbatore and Uttarakhand.
• “Wall of Kindness” inaugurated for the first time in Tamil Nadu at Thirunelveli Collector’s office to help the needy with used dresses, books, toys, etc.
• State Civil Secretariat that has become the India’s first secretariat to be fully under wireless coverage - Arunachal Pradesh
• State to host the 5th North East Connectivity Summit-2018 - Arunachal Pradesh
• State to have India’s first Eco-friendly bridges for the movement of tigers - Telangana
• Haryana to bring ‘fixed service’ (fixed period of service in government hospitals of the Haryana) for medical students.
• Kerala to host literary festival with ‘Tolerance’ as theme.
• Kerala will host the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE) at Chengannur, Kerala from 24 July 2017.
• Special pink coloured air conditioned buses for Ladies and Kids introduced by Uttar Pradesh government.
• India’s first Petroleum R&D facility for testing high-end BS-VI fuel emissions inaugurated at Faridabad, Haryana. By Indian Oil corporation.
• Maharashtra, Rajasthan record highest cases of child marriage.
• Airport Authority of India signs MoU with Govt. of Uttarakhand to develop the civil aviation sector in the state.
• State to have started Tourism Help Desk at Germany – Maharashtra
• Swachchatha Award – Cleanliness award to be given to Higher educational institutions like universities and colleges.
• ICICI Bank offers up to Rs. 15 lakh instant personal loan via ATMs for its existing salaried customers can avail personal loans at ATMs.
• Karnataka Bank launches ‘Met Loan & Life Suraksha’.

WORLD

World’s first floating wind farm being built off Scotland coast in the North Sea. The wind farm, known as Hywind is a trial project which aims to bring power to 20,000 homes.

UN selects Dubai as data hub for MENASA (Middle East North Africa and South Asia) region

It will also serve as a dedicated platform for city-to-city learning and ‘solutions transfer’ across metropolitan, national and global contexts.

Branch-in-a-Box

• Launched by Aurionpro Solutions (North America).
• A Virtual Teller Machine (VTM) a fully integrated self-service kiosk for automating 90% of banking transactions at the branch level.
• The VTM helps in migrating routine transactions like KYC, account opening, passbook and statement printing, video assistance, bill payment, cash and cheques.

Bolivia declared total independence from World Bank & IMF
Bolivia’s President Evo Morales has declared his government’s independence from World Bank and IMF.

- Bolivia capital: Sucre
- Currency: Boliviano
- President: Evo Morales

OTHERS:

- Microsoft to shut down MS Paint 32 years after its launch.
- International Monetary Fund retains 2017 growth forecast for India at 7.2%.
- European Union lifts ban on LTTE.
- Spanish scientists discover novobiocin compound as anti-Zika drug
- USS Gerald R. Ford: World’s largest aircraft carrier inducted by US.
- Google CEO Sundar Pichar appointed to Alphabet’s (Google’s Parent Company) Board of Directors.
- UAE’s highest Sheik Hamad Award - awarded to Indian girl Arathrika Singh for multidisciplinary talent.

PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS

- Sanjay Kothari - Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind
- New spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA - Raveesh Kumar)
- Brenda Marjorie Hale - First female President of the Supreme Court (SC) in United Kingdom (UK).
- Chairman Of The UK India Business Council - Lord Davies
- Sanjay Kothari appointed secretary to new President.
- Veteran Congress leader Shivajirao Patil dead at 92
- Former ISRO Chairman Udupi Ramachandra (UR) Rao passes away at 85.
- Globally renowned physicist, academic and higher education reformer Professor Yash Pal passed away in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He was 90.

SPORTS

England wins 2017 ICC Women’s World Cup

World cup women cricket:

1) 2017 Host: England
2) 2013 Host: India; Champion: Australia
3) Indian captain: Mithali raj (mother tongue - Tamil)
4) Indian Coach: Tushar Arothe
5) Players: Poonam, deepti sharma, Mandhana, Rajeshwari Gayakwad
6) England completed a stunning fightback to beat India by nine runs and win the Women's World Cup at an ecstatic Lord's.
7) Chasing 229, India looked set for victory at 191-3, but Anya Shrubsole pinned Punam Raut lbw for 86 to spark a collapse of seven wickets for 28 runs.
8) This is the fourth World Cup title for England Women.
10) Player of the Match: Anya Shrubsole.

**ICC Women’s ODI Rankings:**

1. Meg Lanning - Australia
2. Mithali Raj - India
3. Ellyse Perry - Australia
4. Amy Satterthwaite – New Zealand
5. Suzie Bates - New Zealand
6. Harmanpreet Kaur – India

- Jhulan Goswami has gained four slots to reach second position in bowling.

**World Para Athletics Championships:**

- Venue – London, July 14 to 27
- China tops the list.
- India – 34th place – 5 medals
- Sundar Singh – Gold – Javelin Throw
- Amit Saroha – Silver – Club Throw
- Sharath Kumar – Silver – High Jump
- Varun Patti – Bronze – High Jump
- Karamjothi Dalal – Bronze – Discus throw

**6th Commonwealth Youth Games:**

- England topped the medal list.
- India secured 7th position with 11 medals (4 gold, 1 silver and 6 bronze medals).

**Others**

- Chennai open tennis – to be Maharashtra Open hereafter, and will be conducted at Pune in future.
- Konsam Ormila Devi wins gold in Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships held at in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Sachin Siwach wins gold at Commonwealth Youth Games after defeating Welsh boxer James Nathan.
- Diamond league athletics 2017 – Usain bolt wins gold in 100 m race.
• Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Indian Premier League (IPL) - Hemang Amin.
• Country to host the men’s World Boxing Championship in 2021 – India.
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No.25, Nandhi Loop Street,
West C.I.T. Nagar, Chennai – 600 035
Near T.Nagar Bus Stand,
Landmark: Nandhi Statue
Ph: 24339436, 42867555, 9840226187
E-mail: appolotnpsc@gmail.com
Website: www.appolosupport.com
      www.appolotraining.com
## Important Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Theme - 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 August</td>
<td>World Breast Feeding Day</td>
<td>Sustaining breast feeding together</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 August</td>
<td>Hirachana Day, Anti-Nuclear Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>07 August</td>
<td>National Handloom Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 August</td>
<td>World Senior Citizen’s Day</td>
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<td>09 August</td>
<td>Quit India Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 August</td>
<td>International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples</td>
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<td>10 August</td>
<td>World Bio Fuel Day</td>
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<td>12 August</td>
<td>International Youth Day</td>
<td>Youth Building peace</td>
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<td>12 August</td>
<td>World Elephant Day</td>
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<td>15 August</td>
<td>India’s Independence Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 August</td>
<td>World Photography Day</td>
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<td>19 August</td>
<td>Humanitarian Day</td>
<td>#NotATarget.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 August</td>
<td>World Honey Bee Day</td>
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<td>20 August</td>
<td>Harmony Day (Sadhbhavana Diwas)</td>
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<td>20 August</td>
<td>World Mosquito Day</td>
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<td>23 August</td>
<td>International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>National Sports Day</td>
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International Day Against Nuclear Tests

Small Industry Day

July 26: Kargil Victory Day

July 28: World Hepatitis Day

July 29: Global Tiger Day

‘International Tiger Day’ is celebrated every year on 29th July. This year’s International Tiger Day was celebrated with the slogan ‘Fresh Ecology For Tigers’ Protection’.

- The conference of the heads of 13 countries – where tigers are available – held at Saint Petersburg of Russia in 2010 took the decision to mark the world tiger day on July 29 every year.
- The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.

July 30: World Day against Trafficking in Persons. 2017 theme - Act to protect and assist trafficked persons.

7 August: National Handloom Day.

- To honour the handloom weavers in the country and also carter an impetus to India’s handloom industry.
- The date August 7 was chosen to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on this date in 1905.
- The first National Handloom Day was inaugurated on 7 August 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Chennai.

15th August 2017: 71st Independence Day

India celebrates its 70th anniversary of Independence and Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort.

Some Important points of PM’s Independence Day speech:

- This is a special year- 75th anniversary of Quit India, 100th anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha, 125th anniversary of Ganesh Utsav.
- We have to take the country ahead with the determination of creating a 'New India'.
- In 1942, the nation's call was 'Bharat Chhoro' (Quit India). In 2017, the nation's call is 'Bharat Jodo' (A United India) that is our true strength.
- Irrespective of caste, community and religion we are one India.

NITI Aayog clears six proposals for high-tech public transport

- It includes high-tech mass rapid transportation technologies such as metrino, hyperloop, pod taxis, stadler buses, hybrid buses and freight rail road.
- Metrino: Fully automatic, driverless small pods travel independently suspended over an overhead network.
- Pod taxis: Small automated vehicles – cable cars or pod cars – equipped to carry a small group of passengers.
- Hyperloop: A pod-like vehicle is propelled through a near-vacuum tube connecting cities at speeds matching that of an aircraft.
• **Freight rail road:** Under it elevated corridors will be built with rail lines where freight trucks can be placed and then they would move on rails at high speed, increasing freight quantity and reducing freight time.

**Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill 2017** - for setting up of a National Commission for Backward Classes was passed by Rajya Sabha after dropping an important clause.

**Swachh Survekshan-2018 launched in the country**

To rank all the 4,041 cities and towns of the country based on infrastructure development for improved sanitation services and their sustainability, outcomes, citizen connect and visible impact on ground.

**Government proposes to set up 14 new AIIMS hospitals under PMSSY.**

- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
- Launched – 2003
- Objective – correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- Establishes AIIMS in various regions of India apart from different government colleges.

**Ministry of Health releases Guidelines for FPC**

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released Operational Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Family Participatory Care (FPC).
- The guidelines will serve as a guiding document for those intending to introduce FPC in their facility as an integral part of facility based newborn care.
- The document also provides details of infrastructure, training, role of health care providers and steps in the operationalization of FPC in the newborn care unit.

**India can construct Kishanganga, Ratle Hydro Power Plants: World Bank**

World Bank has allowed India to construct Kishanganga, Ratle hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers with certain restrictions under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

**Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)**

- IWT is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan which was brokered by the World Bank (then the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).
- It deals with sharing of water of Indus water system having six rivers — Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum between the two countries.
- It was signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan Ayub Khan in Karachi on September 19, 1960. It is most successful water treaty in world. Even, it has survived India-Pakistan wars of 1965, 1971 and the 1999 Kargil standoff besides Kashmir insurgency since 1990.
- As per treaty, control over three eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej was given to India.
- While control over three western rivers Indus, Jhelum and Chenab was given to Pakistan.
- It allows India to use only 20% of the water of Indus river, which flows through it first, for irrigation, power generation and transport.

**NPCI (National Payments corporation of India) gets RBI nod to operate Bharat Bill Payment System.**

**About Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**

- BBPS is an integrated bill payment system
- Offering interoperable and accessible bill payment service to customers through a network of agents, enabling multiple payment modes and providing instant confirmation of payment.
- The BBPS initiative aims to provide a major push to digital payments as it is a big step forward in formalizing the bill payment system in the country.
- Under the BBPS framework, a customer will be able to pay several bills such as electricity, telephone, water, gas, and DTH television at a single location—physical or electronic—and receive instant confirmation once the payment is made. Nearly 45 crore bills are permitted under BBPS.
- Payments through BBPS can be made using cash, transfer cheques and electronic modes.

**India ratifies 2nd commitment period of Kyoto Protocol.** India has ratified the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (or Doha Amendment) that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs)

**Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2017** - to assess the progress Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India.
NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) and Google India launch mobile app development programme (Android Skill Development programme) - to improve mobile developer ecosystem in the country.

NITI Aayog partners with 6 states to transform Health & Education sectors.

- To radically transform their Health and Education sectors under its Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) initiative.
- The shortlisted states for transforming their health sector are Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka.
- Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha were selected for transforming their education sector.

75th anniversary of Quit India Movement

- This year’s theme - “Sankalp se Siddhi- the attainment through resolve”.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent Mann Ki Baat programme had called for launching the mega campaign Sankalp Se Siddhi.
- The campaign pledges to build new India by 2022.
- It calls on everyone to pledge together towards Clean India, Poverty-free India, Corruption-free India, Terrorism-free India, Communalism-free India, Casteism-free India.
- Prime Minister Modi also had termed the month of August as a month of revolution as the non-cooperation movement was launched on August 1, 1920, Quit--India movement on August 9, 1942 and on August 15, 1947 India became independent.

Government merges NCRB with BPRD.

- The Union Home Ministry has merged three-decade old National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).
- The merger aims at improving administrative efficiency and optimal utilisation of resources for development works related to policing.

Centre completes first phase of measles-rubella vaccination campaign, launches second phase of Measles-rubella vaccination campaign.

The second phase of campaign will cover 8 states and union territories namely Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

Government to launch AGRI UDAAN-Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 2.0 programme. To promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture. It will mentor startups and help them connect with potential investors.

Union Cabinet clears proxy voting for NRIs and overseas Indians. Currently, only service personnel are permitted to vote through proxy.

e-RaKAM portal

- e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi(e-RaKAM)
- To provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.
- E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.
- Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce.
• Farmers would be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts.

**Indra: India, Russia For First Time Conduct Tri-Services Exercise**

• India and Russia for first time are going to conduct Indra tri-services exercise, involving their armies, navies and the air forces in October 2017 to further ramp up military ties. **Named INDRA**
• It will be for the first time India will participate in a tri-services exercise with a foreign country with such large scale participation by Army, Navy and Air force.

**Gaj Yatra**

• A nationwide campaign to protect elephants.
• By the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest.
• Launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day (August 12).

**MAHSR**

• Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail.
• India’s first bullet train project. Project cost – Rs. 1 lakh crore.
• Covers distance of 505 km.
• Makes use of Japanese technology known as “Shinkansen” Technology.

**India Quake**

• An App for Earthquake Parameter Dissemination.
• Launched National Centre for Seismology.
• By Ministry of Earth Science.
• The App will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients.
• Any citizen can download this App and get the real time earthquake location information on his/her mobile.

**Sagar Vani**

• Mobile App.
• By Ministry of Earth Science.
• An Integrated Information Dissemination System.
• Will serve the coastal community, especially the fishermen community with the advisories and alerts towards their livelihood as well as their safety at Sea.

**National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to become operational:**

• Set up to scan the country’s web traffic to detect cyber security threats.
• It scans the cyberspace in the country for cyber security threats at metadata level to generate situational awareness.
• Implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

**Jiyo Parsi scheme**

• “Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-1” - Initiated in 2013.
• Main objective of the “Jiyo Parsi” scheme - to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India.
• Ministry of Minority Affairs’ scheme has two components: Medical Assistance and Advocacy/Counselling.

**Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)**

The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)” as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
• The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.

• The beneficiary SHG member will be provided an interest free loan by the CBO from its Community Investment Fund upto Rs.6.50 lakh for purchase of the vehicle.

About DAY-NRLM:-

• National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011.

• In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).

• Objective of scheme is enabling poors to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

E-Shakti initiative of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) - The objective of this project is digitisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs). NABARD was established in 1982 on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee.

Bharat QR (Quick Response) - It is for payment settlement at merchant locations.

Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) - It is an integrated bill payment system for net banking customers,”.

SBI merger bill passed by Lok Sabha

• Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank became part of State Bank of India (SBI) beginning April 1, catapulting the country’s largest lender to among the top 50 banks in the world.

• The five associates that were merged are State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT).


BitBay to launch trading platform for digital currency in India

Poland based bitcoin exchange platform Bitbay, one of the top ten cryptocurrency trading platforms in the world, has launched a dedicated platform for trade and exchange of digital currencies such as bitcoin, litecoin, ether, Lisk, monero, dash and game credits.

ICICI Bank launches instant credit cards – to enable its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.

Kotak Bank’s New Forex Service - Kotak Remit - an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance solution for both customers and non-customers.

Canara Bank has launched its first digital banking branch of Canara Bank – CANDI.

Government revises the base year of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

Third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy of RBI

• Repo Rate - 6.00% (Earlier it was 6.25%)
• Reverse Repo Rate - 5.75% (Earlier it was 6.00%)
• Marginal Repo Rate - 6.25% (Earlier it was 6.50%)
• Bank Rate - 6.25% (Earlier it was 6.50%)
• Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 4.00% (Unchanged)
• Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) - 20.00% (Unchanged)

PR’s Quote on Energy Future
“My vision for India’s energy future has 4 pillars – energy access, energy efficiency, energy sustainability and energy security”

**National Sports Talent Search Portal**

- Launched by Union Government.
- To unearth sporting talent from every nook and corner of the country.
- The portal will be also available as smartphone application.

**Government imposes anti-dumping duty on sodium nitrate imports from China.**

Anti-dumping Duty: *Countries impose anti-dumping duties to safeguard domestic industry from surge in below-cost imports. It is not a measure to restrict import or cause an unjustified increase in cost of products. Anti-dumping duty is imposed in order to ensure fair trade and provide a level-playing field to the domestic industry.*

**CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) approves renaming SAMPADA Scheme as PM Kisan Sampada Yojana.**

**SAMPADA** - Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)**

- PMKSY is an umbrella scheme which incorporates all ongoing schemes of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- It includes MoFPI’s schemes such as Mega Food Parks, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, etc.
- It also includes new schemes like Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.

**Mentor India Campaign.**

- Launched by Niti Aayog.
- A strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders for guiding and mentoring students at Atal Tinkering Labs.
- Aims at maximising the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs by engaging leaders who will nurture and guide students in the Atal Tinkering Labs.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs:** Established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission. These labs are meant to be non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors. They are dedicated works spaces where students from Class 6th to Class 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.

**Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat Programme**

- The programme is an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
- The programme aims to provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups and children of different abilities.
- Its main objective is to make students, teachers and parents aware about the importance of good health and fitness and encouraging 60 minutes of play each day.
- The programme also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics amongst students. The objectives are bringing back the childhood amongst child.

**Government to establish first National Sports Museum.**

- At Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
- It will be first of its kind sports museum in India.
• The aim of the sports museum is to popularise the sports as a way of life within the country.

• It will showcase the India’s achievements in sports and also focus on the traditional sports within the country.

Navika Sagar Parikrama

• A project wherein a team of women officers (six-member all-woman team) of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sailboat INSV Tarini.

• This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.

• The project is scheduled to commence in early Sep 17.

• INSV Tarini is the sister vessel of INSV Mhadei.

• The project is considered essential towards promoting Ocean Sailing activities in the Navy while depicting Government of India’s thrust for ‘Nari Shakti’.

• The expedition has been apply titled ‘Navika Sagar Parikrama’, aimed at promoting women empowerment in the country and ocean sailing by the Indian Navy.

• The expedition would inspire the youth of our nation to develop an understanding of the sea and instill a spirit of adventure and camaraderie.

Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali Campaign.

• Launched by The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

• Aim - To reduce adverse environmental conditions especially pollution in the country after post Diwali celebrations due to excessive bursting of crackers which contributes significantly to air and noise pollution.

• Also aims at enlightening the children about harmful fire crackers. It will motivate children to not to buy fire crackers, instead buy a gift, t, food items, or sweets for poor and underprivileged children living in their locality.

• Under this campaign, the MoEFCC will undertake various activities for creating awareness among various stakeholders and encourage people to participate in combating air pollution.

• Some of the activities will include promoting Green Diwali among school children include stickers/logo distribution, advertisement on public transport systems, poster competition, public appeal using Radio. Social media campaign will be also undertaken under it. Moreover an online video competition will be conducted, where any individual or organization can make a video on the theme ‘Pollution Free Diwali’.

Madhyamik and Uchchtar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK).

1. The funds arising from MUSK will be utilized for schemes in education sector, which will be available for benefit of students of secondary and higher education all over the country.

2. It will be administered and maintained by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

3. The MUSK will be maintained as a Reserve Fund in the non-interest bearing section of the Public Accounts of India. It will be operationalized as per the present arrangements under Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) wherein the proceeds of cess are used for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Schemes.

NPPA caps prices of orthopedic knee implants

The drug price regulator National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped the prices of orthopedic knee implants upto 70% lower than current market rates.

India to host steering committee meeting of TAPI gas pipeline.
About Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

- TAPI gas pipeline project or Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline is a proposed trans-country natural gas pipeline developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The pipeline first proposed in 1995 will transport natural gas from energy rich Caspian Sea (Galkynysh gasfields: fourth largest in the world) in Turkmenistan to India through Afghanistan into Pakistan.
- Construction of the project started in Turkmenistan on December 2015. It is expected to be operational by 2019.
- The project will supply both India and Pakistan about 38 mmcmd of natural gas whereas Afghanistan will get 14 mmcmd supply.
- The life of supply is expected to last for period of 30 years and shall be operational from 2019. Member countries of the project have recommended establishing an inter-government joint security task force (JSTF) to serve as the nucleus of the safety of the pipeline.

**Government eMarketplace (GeM)**

1. GeM is an online market platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and agencies of the Government.
2. It was established by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

**IMMSAREX**

1. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium’s (IONS) maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) will be held in November 2017 in the Bay of Bengal under the chairmanship of Bangladesh.
2. The ships and aircraft of the members and observers of the IONS including China, India and Pakistan will participate in the exercise. In addition, Bangladesh is also scheduling to host “extraordinary conclave of Chiefs,” a meeting of chiefs of Navy of IONS members before it hands over the Chair to Iran.

**Home Minister launches live twitter wall on ‘Bharat Ke Veer’**

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the live Twitter wall for promoting Bharat Ke Veer portal here on the eve of Independence Day 2017.

**Bharat Ke Veer portal**

- Launched by the Union Home Minister and actor Shri Akshay Kumar on April 9, 2017.
- This portal facilitates online donation directly to the families of CAPF Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country in line of duty from January 1, 2016.
- This social media awareness campaign will display all tweets with hashtag Bharat Ke Veer (#BharatKeVeer), at Connaught Place, CGO complex and Khan Market in New Delhi where huge LED display screens have been installed.

**PM launches website to honour gallantry award winners since independence**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a website to honour all the gallantry award winners since Independence.
- Website - [http://gallantryawards.gov.in](http://gallantryawards.gov.in)
- Mr. Modi said “the portal will preserve and tell the stories of our bravest men and women, civilians as well as armed forces personnel.”
- PM Said “If you have any information/photo that is missing and can be added to the portal, please share it through the feedback link on the site”.

India’s first online course on Infusion Therapy launched

- The Infusion Nurses Society (INS)-India in its 6th National conference launched country’s first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses. INS is global authority in infusion therapy.
- Under which it aims to train over 3,000 nurses in the vital medical procedure.
- Will boost nurses even in rural parts of India, INS said that utilising the reach and ease of the digital platform,
- The course will enable members to access the various infusion therapy modules and presentations through its website.

Indian Government asks Internet majors to remove Blue Whale links

1. Government has directed internet majors – Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo – to immediately remove the links of dangerous online game Blue Whale Challenge, which has led to suicide of children in India and other countries.

2. The Blue Whale challenge is reportedly a suicide game in which the player is given certain tasks to complete for a period of 50 days and the final task leads to suicide. The player is also asked to share photos after finishing the challenge.

Seven Indian companies among 200 in green energy revenues

The seven Indian companies are Suzlon Energy Ltd, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Tata Chemicals Ltd, Exide Industries Ltd, IDFC Ltd, Thermax Ltd and Havells India Ltd.

New Metro Rail Policy approved

The Union Cabinet has approved a new Metro Rail Policy that seeks to enable realization of growing metro rail aspirations of a large number of cities in a responsible manner.

- It focuses on compact urban development, cost reduction and multi-modal integration.
- PPP component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects which is a big move for private investments across a range of metro operations.
- Seeking to ensure financial viability of metro projects, the new Metro Rail Policy requires the States to clearly indicate in the project report the measures to be taken for commercial/property development at stations and on other urban land and for other means of maximum non-fare revenue generation through advertisements, lease of space etc., backed by statutory support.
- At present, metro projects with a total length of 370 kms are operational in 8 cities viz., Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai, Jaipur-9.00 kms and Gurugram.
- Metro Projects with a total length of 537 kms are in progress in 13 cities including the eight mentioned above. New cities acquiring metro services are; Hyderabad, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Pune and Lucknow.
- Nodal agency of Union Finance Ministry
- Mandated to advise the Union Government in the matters of financial restructuring of PSUs and also for attracting investment through capital markets.
- It will also deal with all matters relating to sale of Union Government’s equity in PSUs.

**NHAI Launches Mobile App MyFASTag and FASTag Partner in New Delhi, to facilitate the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection**

**MyFASTag:**
- A consumer App that can be downloaded from the App Store for both Android and iOS systems.
- A consumer can purchase or recharge FASTags on this App.
- The App also helps to keep track of transactions and provides for online grievance redressal.

**FASTag Partner:**
- It is a merchant App.
- Agencies like Common Services Centre, banking partners and vehicle dealers can sell and enroll FASTag through this App.
- In addition to this, the App can also be used to activate the RFID tags.
- These RFID tags are already fixed on the cars but are dormant.
- This App will convert these RFID tags into ETC Tag (FASTag).
- Radio frequency identification device (RFID)

**Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi Competition**
- In pursuit of achieving a New India by 2022 under Sankalp se Siddhi vision, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is organising countrywide Film, Essay and Painting Competition only for Primary School students between 17th August and 8th September, 2017 as another major step towards making Swachhta, a people’s movement.
- The core objective is to generate mass involvement in Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and related issues. Based on the aforesaid competitions, the National Swachh Bharat Awards shall be presented on 2nd October, 2017.

**RBI Introduces New Rs. 50 and Rs. 200 Notes**

1. **Rs. 50 Note:** The base colour of the new note is fluorescent blue. It has a motif of Hampi with Chariot on the reverse, depicting the country’s cultural heritage.
2. **Rs. 50 Note:** The base colour of the new note is bright yellow. It has a motif of Sanchi Stupa on the reverse, depicting the country’s cultural heritage.

**‘Champions of Change’ Initiative Organised by NITI Aayog**
- The Prime Minister interacted with Young Entrepreneurs at the “Champions of Change” initiative organized by NITI Aayog at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.
- Six groups of Young Entrepreneurs made presentations before the PM on themes such as - Soft Power: Incredible India 2.0; Education and Skill Development; Health and Nutrition; Energizing a sustainable tomorrow; and Digital India; New India by 2022.
- The Prime Minister described the “Champions of Change” initiative as one effort to bring together diverse strengths for the benefit of the nation and society.
“Sankalp Se Sidhi” program being organized across the country to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Quit India Movement.

1. On this occasion, the Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Ministry has planned to organize the Sankalp Se Sidhi program at 578 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVks), 29 ICAR institutes/SAUs and 53 ATMAs during 19-30 August 2017.

2. The programs comprise of Kisan (farmer) Film having message of Hon’ble PM to double farmers’ income by year 2022, followed by pledge for Sankalp Se Sidhi, lecture by agriculture experts and address of the chief guest.

‘Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat’

- Launched by HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar at Kochi.
- An initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
- Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat programme will provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups and children of different abilities.
- Making students, teachers and parents aware about the importance of good health and fitness and encouraging 60 minutes of play each day is an objective of the programme.
- Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat programme also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics amongst students.

ICMR Inks Deal to Promote Vaccine Development

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed an MoU with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) for collaborating on vaccine research and development.

I & B Ministry Constituted 40-Member Preview Panel for IFFI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry constituted a 40-member ‘preview committee’ with filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri as its convenor to select movies for the international film festival at Goa.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh Attends SCO Meet

A two-day Meeting of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States began at Cholpon Ata in Kyrgyz Republic.

- India had joined the SCO in June in Kazakhstan capital Astana. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the summit.
- The participation of India as SCO Member will open additional opportunities for giving new impetus to the development of international cooperation in the field of protecting the population and territories from emergency situations within the framework of the Organisation.

Government Finalizes New Cadre Policy of IAS, IPS, IFOS

Government has finalized new cadre policy of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service officers aimed at ensuring national integration in the country’s top bureaucracy. Officers of all-India services will have to choose cadres from a set of zones instead of states. (Tamil Nadu falls under zone 5).

Two RRBs Record Over Rs 150-cr Profit in FY17: RBI

Out of the 56 regional rural banks (RRBs) in the country, two notched up net profit of over ₹150 crore each during 2016-17. They are Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank

UIDAI Launches Door Step Aadhar Enrolment in the national capital for the elderly, patients and others who cannot travel the Aadhar centres.
• CSC India is in charge of many operations of Aadhaar centres across India. They provide many services, especially in rural areas with about 2.5 lakh operational CSCs across the country.
• The doorstep enrollment will be done via a mobile van.

About Aadhaar card:-

• Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identity number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on behalf of the Government of India to individuals for the purpose of establishing the unique identity of every single person
• It is a digital identity that can be verified using simple methods.
• It also enables secure delivery of payments and access to government services.
• Aadhaar card is required for issuing a death certificate too.

Arun Jaitley: Jan Dhan Yojana and the 1 Billion-1 Billion-1 Billion “JAM” Revolution it is Unleashing

“Three years ago today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a flagship program: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) aimed at providing financial services to the poor. These included opening bank accounts for the poor, giving them electronic means of payment (via RUPAY cards), and placing them in a position to avail themselves of credit and insurance.

• JAM, a term coined, and a vision conceptualized, by our Chief Economic Adviser, is nothing short of a social revolution because it has brought together financial inclusion (PMJDY), biometric identification (Aadhaar) and mobile telecommunications.
• Just as GST created one tax, one market, one India, the PMJDY and the JAM revolution can link all Indians into one common financial, economic, and digital space. No Indian will be outside the mainstream.

NPCI Approves Spice Digital’s Operation Under Bharat Bill Payment System

1. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has given a nod to Spice Digital Ltd. for processing bill payments under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU).
2. The BBPS through its centralised bill payment system will allow the users to use a single website or outlet to pay all their monthly or repetitive bills such as mobile phone and electricity.

Two-Day Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo

Minister of External Affairs (MEA) Sushma Swaraj will participate in the two-day Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) scheduled to be held at Colombo. Theme - “Peace, Progress and Prosperity”.

Ministry of Textiles to Organize Pan India Camps in handlooms and handicrafts clusters, under the initiative -Hastkala Sahyog Shivir. The camps will be organized during 7th to 17th of October.

Government Sets up Task Force on Artificial Intelligence for the country’s Economic Transformation - headed by Dr. V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras.

Ujjivan SFB Receives Scheduled Bank Status From RBI

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd, has been given scheduled bank status by RBI.

Unicity (US Firm) Launches World’s First Ever Genomeceuticals (gene controlling) Range of Products in India

Product ‘Genomeceutical is a ground-breaking, patent-pending, technology whereby certain secondary metabolites found in nature can help maintain the gene response whenever needed by the body and help maintain overall metabolic health.

“Pharma Jan Samadhan” App to Help Athletes Identify Prohibited Medicines

Drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NIPPA) joined hands with National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to help athletes understand medicines that could contain prohibited substances in sports through its app ‘Pharma Jan Samadhan’.

Kirti Chakra Award Recipients: (second highest gallantry award given to armed forces officials in peace time)
1. Major Preetam Singh Kunwar of the Garhwal Rifles
2. Havildar Giris Gurung (Posthumous) from the First Gorkha Rifles
3. Major David Manlun (Posthumous), of the Naga Regiment
4. Pramod Kumar (Posthumous), Commandant, 49 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force.
5. Chetan Kumar Cheeta, Commandant, CRPF.

NITI Aayog Announces Women Transforming India Awards 2017

- Recognizes the exceptional work of 12 women in critical areas such as preventing violence against women; bridging the gender gap in education; providing healthcare; building livelihoods and enterprises for women; and promoting inclusion for persons with disabilities.

- Recipients:

1. **Lakshmi Agrawal**: A champion of violence against women.
2. Goat veterinarian **Sunita Kamble** for creating alternative livelihood opportunities for women.
3. **Raji Borthakur**: For creating a smart glove which can predict epileptic seizures before they occur
4. **Safeena Husain**: For her work to transform girls’ education in rural areas
5. **Arunima Sinha** for being India’s first amputee to climb Mount Everest
6. **Jamuna Tudu** who conserved 50 hectares of forest land around her village in Jharkhand.
7. **Harshini Kanhekar**: India’s first woman firefighter.
8. **Kiran Kanojia**: Survivor of a horrific accident, Kiran Kanojia, is a champion blade runner
9. **Shima Modak**: Has been working relentlessly for the welfare of the distressed. Albeit with very little financial assistance, Shima has helped improve the future of children in her community by taking free education to the doorstep of the vulnerable.
10. **Kanika Tekriwal**: A self-made aviation entrepreneur and cancer survivor, Kanika Tekriwal launched her company, JetSetGo in 2013.
11. **Kamal Kumbhar**: Broke free from the shackles of poverty and a suffocating marriage to create a micro-enterprise network, enabling women like herself to realise their dreams of a brighter tomorrow.
12. **Subasini Mistry**: After losing her husband at a young age, Subasini Mistry saved for two decades to build a hospital for the needy.

NATION – OTHERS

- NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) launches web portal to supply Textbooks online - for schools and individuals.
- Union Cabinet clears proxy voting for NRIs and overseas Indians. Currently, only service personnel are permitted to vote through proxy.
- Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Spain on cooperation in renewable energy.
- 8th Meeting of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process held in New Delhi.
- **First meeting of JICF** (Japan-India Coordination Forum) held in New Delhi for Development of North-Eastern Region.
- SEBI constitutes TK Viswanathan committee on fair market conduct.
• SC bans use of five heavy metals (lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead) in firecrackers as they cause air pollution.

• Justice B N Krishna Committee - Had submitted its report to review the institutionalization of arbitration mechanism in India.

• Justice B N Srikrishna Committee - To study issues related to data protection in the country and suggest a draft data protection Bill.

• NGT bans use of non-biodegradable plastic bags in Delhi.

• Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaurya commissioned in Goa.

• India ranks 43rd in 2017 Global Retirement Index. Norway ranks first.

• NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) Approves Airtel-Telenor Merger.

• India signs loan pact with AIIB for Rural Roads Project.

• India hosted the 19th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meeting at Hyderabad.

• Indian metro that has become the world’s first completely green metro system - The Delhi Metro (for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies)

• India’s rank in the 2017 Digital Evolution Index (DEI) - 53rd

• India’s rank in commitment to reducing inequality – 132nd

• Parliamentary panel that has recently recommended 100% pension to widow of deceased soldier - B C Khanduri panel.

• Hyderabad becomes India’s first airport to offer “express security check”.

• NITI Aayog proposes Judicial Performance Index for lower judiciary.

• Bharti Airtel has entered into a partnership with Symantec Corporation to protect businesses in India from online threats.

• Coast Guard Ship ICGS ‘Varuna’ Decommissioned.

• Indian Navy’s second (Landing Craft Utility) LCU Mark IV L52 ship commissioned at Port Blair.

• India-ASEAN Youth Summit begins in Bhopal.

• 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress held at New Delhi.

• Tata Power has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India.

• Qatar Airways Enters Into Interline Partnership with Vistara (Tata Sons + Singapore Airlines).

• NABARD (The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development) Sanctions Rs 1,350-cr loan to Rajasthan Government.

• BSNL Launches Digital Wallet in Partnership with MobiKwik.

• RBI Makes Aadhaar Linkage Mandatory for Farmers to ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under Interest Subvention Scheme.

• Union Government bans import of gold, silver items from South Korea.

• India has 27,312 elephants: 2017 Census Estimation.

• INCOIS – Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services.

**STATES**

Odisha government and Facebook launches ‘SheMeansBusiness’ programme.
To train women entrepreneurs in the state - launched in partnership between Odisha’s MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) department and Project Mission Shakti.

Green Airports in Andhra Pradesh - solar power plants at Tirupathi and Vijaywada Airports. Earlier, the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) became the first airport in the world, to be completely powered by solar energy.

MahaDBT, MahaVASTU portals launched by Maharashtra Government

- MahaDBT is an Aadhaar-authenticated electronic mechanism to give benefits to lakhs of beneficiaries under various schemes across all departments.
- MahaVASTU is an Online Building Permission Management System with an electronic workflow for sanctioning building approvals.
- Maharashtra is the first state to launch this system to give direct benefits with ‘Aadhaar’ authentication.

Care Companion Programme (CCP)

- Launched by Punjab government.
- To educate family members of patient about taking better care of patients.

Telangana State Prisons Department

- Has proposed to accommodate prisoners from overcrowded prisons in India.
- First of its kind offer to rent out its jails to other states to lodge their convicts from overcrowded prisons in India at a monthly rent of Rs 10,000 per person.
- Presently, Norway is the only country that is shutting down its jails or leasing them out to other countries to lodge their prisoners.

“Fete de Puducherry” Begins

Artistes from 11 states and the union territory of Puducherry took part in 'Fete de Puducherry,' a three-day annual cultural festival organised by the government of Puducherry since 1985 as part of celebrating Independence Day and also Liberation Day of Puducherry (August 16).

Maharashtra CM launches 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra'

1. A farmers’ market on wheels, which aims at delivering farm-fresh organic produce at reasonable prices.

2. A total of 125 farm-to-home delivery vans will tour the city to sell the product. The vegetables sold in the mobile vans will be priced 25% lower than the average market rate. The initiative aims to generate jobs for uneducated youth and women.

Odisha Government and Facebook Launches 'SheMeansBusiness' Program

1. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'She Means Business' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in Odisha.

2. Under the scheme 25, 000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills within next one year.

3. Odisha government’s partnership with Facebook aimed to reduce the digital divide and empower nearly 25,000 women entrepreneurs and SHGs.
4. Facebook will also make a database of entrepreneurs in the state and will monitor their growth, turnover and profit after one year.

**Delhi Police launches YUVA – a skill development programme**

- A skill development programme under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- Aims to connect with youth by upgrading their skill as per their competencies.
- It will help youths to get gainful employment under PMKVY.
- It will also play important role in building up confidence and faith of youths in police organization.

**Telangana CM Chosen for Agriculture Leadership Award** for his innovative services rendered to the welfare of farmers and the farm sector. The award, instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture in 2008, is presented every year since then.

**MEA to Inaugurate First Videsh Bhavan in Mumbai**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has decided to integrate all its offices in Maharashtra into a single building – the "Videsh Bhavan" - for effective management of its engagement with the State Government of Maharashtra. (Videsh means foreign)

**Manipur’s Nungthaang Tampak- North East’s First 100% Computer Literate Village.**

Nungthang Tampak has become India’s second 100 percent computer literate village in India. Kerala’s Chamravattom village is the country’s first 100 percent computer literate village.

**E-Waste Disposal from Schools Kicks Starts in Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.**

Instead of simply disposing e-Waste as garbage which create environmental issues, scientific methods are used to recycle and refurbish the e-Waste as per the norms set by Govt of India, a novel process which avoids spreading of hazardous materials like Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, Barium etc in to the environment.

**J & K Government to Set Up First Eco-Park**

The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to build an Eco-Park on over 34 acres of land reclaimed from encroachers in the state’s Rajouri district. The park is a first-of-its-kind project in the region. It will have a botanical garden, a cactus garden, a cafeteria and other amenities.

**PM Launches Highway Project in Rajasthan**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 11 National Highway projects in Rajasthan, covering a total length of about 873 km.
- The projects include a 6-lane cable stayed bridge across river Chambal at Kota; 4-laning of Gomati Chauraha-Udaipur section of NH-8, and Rajsamand-Bhilwara section of NH-758.
- He visited the Pratap Gaurav Kendra which provides information, through various exhibits, about the life, valour and achievements of Maharana Pratap, the famous King of the erstwhile kingdom of Mewar.

**Operation Sajak** – Conducted in coastal areas (recently in Kanyakumari), a kind of rehearsal done to avoid infiltration of terrorists.

**AMMA Mobile App:**

2. To pay electricity bills through mobile app.
3. Launched by TNEB under Digital India Scheme.

**Gobindobhog Rice:**

A specialty from Burdwan district of West Bengal, has got the geographical indication (GI) status.
**States - Others**

- Religion Freedom Bill 2017 (that prohibits religious conversion) passed in **Jharkhand**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Government launches Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra - an awareness drive along banks of Ganga River to maintain cleanliness.
- **Haryana** government ban use of liquid nitrogen in food and drink.
- Amazon India has signed a MoU with **Telangana** state handloom department to educate weavers and artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon customers.
- **Maharashtra** has launched “Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra” for unemployed youth.
- **Bihar** has launched mobile therapy vans for elderly people.
- India’s first state to implement coal utilisation between power units – **Gujarat**.
- India’s first micro forest to be built at **Chhattisgarh**.
- India’s first helicopter-taxi service – **Bengaluru**.
- City to host the 2017 India – ASEAN Youth summit – **Bhopal**.
- **Karnataka** Government launches clouding seeding **Project Varshadhari** - to cause artificial rain.
- **Karnataka** Ties up With Microsoft to Develop India’s First Farm Price Forecasting Model.
- **Andhra Pradesh** First to Implement Bharat QR Digital Payments.
- For the first time in India, Special Ambulance for Elephants introduced in **Sathyamangalam**, Tamil Nadu.
- India’s first railways disaster management centre to come up at **Bengaluru**.
- India’s first university for aviation (Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University - RGNAU) to come up at **Rae Bareilly**, Uttar Pradesh.
- India’s first university for world peace (Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University - MITWPU) – **Pune**, Maharashtra.
- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, **Bhubaneshwar**, Odisha - First Tribal University in the world.
- Museum on the partition of the Indian sub-continent – To come up at **Amritsar**, Punjab.
- “181” - 24 hour Helpline for women by **Telangana** Government to report on violence against women.
- Indira Canteen – Subsidized canteen in **Karnataka** (in line with AMMA canteen of TN).

**WORLD**

15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting begins in Kathmandu. BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation . Head Quarters – Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Global Entrepreneurship Summit

- India and US to co-host.
- At Hyderabad, Telangana from 28th to 30th November 2017.
- American delegation will be led by US President Donald Trump’s daughter Ivanka Trump.
- To be organized by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs.

Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) bloc
• An initiative by India and five ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam

• For cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.

• Launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Laos. It is named after Ganga and the Mekong which both are civilizational rivers.

• MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.

**IAEA opens world’s first low Enriched Uranium bank in Kazakhstan**

• The UN global nuclear watchdog, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has opened world’s first low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Oskemen in Kazakhstan.

• The bank is owned and managed by IAEA.

• It will be the first of its kind LEU bank not to be under control of any individual country.

• The IAEA also manages 123 tons of uranium in Angarsk, Russia but it is under the control of Russian government.

• **Purpose of Bank:** Last resort Supply, Non-proliferation efforts, No disruption to nuclear fuel trade.

• International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - HQ - Vienna, Austria.

• IAEA is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

**US and South Korea to Begin 10-day Long Annual Military Exercise - Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill - maintain stability on the Korean peninsula.**

**China Launches First Cyber Court in e-commerce Hub of Hangzhou, amid a spike in the number of online disputes. Hangzhou is home to many Internet companies, including e-commerce giant Alibaba.**

**Japan Launches New Satellite to Improve Country’s GPS. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).**

**First Regional Centre of New Development Bank (NDB) Opens in South Africa**

• The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS Nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) with an initial authorised capital of the bank is USD 100 billion.

• The idea for setting up NDB was proposed by India at the 4th BRICS summit in 2012 held in New Delhi. The creation of a NDB was the main theme of the meeting.

• Head quartered at Shanghai, China. President: K. V. Kamath from India.

**International Military Music Festival in Moscow at “Spasskaya Tower”**

It is the parade of the best military music bands of Russia and other countries that takes place every year at Red Square in Moscow. This Music Festival is a mega event, where military musicians represent the variety of national, artistic and military traditions of the world.

**Google Expands Public Wi-Fi to Indonesia**

• After a successful run in India, Google has brought its public Wi-Fi programme ‘Google Station’ to Indonesia that will help improves access to Internet at railway stations and other locations.

• Google, in collaboration with Railtel, has rolled out free Wi-Fi service at several railway stations in India, offering high-speed internet to millions of people.

• Google launched its first free WiFi services at Mumbai Central station in January 2016.

**Taiwan Launches First Homegrown Satellite**

• Taiwan has launched Formosat-5, the first homegrown observation satellite, from an air base in the US, the island nation’s National Space Organisation (NSO) announced.

**Android Oreo Released by Google**
Google has released the latest version of its Android mobile operating system (OS), which is named after Oreo chocolate biscuits.

- It adds a new "picture-in-picture" mode that lets some apps run in a small corner of the screen.
- Android Oreo introduces measures to help people manage the volume of notifications on their devices, which has been described as "notification diarrhoea".

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Microsoft Unveils 'Project Brainwave' for Real-Time Artificial Intelligence, a deep learning acceleration platform for real-time artificial intelligence (AI).

The Project Brainwave system is built with three main layers:

- High-performance distributed system architecture;
- A hardware DNN engine synthesized onto FPGAs; and
- A compiler and runtime for low-friction deployment of trained models.

Pepper

A Japanese company has introduced a new role for humanoid robot “Pepper” – a Buddhist priest for hire for funerals.

Iraqi PM Slam Kurdish Referendum as ‘Unconstitutional’

- Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the referendum on independence of the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan was “unconstitutional”, and rejected the Kurdish attempts to include the ethnically-mixed province of Kirkuk in the referendum.

Europabruecke: The world’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge, in Randa Switzerland.

Sri Lankan Navy commissions India-built AOPV - Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV), the first-ever purchase from a foreign ship builder, to boost its search and rescue capabilities. Named as “SLNS Sayurala”

World – Others:

1. Qatar to become first Arab state to offer permanent residency to some non-citizens.
2. Shanghai hosted the 2017 meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers.
3. World’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge has been opened at Switzerland.
4. Country that has successfully launched satellite-carrying rocket “Simorgh” into space – Iran.
5. World’s largest exporter of beef, as per recently released OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 report - Brazil.
6. Oxford University Press (OUP) has recently launched online dictionaries in two Indian languages - Tamil and Gujarati.
7. US designates Hizbul Mujahideen as Foreign Terrorist Organisation.
8. World Health Organisation declares Somalia free of polio.

9. Italy to Host G-7 Interior Ministers’ Summit in October.

10. Festival of India being Organized in Cote D’ivoire, Liberia and Guinea

11. A New Bridge Over Mechi River at Indo-Nepal Border.

12. Festival of India Being Organised in Brazil from 31 August-9 September 2017.


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO, NASA working towards realization of NISAR Mission by 2021

NISAR

1. NISAR is a dual frequency (L & S Band) Radar Imaging Satellite.

2. It will be the first radar imaging satellite to use dual frequency.

3. NASA - will be responsible for design and development of L-band SAR, GPS system, 12m unfurlable antenna and data recorder.

4. ISRO - will be responsible for design and development of S-band SAR, Spacecraft Bus, data transmission system, spacecraft integration & testing, launch using GSLV and on-orbit operations.

5. Mission Life: It is expected to be launched in year 2021. It will have mission life of 3 years.

6. Operational orbit: The satellite is planned to be launched into a Sun-synchronous dawn to dusk orbit.

7. Applications:
   - Will provide an unprecedented detailed view of Earth by taking snapshots every week using advanced radar imaging.
   - Designed to observe and take measurements of some of the planet’s most complex processes, including ecosystem disturbances, natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides.
   - Will be used also for natural resources mapping & monitoring, estimating agricultural biomass over full duration of crop cycle.
   - Will also monitor floods and oil slicks, coastal erosion, coastline changes and variation of winds in coastal waters, surface deformation studies due to seismic activities etc

8. Cost of the project: Costing around $1.5 billion, it will be world’s most expensive earth-imaging satellite till date.

9. Space Diplomacy: The mission will establish a general pathway for future joint missions between ISRO and NASA for Mars exploration. It will also further joint missions between ISRO and NASA for Mars exploration. It will also further strengthen the Indo-US ties.

India’s Global Positioning System: NavIC

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is an independent regional system developed by India on par with the US-based GPS, Russia’s Glonass and Galileo developed by Europe.
• The navigation system offers wide services like terrestrial and marine navigation, disaster management, vehicle tracking and fleet management visual and voice navigation for drivers.
• It was named “Navic” (Navigation with Indian Constellation) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ISRO to develop full-fledged Earth observation satellite

Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS) is a full-fledged earth observation satellite, to be developed by ISRO.

• It will enable distinct identification of objects on earth by reading the spectrum for each pixel of a scene from a space.
• It can be used for a range of activities including monitoring of environment finding oil and minerals apart from military surveillance.
• The satellite has the Hyperspectral imager which can identify 55 spectral or colour bands from 630 km above ground.
• Hyspex was first tried out in Chandrayaan-1 mission who mapped the lunar mineral resources.


Zika virus

• Widely spread by the Aedes Aegypti, a less common variety of mosquito that also carries the diseases dengue and chikungunya.
• Zika can lead to infants with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads, and to a sometimes debilitating condition known as Guillain-Barre syndrome in adults who have been bitten.

Asteroid Florence

1. Biggest asteroid ever detected by NASA
2. It is the biggest asteroid to fly near Earth in more than a century.

USS Indianapolis

1. Important warship during World War-II.
2. Drowned by Tapan Navy and has not been found for the past 72 years.
3. It has now been found in Pacific Ocean.

India’s first private missile production facility unveiled

A joint venture between Kalyani Group and Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd, inaugurated in Hyderabad.

Low-cost, sensitive CO sensor developed by IISc (Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru)

Israel launches first environmental research satellite Venus.

• Venus - Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite.
• Joint venture between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and its French counterpart CNES.

Astronomers found WASP-121b exoplanet with glowing water atmosphere.
WASP-121b:
• A gas giant commonly referred to as a ‘hot Jupiter’. It has 1.2 times greater mass and 1.9 times greater radius than Jupiter. It is located approximately 900 light years from Earth. It orbits around its host star every 1.3 days in very close proximity.

S & T – OTHERS:

1. **Launch of navigation satellite IRNSS-1H (via PSLV-C39) unsuccessful (31 August 2017).**
2. Versius: World’s smallest surgical robot developed by UK scientists
3. IIT Researchers develops bioartificial implantable pancreas.
4. IIT Researchers develop biosensor to detect kidney disorders.
5. **CSIR-NIIST develop new technique to produce bioethanol from cotton-stalks.**
6. *Nasikabatrachus bhopathi*: New frog species with pig face discovered in West Ghats. It has been named after the Indian herpetologist S. Bhupathy.
7. Two new species of Earthworm discovered in Kerala.
8. Malpelo plate: New tectonic microplate discovered off the coast of Ecuador.
9. **First plant-based vaccine against Zika virus** developed by researchers from Arizona State University (ASU) in the U.S.
10. IIT-Kharagpur’ has invented a low-cost dirt detector that alerts authorities when a place needs cleaning.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

• The world’s shortest woman Jyoti Amge today unveiled a 51-feet high book at a programme.
• The book ‘Kadve Vachan’ written by Jain saint Acharya Tarun Sagar Maharaj - the book contains various “bitter” discourses about life and guides people for better living.
• Immortal India (on contemporary issues) - Amish Tripathi.
• ‘I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric & Resolve’ - Raghuram Rajan, Former RBI Governor
• ‘I am HIV positive, so what?’ - Authored by Jayanta Kalita about Mr. Pradip Kumar Singh (a bodybuilder from Manipur. In 2007, he won the Mr. Manipur title, and in 2012 he clinched the Mr. South Asia title.)
• “India at 70: Snapshots since Independence” - Roshen Dalal.

• The Adivasi will not dance – Hansda Sowendra Shekhar
• The English translation of writer Perumal Murugan’s novel *Mathorubhagan* (One Part Woman) has won the Sahitya Akademi’s award for translation in English. The translation was done by Aniruddhan Vasudevan.

PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS

• Lyricist Prasoon Joshi - Chairman of CBFC (The Central Board of Film Certification). He replaced former Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani.
• 6 new members of CBFC - Ms. Gautami Tadimalla, Narendra Kohli, Naresh Chandra Lal, Vivek Agnihotri and Ms Vidya Balan.
• Executive Director of World Bank - S. Aparna from India. To represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years.
• Dev Patel to be honoured with Asia Society Game Changers Award.
• Arvind Panagariya resigns as vice-chairman of NITI Aayog.
• Brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in UP – Akshay Kumar
• 13th Vice President of India - Venkaiah Naidu.
• 45th Chief Justice of India - Justice Dipak Misra.
• New Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog - Economist Rajiv Kumar.
• Chief of Securities and Exchange Board of India - Ajay Tyagi. (About SEBI: Founded - 12 April 1992, Headquarters – Mumbai)
• Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) - Mohammad Mustafa.
• New secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) - Dr. Sanjaya Baru.
• Dhanraj Pillay - Has been honored with the East Bengal football club’s highest honour “Bharat Gaurav”
• Rwanda’s new president - Paul Kagame.
• New President of Kenya - Uhuru Kenyatta
• Iran’s President for the second term - Hassan Rouhani.
• Newly elected Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea - Peter O’Neill.
• Newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan - Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.
• Milkha Singh has been appointed as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for physical activity in the South-East Asia Region (SEAR)
• Ruth Pfau (from Germany), popularly known as Pakistan’s Mother Teresa has passed away.
• Yisrael Kristal (Israel), the world’s oldest man passed away.
• Jeanne Moreau, the legendary film actress passed away. She hailed from France.
• Issac Devakumar, Maths teacher from Krishnampalayam, Erode district has been awarded Best Teacher award by Government of China.
• Vijay Narayan – Appointed as Advocate General of Tamil Nadu.
• Second transgender in Tamil Nadu Police Department – Nazriya from Ramanathapuram district selected as Police Constable.
• Sprint legend Milkha Singh has been appointed as the World Health Organisation’s goodwill ambassador for physical activity in South-East Asia Region (SEAR).
• Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail receives 2016 Saraswati Samman for his novel “Hawthan (हावटण)” that captures cultural lives of traditional potter community in Goa.

**Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Rajiv Mehrishi** - He will succeed Shashi Kant Sharma.

• Justice Dipak Misra – 45th Chief Justice of India.
• Sunil Arora - appointed as one of two Election Commissioners.
• Union Home Secretary - Rajiv Gauba
• Vishal Sikka Resigns as MD and CEO of Infosys. He will be replaced by Nandan Nilekeni (the architect of the world’s largest biometric ID card programme Aadhaar)
• Ashwani Lohani - New Chairman of Railway Board.
• Rajiv Bansal - Air India chief.
• Dr. Mamta Suri - Executive Director, IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India)
• Sohail Mahmood - Pakistan’s High Commissioner to India
• Nikolay Kudashev - Russia’s New Ambassador to India -
• O. Panneer Selvam - TN deputy CM.
• Dharmendra Kumar - DG, Railway Protection Force
• Prof Digambar Behera - Awarded Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence.
• Christopher A. Wray - Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation (USA).

• Travis Sinniah (Tamilian) - Appointed Sri Lanka’s Naval Chief.

• Emma Stone has been named Hollywood’s best-paid female actor in Forbes’ annual list of top earners for 2017.

• Alibaba’s Jack Ma Asia’s Richest Man - According to Forbes Real-time Billionaires List.

• PV Sindhu - Named First Brand Ambassador of tyre maker Bridgestone India.

• Nitasha Biswas from Kolkata - The Winner of Miss Transqueen India 2017. Loloi from Manipur bagged the first runner-up position and Ragasya from Chennai was crowned the second runner-up.

• ‘Hero’ of Paris Climate Agreement Died - Tony de Brum, the former Marshall Islands foreign minister who became a leading advocate for the landmark Paris Agreement and an internationally recognized voice in the fight against climate change, has died aged 72.

• Former Manipur Chief Minister and a member of the first Lok Sabha Rishang Keishing passed away following brief illness in Imphal. He was 96.

• India’s Oldest Cinematographer Ramananda Sengupta Died.

• Brian Aldiss (“grand old man” of science fiction), British Science Fiction Writer Died.

• Comedy legend Jerry Lewis (Hollywood’s most entertaining comedians) dead at 91.

• Australia’s Olympic champion Stephen Wooldridge died.

• Pushpa Bhargava - Veteran molecular biologist and a vehement critic of genetically modified crops, Pushpa Mittra Bhargava, died.

• Former freedom fighter K.E. Mammen passes away due to age-related diseases in Neyyattinkara, Kerala.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Grameen Khel Mahotsav

1. First edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will kick-start from Delhi and will take place between 28th August to 3rd September, 2017.

2. The Rural Games will aim at popularizing the indigenous games like wrestling, athletics etc. and will also have fun games like Matka Race, Tug of War for senior citizens to add the fun element in the games.

World Badminton Championship - Held at Glasgow, Scotland

1. PV Sindhu won Silver - She lost against Japan’s Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women’s singles finals.

2. Saina Nehwal Won Bronze - She lost against Rio Olympics bronze medalist Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women’s singles semifinals.

Summer Olympics Host: Paris, Los Angels

Paris will host the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. Los Angeles will host the 2028. International Olympic Committee president- Thomas Bach

Asian Shotgun Championship

• Ankur Mittal Wins Gold in Asian Shotgun Championship.

• Kynan Chenai and Shreyasi Singh of India have won bronze in mixed team trap event.

• Shooter Maheshwari Chauban bagged a bronze medal. Becomes India’s first women’s skeet individual medal at a top international competition.

Usain Bolt Finishes 3rd in 100 Meters at World Athletics Championship, was left behind by veteran American sprinter Justin Gatlin who claimed Gold.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2017.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
1. It is India’s highest sporting award given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

2. **Recipients are:** Devendra Jajaria (Para Athletics) and Sardar Singh (Hockey).

**Dronacharya Award**

1. It bestowed upon coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

2. **Recipients are:**
   - Dr. R. Gandhi (Athletics)
   - Heera Nand Kataria (Kabaddi)
   - G.S.S.V. Prasad (Badminton)
   - Brij Bhushan Mohanty (Boxing)
   - P.A. Raphel (Hockey)
   - Sanjoy Chakraverthy (Shooting)
   - Roshan Lal (Wrestling).

**Arjuna Award**

1. It is India’s second highest sporting award bestowed upon sportsperson for consistently outstanding performance for four years.

2. **Recipients are:**
   - V.J. Surekha (Archery)
   - Khushbir Kaur (Athletics)
   - Arokia Rajiv (Athletics)
   - Prasanthi Singh (Basketball)
   - Laishram Debendro Singh (Boxing)
   - Cheteshwar Pujara (Cricket)
   - Harmanpreet Kaur (Cricket)
   - Olam Bembem Devi (Football)
   - S.S.P. Chawrasia (Golf)
   - S.V. Sunil (Hockey)
   - Jasvir Singh (Kabaddi)
   - P. N. Prakash (Shooting)
   - A. Amalraj (Table Tennis)
   - Saketh Myneni (Tennis)
   - Satyawart Kadian (Wrestling)
   - Mariyappan (Para-Athletics)
   - Varun Singh Bhati (Para-Athletics).

**Dhyan Chand Award:**

1. It is bestowed upon sportspersons for life time contribution to sports development.

2. **Recipients are:** Bhupender Singh (Athletics), Syed Shahid Hakim (Football), Sumarai Tete (Hockey).

**Sports - Others**

- BCCI ordered to lift lifetime ban on cricketer Sreesanth - by Kerala HC.
- HS Prannoy jumps to world no 15 in badminton ranking.
- Viswanathan Anand jumps to joint top position in Sinquefield Cup.
- Ravindra Jadeja tops ICC ranking among all-rounders in Test Cricket.
- Joshua and Dipika get bronze at World Doubles Squash Championship.
- Manju Kumari secures bronze at Junior World Wrestling.
- Vijender Singh wins WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title.
- Hockey tournament: ONGC wins Murugappa Gold Cup.
- Country hosting the 2017 FIBA Asia Championship – Lebanon.
- Subroto Cup International Football Tournament Began in Delhi. This season seems to be more promising with a special emphasis on “BETI-BACHAO, BETI-PADHAO, BETI-KHELAO”.
- India Wins U-15 SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Football Championship.
- Louise Hamilton won the Belgian Grand Prix Formula One race, beating Sebastien Vettel.
• Shapath Bharadwaj Wins Bronze at Junior Shotgun World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.
• Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes UEFA Player of the Year
• London to Host 2018 Table Tennis Team World Cup
• Government to Establish First National Sports Museum in New Delhi at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
• New Zealand will host ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018
• Virat Kohli Continues to Top ICC ODI Rankings for Batsmen
• India beat Sri Lanka - Test Series 2017.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Dheeran Chinnamalai

• He was a Tamil chieftain and *Palayakkarar* of Kongu Nadu who fought against the British East India Company.

• Dheeran Chinnamalai was born on 17 April 1756 in Melapalayam, Chennimalai near Erode, Tamil Nadu. His birth name was as Theerthagiri.

• Chinnamalai was betrayed by his cook Nallapan and was captured by the British sepoys in 1805.

• He was hanged at Sankagiri Fort along with his two brothers on 31 July 1805 on the day of Aadi Perukku.

**INDIA AND WORLD**

India, Nepal sign 8 MoUs.
India and Nepal have signed eight Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in various fields, including Housing grant, prevention of drugs, post-earthquake reconstruction packages in health and education sectors.

Signed MoUs are

1. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of standardization and conformity assessment.
2. MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal (ICAN).
3. MoU on Modalities for Utilization of India’s Housing Grant Component to support Reconstruction of 50,000 Houses.
5. MoU for Implementation Arrangement for Construction of Mechi Bridge under ADB’s SASEC Road Connectivity Programme (Tranche 2), Funded by India.
6. MoU on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical and Related Matters.

ECONOMIC SURVEY PROPOSES TRANSPARENCY OF RULES ACT (TORA)

• TORA - A progressive legislation to end any asymmetry of information regarding rules and regulations faced by an average citizen.
• The objective of TORA is to help citizens overcome an opaque mesh of complicated rules that often leads to corruption and endless litigation.

Key Features of TORA

TORA will require all government departments to mandatorily place all citizen-friendly rules on their website. Government Officials will not be able to impose any rule not mentioned beforehand. It will make mandatory for updating all existing laws by the department.

Government websites will also have to notify the date and time of each change made. TORA will normally be applicable after a specified time after the rule has been posted. “TORA compliant” departments will ensure that citizens get authentic and updated information.

PARLIAMENT PASSES BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017.

Key Features of the Bill Initiating insolvency proceedings: It will enable the Central government to authorize the RBI to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Issuing directions on stressed assets: It empowers RBI to issue directions to banks for resolution of stressed assets from time to time.

Committee to Advise banks: It enables RBI to specify committees or authorities to advise banks on resolution of stressed assets. RBI will appoint or approve members on such committees.

Applicability to State Bank of India (SBI): It inserts provision to make above provisions applicable to the SBI and its subsidiaries and also Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

LOK SABHA PASSES STATE BANKS (REPEAL AND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017.

• The Lok Sabha has passed the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017. The bill seeks to repeal the two Acts namely State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, and State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.
• It also seeks to amend the State Bank of India (SBI) Act, 1955 to remove references to subsidiary banks and powers of SBI to act as an agent of the RBI for subsidiary banks.


The Bill amends the IIIT Act, 2014.

Key Features of the Bill
• **Appointment of Director:** The Bill modifies the composition of the search-cum-selection committee which recommends names to the central government for the appointment of the Director of an IIIT. Further, it replaces the Director of an IIIT with the Director of an Indian Institute of Technology.

• **Appointment of Assistant Professor and other above posts:** The Bill permits the Board of Governor of Institutes to appoint Assistant Professors and all the posts above that level as well.

• **Incorporation of an Institute:** It declares the Indian Institute of Technology, Design and Manufacturing (ITDM), Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh as an institution of national importance. Further it adds ITDM, Kurnool to the Schedule of the parent Act which consists of other institutions of national importance.

**JUDGEMENTS**

**SUPREME COURT DECLARES RIGHT TO PRIVACY AS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT UNDER CONSTITUTION.**

The nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India JS Khehar in a landmark unanimous decision has declared right to privacy a fundamental right under the constitution.

With this, the apex court overruled its own previous eight-judge Bench and six-judge Bench judgments of M.P. Sharma and Kharak Singh delivered in 1954 and 1961, respectively, both of which had pronounced that the right to privacy is not protected under the constitution.

**Supreme Court Judgment**

The apex court ruled that right to privacy is an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 and entire Part III of the Constitution. It overruled the apex court’s earlier two judgements that right to privacy is not protected under the Constitution. The apex court also had voiced concern over the possible misuse of personal information in the public domain. The question whether Aadhaar violates right to privacy will be dealt with by the five-judge bench which has been hearing the petitions since 2015.

**Comment**

The Supreme Court of India’s judgment gains international significance as privacy enjoys a robust legal framework internationally, though India had earlier remained circumspect. The judgment finally reconcile Indian laws with the spirit of Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966, which legally protects persons against the arbitrary interference with one’s privacy, honour and reputation, family, home and correspondence.

**SC STRIKES DOWN INSTANT TRIPLE TALAQ.**

The Supreme Court of India has declared Islamic practice of instant divorce through triple talaq as unconstitutional, illegal and void and not protected by Article 25 (freedom of religion) of the Constitution.

The verdict was given by the 5 member multi-religion constitutional bench of the SC. Justice Kurian Joseph (Christian), Justice U.U Lalit (Hindu) and and Justice Rohington F, Nariman (Parsi) gave majority judgment. Chief Justice J.S. Khehar (Sikh) and Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (Muslim) dissented against majority judgment.

**SC Judgement.**

In a 3:2 majority judgment, the SC held that triple talaq (referred as Talaq-e-Biddat) is against the basic tenets of Quran and hence, is unacceptable.

The three majority judges held that triple talaq is manifestly arbitrary and violative of the constitution and fundamental right under Article 14 (equality before law) so it must be struck down. Two dissenting judges were in favour of putting the practice on hold for six months and asking the government to come out with a law.
15th September who was a notable Indian engineer and also the Diwaan of Mysore

16th September World Ozone Day
20th September International Red Panda Day
21st September Alzheimer’s Day
27th September World Tourism Day
28th September World Rabies Day
29th September World Heart Day
29th September World Coffee Day

8 September: International Literacy Day. The theme announced by UNESCO for this year is ‘Literacy in a digital world’.

National Nutrition Week : 1st to 7th September
The theme for 2017 is "Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health".

The objective of this event is to intensify awareness generation on importance of nutrition for health which has an overall impact on development, productivity, economic growth and ultimately National development.

**National Hindi Divas: 14 September** - Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14 September because on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.

**NATION**

**India refuses to sign Bali Declaration over Rohingya issue.**

- India has refused to be a part of Bali Declaration adopted at conclusion of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bali, Indonesia to show of solidarity with Myanmar.

- It was not adopted because it carried “inappropriate” reference to violence in Rakhine State from where 1,25,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh and was not in line with agreed global principles of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **What the Declaration Says?**
  It calls on all parties to contribute to restoration of stability and security, exercise maximum self-restraint from using violent means, respect human rights of all people in Rakhine State regardless of their faith and ethnicity and facilitate safe access for humanitarian assistance.

**Rohingya:**

Rohingya is ethnic Muslim minority group, largely comprising Muslims living primarily in Myanmar’s western Rakhine state. They practice a Sufi-inflected variation of Sunni Islam. They differ from Myanmar’s dominant Buddhist groups religiously, ethnically and linguistically. They speak Bengali dialect, as opposed to commonly spoken Burmese language in Myanmar.

Myanmar considers Rohingya’s as illegal Bengali immigrants, despite fact that many they have resided in Rakhine province of Myanmar for centuries. The Myanmar government even refuses to grant them citizenship status, and as a result they do not have any legal documentation, effectively making them stateless. They are also restricted from freedom of movement, state education and civil service jobs. UN has often described Rohingyas as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.

**Government to grant citizenship to Chakma, Hajong refugees**
Chakmas and Hajongs

- They were originally residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in erstwhile East Pakistan (Bangladesh).

- They had fled their homeland after it was submerged by Kaptai dam project in 1960s.

- Chakmas are Buddhists by faith and Hajongs are Hindus.

- They had faced religious persecution in East Pakistan and entered India through the then Lushai Hills district of Assam (now in Mizoram).

- Later, Union Government had shifted majority of them to North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), which is now Arunachal Pradesh.

- Since then, their numbers have gone up from about 5,000 in 1964-69 to 1 lakh.

- At present, they don’t have citizenship and land owning rights but are provided basic amenities by Arunachal Pradesh Government.

- **The Code on Wages Bill, 2017**

  The codification of labour Laws will remove multiplicity of definitions and authorities leading to ease of compliance without compromising wage security and social security to worker.

- **Features of the Bill.**

  **National minimum wage:** The code ensures minimum wages to one and all and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector of employment without any wage ceiling. It introduces concept of statutory National Minimum Wage for different geographical areas. It will ensure that no state government fixes minimum wage below the National Minimum Wages for that particular area as notified by Union Government. It specifies that central or state governments will revise or review minimum wage every five years.

  **Advisory boards:** The central and state governments will constitute their respective advisory boards to advise respective governments on aspects of fixing minimum wages and increasing employment opportunities for women. These
boards will have representation from employees, employers, and independent persons. Further, one-third of total members will be women.

**Payment of Wages:** The code proposes payment of wages through cheque or digital/electronic mode along with conventional cash payments. It mentions deduction of employee’s wages on certain grounds by not exceeding 50% of employee’s total wage.

**Redressal of grievances and settlement of claims:** It proposes appellate authority between Claim Authority and Judicial Forum for speedy, cheaper and efficient redressal of grievances and settlement of claims.

**Offences:** The Code specifies penalties for offences committed by an employer. Such penalties vary depending on nature of offence have been rationalized with the amount of fines varying as per gravity of violations. Moreover it specifies that compounding of offences are not punishable by penalty of imprisonment.

**PM Narendra Modi, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe lay foundation stone for bullet train.**

The 508km-long Mumbai to Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project will be built at cost of Rs 1.10 lakh crore. It is expected to be completed by 2022. (It was recently advanced by year from earlier deadline of 2023).

**India’s second bullet train project** - The Indian Railways will launch country’s second high-speed train project between Delhi and Amritsar (Punjab) via Chandigarh. The project will be completed by 2024. Train on this route will run on standard broad gauge and cover 458-km-long route in 2 hours and 30 minutes running at a speed of 300-350 kmph, reducing travel time by about two and half hours between both destinations. Proposed stops on this route are Ambala, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Jalandhar.

**Chennai-Vladivostok sea route**

- India’s effort to counter China’s OBOR.

- India is planning to launch major connectivity initiative, connecting Chennai with key Russian port Vladivostok via sea route with an aim to harness natural resources from Northeast Asia and Western Pacific region.

- The Chennai-Vladivostok sea route will enable to transfer cargo between Chennai and Vladivostok in 24 days in comparison to over 40 days currently taken to transport goods from India to Far East Russia via Europe.
Navika Sagar Parikrama

- India’s first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition.

- Flagged off by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Goa.

- The crew belongs to Indian Navy and is sailing Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini).

- It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018.

Project Insight

- The Union Finance Ministry is planning to launch ‘Project Insight’ from October 2017.

- To monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders using technology with a view to curbing circulation of black money.

FAME India Scheme

- Launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP).

- Objective: To provide fiscal and monetary incentives for adoption and market creation of both hybrid and electric technologies vehicles in the country. Aim: To promote eco-friendly vehicles in the country.

- Also aims to support hybrid or electric vehicles market development and its manufacturing eco-system in country in order to achieve self-sustenance in stipulated period.

- It is being administered by the Heavy Industries Ministry.

- It will provide demand incentives to electric and hybrid vehicles from two-wheeler to buses.

National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020

- Aims to achieve national fuel security by promoting hybrid and electric vehicles in country.

- It has set ambitious target of 6-7 million sales of hybrid and electric vehicles year on year from 2020 onwards.

Diksha Portal for teachers - diksha.gov.in
1. Launched by the Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD).

2. For providing digital platform to teacher to make their lifestyle more digital.

3. It will serve as National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers.

4. Through this portal, all teachers across nation will be equipped with advanced digital technology.

5. Diksha portal will enable, accelerate and amplify solutions in realm of teacher education.

6. It will aid teachers to learn and train themselves for which assessment resources will be available.

7. It will help teachers to create training content, profile, in-class resources, assessment aids, news and announcement and connect with teacher community.

8. The portal will record complete work and accomplishment of teachers in educational institutes from start to end point till their retirement.

9. It will cover entire life cycle of teacher – from time they were enrolled as student teachers in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) after they retire as teachers.

10. The portal will help teachers boost their teaching skills and create their own separate profile with their skills and knowledge.

11. It will help in improving quality of education with use of latest technologies in education sector. Government, private institutes and NGO’s also can participate in the Diksha initiative.

Health Ministry launches two new free contraceptives

1. Two new free contraceptives Antara and Chayya in 10 states under Mission ParivarVikas, a central family planning initiative. These 10 states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Delhi and Goa.

2. Antara - An injectable contraceptive, effective for three months.

3. Chayya - A contraceptive pill, effective for one week.
4. Both of contraceptives are safe and highly effective. They will be available for free in medical colleges and district hospitals in 10 states.

5. The introduction of these new contraceptives will expand the basket of choices for country’s population to meet their family planning needs.

Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FP-LMIS).

- Aim: To help improve the supply and distribution of contraceptives.
- Launched by the health ministry

- FP-LMIS - A new software designed to provide robust information on demand and distribution of contraceptives to health facilities and ASHAs.

Mission Parivar Vikas

1. The mission aims to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.

2. Its main objective is to bring down Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1, which is when population of country starts stabilizing by 2025.

- Its strategic focus is on improving access to contraceptives through delivering assured services, ensuring commodity security and accelerating access to high quality family planning services.

Business and Climate Change Summit 2017

- The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, addressed the Business and Climate Summit (BCS) 2017 in New Delhi.

- Summit has brought the world came together in 2015 and agreed upon the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- It came into force in November 2016 and till date, 160 Parties have ratified the agreement.

- India as a party to the Paris Agreement is committed towards its successful implementation.

- It is also however, critical and necessary that equal focus is given to Pre-2020 actions by developed countries under Kyoto Protocol and that they fulfill their commitments of providing effective finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support to developing countries.

Rajaswa Gyan Sangam 2017

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the annual conference - Rajaswa Gyan Sangam, 2017 in New Delhi.

- The objective of the Conference is to enable a two-way communication between the policy-makers and the senior officers in the field offices with a view to increase revenue collection and facilitate effective implementation of law and policies in key result areas.
• Issues arising in implementation of policies and strategies to achieve targets in core functional areas will also be discussed. Crucial issues like Tax Evasion, GST, Customs Reforms and Modernisation will also come up for discussion.

Union Minister launches scheme for senior citizens belonging to BPL category

• Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched a scheme that provides for physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to the BPL category in Gujarat.

• This ambitious scheme, is expected to benefit 5, 20,000 senior citizens over a period of three years.

• The centrally-sponsored scheme, ‘Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana’, was unveiled on April 1 this year and since then it has already been launched in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

• Under the scheme, devices will be distributed to senior citizens free of cost.

‘Prakriti Khoj’ – An Environment Quiz

• The Environment Ministry will launch an environment awareness initiative, under which an online environmental quiz competition named “Prakriti Khoj” – an Environment Quiz to be conducted at the national level.

Saab, Adani join hands for defence manufacturing

Swedish defence giant Saab and Indian conglomerate Adani group have announced collaboration in defence manufacturing entailing billions of dollars of investment, mainly eyeing a contract for single-engine fighter jets for the Indian Air Force.

Hyderabad airport bags energy efficiency award

Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has bagged the National Award for ‘Excellence’ in Energy Management at a conference hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

India gets its first Indigenous sniper rifle from West Bengal

• The indigenous sniper rifle was launched at the Rifle Factory, Ishapore, near Kolkata. The research and development for the sniper was done at Ishapore itself, since a year.

• The biggest advantage of an indigenous sniper is, it will never run short of ammunition and spares.

• Kolkata Police has decided to get its own Indian-made sniper rifles that will come at one-third the price and the quality, at par with the best in the world. (IBT)

Locky ransomware

• Locky, a deadly “ransomware” has hit India.
• State-run Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) has issued an advisory on the spreading of Locky ransomware in the country, urging users to not open any emails with attachments from unknown senders.

• CERT-in advised both the citizens and large organizations to not open emails with subjects like “please print”, “documents”, “photo”, “images”, “scans” and “pictures”.

National Nutrition Strategy

• Launched in New Delhi by Leader of the Green Revolution, Dr M S Swaminathan and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr Rajiv Kumar.

• It lays the roadmap for targeted action to address India’s nutritional needs. Now, nutrition will come at the centre-stage of the National Development Agenda.

• The strategy calls for convergence between four proximate determinants of nutrition - food, health services, income and water.

• Currently, there is also a lack of real time measurement of these determinants, which reduces the capacity for targeted action among the most vulnerable mothers and children.

• Kuposhan Mukt Bharat - linked to Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharat is sought through the Nutrition Strategy framework.

Task Force Constituted for Job Creation

To provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India’s exports, NITI Aayog has constituted an Expert Task Force under the chairmanship NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar.

The task force will submit its report by November 2017.

• NITI Aayog said that to address India’s unemployment and under-employment issues, an urgent and sustained expansion of the organized sector is essential.

• The panel will give recommendations on sector-specific policy interventions in key employment sectors and measures to enhance trade in services with high employment potential.

• It will also propose a comprehensive plan of action to generate employment and alleviate under-employment in both goods and services sectors and low wages by boosting India’s exports in key labour-intensive industries.

“North East Calling” festival

• The “North East Calling” event is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India under its ‘Destination North East’ series of this year.

• The purpose of the event is to promote the art, culture, heritage, cuisine, handicrafts, business and tourism of North East India.

• On the above occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh also launched ‘North East Venture Fund’, which is a joint initiative of Ministry of DoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.

• The objective of the fund is to promote entrepreneurship and Start up in the North Eastern Region. It is the first dedicated Venture Fund for the region with a corpus of Rs 100 crores.

• The Minister also launched North East Tourism Development Council with objective to promote sustainable tourism in North East India.
BSNL join hands with PNB, launches mobile wallet Speedpay

- State-run telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has tied up with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay across 10 states in the country.
- “SpeedPay” is an Open Loop Prepaid wallet which allows users to withdraw money from authorized retail points.
- India is now second largest market in the world with 120 crore mobile users.
- SpeedPay can be used by customers of any mobile network operator and is not limited to BSNL alone.

‘School Chalo Abhiyan’

1. Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said the government will undertake a programme from next year to enrol “70-80 lakh” students in the country who are out of schools.

2. “There are about 70-80 lakh children who are not going to schools. We have thought of a plan to address the problem. It will be known as ‘school chalo abhiyan’,” Javadekar said.

Modi, Abe to lay foundation for bullet train project on September 14

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart from Japan Shinzo Abe will lay the foundation for the country’s first high-speed train project — Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train — on September 14th in Ahmedabad.

2. The 508-km-long project to be built with estimated investment of ₹1,08,000 crore will be funded up to 81% by Japan with soft loan of ₹88,000 crore at interest rate of 0.1% with repayment period 50 years.

#OpenGovDataHack.

1. Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a nation-wide hackathon #OpenGovDataHack.

2. It aims to Support & Showcase potentially great Ideas/Talent from Inner India by reaching out in their own State/City (7 Cities).

Campaign Swachhta Hi Seva:

- The Centre will launch a nation-wide, fortnight-long sanitation campaign from 15 September to highlight the Modi government's flagship cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission.
• The campaign, named 'Swachhta Hi Seva' (Cleanliness is Service) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be launched by President Ram Nath Kovind from Ishworiganj village in Kanpur.

• The initiative, which is being coordinated by the Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation, will include 'Sharamdaan' or voluntary work and will focus on mass mobilisation and reinforce 'jan andolan' for sanitation to contribute to Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean India.

Mission-24

• Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched Mission-24, a programme aimed at improving the quality of life in one of Mumbai’s poorest wards through collaborative efforts in the next 24 months.

• Under Mission-24, efforts will be made to provide basic amenities to residents of M-East ward that includes slums of Shivaji Nagar, Deonar and Mankhurd.

• Through this project, the organisations aim to provide amenities like secondary schools and colleges, aanganwadis, maternity homes, health posts and dispensaries in the ward.

‘Wood is Good’ campaign

• Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the ‘Wood is Good’ campaign in New Delhi.

• He said, wood is a climate-friendly material, as it is a renewable resource, having zero carbon footprint.

• The Minister advocated the balancing of environmental and developmental concerns and also urged the scientists and foresters to devise a solution to the problem of weeds.

Google to launch mobile payment service in India

Tech giant Google is slated to unveil a digital payment service in India next week that has been developed for the local market. According to the website, Google is launching "Tez" which is more like Android Pay.

Japanese industrial townships to come up in four states

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that four locations have been finalized for development of Japanese industrial townships in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

FoSCoRIS: FSSAI launches online platform for food inspection, sampling.
• A nationwide online platform to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling.

• The food regulator has asked all states to adopt this system as it would help eliminate discrepancy and make food safety officers accountable.

• The web-based ‘FoSCoRIS’ system will help to verify compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses as per the government norms.

• It will bring together all key stakeholders– food businesses, food safety officers, designated officers, state food safety commissioners on a nation-wide IT platform.

• The platform will help to seamlessly share data related to inspection, sampling and test result by all officials.

• The system will help to ease process of sample collection, make it transparent and traceable and control the quality of compliances.

NATION - FACTS

1. On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, President Ram Nath Kovind has launched a new 'LILA Mobile App' for Hindi lovers.

2. India FY18 GDP growth likely at 7.1 percent.

3. TCS Features in Fortune 50 List of Companies That Changed the World. Ranked 30, TCS is the only Indian company on the prestigious list.

4. State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) is all set to become a Maharatna company. The oil marketing company is at present a Navratna firm.

5. Age limit to join National Pension Scheme raised to 65 years. NPS is currently open for people between 18 and 60, and the Board has approved raising the age limit for joining to 65.


7. Cabinet approves the scheme ‘Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund’.

8. BN Srikrishna Committee - Identify Key Data Protection Issues


11. Cabinet approves hiving off BSNL’s mobile tower assets into a separate company.

**MILITARY EXERCISES**

**Operation Insaniyat**

- By the ministry of external affairs of India
- To help Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- To provide assistance to Bangladesh in response to humanitarian crisis being faced by it due to large influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.
- Under this operation, India will provide relief material consisting of items including rice, sugar, salt, pulses, cooking oil, biscuits and mosquito nets to the affected people.
- The relief material will be delivered in multiple consignments.

**INDRA 2017**

- First tri-services military exercise by India and Russia.
- To be conducted at Vladivostok of Russia in October 2017.
- It will be India’s first bilateral military exercise with any country involving all three services (army, navy and air force).
- Aim of exercise is to carry out joint exercises for suppression of international terrorist activities under United Nations mandate.

**SLINEX 2017**

- India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise, from 7th to 14th September 2017.
- It was held near Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal.
- Aimed to reinforce strong neighborly ties between both countries underscored by extensive maritime interaction and improved understanding.
Surya Kiran

- India and Nepal have begun their joint military exercise **Surya Kiran** in **Nepal**.
- This is the **12th edition** of Nepal-India joint military exercise.
- The Surya Kiran series of Exercises are being conducted annually, alternatively in Nepal and India.
- The **11th edition** of the joint exercise was held in **Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand**.

**YudhAbhyas 2017**

- A joint military exercise between India and the USA, from 14 to 27 September 2017.
- ‘YudhAbhyas’ is one of the largest joint military training and defense corporation endeavors between India and USA.
- This will be the 13th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

**Bonderam Festival**

Celebrated every year in Divar Island of Goa, to commemorate the people’s protest against Portuguese settlement.

**Kaveri Maha Pushkaram – 2017**

Sri Kaveri Pushkara Maha Kumba Mela is grand festival for Kaveri, one of the most sacred rivers of Bharat. It marks the time of the entry of Guru (Jupiter) into Tula rasi which takes place once for every 12 years. This year marks another special event which is addressed as Maha Pushkaram of Kaveri. It is a pushkaram which happens after 12 cycles of 12 years i.e., after 144 years.

**India’s first Hyperloop to come up in Andhra Pradesh** - India’s first Hyperloop project will come up in Andhra Pradesh, connecting its city centres, Vijayawada and Amaravati.

**Hyperloop Technology**

- It is the brainchild idea of technology entrepreneur Elon Musk who dubs it as fifth mode of transportation.
- It is system of magnetically levitating capsules (pods) that are sent at high speeds through low-pressure tubes.
• It envisages tube modular transport system that runs free of friction.

• It uses linear Induction motors in it to control speed of pods.

• It is still in trial stages in different countries and not been implemented for practical use anywhere in world yet.

Advantages

Hyperloop is two-to-three times faster than fastest high-speed rail and claimed to have speeds even greater than commercial air travel.

• It has smaller civil engineering footprint, with no direct emissions or noise compared to railways.

• Hyperloop system’s capital cost per mile is 60% that of high-speed rail, and is less expensive to operate.

• Furthermore, Hyperloop departures could happen with a low frequency of a pod every 20 seconds which is not possible in railways.

Challenges.

• It requires heavy investments and therefore effective public and private sector coordination is prerequisite for implementing it.

• It consumes high-power compared to railways.

• Technical challenges and accidents may hamper its progress.


• The Bill seeks to bring stringent anti-conversion law in place under which forceful or allurement induced religious conversion will be non-bailable criminal offence.

• It defines allurement for religious conversion and also includes religious conversion based on cash or economic benefits under the definition.

• The state assembly had passed this law inorder to prevent rampant religious conversions taking place in state. It was found that most of the religious conversions cases in the state
were predominantly in tribal and backward communities lured by money or other benefits. Mouse deer reintroduced for first time in Telangana forest.

Narmada Mahotsav

- Started in Gujarat. The aim of this Narmada Mahotsav Yatra - is to create awareness about the importance of increased water supply from Narmada canal-based projects to different parts of the state.

Telangana Home Minister inaugurates water ATMs

- Safe Water Network, an international NGO has partnered with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to launch water ATMs, providing affordable, 24x7 safe water access in Hyderabad.
- The first of the ATMs was inaugurated by Telangana State Home Minister N Narasimha Reddy at Nalgonda X Roads.
- A total of 200 ATMs will be set up to reach a targeted 150,000 people. In the first phase 50 water ATMs will be operationalised by next year.

West Bengal to ‘Bangla’

- The West Bengal government cleared a proposal to rename the state ‘Bangla’ and will now send a proposal to the Centre for the name change.

STATES – Places and Events

- Maharashtra wins Chief Minister’s cup with 45 gold medals at the National kickboxing championship held in Raipur.
- New Delhi’s Connaught Place - World’s 10th costliest office location. Hong Kong has emerged as the world’s costliest office location.
- Swiss food major Nestle sets up food safety institute in Manesar, Haryana.
- Amazon opens country’s largest fulfilment centre in Hyderabad. Founder of Amazon: Jeff Bezos.
- Assam govt signs MoU with Google to increase digital literacy.
- Lucknow Metro Becomes Operational.
- World Congress of Optometry begins in Hyderabad.
- West Bengal leads in new tax registration under GST regime.
- Second State Start Up Conference inaugurated in New Delhi.
- Venkaiah Naidu lays foundation for smart city project in Ranchi.
- Kochi to host summit on coastal shipping and waterways.
- Assam to provide skill development training to surrendered militants.
- High-speed rail training centre to come up in Vadodara.
- Karnataka first state to roll out electric vehicle policy.
- Tamil Nadu ranks first in organ donation in the nation.
- Jharkhand to celebrate 9th September as Himalaya Diwas every year.
India, Japan ink 15 agreements for enhancing bilateral co-operation

The agreements were signed in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe after 12th annual summit talks in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Some of Signed Agreements include:


2. MoC in field of Japanese Language Education in India.

3. Exchange of RoD on Civil Aviation Cooperation (open sky).

4. MOC between Ministry of Home Affairs and Cabinet Office of Japan.

5. India-Japan Investment Promotion Road map between DIPP and METI.


7. Arrangement between India Post and Japan Post for the Implementation of Cool EMS service.

8. MOC between METI and Gujarat on ‘Japan-India special programme for Make In India’ in Mandal Bechraj-Khoraj in Gujarat.

9. India-Japan Act East Forum: To enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in North East India in efficient and effective manner.

10. Joint Research Contract India’s Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and between National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST), Japan.

11. Agreement for International joint exchange programme between interdisciplinary theoretical and mathematical sciences programme, RIKEN and National Centre for Biological Sciences.

India, Belarus sign 10 pacts to expand cooperation.
Signed MoUs/Agreements

- MoU in the Oil and Gas Sector.
- MoU for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education.
- Programme of cooperation in the field of culture for 2018-2020.
- MoU between Sports Ministry and Ministry of Education of Belarus.
- MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Vocational Education and Training.
- MoU between JSC Belarusian Potash Company (BPC) and Indian Potash Ltd (IPL).
- Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

India, Myanmar sign 11 MoUs in range of sectors.

The MoUs were signed after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Myanmar’s State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Signed Agreements are:

- MoU on Maritime Security Cooperation
- Cultural Exchange Programme for year 2017-2020
- MoU on Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation.
- MoU on cooperation in the field of Health and medicine
- Technical Agreement for providing Coastal Surveillance System
- Extension of MoU on the establishment of MIIT.
- MoU for Upgradation of Women’s Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
- MoU for Sharing White Shipping Information between Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy.

- MoU in the field of elections between Election Commission of India and Election Commission of Myanmar.


- Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on establishment of India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT-Skill.

**9th BRICS summit held in Xiamen, China.**

1. The theme of the summit was “Stronger Partnership for brighter Future”.

2. At the end of summit, BRICS leaders adopted Xiamen declaration.

3. Four documents were signed in presence of BRICS Leaders. They are

   - Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation
   - BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation.
   - MoU between BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation.

4. Features of Xiamen Declaration

   - Strive towards broad partnerships
   - BRICS local currency bond markets
   - R&D and innovation in ITC
   - cooperation on energy
   - promote effective use of fossil fuels
   - BRICS agriculture research platform
   - People-to-people exchanges
‘Shaheen VI’ Exercises

- Joint training exercises by the Pakistan Air Force and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army-Air Force (PLAAF) began joint training exercises.
- The exercises will run until September 27.
- According to Xinhua, China’s state news agency China had sent a wide range of aerial assets and troops.
- The Shaheen series of exercises between the two countries, who are close partners, began in March 2011 and has since gone through five major iterations.

ASEAN Cyber Drill

The ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Team Incident Drill (ACID) was recently held in Hanoi, Danang, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. This year it was 12th year of drills as part of subregion’s response to growing cyber challenges witnessed in recent years.

Sahara Forest Project

- Funded by Norway and European Union.
- Jordan, a water-poor country that is 90% desert, has launched Sahara Forest Project near the southern port city of Aqaba to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water.
- The project seeks to demonstrate innovative application of technology to revolutionize our land systems in a way that benefits the climate, people, and businesses.

UJALA scheme launched in Melaka, Malaysia.

India’s zero-subsidy UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme was launched in Melaka State of Malaysia by Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Union Ministry of Power.

It highlights success of Indian model UJALA scheme to promote efficient lighting, using efficient equipment to reduce electricity bills and preserve environment at global level.

5th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Pasay City, Philippines on 9th September 2017. (Republic of the Philippines - capital is Manila - Currency is Peso). London tops in 2017 Global Financial Centres Index.

International Hindu Conference 2017, held at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Across barriers – International Business Women’s Summit, held at Kathmandu, Nepal.
China opens its first civilian drone base in Shanghai.

China Bans Raising Funds through Crypto currencies.

Hurricane ‘Irma’ hits Florida, USA.

London Retains Its Crown as World’s Top Financial Center.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. Neighbours in Arms - Larry Pressler
3. ‘Hit Refresh’ - Satya Nadella
4. How India Sees The World: Kautilya to the 21st century - Shyam Saran

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Recently Bugworks Research, a Bengaluru-based biotech startup, became India’s and Asia’s first to receive the international CARB-X (Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator) grant for its antibiotic research and development.

2. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named two mountain ranges on icy dwarf planet Pluto as Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes after Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary.

   - The world’s largest and powerful X-ray laser- European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) was unveiled in Hamburg, Germany.
   - The world’s most powerful X-ray laser has begun operating at a facility where scientists will attempt to recreate the conditions deep inside the sun and produce film-like sequences of viruses and cells.
   - The machine, called the European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL), acts as a high-speed camera that can capture images of individual atoms in a few millionths of a billionth of a second.


6. India’s first advanced Homoeopathy Virology lab inaugurated in Kolkata.

7. **PERSONS IN NEWS**

1. Viveck Goenka - Press Trust of India.

2. Nirmala Sitharaman - India’s first full time woman defence Minister.

3. Rajiv Mehrishi - Comptroller and Auditor General of India.


5. Anita Karwal - CBSE chairperson

6. U. Kamachi Mudali (IGCAR nuclear scientist) - Heavy Water Board chief

7. Viveck Goenka - Chairman of PTI (Press Trust of India)

8. Sanjeev Sinha - Adviser for Rs 1.1 lakh crore bullet train project (MAHSR).

9. UIDAI chief Ajay Bhushan Pandey gets additional charge as interim chairman of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Network.

10. Inder Jit Singh – Director of National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention

11. Halimah Yacob - elected as Singapore’s first woman President.

12. Peter Thomson - First UN envoy for oceans, seeking to galvanize efforts to protect the world’s seas.

13. Kenneth Ian Juster - American Ambassador to India.


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**OBITUARY**

1. US poet John Ashbery dies.
2. Trinamool Leader Sultan Ahmed has died following a cardiac arrest.

3. Journalist Gauri Lankesh, a fearless and outspoken journalist was shot dead in Bengaluru while she was returning to her home.

4. Former Congress MP Shyama Singh passes away.

**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

**Vijaya Bank bags Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar**

Vijaya Bank has bagged the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2016-17. It got the award for active implementation of Hindi in its day-to-day activities.

**Prakash Javadekar Announces Swachhta Ranking 2017**

Ministry of Human Resource Development announced the Swachhta Rankings 2017 for Higher Education Institutes.

The four categories are University, Colleges, Technical Institutes, and Government Institute.

**Winners from TN in the University category: Nil.**

**Winners from TN in the Colleges category:**

- Kongu Arts and Science College, Erode, Tamil Nadu

  - Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - S N R Sons College, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
  - K.G. College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
  - Winners from TN in the Technical Institutes category:
  - Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
  - Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - Vivekananda College of Engineering for Women, Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu
  - R.M.D. Engineering College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - R.M.K. Engineering College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - The top 7 institutes in the government institute category are:
  - G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand
  - Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu
  - Alagappa University, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu
  - NIT, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
  - IIT, Guwahati, Assam
JNPCT (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal), Mumbai wins “Container Terminal of the Year” Award, 2017.

Raghunandan Money Honoured With Krishi Pragati Awards 2017.

**SPORTS AND GAMES**

1. M S Dhoni becomes first wicketkeeper to effect 100 stumpings in ODI Cricket.

2. Konsam Ormila Devi Won Gold Commonwealth Youth Weightlifting.

3. India Tops in ICC Test Rankings.

4. India finish fifth in Moscow Shotgun World Championships

5. Goa to host 36th National Games.


7. Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2019 to be held in India. The current edition of the Championship is being held at the Gold Coast, Australia.

8. Kochi to host BWF Senior World Championships 2017. The championship will be held in India for the first time.

**US open title**

- The United States Open Tennis Championships is a hard court tennis tournament.
- Since 1987, the US Open has been chronologically the fourth and final tennis major comprising the Grand Slam each year.

**US open 2017**

- In men’s singles, Rafael Nadal of Spain wins over Kevin Anderson of South Africa.
- In women’s singles, Sloane Stephens of US has won over Madison Keys of US.
In mixed doubles, Jamie Murray and Martina Hingis wins over Michael Venus and Chan Hao-Ching.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>THEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05 September</td>
<td>International Day of Charity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 September</td>
<td>International Literacy Day</td>
<td>Literacy in a digital world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 September</td>
<td>World Suicide Prevention Day</td>
<td>Take a minute, change a life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>International Day of Democracy</td>
<td>Democracy and Conflict prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 September</td>
<td>Engineers Day</td>
<td>Role of Engineers in a developing India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 September</td>
<td>International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</td>
<td>Caring for all life under Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 September</td>
<td>International coastal cleanup day.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 September</td>
<td>International Day of Peace</td>
<td>Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 September</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Day</td>
<td>Remember me</td>
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<td>25 September</td>
<td>Government celebrated ‘Bharat ke Kaushalzaade’ on Antyodaya Diwas</td>
<td>In 2014, the Government of India decided to observe 25th September as Antyodaya Diwas in memory of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.</td>
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<td>26 September</td>
<td>International Day for total elimination of nuclear weapons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 September</td>
<td>World Tourism Day</td>
<td>Sustainable Tourism – a Tool for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>World Rabies Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28 September</td>
<td>World Maritime Day</td>
<td>Connecting Ships, Ports and People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 September</td>
<td>World Heart Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 September</td>
<td>13th Formation day of the National Disaster Management Authority</td>
<td>School Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 September</td>
<td>International Translation Day</td>
<td>Translation and Diversity</td>
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**SCHEMES, NATION**

**PENCIL Portal**

- Launched for effective implementation of National Child Labour Project. By the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The PENCIL portal is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, civil society and general public in achieving the target of child labour free society.
- It encompasses various components- Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project and Convergence. Each district will nominate District Nodal Officers (DNOs) who will receive the complaints and do the needful.
Divyang Sarathi Mobile Application

- Launched by the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is an accessible and comprehensive mobile application for easy dissemination of information to ‘Divyangjans’ (a term for physically challenged).
- It aims to empower Divyangjans by providing them easier and convenient access to information pertaining to schemes, scholarships, statutes, institutional support systems, jobs and other crucial information. The app is integral part of ICT component of Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) launched in December 2015.

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - “Saubhagya”

- By the Ministry of Power with an aim at providing last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households. Under the scheme, government will provide free electricity to all households identified under Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data 2011.
- Electricity connections will be given to APL families for Rs 500, which will be payable in 10 equal monthly installments. The BPL cardholders will get free electricity connections.

Pralay Sahayam

- Multi-Agency Disaster Relief Exercise held on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake as the final event of ‘Pralay Sahayam’ in Hyderabad.
- The event demonstrated efforts of all central and state agencies, National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and the Armed Forces towards jointly tackling an urban flooding scenario in Hyderabad.
- The exercise brought out the role and function of the State Emergency Operations in coordinating conduct of the joint operations.

Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhayay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana

- Launched by the Ministry of Science & Technology to formulate and implement appropriate S&T interventions for sustainable development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand.

- Under the scheme, Department of Science and Technology (DST) will adopt few clusters of villages in Uttarakhand and transform them to become self-sustainable in time bound manner through tools of S&T. Local resources and locally available skill sets will be utilised using S&T under the scheme for substantial value addition for local produce and services which can sustain rural population.

Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana

- Launched by Jharkhand Government. Aimed at developing villages of freedom fighters in the state.
- It was launched from Ulihatu Village, birth place of freedom fighter Birsa Munda.
- Under this scheme, villages of many tribal freedom fighters will be developed and their habitants will be provided basic amenities.
- These villages had remained inaccessible for long time after Independence because of Left-wing extremism. Now they will be provided with 136 pucca houses.

Project Yash Vidya

- A MoU was signed by Lt Gen Ashwani Kumar and Vice Chancellor of Maharashtra Open University, Nasik on 21 Sep 2017 at New Delhi.
- The Bachelor’s degree Programme designed for the Army Personnel gives special recognition to the in-service training/Army courses completed and by providing exemption from studying certain courses.
- The University will award Diploma in Self Empowerment and a Bachelors Degree in Arts or Commerce under PROJECT YASH VIDYA enabling them with academic qualifications for better future.

E-vidhan

- An initiative by central government
- To digitalise and create paperless legislatures in all states.
- First initialized at himachal pradesh state legislature as a model project.

ARPAN 3.0

New automation software for Defence Security Corps to ease personal documentation and all issues related to their progression. The software was jointly developed by Army Software Development Centre (ASDC) and Tech Mahindra.
Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017

NITI Aayog to host Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 in Hyderabad. The theme for this year is “Women First, Prosperity for All” to celebrate entrepreneurship in all its strength, diversity and entirety. This is the first time GES is being held in South Asia.

Relief 123 service

The Relief 123 service is based on “ResQMobil”, an integrated portable communication solution which packs in the required hardware into a portable transportable trailer-on-wheels. The comprehensive communication solution aims to bring BSNL and disaster management agencies together, for disaster management in India.

Government notifies Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified new Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 to prohibit range of activities in wetlands. The new rules will replace earlier rules notified in 2010.

Electoral Bonds Scheme

Government finalizing Electoral Bonds Scheme in order to bring greater transparency in funding of political parties. The scheme was announced in 2017-18 Union Budget as part of certain electoral funding reforms. It will make India first country in the world to have such unique bonds for electoral funding.

Jan Sampark

CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority) launches monthly Jan Sampark Program to facilitate adoption, a program to enable public to interact with its officials to obtain information related to child adoption.

Global Competitiveness Index

India ranks 40th in 2017 Global Competitiveness Index. Top 5 Countries: Switzerland (1st), United States (2nd), Singapore (3rd), Netherlands (4th) and Germany (5th).

Economic Advisory Council

Government constitutes Economic Advisory Council headed by Bibek Debroy. Other members are Dr Surjit Bhalla, Dr Rathin Roy, Dr Ashima Goyal and Ratan Watal. The committee will analyse any issue economic or otherwise referred to it by the Prime minister.

TRIFED and Amazon

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) has inked MoU with e-commerce giant Amazon for selling tribal products. The aim of initiative is to promote tribal handicrafts like handloom products, cane and bamboo products, tribal jewellery, Dhokra craft, tribal weaves and embroidery, tribal paintings etc. TRIFED already has tied-up with Snapdeal.

Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat Scheme

Launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at Mota Ishanpur village in Gandhinagar district in Gujarat.

To distribute LPG connections among rural areas where conventional fuel is used for domestic purposes. It is backup scheme to existing Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

LPG Panchayat scheme

Aims at spreading awareness among LPG users about how to properly use clean fuel and its useful benefits. It will provide platform to trigger discussion through sharing of personal experiences on benefits of use of clean fuel compared to traditional fuels like cowdung, charcoal or wood.

Khelo India programme

Aims at mainstreaming sport as tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.

Commemorative Coins on Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi released

Commemorative coins of Rs 100 and Rs 10 denomination were released on the occasion of 101st Birth Centenary of noted Carnatic musician Dr. MS Subbulakshmi by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

Sardar Sarovar Dam

PM Narendra Modi dedicates Sardar Sarovar Dam to nation. It is the highest dam ever built in India and second biggest concrete gravity dam in world in terms of volume after Grand Coulee Dam in US.
Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign

A nation-wide fortnight-long sanitation campaign to highlight the government’s flagship cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission.

India Signs 76 Million US Dollar Loan Deal with JICA

The Government of India signed a loan deal worth $76 million with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), for a project to upgrade the environment management plan at Alang-Sosiya ship recycling yards.

Arjan Singh, India’s first ever IAF Marshal, passes away

Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh, one of Independent India’s most celebrated soldiers, passed away in the national capital on Saturday. He was 98.

India Ranks 128th In Meeting UN’s 2030 Health Target - in terms of meeting the UN’s health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, with low scores on air pollution, sanitation, hepatitis B and child wasting

‘Pension Adalat’

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the first ‘Pension Adalat’ on 20th September.

- He will also award the Pensioners for their outstanding contribution towards ‘Anubhav’ – a platform for retiring employees for sharing their experience of working with Government.

World Congress on Adolescent Health

India to host World Congress on Adolescent Health next month be held in New Delhi from October 27-29. This year’s theme is ‘Investing in Adolescent Health- The Future is Now’.

Neighborhood Action Plan in cities for better Solid Waste Management

Noting that people have a better connect with immediate neighborhood, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs unveiled ‘My Home-My Neighborhood’ (Ghar Bi Saaf-Pados Bhi Saaf) campaign with the following six components:

- Segregation of waste at source.
- Compost making from wet waste within the premises/neighborhood/area.
- Recycling of dry waste.
- Freeing the neighborhood from open defecation and open urination.
- Motivating the residents of neighborhood against throwing garbage in open spaces.
- Adopting a nearby park or open place for collection and waste segregation.

SBI to teach bankers from South East Asian countries

State Bank of India is planning to throw open its new banking personnel training institute for employees of other banks in India and other South East Asian countries.

“Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System”

- Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & “Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System” in New Delhi.

- Shri Paswan informed that the e-NWRs would have no chances of any tempering, mutilation, fudging, loss or damage and with no possibility of any multiple financing.

- Hence, these NWRs will not only facilitate an easy pledge financing by banks and other financial institutions but also smooth trading on various trading centres like commodity exchanges, electronic National Agriculture Markets (e-NAM) and other electronic platforms.
‘Project Nishchay’

IDBI Bank initiates ‘Project Nishchay’ to improve financial performance

The project aims to accelerate the struggling lender’s turnaround programme and improve financial performance.

Madhur Bhandarkar, Hema Malini to be felicitated in Russia

National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar and veteran actress Hema Malini will be felicitated at the 4th Indian Film Festival of Russia, for their contribution to Indian cinema.

‘Adopt a Heritage’ project

• Launched by President Ram Nath Kovind, under which heritage sites will be entrusted to public and private enterprises and individuals for maintenance.

• The initiative — launched along with ‘Incredible India 2.0 Campaign’ — is an attempt to boost Indian tourism with “greater focus on digital presence and social media”.

• Under the ‘Adopt a Heritage’ Project, those entrusted with the development of tourist amenities at the adopted sites would be known as ‘Monument Mitras’.

Two Indian cities in list of 100 top favourable destinations for students

While Mumbai has been ranked at 85th place, New Delhi is at 86th place in the list topped by Montreal of Canada.

EESL to procure 10,000 Electric Vehicles from TATA Motors

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the administration of Ministry of Power, Government of India (GoI), will procure 10,000 electric vehicles from Tata Motors Limited. The tender floated by EESL is the world’s largest single electric vehicle procurement.

COMMITTEES

1. Viswanathan Committee - to deal with cybercrimes especially online hate speech has submitted its report to Union Home Ministry.

2. Arvind Kumar Goel committee - Has recommended that NRIs who harass or desert their wives could face cancellation of passport.

3. Hasmukh Adhia committee - GST committee on exports.

4. Sushil Modi Committee – To look into the technical issues of GST.


STATES

PRANAM (Parental Responsibility And Norms for Accountability and Monitoring) Bill

• A first of its kind Bill that has made it mandatory for Assam government employees to look after their aged and dependent parent/s and physically challenged siblings, if any, who don’t have their own source of income.

• The parents or needy siblings who feel neglected can lodge complaints with the head of the department of the person who, after hearing both sides, may deduct 10-15 percent of the salary of the employee and give it to the parents for their survival.

India’s first electric bus service launched in Himachal Pradesh

• It was launched at Rohtang Pass area in Himachal Pradesh.

• It is first of its kind electric bus service for tourist spot in India and first in world at an altitude of 13,000 feet.

• The electric bus service will ply between Manali and Rohtang.

• It was launched amid concern over environment degradation in Rohtang Pass area due to plying of diesel taxis. The initiative aims to curb carbon emission which is resulting in melting of glaciers in Himalayas.
Gujarat to be second (first big) state to use EVMs with VVPAT

Gujarat will become first big state to use Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) equipped with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in coming Assembly elections to make election process more transparent. It was announced by Election Commission of India. Gujarat will be second state after Goa to use VVPAT system for the Assembly elections in entire state.

NITI Aayog’s SATH (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital) Program was launched in in Guwahati, Assam.

The SATH program aims to provide structured support to Assam in identifying key health priorities and implement the solutions towards transforming the health and improving the well-being of people of state.

Devendra Fadnavis launches ‘Maharashtra Mission 1 Million’ - under which over 10 lakh students across the state will play football. Under the initiative, the state government aims to ensure that children come out in open spaces and play.

Maharashtra to be the first state to have DNA databank in India, which will also help law enforcement agencies in tracking maoists as well as terrorists besides repeat offenders.

Scheme to provide meal to labourers launched in Chhattisgarh - ‘Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shram Anna Sahayata Yojna’ under which nutritious meal for Rs. 5 will be provided to labourers in the state.

Deendayal Port

Kandla Port renamed as Deendayal Port. Kandla Port is one of twelve major ports in country. It is situated on Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat. It is the largest port of India in terms of volume of of cargo handled.

Tata Steel, TERI launch ‘Green School Project’ in Odisha

Tata Steel has in association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched an initiative to create awareness about environment issues in school campuses in Odisha’s Jajpur district.

Fifth North East Festival to be held in Delhi, which brings together the numerous colours and talents of the region, will begin in New Delhi on November 3.

Andhra CM Naidu declares 2017 as e-pragati year

Naidu said that all districts must come under the purview of the flagship programme that will help the government make real-time governance.

Bilal Dar

An 18 year old boy from Srinagar becomes an ambassador for Swachhata Hi Seva for Srinagar Municipal Corporation. He has been contributing to the ‘Swachhta Abhiyan’ since the age of 12. He found a mention in the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s recent Mann Ki Baat.

INDIA AND WORLD

1. India, Russia to collaborate on Bangladesh nuclear plant. It will be first initiative under an India-Russia nuclear deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries. It will also be India’s first atomic energy venture abroad.

2. India – Srilanka Hindi conference was held at the University Of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka

3. India assists upgradation of Thondaman Vocational Training Centre in Hatton located in Nuwara Eliya District of Sri Lanka.

4. India and Norway sign Letter of Intent to bilateral extend health cooperation.

5. India, Japan ink MoU set up India-Japan Act East Forum.

WORLD

World’s most and least stressful cities 2017

Stuttgart Germany is the least stressful city in the world. Baghdad, Iraq is the most stressful city in the world. Delhi is the 9th most stressful city.

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina floats five-point peace plan for Rohingya crisis. They are as follows:

1. Myanmar must stop violence and practice of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine State unconditionally, immediately and forever.
2. UN Secretary General should immediately send fact-finding mission to Myanmar.

3. All civilians, irrespective of religion and ethnicity, must be protected in Myanmar. For this, safe zones can be created inside Myanmar under UN supervision.

4. Sustainable return of all forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar

5. Recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission Report must be implemented immediately, unconditionally and entirely.

**Palestine** joins Interpol as full member. Established in 1923, Interpol is the world’s largest intergovernmental organization facilitating international police cooperation among member countries. Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France.

**Tunisia** lifts ban on Muslim women marrying non-Muslims. Previously muslim men were allowed to marry non-Muslim women, but not the other way around.

**Japan** releases postage stamps on Indian yoga experts - Bishnu Charan Ghosh and his family members in spreading Indian postural yoga in Japan.

### DEFENCE

**INS Kalavari**

India’s first home built submarine handed over to Indian Navy. INS Kalavari is first of six Scorpion class submarines built in India under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks Limited with technology transfer from France’s DCNS, a naval shipbuilder.

**INS Tarasa**

**INS TARASA commissioned into Indian Navy**, the fourth and last ship in series of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) was commissioned into Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. INS Tarasa has been named after the picturesque island in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago in Bay of Bengal.

**Interceptor Boats**

- Indian Coast Guard’s interceptor boat V-409 launched in Mangaluru, Karnataka by Bharathi Defence and Infrastructure Limited (BDIL).
- Indian Coast Guard commissions 2 high-speed interceptor boats - C-433 and C-434 boats at the Dighi Port in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**Operation Arjan**

By Indian Army, to prevent cross bordering firing by Pakistan Army.

### MILITARY EXERCISES

**DMEx-2017**

India to hold first BIMSTEC Disaster Management exercise - 2017 (DMEx-2017) from October 10-13, 2017. It will be conducted by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency in the National Capital Region (NCR).

**Yudh Abhyas 2017**

Joint India-US military exercise, held at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, US.

**Iron Union 5**

Joint military exercise between USA and UAE. Held at Abu Dhabi.

**Panda-Kangaroo 2017**

Joint military exercise between China and Australia.

**Druzba 2017**

The second edition of DRUZBA 2017 (Friendship-2017), a joint military exercise between special forces of Pakistan and Russia was held in Mineralny Vody, Russia. The exercise set the stage for translating political goodwill between both countries into a substantial partnership especially in the field of defence.

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Scientists detect Gravitational waves for fourth time
Scientists have successfully detected gravitational waves for fourth time coming from merger of two massive black holes. It was for first time, these waves were simultaneously detected by US-based Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) and Italy-based Virgo detectors.

**Gravitational Waves**

1. Gravitational waves are ripples curvature of space time, which propagate as waves, travelling outward from source at the speed of light.

2. They transport energy as gravitational radiation and pass through matter without interacting with it.

3. Gravitational waves were first predicted in 1916 by Albert Einstein on the basis of his Theory of General Relativity.

4. Strongest sources of gravitational waves are among enigmatic objects in our universe like black holes, supernova, neutron stars and Big Bang.

5. Information extracted by these transmitted waves may help to address unsolved questions and mysteries of physics and astronomy.

**Stratolaunch**

The world’s largest all-composite airplane *Stratolaunch* in terms of wingspan successfully completed its initial engine tests. It is designed for launching for sending satellite-carrying rockets into low-Earth orbit.

2006 VW139/288P
A strange binary asteroid with comet-like features spotted by astronomers.

**World’s first molecular robot**
Scientists from University of Manchester have created world’s first ‘molecular robot’ — millionth of a millimetre in size. It can be used to build molecules and may help discover novel drugs.

**Floating B4 boat labs to study the Brahmaputra River**

- The Union Government is planning to safeguard fast-eroding Majuli island — world’s largest riverine island using research carried out on floating Brahmaputra Biodiversity and Biology Boat (B4) labs along Brahmaputra River.

- The purpose of project is to study changes caused by dams, climate change, human interventions and eventual effects on river eco-system. It will constantly monitor impact of various environmental and anthropological factors that affect river and conduct research to mitigate effects.
OSIRIS-Rex

- The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) mission was launched in September 2016 for studying 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid.
- It is NASA’s first asteroid sampling mission. Japan already has visited an asteroid and returned some specks.

Scientists for first time observe Optical polarisation phenomenon of fast spinning star

- It was predicted by Indian astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar 70 years ago.
- Optical polarisation phenomenon is a measure of the orientation of the oscillations of a light beam to its direction of travel.

Aquatic Rhabdops: New species of non-venomous aquatic snake discovered in Western Ghats.

Snow leopard no longer endangered: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

ISRO’s Mars Orbiter Mission completes 3 years in orbit.

AWARDS

Prof CNR Rao receives Von Hippel Award for materials research

- Eminent Scientist and Bharat Ratna Prof C.N.R. Rao was awarded 2017 Von Hippel Award, the highest international prize in materials research.
- He is first Indian and first Asian to win this honour.
- The award will be presented to Prof Rao for his interdisciplinary contributions to development of novel functional materials, including nanomaterials, graphene, superconductivity, 2D materials and colossal magnetoresistance at Boston in November 2017.
- This international award is the highest honour in materials research.

National Tourism Award 2017

- Hall of fame award for Best State / UT Comprehensive Development of Tourism: Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh
- Swachhta Award: Telangana
- Best Maintained and Disabled Friendly Monument: Chowmahalla Palace, Hyderabad, Telangana
- Best Tourist Friendly Railway Station: Ujjain Railway Station, Madhya Pradesh
- Best Heritage City: Chanderi and Warangal
- Best Tourist Guide: K Kasinath Rao, Telangana
- Excellence in Publishing – English: “The Heart of Incredible India” (Coffee Table Book) by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board

Balzan Prize

Indian economist Bina Agarwal wins Balzan Prize (Balzan Prize Foundation awards four annual monetary prizes to people or organizations who have made outstanding achievements in the fields of humanities, natural sciences, culture, as well as for endeavours for peace and the brotherhood of man).

Swiss professor to get 2017 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize
Maryna Viazovska of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland has been selected for the 2017 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.

Banaj Devi to receive Sarala award for 'Kathapua'

Noted Odia poet and short story writer Banaj Devi will be honoured with the 38th edition of prestigious Sarala award for her short story compilation "Kathapua".

Vice President presents ANR award to S S Rajamouli

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu felicitated film-maker S S Rajamouli with the prestigious ANR (A Nageswara Rao) National Award for his contribution to the Telugu film industry.

Pune NGO for women farmers wins UN Equator Prize

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), a Pune-based non-governmental organisation working among women farmers, has won this year’s UN Equator Prize.

Nigerian lawyer (Zannah Mustapha) gets top UN peace prize - annual Nansen award for his ‘crucial mediating’ role as well as his work helping children affected by the long-running conflict.

Riz Ahmed becomes first Asian man to win an acting Emmy award

PERSONS IN NEWS

1. Halimah Yacob - President of Singapore and first women president of Singapore.

2. Sampthraj - a Tamilian, has been elected as the 51st mayor of Bengaluru.

3. Syed akbaruddhin - India’s permanent representative to the un.


5. Banwarilal Purohit(He hails from Maharashtra): Governor of TN.

6. Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) : Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

7. Satya Pal Malik : Governor of Bihar

8. Prof Jagdish Mukhi : Governor of Assam.

9. Ganga Prasad : Governor of Meghalaya.

10. Devendra Kumar Joshi : Lt. Governor of A & N islands

11. Rajiv Mehrishi : CAG of India

12. Y.C Modi : Chief of National Investigation Agency

14. Shashi Shankar : Appointed CMD of ONGC

15. Mohammad Mustafa : CMD of SIDBI.

16. Shri Harsh Kumar Jain : India’s ambassador to the Slovak Republic

17. Ajay Bisaria : Indian high commissioner to Pakistan

18. Vani Sarraju Rao : Next Ambassador of India to Estonia

19. Jaideep Mazumdar : Next Ambassador of India to Palau

20. Mridul Kumar : High Commissioner of India to Malaysia

21. Mercedes Araoz : New Prime Minister of Peru

22. Joao Lourenco : New Angolan president

23. Angela Merkel : Elected German Chancellor for fourth term

24. Arvind Subramanian to get extension as Chief Economic Advisor of India for one year.

25. Sambamurthy - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) interim Board chairman

26. Akshay Kumar Appointed Brand Ambassador For Swachh Bharat Mission In Uttarakhand

**OBITUARY**

- Dr Kirpal Chugh, India’s father of nephrology

- Acclaimed Assamese film, theatre personality Abdul Majid

- Boxing legend Jake LaMotta

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**


- ‘Evolving with Subramanian Swamy - A roller coaster ride’: Book by Roxna Swamy.

- “A to Z of Financial Management in Autonomous Institutions” - Dr. Rajat Bhargava and Shri Deenanath Pathak.

- The biography of Captain Vikram Batra ”The Shershah of Kargil” has been written by 21-year-old Deepak Surana.

**SPORTS**

- Purnima Hembram - Has won gold at the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games. She hails from Odisha.
• P V Sindhu from India has won the 2017 women’s singles title at the Korea Open Super Series badminton tournament by defeating Nozomi Okuhara of Japan at Seoul in South Korea. With this, Sindhu has become the first Indian to win the Korea Super Series crown.

• MC Mary Kom to be AIBA representative at IOC athletes’ forum.

• Nivedha from Tamil Nadu has won 8 gold medals at Under-19 Common Wealth Weight-Lifting Championship held at South Africa.

ONE LINERS

• Gram Samridhi Evam Swachta – campaign to create awareness on hygiene and cleanliness through self-help groups, anganwadis and schools.

• India ranks third in nuclear power installations, while China is leading at 20 installed nuclear reactors.

• IIM Ahmedabad awarded with the Rajbhasha Keerti Award.

• India’s first Lithium-ion battery unit will be set up in – Gujarat.

• City that hosted the first-ever National Conference on “Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition” - New Delhi.

• India’s first state to set up family welfare committees - Tripura.

• India’s first payments bank to integrate the UPI on its digital platform - Airtel Payments Bank.

• State hosting the 5th edition of “Kaju India 2017- The Global Cashew Summit” - Goa

• ONGC discovers oil in Arabian sea near Mumbai High.

• Salman Khan honoured with Global Diversity Award at Britain’s House of Commons.

• Emphasizing the role of technologies and innovation, India has declared 2010-20 as the ‘Decade of Innovation’.

• Tez (meaning fast in Hindi): Google’s UPI-based digital payment service launched.

• Nabard sanctions Rs 119 cr loan for Haryana.

• Bollywood film Newton is India’s official entry to 2018 Oscars.

• Amazon India ties up with Bank of Baroda for micro lending.

• India gets its first high horse power locomotive from France

• India jumps to 14th rank as best country for expatriates: HSBC

• India ranks 40th in Global Competitiveness Index.

• India ranks 103 in Global Human Capital Index.

• SEBI chief Ajay Tyagi named among world’s top 10 regulators.

• Mahamana Express - This train will connect Varanasi with Surat and Vadodara in Gujarat.

• The Prime Minister dedicated a Jal Ambulance service, and a Jal Shav Vahan service to the people of Varanasi, through a video link.

• Facebook joins Apple, Google in top 10 most valuable brands list.

• Google, BHEL, SBI top 3 best places to work in India: survey
• The Government of Singapore will set up a Skill Center at Guwahati which will cater to the entire North-Eastern region.

• National Conference on ‘Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition’ held at New Delhi.

• Bandhan Tod: An Android app to fight child marriage in Bihar

• VASTRA 2017 - An International Textile and Apparel Fair 2017 held in Jaipur

• Nalsar University of Law in Hyderabad has established India’s first Centre for Animal law.

• Nation’s first Govt. mobile veterinary clinics launched in Telangana.

• Andhra CM releases ‘People First’ mobile app for grievance redressal.

• Andhra Pradesh to be declared ODF by March 2018.

• Israel to boost ‘White Revolution’ in Haryana.

• India’s first advanced homeopathy virology lab inaugurated at Kolkata.

• India’s longest bus Airavat clubs class bus (13.8 metre length) inaugurated at Bengaluru by Government of Karnataka.

• Karnataka becomes the first state to give assent to electric vehicle and energy storage policy 2017 (e-vehicle policy).

• Madhya pradesh - It has become compulsory for the students to say “Jai Hind” during roll call.

• Bathukama festival – Telangana.

• Helmet made compulsory to refill petrol at Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

• 12th Indo-Japan conference - held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

• India’s first sanctuary for cow established at Madhya Pradesh.

• First open defecation free district of Tamil Nadu - Kanyakumari.

• Saudi Arabia to allow women to drive
• Jamaica’s Violet Brown (world’s oldest person) dies at 117; Japan woman (Nabi Tajima) now oldest.

• London tops in Global Financial Centers Index 2017. Mumbai secured 60th place and was the only Indian City to feature in the list.

• Ramayana memorial stamp released in Japan.

• World’s fastest Bullet Rail Service inaugurated in China between Beijing and Shanghai.

• German citizenship is ranked the most valuable in the world

• Saudi Arabia allows women into stadium for first time
• WHO grants $175,000 for Rohingyas' healthcare.

• Typhoon Talim – Japan

• Typhoon Dokuri - Vietnam.

• Hurricane Maria – Dominica island country in Atlantic Ocean.
## IMPORTANT DAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>2017 Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 October</td>
<td>International Day of Older Persons</td>
<td>Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 October</td>
<td>World Vegetarian Day</td>
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<td>01 October</td>
<td>International Coffee Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 October</td>
<td>Gandhi Jayanti, International Day of Non-Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Monday of October</td>
<td>World Habitat Day</td>
<td>Housing Policies: Affordable Homes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 October 2017</td>
<td>World Architecture Day</td>
<td>First Monday of every October. 2017 Theme: Climate Change Action!</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th to 10th October</td>
<td>World Space Week</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Exploring New Worlds in Space</td>
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<tr>
<td>05 October</td>
<td>World Teachers Day</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 October</td>
<td>85th Indian Air Force Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 October</td>
<td>World Post Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9th to 14th October</td>
<td>Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>World Mental Health Day</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Mental health in the workplace</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>World Day against Death Penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th to 14th October</td>
<td>India water Week-2017</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>International Day of the Girl Child</td>
<td>2017 Theme: EmPOWER girls: Before, during and after conflict”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 October</td>
<td>World Arthritis Day</td>
<td>2017 Theme: It’s in your hands, take action</td>
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<td>12 October</td>
<td>World Sight Day:</td>
<td>Observed on second Thursday of October 2017 Theme: Make Vision Count</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>International Standards Day</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Standards make cities smarter</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 October</td>
<td>International Day of Rural Women</td>
<td>2017 theme: Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 October</td>
<td>World Students Day</td>
<td>Declared by UN in 2010 – Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam’s Birthday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 October</td>
<td>World Food Day</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 October</td>
<td>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies</td>
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<td>20 October</td>
<td>World Osteoporosis Day</td>
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<td>20 October</td>
<td>World Statistics Day</td>
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<td>21 October</td>
<td>Police Commemoration Day</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>United Nations Day</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>World Polio Day</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td>Raising day of Indo Tibetan Border Police(ITBP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 October</td>
<td>World Day for Audiovisual Heritage</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Discover, remember and share</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 October</td>
<td>National Ayurveda Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 October</td>
<td>World Stroke Day</td>
<td>What’s your reason for preventing stroke?</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 October</td>
<td>International Internet Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>World Cities Day</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Innovative Governance, Open Cities. The general theme of World Cities Day is Better City, Better Life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>World Savings Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)</td>
<td>To commemorate birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Oct – 1 Nov 2017</td>
<td>Global Media and Information Literacy Week</td>
<td>2017 Theme: Media and Information Literacy in Critical Times: Re-Imagining Ways of Learning and Information Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 October</td>
<td>Infantry day in India</td>
<td>To commemorate supreme sacrifices made by Indian Army's infantry against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir (J&amp;K) in 1947.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Oct – 4 Nov 2017</td>
<td>Vigilance Awareness week</td>
<td>2017 Theme: My Vision – Corruption Free India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATION**

Government launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush to accelerate full immunization coverage to more than 90% by December 2018.

**Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)**

- "Let no child suffer from any vaccine-preventable disease" - This was stated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat.
- Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.
- The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by 2020 earlier.

**Mission Indradhanush**

- Launched in December 2014.
- Aimed to fully immunize more than 90% of children under age of 2 years, as well as all pregnant women, against seven vaccine preventable diseases.
- These diseases are diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, tetanus, tuberculosis, measles and Hepatitis B.
- In addition vaccines for Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B are also being provided.
• Rubella, Injectable Polio Vaccine Bivalent and Rotavirus are also provided in selected states.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

• PMGDISHA is expected to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019, making it one of the largest digital literacy programmes in the world.
• PMGDISHA aims at imparting digital literacy to citizens in rural areas free of cost.
• Aims to provide access to information, knowledge, education, and healthcare. It will create avenues for livelihood generation and financial inclusion through digital payments and help bridge the digital divide.

Paryatan Parv

• To boost tourism and to showcase cultural diversity of our country and reinforce the principle of ‘Tourism for All’.
• Its objective is to draw focus on the benefits of tourism.
• It was inaugurated at Humayun’s Tomb and will be held across the country from the 5th to 25th October 2017.
• During this period, ‘Adopt A Heritage’ project launched by Ministry of Tourism will be implemented at key sites.

SECURE Himalaya - A six year project

• It was launched by Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
• To ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.
• Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime.

India Water Week 2017

• Inaugurated by the President Ramnath Govind in New Delhi.
• The theme of India Water Week – 2017 is “Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth”.
• It is a five day international event. October 10 -14, 2017.
• The 5th edition of India Water Week (IWW) will be celebrated with a multi-disciplinary conference and a concurrently running exhibition enriching the theme and showcasing the technologies and solutions available for the areas under deliberation of the meet.


• Unveiled by Government of India.
• To chalk out future road map for wildlife conservation.
The key focus areas of this plan includes integration of climate change into wildlife planning, conservation of coastal and marine ecosystem, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, focus on wildlife health among others.

‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) -2017’

- Held from 7th to 9th October, 2017 in India’s 1st World Heritage City i.e Ahmadabad, Gujarat.
- Ministry of Culture decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Documentation and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place. So far, this Ministry has organised 5 RSM.

Global Wildlife Programme Conference

- Held at New Delhi.
- Jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), World Bank and United Nations Development Programme.
- Theme of the Conference was – “Peoples’ participation in wildlife conservation”

Turtle Sanctuary

- The Union Ministry of Water Resources has approved project to set up Turtle sanctuary at Allahabad along with River Biodiversity Park at Sangam in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh under Namami Gange programme.
- The purpose of the Turtle sanctuary is to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures.

Clean Water Initiative - Jivamritam

- It is Mata Amritanandamayi Math's Rs 100 crore clean water initiative for rural India.
- 'Jivamritam' filtration system, envisaged to provide clean drinking water to 10 million villagers across the nation.
- The programme was organised as part of the 64th birthday celebrations of spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, popularly known as 'Amma’ among her devotees.

Neo – A servicing bot

- An Internet bot, also known as web robot, WWW robot or simply bot, is a software application that runs automated tasks (scripts) over the Internet.
- HDFC Life Insurance Company has launched Neo — a servicing bot for Twitter that uses artificial intelligence for customer service.
HDFC Insurance company hopes to deploy the bot in answering policy—related queries on social media.

This is the second bot put in operation by HDFC Life, after the launch of SPOK, which was an email bot to answer customer queries.

4th Dialogue of Civilizations

- Held at New Delhi.
- The theme of the Conference is “Technology and Civilization”.

Third International Conference on Yoga

- The two-day ‘International Conference on Yoga for Wellness’ at New Delhi.
- Organized by Ministry of AYUSH as a part of commemorating the celebration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga declared by the United Nations.
- The thematic areas of deliberations include Yoga research in non-communicable diseases and scope of Yoga in Integrated Medicine, Control of Cancer, Depression, Gynecological disorders and Pain Management.
- The theme of this year’s conference will be ‘Yoga for Wellness’.

SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes to boost Skill India Mission

- SANKALP and STRIVE are two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore.
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).
- SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.

MedWatch

- An innovative mobile health App by Indian Air Force.
- Available on the IAF's AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
- A Reminder Tool to enable timely immunization for the children of all Air Warriors is an important component of the App. This will directly enable 'Mission Indradhanush' of the Govt of India.
- ‘MedWatch’, the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services.

Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana

- An initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance.
- All villages under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.
• At least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, wherein endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each.
• Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.

Deep Dharohar

• Organized by the Ministry of Culture.
• The festival was inaugurated by the lighting of 1000 diyas by the participating artists and artisans and children from organisations like the CCRT, SAPNA Prayas and Kailash Satyarthi’s foundation.

Bhadbhut Barrage Project

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs 4,337-crore Bhadbhut Barrage project which aims to stop the ingress of salinity along the Narmada River.

Pratham-Shyok Bridge

• Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Pratham-Shyok bridge in Leh that will link Leh to Karakoram, providing connectivity on the strategically important Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Olde axis for military transport.

Medical Council of India to give Unique Permanent Registration Number to all doctors to help digitise India’s registry of doctors through a unique registration number similar to AADHAAR as part of its ongoing e-governance initiative. The move is expected to help doctors practice in different States without seeking different licenses across borders.

Free Eye Check-up Campaign by NHAI
The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched countrywide Free Eye Check-up Campaign and distribution of spectacles for truck drivers, cleaners and helpers.

GIFT-IFSC ranks at 10th place in global financial centres index

India's first IFSC has been featured at the tenth place in the latest September 2017 edition of Global Financial Centres Index 22 (GFCI) - London.

Dubai’s first ever AYUSH conference

• To be held by India.
• To spread awareness about the prevention and management of lifestyle diseases through Yoga and Ayurveda.
• With the theme of ‘Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH’.
48th Conference of Governors

- Started at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on October 12, 2017.
- The two-day Conference will deliberate on distinct agenda items in different sessions.
- The theme of the opening session was ‘New India-2022’.
- The second session is on the subjects of ‘Higher Education in States’ and ‘Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to Make Youth Employable’.
- In the third session, to take place on October 13, 2017, Governors will make brief remarks on any special issues pertaining to their respective States/Union Territories.
- In the concluding session, a brief report on the deliberations will be presented by the respective conveners.

International Puppet Festival (IPF-2017)

- Held at Mohorkunj in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The purpose of the fest is to regenerate the emotions attached to puppetry.

Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat programme

- Aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.
- Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under this programme to boost cultural ties.

World Government Summit (WGS)

- Scheduled to be held from February 2018 in Dubai, UAE.
- The summit is the largest movement to review and share the best experiences and the first global forum for governments, countries, organizations and private sector leaders interested in the industry of the future.

ASEAN India Music Festival

- By the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Culture.
- The Festival is being organized to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- The theme for this commemorative year “Shared Values, Common Destiny”
- Aims to boost cultural influences among the peoples of the ASEAN member states and India.

NMCG Approves Eight Projects worth over Rs 700 Crore
National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crore, out of which four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.

Amul named as the country’s best Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company in the food sector by the International Advertising Association (IAA).

India is eighth most valuable nation, while the United States retained its top position and China took the second spot in the League of Nations according to Brand Finance’s Nation Brands 2017.

Government to celebrate Swachh Bharat Diwas (Diwas - Day) on 2nd October.

SC criminalizes sex with minor wife aged between 15 to 18 years.

The first shipment of US crude oil to India arrived at Paradip Port in Odisha, as part of the two million barrels contracted by India.

Need to balance national interest, human rights on Rohingya refugees: Supreme Court.

AIIB, ADB approves $ 100 mn loan for India’s power sector.

Global Hunger Index 2017: India ranks 100th among 119 nations.

Mukesh Ambani is India’s Wealthiest Man for the 10th straight year.

ECONOMICS

RBI to launch financial literacy drive in 9 states.

Odisha government department signs MOU with SBI for integration of SBI e-Pay with cyber treasury.

ICICI Bank commits Rs 10 crore for welfare of armed forces.

Canara Bank launches first digital branch in Bengaluru.

SBI to set up country's largest innovation centre at Mumbai.

IndusInd Bank to take over micro finance company Bharat Financial

4th bi-monthly monetary policy review statement for the year 2017-18

- Repo Rate: Unchanged at 6%
- Reverse Repo Rate: Unchanged at 5.75%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
- Bank Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
• Cash Reserve Ratio: Unchanged at 4%
• Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): Changed by 50 basis points to 19.5%

**STATES**

1. **Mathru Poorna scheme:** Launched by Karnataka Government, to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas of the state.
2. First Meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee held in New Delhi.
3. The third edition of 'Women of India Organic Festival' held at New Delhi.
4. India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh, a reflection of its growing closeness with the two eastern neighbours.
5. President Kovind inaugurates Shirdi Airport in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.
6. Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan launches 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme, wherein the money will go directly into the account of the beneficiaries.
7. Bhopal is set to become the first state capital to come up with an exclusive toilet for the transgender community.
8. Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 to be held in Hyderabad in November.
9. Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Swachh Andhra Mission'. Ace shuttler PV Sindhu, has been chosen as the brand ambassador of Swachh Andhra.
10. 'No helmet, no petrol' rule comes into force in Andhra Pradesh.
11. Country’s first ITI for dibyangans (differently abled persons) - Dibrugarh, Assam.
12. Gujarat first state to slash VAT on fuel prices.
13. Three-day Global Medical Conference held at Chandigarh. The aim of the conference 'IMTechCon 2017' is to engage industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs globally.
14. The Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government.
15. Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is all set to be become country's first Aadhaar-enabled airport by 2018.
16. The Uttarakhand Government and a charitable funding agency ‘Swan Cultural Center and Foundation’ launched ‘Solar Briefcase’ scheme in Kedarnath Dham to provide electricity to remote areas in the hill state.
17. India’s first state to incorporate skill development programme in higher education - Rajasthan.
18. Himachal Pradesh Government has recently implemented the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
20. Bihar – had launched a state-wide campaign against child marriage and dowry on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary.
21. ‘Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana’ (a mass marriage scheme) for BPL families - Uttar Pradesh.
23. First Open Defecation Free (ODF) tribe district of Rajasthan - Durgarpur.
24. 9th Annual ‘World Dental Show 2017’ – held at Mumbai.

**INDIA AND WORLD**

Upgradation of the Women’s Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar on upgradation of the Women’s Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.

President Ram Nath Kovind visited Djibouti and Ethiopia. It is his first trip abroad.

India signs €300 million Finance Contract with European Investment Bank for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6.

Nepal, India to conduct first joint tiger census for the first time in their national parks, forests and protected areas.

Germany to help Indian Railways to increase speed. A joint declaration of Intent was signed between Ministry of Railways and Germany in Rail Bhavan.

Cabinet approves MoC between India and Japan to establish Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market.

India, Ethiopia sign agreements on trade, communication.

India, Djibouti sign pact on bilateral consultations

**WORLD**

US, Israel withdraws from UNESCO

The US and its ally Israel have announced they will withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, accusing the body of "anti-Israel bias". (UNESCO's Headquarters - Paris).

G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C.

Tokyo is world's safest city, Delhi is 43rd, Mumbai is 45th

The index, produced by The Economist Intelligence Unit, was based on 49 indicators covering digital, health, infrastructure and personal security.
Catalonia referendum: 90% voted for independence. Catalonia – An autonomous region in north-eastern Spain that has been demanding independence and wants to be a separate nation.

Hurricane Nate – hits central American countries Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. In a gun shoot at Las Vegas, USA more than 50 people were killed.

UAE begins collecting 'sin' taxes on tobacco, energy drinks.

China Overtakes US As World's Largest Ice Cream Producer.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Sibir (Siberia)**

- World’s biggest and most powerful nuclear-powered icebreaker ship.
- Launched by Russia.
- Built under Project 22220 into the water at the Baltic Shipyard in St Petersburg.

**Experimental ebola vaccines**

- The clinical trials of two experimental Ebola vaccines cAd3-EBOZ and rVSV-ZEBOV were found to be safe and capable of eliciting immune response against Ebola virus that lasts for at least one year.
- The findings were based on a study of clinical trials on 1,500 adults that began during West Africa Ebola outbreak. Three groups of 500 volunteers received one of the vaccine candidates or a placebo (saline injection).

**S & T – Others:**

1. India’s first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) under Hybrid Annuity Mode will come up in Haridwar (Uttarakhand) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
2. World’s largest combustion research centre inaugurated at IIT Madras.

   US approves first test to screen Zika virus in donated blood.

3. Iceland has opened world’s first negative emissions plant that turns CO2 into stone at Hellisheidi.
5. ISRO to set up research centre in Guwahati.

**DEFENCE**
BIMSTEC DMEx-2017

• India to conduct the First ‘BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017’
• It will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
• The main focus of the BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 will be on testing the region’s preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-Governmental interaction/dialogue/agreements for immediate deployment of regional resources for disaster response.

Mitra Shakti 2017

• The fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started with a grand Opening Ceremony conducted at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
• The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same.

DREE

• Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange.
• Joint military exercise between USA and Bangladesh.
• Held at Dhaka in Bangladesh.

PASSEX

Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo, Japan.

Others – Defence:

1. India and Bangladesh will start a major project to maintain and repair damaged pillars along the 4,096-km long Indo-Bangla border, said India Border Security Force (BSF).
2. SS Athenia  -  A British ship torpedoed during World War II has been found off Irish Coast.
3. UN ends 13-year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

COMMITTEES

1. Rina Mitra  Study Group  -  To examine problems of people residing in border areas.
2. Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini  Commission  -  To examine sub categorization of OBC.
3. Rajiv Kumar (Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog) Committee  -  High Level Committee for proper management of water resources in North East Region.
4. PV Reddi  -  Head of the 2nd National Judicial Pay Commission (NJPC), to look into pay hike issue of lower court judges.
5. Shashi Tharoor committee - Parliamentary committee on External Affairs to examine India-China relations.
6. Uday Kotak Committee - Recommendations on Corporate Governance.
7. Amrinder Sharan - Appointed by the Supreme Court (SC) as amicus curiae on plea seeking re-probe of Mahatma Gandhi assassination.
8. RBI forms High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry under the chairmanship of Yeshwant M. Deosthalee.

**APPOINTMENTS**

1. Audrey Azoulay (France) - Next UNESCO chief.
2. Anupam Kher - Appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune.
3. Soumya Swaminathan (from Tamil Nadu) - Appointed as Deputy Director General of WHO.
4. Rajnish Kumar - New Chairman of SBI.
6. Pooja Kapur - India’s next ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia.
7. Gautam Bambawale - India’s next ambassador to China.
8. V M Kwatra - India’s next ambassador to Principality of Monaco.
10. Prithika Yashini - India’s first transgender Sub-Inspector of Police took charge at Choolaimedu Police Station, Chennai.

**AWARDS/HONOURS**

**NOBLE PRIZES - 2017**

**Economics Nobel - Richard H. Thaler**

- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 was awarded to US professor Richard H. Thaler "for his contributions to behavioural economics."
- Dr. Thaler (72) has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making.
- Dr. Thaler's contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.

**Nobel Peace Prize - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured the Geneva-based group “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”
• ICAN is a global civil society, a coalition of non-governmental organisations from over 100 countries around the globe, working to promote adherence to and full implementation of Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
• It is a leading civil society actor which has taken efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.
• Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

Nobel Prize in Literature - Kazuo Ishiguro

• British author Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his novel The Remains of the Day, has won the Nobel Literature Prize.
• The award was given for his works that are of great emotional force which uncovers the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world.
• Born in Nagasaki, he moved to Britain with his family when he was five years old.

Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine

• 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine – awarded jointly to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young. All of them are from United States of America.
• They were awarded for discovering molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm.
• Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with Earth’s revolutions.
• Circadian rhythm is basically a 24-hour internal clock that is running in the background of your brain and cycles between sleepiness and alertness at regular intervals. It's also known as your sleep/wake cycle. It is a 24-hour cycle in physiological processes of living beings, including plants, animals, fungi and cyanobacteria. It influences such biological functions as hormone levels, sleep, body temperature and metabolism.

Noble Prize in Chemistry

• Awarded jointly to Jacques Dubochet (Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Germany and US) and Richard Henderson (UK).
• They were selected for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution.
• Cryo-electron microscopy gives scientists opportunity to look at machinery of life in 3D form. This was not possible with earlier forms of electron microscopes as more powerful beams would destroy biological matter. It allows the study of fine cellular structures, viruses and protein complexes at molecular resolution.

Nobel Prize in physics

• Awarded jointly to three American scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne for the first observations of gravitational waves.
• All three scientists have played leading roles in the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or Ligo, experiment, which in 2015 made the first historic observation of gravitational waves.

Anna Politkovskaya Award

• Gauri Lankesh becomes first Indian to win Anna Politkovskaya Award.
• It is given in memory of slain Russian reporter and political activist Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian investigative reporter and activist who uncovered state corruption and rights abuses, especially in Chechnya.
• It is presented annually by Reach All Women in War (the RAW in WAR organisation) and honours women human rights defenders from around world. This year marks 11th anniversary of killing of Anna Politkovskaya who was shot dead in lobby of her Moscow apartment block at age of 48 on October 7, 2006. RAW in WAR is a London-based, non-governmental organisation (NGO) supporting women human rights defenders and victims of war.

First-ever Miss Wheelchair World

• A psychology student from Belarus, Aleksandra Chichikova, was chosen Miss Wheelchair World in the first-ever edition of the beauty pageant held in Warsaw, Poland.
• India’s Rajalakshmi won the ‘Miss Popularity award’ at pageant. This is three years after she won Miss Wheelchair India in 2014.

18th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

• Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for the year 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.
• He has contributed immensely in the direction of getting rid of the practice of manual scavenging. The Mayor of New York had declared April 14, 2016 as the ‘Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak International Day’ keeping in mind this contribution made by Dr. Pathak. He also received the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple adjudged as cleanest iconic place in country under Swachhta Hi Seva (Cleanliness is service) programme. The temple earned the top slot from among 10 iconic places selected under the Swachh Bharath Mission in the country.

Mathrubhumi Literary award

Eminent critic, biographer and orator M K Sanu has been chosen for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.

Centenary National Award for Literature
Eminent writer Namita Gokhale has been nominated for the first Centenary National Award for Literature. The award is to be conferred by one of the most prestigious literary bodies in India-the Asam Sahitya Sabha.

Jnangarima Manad Alankaran

The Jnanpith Jury Board, at a meeting, unanimously decided to confer the Jnanarima Manad Alankaran 2017 to Elangbam Sonamani Singh, noted Manipuri litterateur.

T D Radhakrishnan - Selected for Vayalar award (given for the best literary work in Malayalam) for his work 'Sugandhi Enna Andal Devanayaki'.

TM Krishna - A Carnatic vocalist, wins 2015-16 Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration.

Classical singer Manik Bhide - Chosen for Bhimsen Joshi Award. The Maharashtra government award, the highest in the category of performing arts, consist of Rs. 5 lakh in cash, a plaque and citation.

Madhu Valli - She is from USA and has been crowned Miss India Worldwide.

Gurbax Singh Sandhu - Long-serving Indian boxing coach has been honoured with the National Awards for senior citizens.

Rajesh Nath - an Indian personality has been conferred the ‘Cross of the Order of Merit’, the highest civilian honour of Germany.

Birendra Sasmal - an Indian entrepreneur has won the prestigious International Business Person of the Year award in London for innovative IT solutions.

Prajapati Trivedi - First Indian academician to have been elected as Fellow to America's National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), considered the highest recognition internationally in the field of public administration.

Jagmeet Singh - Elected as Leader of New Democratic Party, an important political party in Canada.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

The Coalition Years: 1996-2012: Autobiography of Pranab Mukherjee

SPORTS AND GAMES

1. FIFA suspends Pakistan from international football.
2. Ashish Nehra set to retire from International cricket on November 1.
3. Mercedes-Benz and Laureus Sport has named Cricketer Yuvraj Singh as their first brand ambassador in India.
4. Bengaluru to host 12th World Sudoku, Puzzle Championships.
5. Pooja Kadian - Bagged India's maiden gold medal at the World Wushu (Kung Fu) Championships.
6. Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu wins Asian Tour title Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) in Taipei.
Article 35A

- Article 35A was incorporated into the Constitution in 1954 by a Presidential order issued under Article 370 (1) (d) of the Constitution.
- Article 35A of the constitution empowers J&K legislature to define state's “permanent residents" and their special rights and privileges without attracting a challenge on grounds of violating the Right to Equality of people from other States or any other right under the Constitution.
- The Article bars non-J&K state subjects to settle and buy property in J&K.

India tops list of new TB cases in 2016: WHO Report

India has topped list of seven countries, accounting for 64% of the over 10 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in year 2016. India was followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and south Africa.

BharatNet

- BharatNet is Union Government's ambitious rural internet connectivity programme which is implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).
- It is world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre.
- Bharat Net seeks to connect all of India's households, particularly rural areas, through demand, affordable high-speed broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps to realize the vision of Digital India.
- The project is being funded by Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Adopt a Heritage Scheme [Apni Dharohar Apni Pehchan Project]

- Launched by Union Ministry of Tourism on World Tourism Day (27th September) in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- Under it, Private, Public Sector Companies and Corporate individuals were invited to adopt heritage sites and to take up responsibility for making them and promote sustainable tourism through conservation and development under their CSR activities.
- Companies will be known as “Monument Mitras”.
- Government has given Letter of Intent to 7 companies for 14 monuments under Adopt a Heritage Scheme.

TRAI recommends 40% reduction in carbon emission by 2022-23 for sustainable telecommunications considering 2011-12 as the base year in order to make telecom sector greener.

Start-up Sangam Initiative

- Launched by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
• To develop new business models, marketing plans, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups.

**Bharatmala programme**
- Bharatmala envisions 44 economic corridors across country at cost of at least Rs 5 lakh crore.
- It is aimed at speeding up cargo movement and development of multimodal logistics hubs and parks on periphery of major commercial centres.
- The project involves constructing 24000km of fresh highways.
- It also includes construction of feeder routes alongside national highways.
- Around 80% of Bharatmala projects will be government funded, engineering procurement and construction (EPC) model while rest will be a hybrid-annuity public private partnership (PPP).

**MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan**
- It will help micro and small entrepreneurs across the country to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments by Central Ministries, Departments, CPSEs, and /State Governments.
- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 contains provisions to deal with cases of delayed payment to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

**#IamThatWoman**
- In an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking online campaign #IamThatWoman.
- Through the campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing 'by' and 'for' women.
- Twitter and Facebook users have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with a photograph and post online with the hashtag #IamThatWoman.

**APEDA to promote NE products in Bangladesh and Myanmar**
The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken up a programme for promotion of north eastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

**The SBI Foundation** has committed Rs10 crore for the conservation and restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST) of Mumbai over a period of three to five years. CST formerly known as Victoria Terminus, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Izzat Ghar**
The Centre has asked each state to name the toilets in their rural households as - Izzat Ghar, or to use a phrase in regional language equivalent to - **house of dignity**.
‘Paika Bidroha’ to be named as 1st War of Independence

- The Paika Bidroha (Paika rebellion) of 1817 will find a place in the history books as the First War of Independence from the next academic session.
- 2017 is the bicentenary of the Paika rebellion, and Centre has allocated Rs. 200 crore for commemorating it across the country.
- Paikas were peasant militia under the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war.
- They rebelled against the British rule under the leadership of Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817.

Most Authentic Brand in India

Indian consumers regard Google as the most authentic brand, even though Amazon.com tops the list globally. In India, Google is followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki and Apple.

NATION – ONE LINERS

- The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda - New Delhi.
- Website of CIPAM (Cell for IPR Promotion and Management) was launched in New Delhi.
- Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016 comes into effect.
- Supreme Court bans dirty pet-coke, furnace oil in Haryana, Rajasthan, UP in a bid to reduce air pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR).
- India ranks 40 among 137 countries in global competitiveness index.
- India ranks 108 among 144 countries in global gender gap.
- Times Higher Education Rankings: IISC & IIT Bombay among world’s top 200 for engineering and computer sciences.

ECONOMICS

- RBI sets up task force for India Public Credit Registry. It will be chaired by Y.M Deosthalee.
- AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) to launch a Rs200 crore fund for providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed $300 Million Loan to Promote Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal.
• The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a $65.5 million loan agreement to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on the Western Coast in Karnataka.

• India and World Bank sign $200 Million Loan Agreement for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project.

STATES

South Asia's first Ro-Ro ferry service
Prime Minister inaugurated first phase of Ro-Ro (roll-on, roll-off) ferry service between Ghogha in Bhavnagar district and Dahej in Bharuch district in the Gulf of Cambay, Gujarat. It is South Asia's first world class Ro-Ro ferry service.

Ro-Ro ferry services
• They are vessels made to carry wheeled cargo (such as cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars) that are driven on and off ferry on their own wheels or using a platform vehicle.
• It is opposite of lift-on and lift-off (lo-lo) vessels which uses crane to unload cargo.
• The first of its kind Ro-Ro ferry in India will be able to carry up to 100 vehicles and 250 passengers between the two ports.
• It will reduce the distance between Ghogha to Dahej from 310 kilometres by road to 30 kilometres and will reduce seven to eight hours of travel time to link Saurashtra with South Gujarat to one hour.
• Ro-Ro ferry is a small part of Sagarmala project, that aims to promote port-led development in the country by harnessing India's 7,500-km long coastline, 14,500-km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.

Rajasthan passes bill to provide reservation to Gujjars and four other nomadic communities. The bill seeks to provide 5% reservation to Gujjars and four other nomadic communities viz. Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Raika and Gadanya in state government jobs and educational institutions as Other Backward Classes (OBCs). It increases reservation for OBCs from 21% to 26%.

Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana
• By the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
• The objective of this scheme is to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers for their agriculture produces and thereby protecting them from losses suffered on account of distress sale.

Madhya Pradesh tops in digital initiatives: Survey
Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of digital initiatives, followed by Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
'Prerna' - A project for women farmers. Launched by Mahindra & Mahindra in the state of Odisha. To empower women working in the agriculture sector by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment.

**Biggest human logo:** The Meghalaya Election Department has entered Limca Book of Records for the formation of the biggest human logo comprising young voters in the state. The logo formation was part of Mission Unite (U and I towards Enrolment).

**STATE – ONE LINERS**

Kerala govt prohibits using 'Dalit', 'Harijan' in official communications. The government has also banned the usage of word "Keezhalar" which was used to refer to scheduled communities.

Rajasthan Government introduces bill prohibiting probes against judges, officers without sanction.

Vrindavan and Barsana declared pilgrimage sites by Uttar Pradesh government.

Microsoft Partners with Karnataka Government to bring Artificial Intelligence to agriculture.

India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra for Skilling in Smart Cities inaugurated in New Delhi.

Arunachal Pradesh Assembly approves Kamle as 23rd district.

Haryana records 39 percent of all cancer cases in India.

International Puppet Festival held at Kolkata.

**INDIA AND WORLD**

- **India, Italy** sign six pacts and to enhance counter-terror cooperation. Subjects of the pact include energy, cultural cooperation, safety in railway sector, mutual investments, diplomatic relations. **Italy PM - Paolo Gentiloni.**

- **India, Sri Lanka** Ink MoU for housing project deal in Hambantota. Hambantota port is located right in middle of vital energy supply lines in Indian Ocean, connecting Middle East and East Asia. In recent times, coastal city of Hambantota had gained strategic significance after Sri Lankan government had decided to build massive deep-sea port and airport with huge Chinese loans.

- India grants USD 585,000 aid to a university in Sri Lanka’s Tamil-dominated north as part of its development partnership with the country in the field of higher education.
• India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) have signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries. It was signed at the 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban, South Africa.

• India and Japan have signed memorandum of cooperation (MoC) on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) to significantly expand the bilateral cooperation in the field of skill development.

• India sends first wheat shipment to Afghanistan via Chabahar port.

• Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissions OPV SURAKSHA gifted by India.

• India to help develop Colombo, Trincomalee Ports in Sri Lanka.

WORLD

World's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells - It was launched in China's Tangshan city, north China's Hebei Province to give big boost to green energy in public transport. The ecologically-friendly tram emits only water without any pollutants. It does not produce any nitrogen oxides.

Japan’s general election - Japan's ruling coalition of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Komeito party led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (LDP) won an overwhelming victory in general election.

Catalan government
• Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced the immediate sacking of Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont and his government and called new elections in the region on December 21.
• This followed the decision taken by the Catalan parliament to unilaterally declare independence of the region in the northeast of Spain.

The world’s worst cities for women
A survey by Thomson Reuters Foundation ranked Delhi among the world’s worst megacities when it comes to women safety. Delhi has been placed at fourth position after Cairo, Karachi and Kinshasa (Congo).

Chile named best country to visit
Chile has been named the best country to visit next year by Lonely Planet in its 'Best in Travel 2018' list. South Korea and Portugal have ranked second and third respectively.

WORLD – ONE LINERS

• 70 Indian words included in Oxford English Dictionary 2017 edition.

• First International Day of Diplomats celebrated in Brasilia on October 24.
• Singapore has the world's "most powerful" passport, according to a global ranking topped for the first time by an Asian country. India ranked at 75th position.

• 4th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus held in Philippines.

• Southeast Asian defence ministers' meeting - Venue – Philippines. Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the meeting on behalf of India.

• Jeff Bezos passes Bill Gates to become the world's richest person. He topped the Bloomberg Billionaires Index for the first time.

• Burundi becomes first country to leave International Criminal Court.

• Gandhi museum inaugurated in Durban, South Africa.

• Peru approves medicinal use of marijuana.

• Bernie Meyer – American Gandhi.

**SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES**

**First International Conference on Consumer Protection**

• The theme of the conference was "Empowering Consumers in New Markets.

• India is organizing the event at the request of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

• The two-day Regional Conference on Consumer Protection will be held in October at New Delhi.

• India has not invited Pakistan and North Korea to attend the first global conference on consumer protection.

**Global Ayurveda Meet - Kerala**

**International Gita Mahotsav - Haryana.**
Mauritius will be the partner country and Uttar Pradesh as partner state.

**UN Summit on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) in 2020**

• India will host next Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Conference of Parties 13 (CMS COP13) in year 2020. CMS COP is also known as a Global Wildlife Conference. It is held once in three years.

• The theme of the CMS COP12 was "Their Future is Our Future - Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People" – held at Manila, Philippines.
• Four Asian vulture species from India gets highest protection under CMS.
• Species awarded highest protection are Asian vultures are *red-headed vulture, white-mopped vulture, Indian vulture* and *slender-billed vulture*. They are faced with threats such as poisoning, hunting, collision with electricity cables and habitat degradation.

14th SAARC Law Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
**SAARC:**
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It comprises 3% of world’s area, 21% of world’s population and 3.8% of global economy as of 2015.

2nd edition of World Congress on Marxism
China is going to host 2nd edition of World Congress on Marxism. It will be held at Peking University in Beijing in May 2018 with theme "Marxism and the current world and China". It coincides with 200th birth anniversary of Karl Marx.

First BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine meeting held in New Delhi.
BIMSTEC - The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia. Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh. Members - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Srilanka and Thailand.

3rd Global Investors’ India Forum
Held at New Delhi. The theme of the event was “Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India” and it was attended by global industry stalwarts. The event was organized by the ASSOCHAM.

**World Food India-2017 (WFI-2017)**
A mega international food event held at New Delhi from November 3. Odisha was the 'Focus State' in the World Food India (WFI)-2017,

11th World Congress on Adolescent Health
Held at New Delhi. The theme for World Congress on Adolescent Health 2017 was “Investing in Adolescent Health-the Future is Now”.

14th Dalai Lama during his three-day maiden visit to Manipur addressed at the International Peace Conference in the Imphal. It was aimed at promoting peace and harmony in the northeastern region.

UN wildlife summit in 2020 - India will host the next United Nations (UN) global wildlife conference in 2020.

6th annual LNG Producers Consumer Conference – Held at Tokyo, Japan.
DEFENCE

OPV Vikram
- Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named OPV Vikram.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over "Vikram" to the Indian Coast Guard.
- It is the country’s first-ever such defence vessel to be built private shipyard.

INDRA - 2017
The first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces will be conducted in the Eastern Military District of Russia in October 2017. Exercise INDRA-2017 will be conducted at the 249th Combined Army Range Sergeevsky and in the Sea of Japan near Vladivostok.

CORPAT
- CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) - Bilateral exercise between the Indian and Indonesian navies.
- Indian Naval ship Sukanya reached Belawan port, Indonesia.
- The exercise is aimed at fostering closer maritime ties with countries located on the rim of the Indian Ocean.

Anti-Submarine Drill
India – Japan Naval exercise on strategies to counter submarines held in Indian Ocean in October, 2017.

INS Kiltan
- Commissioned into Indian Navy.
- Indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette.
- Kiltan is the latest indigenous warship after Shivalik class, Kolkata class and sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt to have joined the Indian Navy’s arsenal wherein a plethora of weapons and sensors have been integrated to provide a Common Operational Picture (COP).
- The ship derives its name from one of the islands in Aminidivi group of the strategically located Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands.

Defence Ministry to raise three new tri-service agencies
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) is expecting to raise three new tri-service agencies in field of cyber warfare, space and special operations shortly.
- The new tri-service agencies are Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and a Special Operations Division.
- These agencies will be headed by officers of rank of Major General and equivalent in Navy and Indian Air Force.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Sophia
A humanoid named Sophia has made history by becoming the first robot in the world to be granted citizenship. Saudi Arabia offered citizenship to the robot, designed by entrepreneur David Hanson.

World's fastest, shortest laser pulse
- Scientists from ETH Zurich in Switzerland have successfully created the world's shortest X-ray laser pulse with duration of just 43 attoseconds (1x10-18 of a second). This laser pulse is the shortest controlled event that has ever been created by humans.
- Laser - An acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. It is a highly coherent, unidirectional beam of perfectly monochromatic light. It has greater energy than normal light. It is used in range of application like sensors, optical communication sources etc.

Scientists link new virus to kala-azar
- Scientists have found that parasite called Leptomonas seymouri hosting virus called Lepsey NLV1 may be also responsible for spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis).
- Earlier it was believed that parasite Leishmania donovani (sandfly) alone is responsible for spread of the dreaded infection.

Hemidactylus kangerensis: New species of large gecko discovered in Eastern Ghats at Chhattisgarh's Kanger Ghati National Park. It common name is the Kanger valley rock gecko and scientific name is Hemidactylus kangerensis, named after the valley were it was discovered.

CarbFix Project
- World's first negative emissions carbon-capture plant begins operations in Iceland.
- The world's first negative emissions plant under the CarbFix Project to turn atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) into stone has begun operations in Hellisheidi, Iceland.
- It is intended to lock away carbon dioxide by reacting it with basaltic rocks. Work on the project began in 2007.

Sawfish - Scientists on World Sawfish Day (observed on October 17th) announced that sawfish, sighted off Indian coast less than 10 times in over a decade appears to be more threatened than tigers and elephants.

Ichthyosaur fossil - (152 million-year-old) discovered for first time in India at Kutch desert region of Gujarat. Ichthyosaur is an extinct marine reptile (fish-lizards).

CSIR-NIIST scientists develop organic near-infrared filter that allows only near-infrared (NIR) light to pass through it.

Microsoft joins IIT Kharagpur to create 'deeper' search engine in a bid to take on Google Search. Bing is a web search engine owned and operated by Microsoft.
China unveils track-less train that runs on virtual rails at 70 kilometre per hour.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

53rd Jnanpith Award

Eminent Hindi Litterateur Krishna Sobti (92) was awarded the 53rd Jnanpith Award for the year 2017 for her path-breaking contribution to Indian literature. She will be overall eight women to win this prestigious award. She hails from Punjab.

Man Booker Prize 2017

- The award, launched in 1969, was only open to writers from Commonwealth states until it began permitting authors from other English-speaking countries in 2014.
- Last year Paul Beatty became the first American to win the award for his novel "The Sellout".

Sakharov Prize

- The democratic opposition and political prisoners in Venezuela

World Food Prize - 2017

- Recipient - Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group for helping Africa get it right in agriculture and making it a key player of securing food for the world.
- The prize was founded by Norman E. Borlaug, a native of northeast Iowa who was awarded the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his life's work on feeding the world through the scientific advancements of the Green Revolution.

2017 Blue Planet Prize

- The world's most prestigious award for pioneers in environmental science was given to Prof. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber from Germany. He was awarded for establishing new field of science 'Earth System Analysis' and introducing most influential concepts including the notion of tipping elements in the climate system in Tokyo.
- Beside him, Prof Gretchen C. Daily from US also won the award for her work promoting practical conservation by revealing the value of nature.

Golden Peacock Award
• Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has received the 'Golden Peacock Award' under the category - Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation - at a convention in London.

**National Kalidas Award**
- Recipient - Ram Gopal Bajaj (Renowned theatre director).
- It is an award instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government in the field of theatre.

**Lata Mangeshkar Award**
- Recipients - Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan.
- Madhya Pradesh governments prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award will be honoured for their contribution in the field of music composition and singing).

**Green Platinum Award**

The **Govardhan Eco Village**, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar district, has won the green platinum award, instituted by Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). Govardhan Eco Village is a farm community and retreat centre.

**The 2nd British Asian Achievers Awards**
Prominent NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul has been conferred with the Life Time Achievement Award here for his outstanding contributions in the fields of manufacturing industry, education and philanthropy.

**Indian peacekeepers in Sudan awarded UN medal** for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in the conflict-ridden country.

**Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration**
Carnatic vocalist T M Krishna won 30th Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015 -16 for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country.

**Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award**
Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher received Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award in Pune.

**Jaipur and Srinagar Airport ranked first and second in** ACI (Airports Council International)-ASQ (Airport Service Quality) Survey in the category of 2-5 million passengers.

**Next Generation leader by Time magazine**
- Time Magazine has included Delhi University student Gurmehar Kaur in its list of Next Generation Leaders for 2017.
Women’s Creativity in Rural Life Award - Choti Kumari Singh from Bihar, for her work to uplift the Musahar community, considered one of the most downtrodden in the state’s caste-ridden society. She won the Women’s Creativity in Rural Life Award from the Switzerland-based Women’s World Summit Foundation.

Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award - Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar

Petroleum Ministry conferred with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award.

IIT Bombay top ranked Indian institute in QS Asia University Rankings.

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

- Hema Malini's Biography: Beyond The Dream Girl. Written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee.
- Those Eventful days: Vidyasagar Rao (former i/c. Governor of TN).
- A Journey Towards Self-Reliance by Department of Defence Production, Government of India) - Released by Defence Minister Mrs. Nirmala Seetharaman.

**PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS**

- Y.G. Modi  -  National Investigation Agency’s Director-General
- Neelamani N. Raju  -  Karnataka's first woman police chief, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG and IGP).
- Vikram Singh - Appointed as Private Secretary to President.
- Suresh Sethi  -  MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- Sunny Verghese  -  Appointed as new chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable Development [WBCSD]
- Jacinda Ardern (Labour Party) - New Zealand's next PM
- Sibi George  -  Next Ambassador of India to Switzerland
• Alok Verma - CBI Director
• Rakesh Asthana - Appointed CBI special director
• Shri Dineshwar Sharma - Appointed as Central Government’s Representative in J&K
• Jayant Rikhye - HSBC CEO for India
• N.J.Gangte - Appointed High Commissioner of India to Zambia
• Ranjit Kumar, India’s second-most senior law officer, has resigned from the post of Solicitor General of India citing personal reasons.
• B C Khanduri committee - Parliamentary standing committee on defence.
• Arun Jaitley led panel - Public Sector Bank mergers
• 5-member committee formed to select editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV) - headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash.

OBITUARY

• Eminent classical singer Girija Devi passed away in Kolkata. Known as the "thumri queen", Girija Devi popularised the genre of semi-classical Indian music.
• Tamil writer Melanmai Ponnusamy. He was a Sahitya Akademi award winner. He won the award in 2008 for his short story collection, Minsara poo.

SPORTS

FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017
• England won 17th edition of FIFA U-17 World Cup by defeating Spain in the final match held at Kolkata, West Bengal.
• II runner-up – Brazil.
• 'Golden Ball' Award - Phil Foden of England (tournament's best player).
• 'Golden Shoe' Award - Rhian Brewster of England (most goals).
• 'Golden Glove' Award - Brazil’s goalkeeper Gabriel Brazao.
• The official Mascot for FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 - Clouded leopard named 'Kheleo'.

FIFA Award winners
• Cristiano Ronaldo - Best FIFA Men's Player
• Lieke Martens - Best FIFA Women's Player
• Celtic - FIFA Fans Award
• Sarina Wiegman - Best FIFA Women's Coach
• Zinedine Zidane - Best FIFA Male Coach

PH: 24339436, 42867555, 9840226187
• Gigi Buffon - Best Goalkeeper  
• Olivier Giroud - Puskas Award for best goal  

Pro Kabaddi League  
• Held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai  
• 2017 - Season 5.  
• Patna Pirates beat Gujarat Fortune giants to clinch its third straight title in the ProKabaddi league.

Badminton French Open Super Series title  
• Men’s single: Kidambi Srikanth wins French open final to collect his fourth Super Series title of the year. In the final match, he defeated Japan's Kenta Nishimoto. He clinched titles at Indonesia, Australia and Denmark earlier this year.  
• Women's single: Won by Tai Tzu-ying from Chinese Taipei

Denmark Open  
• Men’s Singles - Kidambi Srikanth won by defeating Korea’s Lee Hyun II. This is his third Super Series title.  
• **Women's singles:** Ratchanok Inthanon (Thailand) won the title by defeating Akane Yamaguchi (Japan).  
• **Men's Double:** Chinese pair of Liu Cheng and Zhang Nan won the title by defeating Indonesian pair of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo.  
• **Women's doubles:** South Korean pair of Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan won the title by defeating Japanese pair of Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto.  
• **Mixed doubles:** Chinese pair of Zheng Siwei and Chen Qingchen won the title by defeating Hong Kong pair of Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet.

Tianjin Open title  
Maria Sharapova won her first title since May 2015, beating Aryna Sabalenka in the Tianjin Open final.

Shanghai Masters  
Roger Federer wins over Rafael Nadal.

2017 Asia Cup hockey title  
India won 2017 Asia Cup hockey title by defeating Malaysia in the final match held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was India's overall third Asia Cup title and earlier it had won it in 2003 and 2007

ATP World Tour: Vienna  
Rohan Bopanna of India and Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay won the doubles title in the Erste Bank Open. They beat Marcelo Demoliner and Sam Querrey.

Sports – others:  
1. Indian boxers win 8 medals in Balkan Open held at Sofia, Bulgaria. [4 golds, 1 silver and 3 bronze].
2. Johor Cup hockey: Indian junior team wins bronze medal defeating the host country Malaysia.

3. Gaganjeet Bhullar (Indian golfer) lifts Macao Open Trophy for the second time.

4. Lewis Hamilton (British racer) wins United States Grand Prix by defeating his rival Sebastian Vettel (German racer).

5. Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu won gold in air pistol mixed team event - at the world championships held at New Delhi.

6. Manav Thakkar - First Indian to Top ITTF Junior Circuit Rankings.

7. National Games to be held next year (November 2018) in Goa.

8. Pakistan to host 2018 Asian Cricket Council Emerging Nations Cup.

9. Martina Hingis announces retirement from pro tennis.

10. Kavita Devi becomes first Indian woman wrestler to sign with WWE.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 2017**

**PRELIMINARY / MAIN**

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Theme for 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>World Vegan Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 November</td>
<td>International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 November</td>
<td>World Tsunami Awareness Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>National Cancer Awareness Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 November</td>
<td>International Day Of Radiology or World Radiography Day</td>
<td>Theme: ‘Emergency Radiology’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>World Science Day for Peace and Development</td>
<td>Theme: ‘Science for Global Understanding’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>National Education Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Theme/Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 November</td>
<td>World Pneumonia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>World Kindness Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>Children’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>World Diabetes Day</td>
<td>Theme: ‘Women and diabetes – our right to a healthy future’</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 November</td>
<td>International Day for Tolerance, National Press Day</td>
<td>Theme for Tolerance Day: Together</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 November</td>
<td>World Philosophy Day</td>
<td>Commemorated on 3rd Thursday of November</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>International Students Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>World Toilet Day</td>
<td>Theme: ‘Wastewater’</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>International Men’s Day</td>
<td>Theme: ‘Celebrate Men and Boys’</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims</td>
<td>Commemorated on 3rd Sunday of November. Theme: ‘2020 Target: reduce road fatalities AND serious injuries by 50%’</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>National Integration Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th to 25th November</td>
<td>“Qaumi Ekta Week” (National Integration Week)</td>
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<td>20 November</td>
<td>Universal Children’s Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21 November</td>
<td>World Fisheries Day</td>
<td>Theme: ‘2022 Ka Hai Sapna ... Kisan Ki Aay Ho Dugna – Sankalp Se Siddhi’</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 November</td>
<td>World Television Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 November</td>
<td>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women</td>
<td>Theme: ‘Leave no one behind: end violence against women and girls’</td>
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| 26 November | 1. Constitution Day  
2. National Milk Day | |

## NATION

### National Power Portal

- A Centralized Platform for Collation and Dissemination of Indian power sector information.
- The system has been conceptualized, designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is nodal agency for implementation and operational control of NPP.
- NPP is centralised system for Indian Power Sector.
- **The Dashboard will act as single point interface for all Power Sector applications launch y by Power Ministry like TARANG, UJALA, GARV, URJA, VIDYUT PRAVAH, previousl .MERIT**The system will be available 24×7 and ensures effective and timely collection of data.

### Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App

- The Coal India Limited (CIL) launched Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran application for smooth delivery of coal through road for benefiting customers.
- The app aims to bring transparency in the system of loading programme and despatch of coal through road mode.

### Coal India Limited

CIL is the largest coal producer company in world and contributes around 81% of coal production in India. Union Government of India owns 90% of the shares in CIL and controls the operations of CIL through Ministry of Coal. It is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.

### Project Saksham
• The Indian Railways has launched Project Saksham, country’s largest time-bound “upskilling” exercise for its employees to boost their efficiency.
• Project Saksham aims to upgrade the skillsets of 13 lakh-strong workforce of Indian Railways with a single drive spanning nine months (from January 2018 to September 2018).

Hausla 2017

• The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017) from 16th to 20th November, 2017.
• In India, Children’s Day is celebrated on 14 November and International Child Rights Day is celebrated on 20 November every year. The period between these two important events will be celebrated as Child Rights Week by WCD Ministry).
• “Hausala 2017” festival will provide an occasion to showcase talents of children from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) from various child care institutions across country and provide them space to express their dreams and aspiration.

SHe-box portal

• Launched for both public and private sector.
• The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched comprehensive SHe-Box (sexual harassment e-box) online complaint Management System for women to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
• It is mainly be for women working in both public and private organizations to ensure effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (SH Act), 2013.
• Earlier the portal was launched in July 2017 for women working in central government offices. Now it can be accessed by all women who are part of workforce in organised sector across the country.

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

• Ministry of Communications launched a Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase the reach of Philately.
• Under the scheme of SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby), it is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.

India not to pursue Islamic banking: RBI

Islamic banking
Islamic banking is banking or banking activity that is consistent with the principles of sharia and its practical application through the development of Islamic economics. Sharia prohibits the fixed or floating payment or acceptance of specific interest of fee for loan of money. It is different from regular banking in that it prohibits earning of interest (or riba) through the business of lending.

**India to become world’s largest Sulphur Dioxide emitter: Study**

- As per study published by researchers at University of Maryland, US, India is overtaking China to become world’s largest emitter of anthropogenic Sulphur Dioxide (SO2).
- SO2 is an air pollutant that causes acid rain, haze and many health-related problems. It is produced predominantly during burning of coal to generate electricity and vehicular emissions.

**First project under Prime Minister’s Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative commissioned**

**Prime Minister’s Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative**

- It aims to minimize dependence on diesel in Ladakh region to meet power requirement by diverting to local renewable sources. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing project.
- The approach is to meet power requirements through small/micro hydel and solar photovoltaic power projects and use solar thermal systems for water heating/space heating/cooking requirements. It also envisages setting up of 10 solar photovoltaic power plants in defence establishments.

**National Testing Agency**

The Union Cabinet approved creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions. It will be society registered under Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.

**Facebook launches Disaster Maps in India for better response to disasters.**

- It is in a bid to help communities recover and rebuild faster in aftermath of natural disasters.
- The programme will be piloted in two disaster-prone States — Assam and Uttarakhand.

**Seven commodities granted Geographical Indication Tag** by the Indian patent office. It includes

- Banaganapalle mangoes (Andhra Pradesh)
- Tulaipanji rice (West Bengal)
- Pochampally Ikat (Telangana)
- Gobindobhog rice (West Bengal)
- Durgi stone carvings
• Etikoppaka toys (Andhra Pradesh)
• Chakshesang shawl (Nagaland).

Geographical Indication (GI)

A GI is primarily given to agricultural, natural or manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory for 10 years at a time.

BRO builds world’s highest motorable road

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed world’s highest motorable road in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. The 86-km-long road passing through Umlingla Top is at a height of over 19,300 feet.

Coastal Berth Scheme

• It aims to provide financial support to ports or state governments for creation of infrastructure for movement of cargo and passenger by sea or national waterways. It is a part of Sagarmala Programme.
• Sagarmala Project - The Sagarmala project aims to promote port-led development along India’s 7500 km long coastline by developing string of ports around coast.

Food Regulatory Portal

• It is a single interface for food businesses to cater to both domestic operations and food imports.
• The portal focuses on six key areas food standards, consistent enforcement, hassle free food imports, credible food testing and codified food safety practices of food sector.
• Launched on the sidelines of World Food India 2017 Expo.

Nivesh Bandhu

It is Investor Facilitation Portal to assist investors to make informed investment decisions. It will provide information on Central and State Governments investor friendly policies, agro-producing clusters, infrastructure, and potential areas of investment in the food processing sector. Launched on the sidelines of World Food India 2017 Expo.
FASTag mandatory for all new 4-wheelers from 01/12/2017: GoI

**FASTag**

FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from a prepaid or savings account linked to it. It is affixed on the windscreen of a vehicle and enables the commuter to drive through toll plazas without stopping for cash transactions.

**Legal Entity Identifier mandatory for all large corporate borrowers: RBI.**

**Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)**

- LEI is a 20-digit unique code to identify parties to financial transactions worldwide. The LEI system was developed by G20 in response to the inability of financial institutions to identify organisations uniquely, so that their financial transactions in different national jurisdictions can be fully tracked.
- LEI mechanism will help banks to effectively monitor debt exposure of corporate borrowers. It will also enable banks in preventing multiple loans to companies against the same collateral.

**India offers to share real-time maritime data with 10 Indian Ocean littoral states.** This comes at a time when India is gearing up to counter China’s increased presence in Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

**Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC)**

- Indian Navy had hosted Navy and Maritime Chiefs of 10 countries of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) at first GMC to identify common threats in the region and evolve a mechanism on how to tackle them.
- It aimed to bring together like-minded nations to evolve and formulate collective responses to emerging challenges in the maritime domain.
- It was aimed at “Addressing Regional Maritime Challenges”.

**Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan**

A nationwide science talent search examination will be held on 26th November 2017. It is a unique initiative to give a boost to learning of science, technology, and mathematics among youth—especially the school students.
Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)

It is one of the largest science movements in the country led by eminent scientists. It aims to inculcate and generate scientific temper, foster excellence in students and nurture and mentor them for their careers in pure sciences.

Chintan Shivir

- A two-day National Workshop ‘Chintan Shivir’ organized by Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development in New Delhi.
- The main aim of the workshop is to provide holistic education relevant for 21st century India and to bring together key stakeholders from various NGOs, private sector and individuals to deliberate on key themes in the education sector.
- Workshop mainly focuses on five themes i.e. Digital education, Life Skill education, Experimental learning, Physical Education and Value education.

Cauvery Tribunal

- Cauvery is an inter-State basin having its origin in Karnataka and flowing through Tamil Nadu and Puduchery before outfalling in Bay of Bengal.
- Government of India on June 02, 1990 constituted the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) to adjudicate the water dispute among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

Govt to promote Khichdi as ‘Brand India food’

- Over 800 kg khichdi, a traditional Indian dish relished by both rich and poor, was prepared live on November 4 at the World Food India event here in a bid to create world record and popularise it as Brand India food globally.
- Khichdi has been selected as Brand India Food because it symbolises the country’s unity in diversity.

ICICI’s Chanda Kochhar ranks 32 in Forbes’ World’s 100 most powerful women list. Other Indian women in the list are CEO of HCL Enterprise Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of Biocon Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Hindustan Times Group Shobhana Bhartia and actress Priyanka Chopra. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was ranked first in the list.

India’s Second TISC
India’s second Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) to be established at the Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), Anna University, Chennai, under the World Intellectual Property Organization’s (WIPO) TISC program.

**ONGC gets government nod for acquiring HPCL** in line with the government’s plan to create an integrated energy major with businesses spread across the hydrocarbon value chain.

**IDFC Bank partners** with mobile wallet major MobiKwik to launch a co-branded virtual Visa prepaid card for customers of MobiKwik.

- One need not be a customer of IDFC Bank to use the co-branded pre-paid card.
- MobiKwik had a user base of 65 million. In the last one year, MobiKwik’s reach has increased from 1 lakh to 20 lakh merchants.

**'Suno RBI Kya Kehta Hai' campaign**

The Reserve Bank will soon launch an awareness campaign - 'Suno RBI Kya Kehta Hai' - through SMSes to warn the public against falling prey to unsolicited and fictitious offers from fraudsters.

**Union minister Alphons Kannanthanam elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha** from Rajasthan. The seat fell vacant after M Venkaiah Naidu’s election as the country’s vice president on August 5.

**Extreme weather events: India 6th most vulnerable country**

India is the sixth most vulnerable country in the world in terms of facing extreme weather events with Haiti, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Vietnam taking top five positions in the fresh list of nations facing climate risk.

**Varanasi Tops The List of Country's Most Polluted City**

- Varanasi’s Air Quality Index (AQI) at 4 PM was at an alarming 491, followed by Gurugram at 480, Delhi at 468, Lucknow at 462 and Kanpur at 461.
- Notably, pollution level is categorised as ‘severe’ when the AQI ranges between 401 and 500, which affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases.

**India’s first ever 'Air Dispensary'**

Northeast is all set to get India’s first-ever "Air Dispensary" based in a helicopter. Helicopter will be based at two locations, namely Imphal in Manipur and Meghalaya in Shillong.

**Youth Fest at Kishtwar, J&K**
• Army organised a mega event Youth Fest : 2017 on 13 Nov 2017 at the historic Chowgan ground of Kishtwar.
• The Fest was an amalgamation of varied programmes highlighting the rich culture of different regions of India and stalls of food, entertainment and games for people of all the age groups to rejoice & cherish.
• The event also encompassed display of various ethnic specialities from across the country.

**BharatNet Phase II**

The government launched Phase II of BharatNet project through which it aims to provide high-speed broadband connections to all panchayats by the end of 2019.

**NATION – One liners**

• P.D. Siwal Committee - to investigate the 1 November blast at state-run NTPC Ltd’s Unchahar power plant in Raebareli and suggest measures to prevent such incidents.
• 2nd National Judicial Pay Commission for subordinate judiciary in country - Headed by Justice (Retd) J P.Venkatrama Reddi.
• **India will be free from poverty, corruption, terrorism by 2022: Niti Aayog.**
• India re-elected member of UNESCO’s executive board. Executive board is UNESCO’s top decision-making body.
• India’s 1st consignment of wheat assistance to Afghanistan reaches Chabahar port.
• **The Tata Group is India’s most valuable brand, followed by Reliance and Airtel according to a rating by Interbrand India.**
• Environment ministry forms 7-member panel to monitor Delhi pollution. The committee will be headed by environment secretary CK Mishra.
• GST Council cuts tax slab for 178 items from 28% to 18%
• **ICICI Bank launches voice-based international remittance service on its Money2India application.**
• **Yes Bank signs MoU with government for Rs 1,000 crore financing for food processing projects.**
• HDFC Bank to set up SmartUp zones in 30 cities across the country where specially trained bank staff will offer tailor-made banking and advisory solutions to entrepreneurs.
• HDFC Bank makes RTGS, NEFT online transactions free.

**INDICES**

**World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index 2017**

• India ranks 108th out of 144 countries, primarily due to less participation of women in the economy and low wages.
• The index measures gender gap as progress towards parity between men and women in four indicators (i) Educational attainment, (ii) Health and survival, (iii) Economic opportunity and (iv) Political empowerment.
• Iceland is most gender-equal country with score of 0.878.
World Bank ease of doing business rankings 2018

- **India ranks 100 among 190 countries.**
- The report ranks New Zealand, Singapore and Denmark as the easiest countries in the world to do business.

Global Business Optimism Ranking

- India ranks 7th.
- Indonesia is at the top, followed by Finland (2nd), the Netherlands (3rd) as per Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR).

Gender Vulnerability Index

- **Goa ranks top, Bihar at bottom of Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI)** released by Child development NGO Plan India.
- Goa has been ranked as safest place for women while Delhi is also ranked very low.

The India Youth Development Index and Report 2017

- The objective of constructing the India Youth Development Index (YDI) 2017 is to track the trends in Youth Development across the States.
- The Index enables recognizing the high and low performing states, identifies the weak domains and informs the policy makers the priority areas of intervention for youth development in the states.
- The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, an Institute of National Importance has come out with Youth Development Index and Report 2017.
- This is a pioneering attempt made by the Institute in 2010 which it followed up with the India Youth Development Index in 2017.

**STATES**

‘She Pad’ scheme

In order to ensure menstrual hygiene among girls, the Kerala government rolled out the ‘She Pad’ scheme. The scheme will benefit female students from classes 6 to 12. The scheme will facilitate free sanitary napkins, storage spaces for napkins and environment-friendly incinerators at all government and aided schools in the state.

India’s first Blackbuck conservation reserve

It is to come up at Allahabad’s Meja, Uttar Pradesh. It will be first of its kind conservation reserves in India exclusively dedicated to blackbuck. Indian Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra) is an antelope and is the only living species of the genus Antilope. It is considered to be the fastest animal in the world next to Cheetah.

Sonepur cattle fair, Asia's largest
The traditional cattle fair was held on the confluence of Ganga, Gandak and Mahi rivers in Bihar.

**STATES – ONE LINERS**

1. 2nd Technology and Innovation Support Centre established in Chennai at Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), Anna University.
2. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) grants Rs. 13,000 cr loan to Andhra Pradesh.
3. OHEPEE (Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity) Project: Government inks $119 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank
4. **Assam, Singapore sign MoU for skilling youths under** Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.
5. North India's biggest Butterfly Conservatory Park to come up in Gurugram to save species under threat from rapid urbanisation from going extinct.
6. Haryana becomes first state to treat Hepatitis-C patients with oral medicine.
7. **West Bengal Gets GI (Geographical Indication) Tag for Rasogolla.**
8. Urdu declared the second official language in Telangana.
9. **Uttar Pradesh tops in mobilising Jan Dhan accounts.**

**WORLD**

**ICIJ releases Paradise papers**

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has released ‘The Paradise Papers’, a global investigation that reveals the offshore activities of some of the world’s most powerful people and companies.

**ISA, EBRD ink pact on solar energy**
The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have signed Joint Financial Partnership Declaration for cooperation on renewable energy projects around the world. The collaboration between the ISA and the EBRD would also help funding of solar projects both in African and other countries.

**Most improved economy in the world**

Brunei Darussalam has been named the most improved economy in the world for the third year in a row in the World Bank’s Doing Business Report 2018.

**Kazakhstan to change its name by 2025**

- The central Asian country of Kazakhstan is changing its name to Qazaqstan in a challenge to Russian influence over the country.
- Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has resigned after facing allegations of bribery and money laundering.
- International solar alliance to support setting up 1000 GW of solar energy capacity by 2030 across its member countries.
- Guinea becomes new member of International Solar Alliance.
- Saudi Arabia approves Yoga as a sports activity.

**INDIA AND THE WORLD**

**UN-India Partnership Fund**

India has pledged additional US $100 million towards UN-India Partnership Fund to significantly scale up its support to sustainable development projects across the developing world.

**Bandhan Express**

A new passenger train service between Kolkata and Bangladesh's southwestern industrial city of Khulna was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina and the West Bengal chief minister. A fully air-conditioned weekly passenger train service that will run every Thursday.

**India, Philippines ink four agreements in various fields**

India and Philippines have signed four agreements in areas of defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks.

**Emirates NBD, the UAE's second-largest lender, has started operations in India.**
PRABAL DOSTYK 2017

A 14-day joint training exercise between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

SAMPRITI

The seventh edition of Indo-Bangladesh joint military training exercise begun in Meghalaya. It is held alternately in India and Bangladesh every year. Previous edition of ‘SAMPRITI’ was held at Tangail in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2016.

EX BLUE FLAG-17

Blue Flag is a bi-annual multilateral exercise, which aims to strengthen military cooperation amongst participating nations. A biennial military aviation exercise conducted by Israel at Uvda Air Force Base in Israel. Indian Air Force is participating with the C-130J special operations aircraft along with Garud commandos.

SAGAR KAVACH

The Governments of Odisha and neighbouring West Bengal conducted joint security exercise named ‘Sagar Kavach’ to further tighten the existing coastal security mechanism along the 630 km long coastline.

NIRBHAY

‘NIRBHAY’ - India’s first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile which can be deployed from multiple platforms. It was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

CATOBAR

Indian Navy is likely to use advanced catapult-based aircraft launch mechanism (CATOBAR) from United States for its second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-II), which is on drawing board.

India's first Military Literature Festival to be held at Chandigarh in December as a tribute to the armed forces.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*Musa paramjitiana*: New species of wild banana discovered in Andaman and Nicobar.
**Tyrannomyrmex alii:** New ant species discovered in the Western Ghats in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala. It has been named Tyrannomyrmex alii (or T. alii), after eminent myrmecologist Musthak Ali, who is regarded as the India’s ‘ant man’.

**Pongo tapanuliensis:** New species of orangutan identified in remote upland forests of North Sumatra.

**Fossils of oldest mammal ancestor discovered in UK:** A tiny rat-like creature, a nocturnal mammal was discovered on Jurassic Coast of Dorset. The mammal is earliest in line that evolved into humans.

**China launches two BeiDou-3 navigation satellites:** These two satellites represent third phase of BDS system (BeiDou-3). It is the final stage of the establishment of Chinese space-based navigation architecture.

**Earthquake-proof concrete:** Researchers from University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada have developed earthquake-proof fibre-reinforced concrete that can dramatically enhance the earthquake resistance of seismically vulnerable structures.

**BadRabbit ransomware:** Mass attacks of ransomware called BadRabbit were observed recently in Russia.

**A1689B11:** Scientists discover universe’s most ancient spiral galaxy known as A1689B11, recorded so far in the universe.

**NASA spots 20 planets that may host alien life.**

**PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS**

1. **Cornelia Sorabji** - Google’s Doodle honours India’s first woman advocate.
2. **Audrey Azoulay** - Appointed new DG of UNESCO.
3. **Ajay Bisaria** - Appointed India’s high commissioner to Pakistan.
4. **Ravi Bangar** - Next Ambassador of India to Ecuador.
5. **Suresh Chukkapalli** - Appointed as Consul General of Korea.
6. **Shri Nasir Kamal** - Additional Director General, BSF
8. Sethurathnam Ravi - Appointed as chairman of BSE.
9. Hasmukh Adhia - Appointed as Finance Secretary.
11. Rice Field laboratory in Manila named after PM Modi (‘Shri Narendra Modi Resilient Rice Field Laboratory’).
12. Tulsi Gabbard (first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress) - Chairperson of World Hindu Congress 2018 to be held in Chicago next year.
13. Padma Shri awardee author Manu Sharma (Hindi) passes away.
14. Former Test cricketer Milkha Singh passes away.
15. Former Nepal PM Bista passes away at 90.

**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

**UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network**

Chennai included in UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network for Contribution in Music. It was among 64 cities from 44 countries that were designated as UNESCO Creative Cities. Chennai is the third Indian city on the list of UNESCO Creative Cities list after Jaipur (added as City of Music) and Varanasi (City of Crafts and Folk Art) were added last year. UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network - launched in 2004.

**Jnanpith Award – 2017**

Renowned Hindi littérateur Krishna Sobti has been chosen for this year’s Jnanpith Award. She hails from Gujarat in Pakistan’s Punjab Province.

**Dun & Bradstreet award**

- Tata Power Solar has won ‘Dun & Bradstreet - Everest Infra Awards 2017’ under Infrastructure Project category for commissioning India's largest solar project under Domestic Content Requirement for NTPC at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh.

**2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards**

Tamil Nadu’s historic Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam became a national symbol of conserving cultural heritage after bagging an Award of Merit from UNESCO - the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is the only religious centre in the whole of South India to bag the award in 2017.
• On a side note, the famous Christ Church in Mumbai and Royal Bombay Opera House are the other historic Indian monuments that received the Award of Merit this year, in addition to the temple.

Jewish Nobel Prize – Genesis Prize

• Recipient - Natalie Portman. Awarded in recognition of her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots. Her social activism was in areas such as gender equality, combatting poverty, microfinance and animal rights.
• The Jewish Nobel Prize - The $1 million award, is granted each year to a person recognised as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through professional achievement and commitment to Jewish values.

Mother Teresa Award 2017 for social justice

• The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017 as an acknowledgement of its exceptional work worldwide.
• The UNHCR provides humanitarian aid to innumerable people internally displaced by conflicts and helping stateless people all over the world,
• Harmony Foundation has instituted the only official award in memory of Mother Teresa, who attained sainthood in September 2016.

Awards for Best Urban Transport Practices by Central Government

• Surat gets Best City Bus Services Award of Government of India for attracting 87% of private vehicles and auto rickshaw users.
• Mysuru gets Best Non-Motorised Transport Award for its Public Bicycle Sharing.
• Kochi wins Best Urban Transport Initiative Award for fastest completion of its integrated Metro Rail.
• Hyderabad commended for Traffic Management; Chittor for accident reduction initiative.

National Entrepreneurship Award 2017 under Mentor Category

Recipient - Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser in the Department of Bio-technology, Ministry of Science & Technology has been awarded with National Entrepreneurship Award, 2017 under Mentor (Government) category in the Recognition Track.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2017 by ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) - Awarded to CMC Skills’ Founder Ms. Maya Swaminathan Sinha.

2017 Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award – Awarded to Veteran actor and playwright, Girish Karnad. He is also recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.
Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement - Awarded to Eminent classical singer late Girija Devi.

Mumbai’s Royal Opera House bags UNESCO heritage award - has been awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company wins 'General Insurance Company of the Year' at 21st Asia Insurance Industry Awards.

**SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES**

APEC summit 2017

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held in Da Nang, Vietnam. It is a year-long hosting of APEC meeting.
- The theme of summit was ‘Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future’.
- Next year’s APEC summit will be held in Papua New Guinea.
- It marks the second time Vietnam will be playing host to the APEC, having hosted the event previously in 2006.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- It is regional economic forum of 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- Its headquarters are in Singapore.
- 21 Members Economies: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russian and Vietnam.
- India is observer of APEC since 2011 and has applied for membership.

31st ASEAN Summit

- Held at Manila, Philippines.
- ASEAN's theme for 2017 is 'Partnering for Change, Engaging the World'.
- ASEAN was formed on 8 August 1967. It has 10 member countries.
- Rodrigo Duterte (Current president of Philippines) is the current Chairman of the organization.

15th Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team Conference
• Held in India
• It was organised by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
• The theme of conference was “Building Trust in the Digital Economy”.

7th Asia Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER) in Bangkok

• Venue - Bangkok, Thailand.

• India is the current chair of International Energy Forum (IEF) which is promoting the AMER - a biennial event bringing together Energy Ministers and experts from Asian countries.

• Ministerial Roundtable speak topic - “Natural Gas: Overcoming Market and Policy Hurdles to the Golden Age of Gas”.

10th South Asia Economic Summit

Held at Kathmandu, Nepal with the theme “Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia”.

Nobel Prize Series-India 2018

• The Goa government with the Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Nobel Media, Sweden to hold the ‘Nobel Prize Series — India 2018 to be held from February 1-28, 2018.
• The Nobel series has earlier been organised in Gujarat.
• The event will consist of exhibition from the Nobel Museum and Nobel dialogues in which Nobel laureates will interact with school children and teachers.

Global Clubfoot Conference

• Organised by the CURE India in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
• Clubfoot is one of the most common orthopaedic birth defects. It can cause permanent disability if not treated early.
• This affects the child’s mobility and confidence. Inevitably, education and schooling suffer – and the child cannot fulfil his or her potential.

World Food India 2017

• Venue - New Delhi.
• WFI is the most anticipated international mega food event, as India welcomes to host biggest ever congregation of global investors and business leaders of major food companies from 3-5 November in New Delhi.
• Organized by Ministry of Food Processing Industries under leadership of Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal
• World Food India aims to transform Food Economy and realize the vision of doubling of farmers’ income by establishing India as a preferred investment destination and sourcing hub for the global food processing industry.
• This is the first time that India is hosting such an event for the Food processing sector.
• **Investments worth $11 bn committed during World Food India.**
• A Guinness World Records was also created by cooking 918 kg of Khichdi at the event.

**Organic World Congress – 2017**

• A three-day Organic World Congress – 2017 being organized at Greater Noida.
• The Organic World Congress (OWC) is organized once every three years in a different country and this time it is being organised in India.
• The last edition of the Organic World Congress took place in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014.
• The International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) and OAFI are organizing the event where 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states will showcase 4,000 varieties of seeds.
• The goal is to move from organic India to the organic world - India is one of the oldest organic agricultural nations of the world.

**World Youth Forum**

• Scheduled to be held at Sharam El Shiekh, Egypt.
• Col Rathore has been deputed to represent the country at the Forum.
• The Forum aims to provide a platform to the youth from all over the globe to engage with the key global policy makers.
• The forum will cover role of youth in business and innovation, challenges and making of future leaders, gender equity and women empowerment among other things.

**India Disaster Response Summit**

• Organised jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook, on how best to leverage social media platforms to 'prepare, respond and recover' for, during and after a disaster.

**37th India International Trade Fair**

• Held at New Delhi.
• The theme of fair is “Startup India, Standup India”.
• Vietnam is partner country, while Kyrgyzstan is focus country for this edition of fair. Jharkhand is participating as partner state in the event.

**India’s 1st Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit**
India’s first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit has been organised in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. Aiming to inspire, nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the tribal youth. The summit is part of 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit being held in India.

**Asian Bankers Association summit.**

For the first time, the nation’s financial capital (Mumbai) will host the 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA). It will be hosted by State Bank, with the theme of ‘Asia’s turn to transform’.

**ONE LINERS**

- **21st World Congress of mental health** - Held at New Delhi, with the theme “Partnerships for Mental Health”.
- 4th Annual India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade - held at New Delhi.
- **First Heli Expo India & International Civil Helicopter Conclave began** in New Delhi.
- The largest so far ASEAN-India business summit to be held in New Delhi.
- Two-day conference of States Power Ministers to be held in Rajgir, Bihar.
- **New Delhi hosted the 9th global green film fest.**

**SPORTS / GAMES**

**Asian Women’s Boxing Championships**

- Mary Kom won gold medal.
- Event held at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.
- She defeated North Korea’s Kim Hyang Mi in the final.

**Women’s hockey Asia Cup 2017**

- Event held at Kakamighara, Japan.
- India defeated China. With this victory, India qualified for 2018 World Cup. It was India’s second Women’s Asia Cup title and first one was won in 2004.

**AIBA Women's Youth World Championships ambassador**

Five-time world champion MC Mary Kom was named ambassador of the AIBA Women's Youth World Championships to be held in Guwahati in November. Besides five world titles, Mary Kom also has an Olympic bronze medal to her credit.

**Commonwealth shooting Championships**

Heena Sidhu claimed the 10m air pistol gold, while Deepak Kumar fetched a silver in the 10m air rifle event at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships held at Brisbane, Australia.
SPORTS - OTHERS

1. India's star gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been conferred a D.Litt. degree from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala. The 24-year-old Tripura girl is the first Indian woman gymnast to have qualified for the Olympics.
2. HS Prannoy, Saina Nehwal win 82nd Senior National Championship titles by defeating Kidambi Srikanth and PV Sindhu respectively. Held at Nagpur.
3. Pankaj Advani clinched his 17th world title defeating Mike Russell of England in the IBSF World Billiards Championship held at Doha.
4. Pakistan off-spinner Saeed Ajmal announces retirement from all forms of cricket.
5. Sebastian Vettel wins Brazilian Grand Prix.

NOVEMBER - PART 2

NATION

India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHTMI)

- The IHMI is a collaborative project of ICMR, MoHFW, World Health Organization (WHO), State Governments and Resolve to Save Lives initiative of Vital Strategies
- Its primary goal is to reduce morbidity and mortality due to Cardiovascular diseases, by improving control of high blood pressure, which is the leading risk factor of cardiovascular diseases among adults in India.

UMANG app

- Government launched new all-in-one mobile application called UMANG with an aim to make Government services accessible on mobile phone of the citizens, in a single platform.
- The term UMANG stands for Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.
- The services live on the app include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) among others.
- It supports 13 Indian languages and caters to on-demand scalability. It will also soon support feature phones without internet through USSD.

Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme

- The scheme is part of Umbrella Scheme “Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women” of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
• It aims at empowering rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realise their full potential.

• PMMSK scheme is envisioned as one-stop convergence support service for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, digital literacy, health and nutrition and employment.

Sangai Festival 2017

• Held at Manipur.

• The annual Sangai Festival was celebrated in the north eastern state of Manipur. It is the grandest festival of the state to promote Manipur as a world class tourism destination.

Vasectomy Fortnight

• Observed by GoI from November 21 onwards for a period of 2 weeks.

• To raise awareness about male sterilisation and to promote the participation of men in family planning.

• Under this awareness campaign, all states and union territories observed Vasectomy Fortnight by providing quality of male sterilisation services at public health facilities.

• Vasectomy - It is a form of birth control for men where health care provider closes or blocks tubes that carry sperm. When these tubes are closed, sperm cannot leave man’s body and prevents pregnancy. It is meant to be permanent. Medically and financially it is more viable compared to female sterilization.

India sends proposal to UN for declaring 2018 as International Year of Millet

• The proposal, if agreed, will raise awareness about millets among consumers, policy makers, industry and R&D sector.

• Millet is a common term to categorize small-seeded grasses that are often termed nutri-cereals or dryland-cereals, and includes sorghum, pearl millet, ragi, small millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, barnyard millet, kodo millet and other millets.

The National Biomaterial Centre

• National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank) was inaugurated at the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), New Delhi.

• The main thrust & objective of this centre is to fill up the gap between ‘demand’ and ‘supply’ as well as ‘quality assurance’ in the availability of various tissues.

Exclusive 'Rural Livelihood' scheme for Northeast
• The unique scheme under the title “North East Rural Livelihood Project” is being supported by the World Bank and will primarily benefit the tribals and the lower socioeconomic groups, including women, in the North-Eastern Region (NER).
• To begin with, four states, - Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, will be taken up for helping the tribal and even the non-tribal lower groups living in remote areas.
• The project is aimed at assisting over 10,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and benefit about three lakh poor households.

Campaign #MuhPeTaala

• During the International Fraud Awareness week, Axis Bank in association with Mumbai Police has launched its latest campaign #MuhPeTaala to promote safe banking.
• The aim of campaign is to raise awareness about how to keep oneself safe from falling prey to fraudulent calls asking information such as pin code, CVV, OTP etc.
• #MuhPeTaala is the mantra that needs to be followed to prevent cyber banking crimes.

Arun Jaitley launches Paytm Payments Bank

• Currently, India has four Payments Bank including Paytm Payments Bank. The other three operational ones are Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank and Fino Payments Bank.
• A payments bank is a differentiated bank. A customer can open a savings bank account in them and have deposits of upto Rs 1 lakh. These banks cannot however lend money to their customers.

MoUs under UDAY

Government has signed four MoUs under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) Scheme with Nagaland and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu for operational improvements. With this, 27 States and 4 UTs have joined UDAY till date.

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)

• UDAY Scheme was launched by Union Power Ministry for financial turnaround and revival package for state electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs).
• It aimed to help to make distribution companies financially and operationally healthy so that they can supply adequate power at affordable rates.

Saubhagya Web Portal

• Ministry of Power launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – ‘Saubhagya’ Web Portal.
• The portal can be accessed at http://saubhagya.gov.in.
• The web portal aims to ensure transparency as well as accelerate household electrification in rural as well as urban areas in the country.
• Saubhagya web portal will enable every state to fill current status of progress of electrification works which will enable accountability for State DISCOMs/utilities.

Saubhagya Scheme

• Saubhagya scheme (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2017 with an aim at providing last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households.
• Under it, government will provide all willing households in rural areas and poor families in urban areas free electricity connections identified under Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) data 2011.
• Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) is nodal agency for operationalization of the scheme throughout the country.

Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week)

• It will be observed from November 19-25, 2017.
• The observance is aimed at fostering and reinforcing the spirit of communal harmony, national integration and pride in vibrant, composite culture and nationhood.
• November 19, 2017 will be observed as National Integration Day.
• Programmes will be organized to emphasize the themes of secularism, anti-communalism and non-violence.
• Observed by National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) in India.

IndiaRAP

• India Road Assessment Programme (IndiaRAP) was unveiled by Global Charity to rate highways’ safety levels and to eliminate the most unsafe roads.
• It aims to make Indian roads safer and curb fatalities.

Bio-toilets to be installed in all trains by 2018-end: Government

Bio-toilets
Indian Railway had developed environment friendly ‘Bio-toilets in association with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Bio-toilets evacuate discharge into a biodigester tank, containing anaerobic bacteria, fitted underneath train coach in small space.

The bacteria convert human faecal matter into water and small amount of gases (including methane) by process of hydrolysis, acetogenesis, acidogenesis and methanogenesis.

Hunar Haat

Venue - New Delhi.

It displayed exquisite pieces of handicraft and handloom prepared by master artisans from across the country.

Organised by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs under Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme at different parts of country.

USTAAD scheme

Aims at preserving and promoting the rich heritage of traditional arts & crafts of the Minority communities. In light of globalisation & competitive market, these crafts have gradually lost their employability. It also envisages at boosting skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in traditional ancestral work.

Government to introduce BS-VI auto fuels in Delhi from 2018

Bharat Stage Norms

- Bharat stage norms are emission standards instituted by Government to regulate output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles.
- The standards and timeline for implementation are set by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change.
- The standards are based on European regulations and were first introduced in 2000. Since then, various stages Bharat Stage compatible fuel and ungraded and modified vehicles were introduced throughout the country.
- The harmful emissions that are identified for regulations in different Bharat Stages (BS) are carbon monoxide (CO), unburnt hydrocarbons (HC), Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Particulate matter (PM).
Each stage specifies a certain limit on the pollutants released, Higher the Bharat Stage goes lesser it emits pollutants.

- BS-I, BS-II and BS-III stages were launched in 2000, 2005 and 2010 respectively

**BS VI Norms** - The BS-IV compliant fuels have Sulphur concentration of 50 parts per million (ppm). It will come down to 10 ppm in BS-VI compliant fuels and auto engines. It will result in lower level of harmful emissions and reduced incidence of lung diseases. Moreover, switch to BS-VI norms will also reduce concentration of carbon monoxide (CO), unburnt hydrocarbons, nitrous oxide (NOx) and particulate matter from emissions.

**Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendras in 115 districts**

The Centre has approved setting up of 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendras' across 115 most backward districts of the country through a new scheme for reaching out to rural women and facilitating skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.

**Bamboo not ‘tree’ any more**

- President promulgates ordinance to amend Indian Forest Act, 1927 to encourage bamboo plantation by farmers in private lands.
- The ordinance omits bamboo (taxonomically a grass) grown in non-forest areas from definition of trees.
- The omission, thereby exempts it from requiring permits for felling or transportation of bamboo grown in non-forest areas.
- By omitting bamboo grown in non-forest areas from definition of trees, government hoped to promote cultivation of bamboo in non-forest areas to achieve the “twin objectives” of increasing the income of farmers and also increasing the green cover of the country.

**YONO**

- State Bank of India will soon launch country’s first integrated lifestyle and banking digital service platform named YONO (acronym for ‘You Only Need One’).
- YONO is first digital banking platform that will allow customers to meet their lifestyle needs across 14 categories including booking and renting cabs, entertainment, dining experience, travel and stay.
- YONO is path-breaking comprehensive digital product of SBI, developed using world’s latest digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Predictive Analytics and Machine learning.
1. Skill India partners with Airbnb (the world’s leading community-driven hospitality company) to Upskill Hospitality Entrepreneurs.

2. Government to initiate Safe city plan for women in eight metropolitan cities of the country. It will be implemented in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

3. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched Daily Drug Regimen for treatment of Tuberculosis (TB) patients across the country under The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP).

4. Cabinet increases carpet area of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - in MIG I category from existing 90 square metre (sq m) to up to 120 sq m. (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) - Under PMAY-U, Government aims to provide houses to all urban poor by 2022).

5. Competition Commission slaps Rs 52-crore penalty on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for anti-competitive practices with respect to IPL media rights.


7. Government to transform 115 backward districts by 2022, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision to create a “New India” over the next five years.

8. Government launches intensive program to train Elected Women Representatives of PRIs.

9. RBL Bank opens all women branch in Chennai (RA Puram).

10. Asian Development Bank to provide $20 billion loan to India over five years.

11. SBI biggest bank by volume of SMSEs.

**INDICES**

1. India is ranked **14th** in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2018 out of 56 nations for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

2. India ranks **51** on IMD Talent Rankings among 63 countries in terms of ability to attract, develop and retain talent.

3. India ranks **126** in terms of GDP per capita of countries, still ranked lower than all its BRICS peers.

**STATES**

Dishari

- It is an educational mobile application that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations. By the government of Rajasthan.
- The app features interactive quizzes with questions related to mathematics, general knowledge, current affairs, computers, reasoning, and economics.

New Electronic Interlocking at Kharagpur Junction

- India’s largest state of the art, Electronic Interlocking (EI) system of 800 routes has been commissioned at Kharagpur station in West Bengal.
Odisha to launch new irrigation scheme

Odisha government has decided to launch a new scheme worth Rs 635 crore to provide irrigation facility to about 55,000 hectare of agricultural land across the state. The scheme, “Nabakrushna Choudhury Seccha Unnayan Yojana”, has been named after former chief minister and freedom fighter Nabakrushna Choudhury.

India's first electric vehicle charging station

Indian Oil Corporation, in collaboration with Ola, launched the country’s first electric charging station at one of its petrol-diesel stations in Nagpur. Nagpur is the first city to introduce Electric Public Transportation Model in India.

TN has highest number of women entrepreneurs: Report

Tamil Nadu has the highest number of women entrepreneurs in India, followed by Kerala and West Bengal, reveals a new report. Nearly 80 per cent of women entrepreneurs in India are self-financing their businesses, with little utilization of the various government schemes.

MP partners with Nagaland and Manipur under Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat Yojana

Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat Yojana - It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Ekta Diwas (31st October 2015) on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. Its objective is to strengthen cultural relations of various parts of country and to embolden mutual connection between people dwelling in different states.

Aadi Mahotsav - A fortnight long Tribal Festival with the theme of ‘A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce’ held at , New Delhi.

STATES - ONELINERS

• 'Fish Pond Yojana' - Odisha launched Rs. 96-cr scheme to increase fish production in the state.
• India’s first mega Coastal Economic Zone (CEZ) to come up at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Maharashtra.
• Punjab government to give Rs. 75,000 aid for SC, inter-caste marriages.
• Bihar government to set up ‘State Ayush Society’ with an aim to promote the usage of alternative medicine in the state.
• Maharashtra Bans Plastic Bottles at Government Offices, Hotels; in a bid to become plastic-free state from March 2018.
• India-Afghan Cultural Festival - Held at New Delhi.
• First Namami Barak festival - Held at Assam.
WORLD

Three-phased solution on Rohingyas crisis - Proposal by China

Three-stage solution:

• First stage: Myanmar should impose ceasefire and stop persecuted Rohingyas from fleeing into Bangladesh.
• Second stage: Bangladesh and Myanmar should strengthen exchanges and find solution on basis of equality.
• Third stage: International community to help develop the backward Rakhine state and poverty alleviation of Rohingyas in Myanmar.

WORLD – ONE LINERS

• China launched world’s first fully electric cargo ship in Guangzhou, capital city of Guangdong province. It is the first ship in the world to use lithium ion battery. The ship will be mainly used to run in inland section of Pearl River for carrying coal for generation of electric power.
• Founding Ceremony of International Solar Alliance was held in Bonn, Germany.
• Russia has agreed to assist India to set up National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) in the country to handle disaster and other emergency situations.
• WHO for first time releases guidelines on child sex abuse.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

Moscow declaration

• Representatives from 120 countries have adopted Moscow Declaration on the side lines of the first WHO Global Ministerial Conference.
• The declaration calls for eliminating additional deaths from HIV co-infection by 2020 and achieving synergy in coordinated action against Tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
• India is among signatories to the declaration.
• A co-infection is when a person suffers from two infections at same time.

ONE-LINERS
• India has pledged to contribute about USD 2.87 million to Afghanistan in its latest financial assistance to the neighbouring country.
• Road-map for Talanoa Dialogue prepared at Bonn UN Climate Change Conference.
• India-Russia sign comprehensive anti-terror pact.
• India-Singapore ink Bilateral Agreement for Navy Cooperation.
• India and Italy ink MoU for enhanced cooperation in the health sector.
• India, Greece sign Air Services Agreement.
• India to help Mauritius on digital locker.
• BRICS bank approves $400 million loans for India, Russia.

**SUMMITS/CONFERENCES**

**International Geological Congress in 2020**

• India will host the 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi in March 2020. The Congress will be hosted jointly by the Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Earth Sciences with active support from science academies of India and co-host neighbouring countries.

**INSPIRE 2017**

• International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency.
• The first edition of INSPIRE 2017 was held at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

**5th global conference on cyber space**

• Venue - New Delhi.
• GCCS is one of world’s largest conferences on cyber space.
• It is for first time organized in India.
• The theme of the two-day conference is “Cyber4All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development”.

**International Gita Mahotsav**

• The objective behind Mahotsav is to spread the message of Gita to world.
• The second edition of the event was organised by Haryana Government at Kurukshetra.
• Mauritius was partner country and Uttar Pradesh was partner state of the event.

**International Seminar on Indian Space Programme**
• Inaugurated in New Delhi.
• The International Seminar on Indian Space Programme: ‘Trends and Opportunities for Industry’ was inaugurated in New Delhi.
• Organised by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Antrix Corporation Limited (the commercial arm of ISRO), in coordination with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

• 48th edition. Venue - Goa
• Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year Award at the event, while Canadian director Atom Egoyan will receive Lifetime Achievement Award.
• IFFI - Founded in 1952, is one of the most significant film festivals in Asia.

12th North East Business Summit

• Venue - New Delhi.
• The summit aims to explore the scope for business opportunities in the North-Eastern region of India.
• Focus areas are Infrastructure and Connectivity with Public Private Partnerships, Skill Development, Financial Inclusion, Services Sector Development - Particularly in Tourism, Hospitality & Food Processing.

Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017

• India, for the first time ever, hosted the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS), one of the world’s largest conferences in the field of Cyber Space and related issues.
• Venue - Aerocity, New Delhi.
• Incepted in 2011 in London.
• Themed on Cyber4All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development.
• This is the fifth edition of GCCS.

Military medicine conference

• Venue - New Delhi
• The 42nd World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) is taking place in India for the first time.
• The theme of this 42nd World Congress is 'Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead'.

Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES 2017)
The Global Entrepreneurship Summit was held for the first time in South Asia in Hyderabad, India, from November 28-30.
Inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and Ivanka Trump.
The theme for 2017 GES is “Women First, Prosperity for All” to celebrate entrepreneurship in all its strength, diversity and entirety.
Aims to empower Indian entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas, build partnerships, secure funding, and create innovative products and services that will transform societies for better future.

42nd International Congress of Military Medicine

- Venue - New Delhi.
- The theme of this edition of World Congress is “Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead”.
- The five-day event was being organised for the first time in India.

Conferences - Oneliners:

- India to host 36th International Geological Congress in 2020 in NCR New Delhi. India had won the bid in 2012 at 34th IGC Brisbane, Australia to host the Congress in 2020.
- Interim Meeting of Steering Committee of International Monetary Fund (IMF)’s South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Centre (SARTTAC) was held in New Delhi.
- WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in Sustainable Development Era - held at Moscow, Russia.
- First World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health’ held at New Delhi.
- 13th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- China hosts Inter-Governmental Meeting of Asia and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022). It was held in Beijing, China.
- Consultative Workshop on New National Policy on Biofuels held in New Delhi.
- First North East Development Summit held at Imphal, Manipur.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Rashtriya Bal Kalyan Award

- Recipient - “Super 30” founder Anand Kumar for his contributions in the field of teaching and education.
- Super 30 coaching institute has been providing free education, accommodation and food to students coming from the underprivileged section of society to crack the prestigious IIT entrance examination.
NTR National Film Award

- Veteran actors Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth and film director K. Raghvendra Rao have bagged the NTR National Film Awards for 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.
- The government had not announced the awards since 2014, due to the split of Andhra Pradesh into two and the formation of Telangana.

3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award

- Recipient - Professor Hiroshi Marui (Japan)
- The award is an annual award instituted by Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- It is bestowed upon eminent Indologists working abroad who have made outstanding contribution to study, research, teaching of India’s history, philosophy, thought, art, culture, literature, languages, civilization, society etc.
- Prof. Yu Long Yu of China was awarded in 2016.
- Indology or South Asian studies is the academic study of the history and cultures, languages, and literature of India and as such is a subset of Asian studies.

Miss Universe 2017 crown

- Won by South Africa’s Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters.
- Event held at Las Vegas, Nevada, United States.
- She becomes, second South African to win this crown.
- First runner-up Miss Colombia Laura González and second runner-up Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett for the crown in Las Vegas.

Miss World 2017 title

- Event held at Sanya in China.
- Recipient - India’s Manushi Chhillar (20 years) from Haryana. She had won Femina Miss India World 2017 in May 2017.
- The win comes 17 years after Priyanka Chopra won the title in the year 2000.
- The winner of 2016 title - Puerto Rico’s Stephanie Del Valle.
- Miss England Stephanie Hill was first runner up and Miss Mexico Andrea Meza was second runner up.
- Ms Chhillar is the sixth Indian woman to win the title of Miss World.
- Reita Faria was first Indian woman to claim title back in 1966.

Miss International 2017.
• Awarded to Indonesia’s Kevin Lilliana.
• Event held at the Tokyo, Japan.
• This is the first Miss International title for Indonesia.

**Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace**

• Manmohan Singh selected for Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for his leadership of the country between 2004 and 2014 and for enhancing India’s stature globally.
• He was unanimously chosen for the award by an international jury chaired by former President Pranab Mukherjee.
• The international award named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was instituted in 1986

**Indian Sports Honours**

• Sportsman of the year (Individual sport): Srikanth Kidambi
• Sportsman of the year (Team sport) - Ravichandran Ashwin
• Sportswoman of the year (Individual sport) - PV Sindhu
• Sportswoman of the year (Team sport) - Mithali Raj
• Team of the year (Men/Women) - Indian Women's Cricket Team
• Coach of the year - Bisweshwar Nandi
• Emerging Sportswoman of the year - Aditi Ashok
• Emerging Sportsman of the year - Neeraj Chopra
• Differently-abled Sportsman of the year - Devendra Jhajharia
• Differently-abled Sportswoman of the year - Deepa Malik

**Jury Honours**

• Keep Walking Honour for Lifetime achievement - Balbir Singh
• Inspirational Honour - Sania Mirza
• Transformational Contribution to Sport - Abhinav Bindra

**Popular choice Honours**

• Breakthrough performance of the year - Hardik Pandya
• Star Sports Believe Honour (Comeback of the year) - Saina Nehwal
• Spirit of Sport - Yogeshwar Dutt
• Player of the year - Sunil Chhetri
• Club of the year - Mumbai Indians
• Best Fan Club - Manjappada Kerala Blasters.

**48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**

• Venue – Goa.
• Morocco born French Director Robin Campillo’s drama film ‘120 BPM’ or ‘120 Beats Per Minute’ has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award.
• Chinese director Vivian Qu - Best Director Award for her film ‘Angels Wear White’.
• The Best Actor (Male) Award - Nahuel Perez Biscaryat.
• The Best Actor (Female) - Parvathy T K.
• Mahesh Narayan - The Special Jury Award for his directorial debut ‘Take Off’.
• Bolivian director Kiro Russo - Silver Peacock Award.
• Manouj Kadaamh’s Marathi film ‘Kshitij’ - ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal.
• Canadian director, Atom Egoyan - IFFI 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.
• The Indian Film Personality of the Year Award was presented to Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan.

AWARDS - ONE-LINERS

1. India’s Oscar entry “Newton” secured two wins at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane, with Rajkummar Rao winning the best actor and Mayank Tewari and Amit V Masurkar claiming the best screenplay honour.
2. Girish Karnad conferred with 2017 Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution in field of theatre at the eighth edition of the Tata Literature festival held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
3. Acclaimed writer Nayantara Sahgal was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award at Times Lit Fest 2017.
5. Health Ministry wins Bronze Medal at the India International Trade Fair 2017 held at New Delhi.
6. Ishaan Khatter was named the Best Actor for his debut film “Beyond The Clouds” at the International Bosphorus Film Festival in Turkey.
7. Alloy Steels Plant (ASP) of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has received the "BEST PERFORMANCE VENDOR - 2017" award from Ordnance Factory, Medak (OF-M) for indigenization, supply of import substitute steel plates.
8. Canada Has Been Declared The World's Best Travel Destination For 2017, according to major travel publication Travel+Leisure.

DEFENCE

CLEAN SEA-2017
Coast Guard conducts Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise.  
At sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**IMMSAREX 2017**

- The 2017 International Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) was held in Bangladesh.
- The exercise is taking place under the aegis of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).
- It was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina.

**DANX-17**

Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Exercise. The main objective of the five day exercise was to practice and validate procedures and drills of all Command forces aimed at defending strategic Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**SAMPRITI 2017**

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise held at Mizoram. The exercise was aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies.

**IMBAX 2017**

- India-Myanmar joint Army exercise begins in Meghalaya.
- It is the first-ever military training on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) between the two nations, being conducted on the Indian soil.

**AJEYA WARRIOR**

The third India-United Kingdom joint army training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior'. To be conducted in Rajasthan.

**BRAHMSOS**

- The world’s fastest supersonic cruise missile created history on 22nd Nov 2017 after it was successfully flight-tested first time from the Indian Air Force’s (IAF) frontline fighter aircraft Sukhoi-30MKI against a sea based target in the Bay of Bengal.
- Brahmos, the world-class weapon with multi-platform, multi-mission role is now capable of being launched from Land, Sea and Air.
• Brahmos is a joint venture between DRDO of India and NPOM of Russia.

HWASONG-15

• A new type of nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
• It is North Korea’s most powerful ICBM that can reach entire eastern US seaboard and Washington. (North Korea – Pyongsong)

Multi State Mega Mock Tsunami Exercise 2017

• It was conducted through National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
• The exercise was one of various activities conducted as part of observation of 2nd World Tsunami Awareness Day (observed on November 5).
• The exercise was simultaneously conducted in 35 coastal districts across four States – West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (UT) along entire East Coast.
• It aimed to assess and help improve preparedness, response mechanism and coordination among concerned agencies.

**PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS**

Shubhangi Swaroop - Becomes Indian Navy’s first woman pilot

• Shubhangi Swaroop, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, will soon be flying Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft.
• Three other women cadets, Astha Segal from New Delhi, Roopa A from Puducherry and Sakthi Maya S from Kerala, also created history by becoming the country’s first women officers at the Naval Armament Inspectorate (NAI) branch of the Navy.

• Shaktikanta Das - Appointed as India’s G 20 Sherpa. (Sherpa is personal representative of leaders participating at G-20 summit and are responsible for thrashing out details before meeting of the leaders)

• RBI governor Urjit Patel - Appointed on BIS (Bank of International Settlement) advisory board.

• Dalveer Bhandari - Re-elected to fifth and the last seat of world court (International Court of Justice)

• Badri Narain Sharma - Appointed as Chairman of National Anti-Profiteering Authority.

• Pradeep Singh Kharola - Appointed as Air India CMD.
• NK Singh - Appointed chairman of 15th Finance Commission

• Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been elected President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA). It is customary to have the Defence Minister as IDSA’s President.

• Acclaimed South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV.

• Snehlata appointed first woman Lok Sabha Secretary General (Rama Devi holds the distinction of being the first woman secretary general of the Rajya Sabha).

• A biographical film on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal - ‘An Insignificant Man’.

• Emmerson Mnangagwa - Sworn in as the president of Zimbabwe

• Uhuru Kenyatta - Sworn in as Kenyan president for second term

• Borut Pahor - Relected as Slovenia's President

• Hindi poet Kunwar Narain passes away.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SAM**

• Scientists from New Zealand have developed world’s first artificial intelligence politician named SAM.
• It was created by Nick Gerritsen, entrepreneur in New Zealand.

**Aditya L1 Mission**

The India Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch first solar mission Aditya-L1 in 2019. It will be India’s first dedicated scientific mission to study sun.

**Samba Masuri**
The Hyderabad based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in association with Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) has developed Improved Samba Masuri (ISM) variety rice with low Glycemic Index (GI).

**Scientists create world’s smallest data recorder from bacteria.**

Researchers from Columbia University Medical Centre (CUMC) in US have converted natural bacterial immune system into the world’s smallest data recorder.

**Dutta’s Mahendragiri gecko:** New species of gecko discovered in the Eastern Ghats in northern Andhra Pradesh. The new species has been named *Hemidactylus sushilduttai* after eminent herpetologist Sushil Kumar Dutta from Odisha.

**Gleadovia konyakianorum:**

Scientists from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of parasitic flowering plant named *Gleadovia konyakianorum* in Nagaland. The species was named in honour of Konyak tribe of Nagas.

**Joint Polar Satellite System-1**

- NASA has launched a next-generation satellite called the Joint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1) into space.
- JPSS-1 is a joint venture between NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- It will be renamed NOAA-20 when it reaches its final orbit.
- JPSS-1 is first multi-day weather forecasts satellite in NOAA’s series of four, next-generation operational environmental satellites.

**India becomes world’s top sulphur dioxide emitter,** according to a study published in the latest edition of journal Scientific Reports. Sulphur dioxide (SO2), a toxic air pollutant that causes haze and acid rain, a new study based on satellite data showed last week.

**NASA tests Supersonic Parachute for Mars 2020 mission set to launch in 2020.**

China successfully launches remote sensing satellites to conduct electromagnetic probes and other experiments.
SPORTS AND GAMES

7th world military games

• The 7th international military games will be held in Wuhan city in the central China's Hubei Province.
• The slogan is of the games is "Military glory, world peace".
• The games were inaugurated in Rome in 1995.
• It is a multi-sport event organised every four years by the CISM.

World Weightlifting Championships

• India’s Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won gold medal.
• Event held at Anaheim, United States.
• She hails from Manipur and currently is employed with the Indian Railways.

Asian Marathon Championship

• Event held at Dongguan in China.
• Gopi Thonakal (Kerala) becomes 1st Indian man to win the championship. Earlier, Asha Agarwal won the women's title when it was part of the biennial Asian Track and Field Championships.

AIBA Youth Women Boxing Championship

• India topped the medals' chart after claiming five gold medals on the final day of the AIBA World Women's Youth Boxing Championships in Guwahati.
• Nitu, Jyoti, Sakshi, Shashi Chopra and Ankushita Boro clinched the gold medals.
• India earlier had also won two bronze medals.
• It was the biggest medal haul in the championship, followed by Russia (2 gold, 4 silver).

Knoxville Challenger Title

• Indian tennis duo of Leander Paes and Purav Raja lifted the Knoxville Challenger title by defeating the American-Australian duo of James Cerretani and John Patrick Smith

SPORTS – ONE LINERS:

1. Under-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship - India’s Ritu Phogat has won Silver medal. Event held in Poland. She won silver medal in 48 kg category. She hails from Haryana.
2. Under-19 Asia Cup (Cricket) - Afghanistan won their maiden Under-19 Asia Cup title, in Kuala Lumpur.
3. Yuki Bhambri - Clinched his first title of the 2017 season on the ATP Challenger Tour defeating Ramkumar Ramanathan in the final of the KPIT-MSLTA Challenger in Pune.
4. Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, beating teammate Lewis Hamilton at Yas Marina.
5. IBSF World snooker championship - Pankaj Advani won the championship by defeating Iran's Amir Sarkhosh in the finals held at Doha.
6. France wins davis cup (tennis) for 10th time - Lucas Pouille ended a 16-year drought for France in the Davis Cup.
7. France to host 2023 Rugby World Cup.

Books and authors

1. Age of anger : A History of the Present – Pankaj Mishra
2. “Dreamnation : Uniting a country with Handwritten Dreams” – Saji Mathew

MISCELLANEOUS

1. ‘Ayodhya Mahotsav’, depicting the cultural heritage of the temple town, would be staged in Seoul and Gimhe cities of South Korea next year. In return, a ‘Korea Festival’ will be held in Lucknow and Ayodhya. An in-principle decision in this regard was made during the meeting of the UP government and a delegation from South Korea.
2. QUAD - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) is the strategic dialogue between four countries viz. India, United States, Japan and Australia. It was originally initiated in 2007 but later disbanded with withdrawal of Australia. It has been recently revived and is being viewed as response to increased Chinese economic and military power.
3. According to a report of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), India spends the most to control air pollution among South East Asian Nations.
4. N.N. Vohra committee – Studied the problem of the criminalization of politics and of the nexus among criminals, politicians and bureaucrats in India. It was constituted after serial bomb blasts in March 1993 at Mumbai.
5. Arbind Modi Task force - To draft a new direct tax law to replace the existing Income Tax Act, which has been in force since 1961.

7. Anurakthi - World’s first 3D film in Sanskrit, screened at International Film Festival at Goa.
8. Sulabh International launched the world's biggest toilet pot model in Haryana’s Marora village -- popularly known as 'Trump village' -- on the occasion of World Toilet Day (November 19).
9. NIOT (National institute of ocean technology, Chennai) to build India’s first offshore desalination plant off the shores of Ennore, Chennai.
10. Andhra Pradesh government has announced a new pension scheme for transgender.
11. India’s first separate toilets for transgender came into use at Punjab University.
12. Global Centre for Security and Counter Terrorism to come up at Jaipur, Rajasthan.
13. A polling booth just for one voter was set up at Gir forest area in Gujarat.
14. West Bengal’s first floating market to come up at Kolkata.
15. Delhi government declared a public health emergency as air pollution choked the city.
16. World Balloon Festival: Held in Mexico. Tamil Nadu Tourism Department participated in the festival with its balloon printed with words “Enchanting Tamil Nadu, Experience Yourself”.
17. Bali Jatra - Celebrated across Mahanadi river in Odisha, to mark the day when ancient Oriya mariners would set sail to distant lands of Bali, as well as Java, Sumatra, Borneo (all in Indonesia), and Sri Lanka for trade and cultural expansion.
18. **Tian Kun Hao** – Asia’s largest chinese made dredging vessel
19. **Dongfeng 41** – intercontinental ballistic missile of China
20. **Parab-2017** - It is an annual cultural extravaganza of Odisha's Koraput district that showcases the tribal art and culture.
22. Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched a policy for cancer coverage.
23. Bank of America Merrill Lynch says India is likely to achieve strong growth over the next decade and will overtake Japan in nominal GDP. India is already well on track to become the world’s fifth largest economy by 2019.
24. K.P. Ranjana, an advocate by profession and a Zenskar martial art student hailing from Kancheepuram has set Guiness World Record in Yoga by performing Yoga for 150 hours continuously.
25. Mukesh Ambani becomes the richest man in Asia.
26. Age limit to join National Pension Scheme for private employees increased to 65 from 60.
27. A pair of 150 year old Shramik train (cooler train) running on Bhagalpur-Kiul section of Malda division in Eastern railway had been withdrawn from service.
28. Indian naval ships **INS Tir** and **INS Sujatha** and the Indian Coast Guard ship **ICGS Sarathi** arrived at the Colombo port on a goodwill and training visit.
30. Higher Education funding Agency (HEFA)’s second meeting held at New Delhi.
31. 5th meeting of Nepal-India Overnight Mechanism held at Kathmandu, Nepal.
32. India-US Ocean Dialogue held at Goa.
33. World Cancer Conference held at Mexico.
34. **Aung San Suu Kyi** has been stripped of the "Freedom of Oxford" award by the Oxford city's council, over her failure to speak out on abuses against Myanmar's Rohtiya.
35. Khaled el-Bashy - A social activist from Egypt was awarded Nelson Mandela Innovation Award.
36. Actress Trisha - Given celebrity advocate status by UNICEF. She will create awareness on child welfare, particularly girl child welfare in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
37. Karen Pierce - Becomes first female UK ambassador to the UN
38. Kenneth juster - US ambassador to India.
39. **Ravinder Balla** - A Sikh-American, was elected mayor of Hoboken in New Jersey.
40. Shefali Ranganathan - Chennai-born Indian origin, elected as deputy mayor of Seattle in Washington.
41. Ganga Kumari - First transgender person to join police department in Rajasthan.
42. Vigilant Ace - A joint air force exercise between USA and South Korea.
43. Mount Agung - Recently erupted volcano in Indonesia.
44. Ross 128 – A new planet of the size of earth where there are conditions that favour life had been discovered very near to the earth.

45. Shibuya Mirai - Artificial Intelligence boy (a bot) has been granted residency in central Tokyo, Japan.
46. China open’s world’s coolest library with 12 lakh books.
47. Britain to exit from European Union on March 29, 2018, 11 pm.

48. Russia to launch ‘independent internet’ for BRICS nations.
49. USA has declared North Korea as a terrorism supporting country.
50. Twitter has increased its word limit from 140 to 280 words per tweet.
51. Cyclone Ockhi - Affected south Tamil Nadu. The name Ockhi was given by Bangladesh which in Bengali means ‘eye’.
52. Cyclone Sagar - The name Sagar was given by India which in Hindi means ‘sea’.
53. India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest bowler to reach the milestone of 300 Test wickets, breaking Dennis Lillee’s record.

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57. Coinome – India’s first crypto currency trading exchange
58. Asgardia – Virtual space nation. Created in 2016 by a Russian Igor Ashurbeyli
59. Asgardia 1 – First satellite of Asgardia nation
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EXTRA INFO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>World AIDS Day</td>
<td>Theme: Right to health</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>World computer Literacy Day</td>
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<td>December 3</td>
<td>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>Theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all</td>
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<td>December 4</td>
<td>Indian Navy Day</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>World Soil Day</td>
<td>Theme: Caring for the planet starts from the ground</td>
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<td>December 5</td>
<td>International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development</td>
<td>Theme: Volunteers Act First Here. Everywhere</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>International Civil Aviation Day</td>
<td>Theme: Working Together to Ensure No country is Left Behind</td>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>Indian Armed Force Flag Day</td>
<td>Theme: United against corruption for development, peace and security</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>International Anti Corruption Day</td>
<td>‘Let’s stand up for equality, justice and human dignity’</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
<td>Human Rights Day</td>
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<td>December 11</td>
<td>International Mountain Day</td>
<td>Theme: Mountain Under Pressure: climate, hunger, migration</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>Universal Health Coverage Day</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>International Day of Neutrality</td>
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<td>December 13</td>
<td>National Energy Conversation Day</td>
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<td>December 16</td>
<td>Vijay Divas</td>
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<td>December 18</td>
<td>International Migrants day</td>
<td>Theme: Safe Migration in a World on the Move</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>National Minority Rights Day</td>
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<td>December 20</td>
<td>International Human Solidarity Day</td>
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<td>December 22</td>
<td>National Mathematics Day</td>
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<td>December 23</td>
<td>Kisan Diwas / Farmers Day</td>
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<td>December 24</td>
<td>National Consumer Day</td>
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<td>December 25</td>
<td>Good Governance Day</td>
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### NATION

#### Khelo India programme

- Aims at mainstreaming sports as tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.
- The programme will promote 150 select schools from different districts and 20 universities across country, as hubs of sporting excellence, enabling talented sportspersons to pursue both education and competitive sports.
- It will cover about 200 million children in age group of 10-18 under a massive national physical fitness drive.

#### National Strategic Plan 2017-24

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Strategic Plan 2017-24 aimed at eradicating HIV/AIDS by 2030, on the occasion of World AIDS Day (1st December)
- The National Strategic Plan 2017-24 will pave a roadmap not only for achieving the target of 90:90:90 Strategy but also strive along with partners towards fast track strategy of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.
- **90:90:90 Strategy** - It is a new HIV treatment narrative of UNAIDS programme which has set targets of 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status (90% diagnosed), 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (90% on HIV treatment) and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression (90% suppressed).
Mission SAMPARK

- Mission SAMPARK was also launched to trace those who are Left to Follow Up and are to be brought under Antiretroviral therapy (ART) services.
- Mission SAMPARK will further aid to will help in fast-tracking the identification of all who were HIV positive and subsequently linking to ART program.
- It is big challenge to trace those who are Left to Follow Up and needed to be brought under ART services.

FAME India Scheme

The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-India) was launched in 2015 under National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) with an aim to promote eco-friendly vehicles in country.

Sakhi OSC Scheme

- The scheme is being implemented by Women and Child Development Ministry since April 1, 2015.
- It aims to facilitate access to integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid and case management, psychosocial counseling and temporary support services to women affected by violence.

'Jai Kisaan' App

- A farmer engagement app packed with features and functions to fulfill the needs of the farmers’ community in India.
- The Jai Kisan app is a one-stop solution on agricultural information and cultivation, covering crop nutrition, protection, seeds, and diagnostic services.

Cabinet approves setting up of National Nutrition Mission (NNM)

- The NNM, as an apex body, will monitor, supervise, fix targets and guide the nutrition related interventions across the Ministries.
- The programme through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, undernutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.

ATL Community Day

- NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission will launch the Atal Tinkering Lab’s Community Day in the national capital on 15th December, 2017.
- The day will mark the Community Drive Initiative in which 25 young Mentors will engage with more than 200 students who are not enrolled in the formal education system.
12 Special Courts to deal with cases against tainted lawmakers.
Initially, 12 courts would be constituted. Two special courts will handle cases against 228 MPs and remaining 10 courts viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

NIC-CERT
The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched first NIC-CERT, a setup of National Informatics Centre (NIC) to prevent and predict cyber-attacks on government utilities.

Committee to look into Minority status for Hindus

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has set up three member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in 8 states where their population is less than 50%. The committee will be led by NCM’s Vice Chairman George Kurien.

Door-to-door campaign against TB
The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a door-to-door campaign for 15-days in the country for early diagnosis, detection and treatment of tuberculosis (TB) to eliminate the disease.

Health Ministry and Rotary India ink MoU
The MoU aims to provide collaborative support and accelerate efforts under Polio Eradication Programme, Routine Immunization including Mission Indradhanush.

Dr. Ambedkar International Centre - The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the “Dr. Ambedkar International Centre” at New Delhi.

MSME Sambandh - The objective of the portal is to monitor the implementation of the Public Procurement from MSEs by Central Public Sector Enterprises.

New initiatives on Universal Health Coverage Day, 2017

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched ‘LaQshya’ Initiative and mHealth app on the occasion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day. Moreover, Operational Guidelines for Obstetric High Dependency Units and Intensive Care Units were also released.

UHC Day - Observed every year on 12 December to commemorate first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every
person, everywhere. It aims at ensuring equitable access for all to affordable, accountable, appropriate health services of assured quality.

Laqshya

- A Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative.
- It is a safe delivery mobile application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral area.
- Its objective is to improve quality of care provided to pregnant mothers in Labour Room and Maternity Operation Theatres (OTs), thereby preventing undesirable adverse outcomes associated with childbirth.
- It aims to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity OTs.

mHealth

- A Safe Delivery App.
- It was launched for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in peripheral areas.
- The app has Clinical Instruction films on key obstetric procedures to help health workers translate their learnt skills into actual practice.
- It has been field tested in few districts and found to be useful for health workers providing maternity care.

NATION – Oneliners

1. MHA releases Rs 174 crore to six states for border development. The states that will be benefited under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) are Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
2. The Government of India has increased the budget of Agricultural Education by 47.4% this year as compared to the financial year 2013-14.
3. India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for “Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project”.
4. The Union Environment Ministry has allowed NGT Chairperson to “constitute a single-member bench” in “exceptional circumstances”.
5. India has been declared free from infective Trachoma, which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye. The infection causes inflamed granulation on the inner surface of the lids.
6. Railways introduce Online Bill tracking system for Vendors & Contractors.
7. RBI retains economic growth projection at 6.7% for FY’18.
8. Indian economy to grow at 7.2% in 2018, says UN report.

**INDICES**

- India was ranked 100th among 149 countries on the list of prosperous countries released as part of The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017.
- India ranked 109th out of 122 countries in the mobile internet speed and 76th out of 133 countries in broadband space in the November 2017 Speedtest Global index (SGI).

**DEFENCE**

1. **Exercise Ekuverin 2017** - The eight edition of India, Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 was held in India in Belagavi, Karnataka.

2. **INS Kalvari** - First Scorpene-class submarines inducted in Indian Navy in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is first of the six Scorpene-class submarines built under the strategic Project 75 built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) with assistance and technology transfer from France DCNS. ‘Kalvari’ is a Malayalam word that means deep-sea tiger shark.

3. Godrej Aerospace has won order from BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) for supply of additional 100 units airframe fuel management systems for BrahMos Air-Launched Cruise Missile.

**STATES**

**Uttar Pradesh** became first state to endorse Union Government’s draft draft law – Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act that makes practice of instant “triple talaq” or talaq-e-biddat. a cognisable and non-bailable criminal offence.

**Rajasthan** has become the first state in the country to offer free e-mail address in Hindi to its residents. The facility will be available at name@rajasthan.bharat (in Devanagari script). This facility will lead to millions of new users who are not comfortable with English e-mail ids.

**Bihar** Government launches Safe City Surveillance scheme for Women Safety. It aims to bring all major public places under watch of close-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and improve overall crime control in the state.

**Madhya Pradesh** passes bill awarding death for rape of girls aged 12 or less. The bill proposes death penalty or a minimum term of 14-year rigorous imprisonment or life imprisonment till death for raping girls aged 12 or less. It also increases minimum punishment for gang rape of girls aged 12 or less to 20 years rigorous imprisonment.

**Andhra Pradesh** assembly passes Kapu Reservation Bill to provide 5% quota in education and employment. The reservation to Kapu community will be given by including them in Backward
Classes list. The Kapu community has 27% population in Andhra Pradesh. It has been demanding reservations for decades.

**West Bengal** - first state in India to setup green university. West Bengal Assembly passed the West Bengal Green University Bill 2017 for setting up an environmental studies university at Hooghly district.

**Kerala** - India's biggest floating solar power plant to be inaugurated in Kerala at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad. The floating solar power plant that floats on the surface of the water has a capacity of 500 kilowatts. This is the country's largest floating solar plant.

**Kacheguda, Telangana** - Becomes India’s first energy-efficient railway station. The station has achieved 100% energy efficiency by replacing conventional lights with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, ceiling fans were replaced with energy efficient Brushless DC Electrical (BLDC) motors fans, and air conditioners with energy efficient inverter-type air conditioners.

**'zero-waste' Alappuzha (The Venice of the East)** - The waste management system being implemented in Kerala's coastal town of Alappuzha has been recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of the five models across the world for fighting the pollution menace.

**Goa** - India's 'first' mobile food testing laboratory, which will enable on-the-spot food safety tests, was launched in Goa.

**Uttar Pradesh** - Shamli district in UP was included in the national capital region, taking the total number of districts in the NCR to 23.

**Hornbill Festival** - also called as the ‘Festival of Festivals’ - Nagaland.

**Telangana** - to set up the world’s first IT Campus for differently-abled persons in state capital Hyderabad.

**Telangana** - Hyderabad once again launched a drive to turn Hyderabad into “Beggar Free” city.

**Delhi-NCR** - Ranked 84th in the list of most expensive office locations in the world, according to property consultant Cushman & Wakefield. Hong Kong topped the list.

**Rajasthan** - Japan To Offer Grant For Vocational Training Centre In Rajasthan.

**Andhra Pradesh** - India’s first Electronic Manufacturing Cluster to be set up in Andhra Pradesh.

**West Bengal** - To get World Bank subsidy to buy 130 electric buses.

**West Bengal** - Announces life insurance of Rs. 5 lakh each for pilgrims.
Karnataka - Asian Development Bank approves $346 million loan to upgrade Karnataka highways.

AWARDS/HONOURS

Kumbh Mela

It is the 14th intangible cultural heritage from India to be listed in UNESCO’s list.

List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity from India

3. Tradition of Vedic Chanting.
5. Ramlila: Traditional Performance of ... Ramayana.
8. Tradition... Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil of Thatheras: Punjab.
9. Chhau dance: classical Indian dance originated in the eastern Indian states.
11. Yoga

Kumbh Mela is held every third year at one of four places by rotation: Haridwar, Allahabad, Nashik and Ujjain. Thus, it is held at each of these four places every twelfth year. It is the largest religious congregation and largest peaceful gathering on planet. This vast celebration attracts tens of millions of Hindu pilgrims, including mendicant nagas.

Ardha Kumbha Mela, which is next in sanctity, is held only at Haridwar and Allahabad. The rivers at these four places are Ganga at Haridwar, Prayag Sangam at Allahabad, Godawari at Nashik, and Shipra at Ujjain.

Cambridge dictionary’s ‘word of the year’

The word “populism” has been announced as the Cambridge Dictionary 2017 Word of the Year. The dictionary defines populism as “political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want”.

Yeraringar award

- M.S. Swaminathan has been given 'Yeraringar' Award recently by M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India.
• Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan is known as "Indian Father of Green Revolution" for his leadership and success in introducing and further developing high-yielding varieties of wheat in India.

Mother Teresa Memorial award

Actor Priyanka Chopra has been honoured with this year's Mother Teresa Memorial award for social justice. The actor is also UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador and is known for supporting various philanthropic activities.

27th Vyas Samman

Eminent Hindi writer Mamta Kalia will be honoured with literary award Vyas Samman for year 2017 for her novel "Dukkham Sukkham", the K K Birla Foundation announced.

Children's Peace Prize 2017

Sixteen-year-old Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria was awarded the International Children's Peace Prize for his efforts to ensure the rights of Syrian refugee children.

'Power of one' Award at UN

Six top diplomats, including an Indian woman Lakshmi Puri, have been felicitated with the inaugural Diwali “Power of One” award at the UN headquarters in New York for their contribution to help form a more “perfect, peaceful and secure world”.

British singer Ellie Goulding - Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment, joining the fight to save the lives and habitats of people and animals by cleaning up the planet's air and seas, fighting climate change and protecting species.

India - Re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation under Category B at an assembly of the body at its headquarters in London. (IMO - A specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping. Established in 1948 in Geneva and came into force in 1959. Its headquarters are in London, United Kingdom. IMO has 171 member states and 3 associate members. India was one of earliest members of the IMO).


191 | Page PH: 24339436, 42867555, 9840226187
The award was given to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) for its efforts in conducting and coordinating species-specific wildlife enforcement operation, codenamed ‘Operation Save Kurma’.

**Operation Save Kurma** - The operation was conducted to combat the proliferating illegal trade of live turtles and its parts from the country to destinations abroad. The operation was also aimed to invite attention of the enforcement agencies towards such illegal trade.

**Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia** - Has won TIME’s Person of the Year 2017 online reader poll.

**The 'Silence Breakers'** - who started the #MeToo movement have been named Time 'Person of the Year'. (The Silence Breakers - It was referring to those individuals, mostly women, who came forward this year with #MeToo movement to publicly expose patterns of sexual harassment and assault by powerful public figures in United States).

**Aamir Khan's Film Dangal** - Named the Best Asian Film at the 7th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards.

**Taj Mahal** - Named second best UNESCO world heritage site, rated after Cambodia's Angkor Wat - according to an online travel portal TripAdvisor.

**Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui** - Who comes from an agricultural background, will now be the face of a water conservation campaign, which is an initiative by the Central government.

**Indian film “The School Bag”** - Has bagged the Best Short Film award at the Vancouver Golden Panda International Film Festival.

**Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia** - Awarded the 'Finest Education Minister' award by former President Pranab Mukherjee.

**Irrfan Khan** - Recently honoured at the 14th Dubai International Film Festival for his “incredible body of work.”

**Miss Korea Jenny Kim** - Crowned Miss Supranational 2017. Event held at Poland. Last year's winner was Srinidhi Shetty.

**Jitesh Singh Deo** - From Lucknow has bagged the Mr. India World 2017 title. He will represent India at the Mr World competition.

**Prathamesh Maulingkar** - A model and entrepreneur from Goa, won the Mr India Supranatural 2017 title.

**World youth champion Sachin Siwach** - Was named the Asian Boxing Confederation’s best youth boxer of the year after winning an online poll conducted by the continental body.
Ankushita - Wins the ‘Best Boxer’ title in World Youth Women’s Boxing. She hails from Assam.

YES Bank - Awarded ‘Best Bank in India’ for Corporate Social Responsibility.

Star Screen Awards 2018

The 23rd edition of the annual film awards show, Star Screen Awards, was held at Mumbai.

- Best Film (Critics): Newton
- Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal)
- Best Actress (Popular): Vidya Balan (Tumhari Sulu)
- Best Actress (Critics): Konkona Sen Sharma (Lipstick Under My Burkha)
- Best Actor (Critics): Rajkummar Rao (Newton)
- Best Actor (Popular): Irrfan Khan (Hindi Medium)
- Best Supporting Actor: Rajkummar Rao (Bareilly Ki Barfi)
- Best Supporting Actor Female: Neha Dhupia (Tumhari Sulu)
- Best Playback Singer (male): Arijit Singh (Raees and Jagga Jasoos)
- Best Playback Singer: Shashaa Tirupati (Shubh Mangal Savdhaan)

SUMMITS/CONFERENCES

India and Australia held their first ‘2+2 dialogue’ in New Delhi and highlighted need to maintain Asia-Pacific region as a “free” and “open” zone. The 2+2 dialogue model between both countries included foreign and defence secretaries.

The 7th International Ground Water Conference (IGWC-2017) was hosted by India in New Delhi. The theme of conference was “Ground water Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges and Climate Adaptation”.

The ASEAN–India (Association of Southeast Asian Nations-India) Connectivity Summit (AICS) was held in New Delhi. The theme of summit was ‘Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century’.

The first International Conference on Sports Medicine & Sports Sciences “SAICON 2017” was held in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was ‘Scoring Goals in Sports with Science and Technology’.

22nd Conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP) held in New Delhi.

International conference on Climate Change - Held in Nepal. It was titled ‘Resilient Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions towards a Sustainable Future of Asia’, to draw attention towards the adverse effects of global warming.
India to host 3rd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) at Mumbai in June 2018. The Theme of the Annual Meeting, 2018 will be “Mobilizing Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration”.

(AIIB - India is not only one of the founding members of AIIB but is also the 2nd largest shareholder in AIIB. AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond. Headquartered in Beijing, China, AIIB commenced operations in January 2016).

(Bio Design Programme - To develop innovative and affordable medical devices to cater to clinical needs of country. It aims to train next generation of medical technology innovators in country).

SUMMITS - ONE LINERS

- AROGYA 2017 - First International Exhibition and Conference on AYUSH and Wellness sector held in New Delhi. Its theme was ‘Enhancing the global potential of AYUSH’.
- Adivasi Mahotsav 2017: Tribal Festival organised in Raipur, Chhattisgarh to display the rich and diverse tribal traditions of the central state.
- 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit held in New Delhi, to build consensus on strategies and a unified vision for achieving universal financial inclusion in India.
- India's 1st Military Literature Festival - Held at Chandigarh.
- The 3rd edition of the Dialogue between the NITI Aayog and the Development Research Council of China, the DRC-NITI Aayog Dialogue was held in Beijing.
- UN Women in collaboration with Facebook has inaugurated a two day event in Mumbai titled 'We The Women' to empower and recognize the magnificent contribution of women in our society.
- ‘Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage’ - held at New Delhi.
- UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture, with focus on sustainable development, was held in Muscat, Capital city of Oman.
- The Global Partnership Summit 2017 - held at Aerocity, New Delhi.
- 22nd Small Farmers’ Agri-Business Consortium held in New Delhi.
- 15th trilateral meeting of the Russia-India-China (RIC) foreign ministers was held in New Delhi.
- The annual SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) summit was held in Russia’s Sochi.
- International Storytellers Festival (Kathakar) - Held at New Delhi.
- 6th International Tourism Mart - Organized in Guwahati, Assam.
- National Workshop on Role of Sakhi One Stop Centres - Held in New Delhi.
- 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue - Held in New Delhi.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Plants that can glow in dark
• Scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US have found a novel way to induce plants to give off dim light by embedding specialised nanoparticles into their leaves.
• The purpose of this experiment was to make plant function as a desk lamp, powered by the energy metabolism of the plant itself and not by electricity connection.
• It is considered as major step towards using plants to illuminate the workspace. This technology can be used to provide low-intensity indoor lighting, or to transform trees into self-powered street lights.

Noxeno

• Nasal foreign body removal device launched
  Developed by start-up InnAccel Technologies Private Limited, Bangalore.
• It was developed by fellow trained under Biodesign program of Government of India.
• It is the first dedicated tool for anterior nasal foreign body (NFB).
• Noxeno has been 100% invented, designed, engineered and manufactured in India.

Excitonium - Researchers at the University of Illinois have announced discovery of new form of matter called excitonium.

Akash Missile - The Surface to Air Missile AKASH, has been successfully launched from the Launch Complex-III at ITR Chandipur.

PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS

Rahul Gandhi elected unopposed as Congress President. He is the 16th president of the Congress since Independence. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi was the congress president for 19 years and also the longest served president of Congress.

Amitabh Kant Committee - To address Non Performing Assets in power sector.

Dinesh K Sarraf - Appointed as Chairman of PNGRB (Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board)

S K Chourasia - Appointed as DGOF and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board

A. Surya Prakash - Reappointed as chairman of Prasar Bharati

Mary Kom - Resigns as boxing’s National Observer.

Salil S. Parekh - Appointed as Infosys’ as CEO and Managing Director

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar - Will promote the government's flagship agriculture schemes like soil health card and insurance schemes.
Uma Shankar - Appointed RBI Executive Director.

International Hockey Federation (FIH) chief Narinder Batra - Elected unopposed as the president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

OBITUARY

Lalji Singh: Father of DNA fingerprinting in India passes away.

Veteran actor Shashi Kapoor passes away.

WORLD

• The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia have formed new economic and partnership group named Joint Cooperation Committee, separate from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
• The United States has pulled out of UN Global Compact on Migration. (UN Global Compact on Migration will be the first intergovernmentally negotiated agreement under auspices of UN to cover all dimensions of international migration in holistic and comprehensive manner).
• Venezuela has launched its own oil-backed cryptocurrency called Petro, which could bypass the U.S.-led financial sanctions.
• US President Donald Trump has announced that the US will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
• First phase of Chabahar port inaugurated in Iran. The first phase of the Chabahar port project is known as the Shahid Beheshti port. The port is likely to ramp up trade among India, Afghanistan and Iran.
• China started trial operations of world’s biggest automated container terminal at Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai, the country’s commercial hub.
• Sri Lanka formally hands over Hambantota Port to China for 99-Year Lease.
• Saudi Arabia has lifted a decades-long ban on cinemas, part of a series of social reforms by the powerful crown prince.
• Asian Development Bank to lend $583 million for Reliance Power Bangladesh project.
• Mount Hope named UK’s new highest peak.

International Solar Alliance
• In terms of its Framework Agreement, with ratification by Guinea as the 15th country on 6th November 2017, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) will become a treaty-based international intergovernmental organization on 6th December 2017.
• The ISA, headquartered in India, has its Secretariat located in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gwalpahari, Gurgaon, Haryana.
• The ISA is an Indian initiative, jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, on the sidelines of COP-21, the UN Climate Conference.
• As of date, 46 countries have signed and 19 countries have ratified the Framework Agreement of ISA.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

1. India gets admission into Wassenaar Arrangement as the 42nd member of the organization. (Wassenaar Arrangement, is a multilateral export control regime (MECR) with 42 participating states. The Wassenaar Arrangement was established to contribute to regional and international security and stability. It is elite club of countries subscribing arms controls similar to NSG and MTCR. Established in 1996. Headquartered in Vienna, Austria).
2. India and Israel are coming together to set up a centre for excellence in floriculture at Thally in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu.
3. India and Morocco ink MoU for enhanced cooperation in healthcare, water Resources, Road and Marine Sectors).
4. India and Cuba ink MoU for enhanced cooperation in Health Sector.
5. India is planning to hold talks with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries to extend India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) highway up to Vietnam.
6. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced $1 million to create awareness about Tuberculosis (TB) to help India in its fight against the disease.
7. India has proposed USD 1 billion line of credit to promote sea, air and road connectivity projects with ASEAN.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. Gulzar - Novel in English on the Partition titled “Two”. It was originally written in Urdu.
2. 'Talking financial inclusion in liberalized India: Conversations with Governors of the RBI' - Edited by Prof. MS Sriram.

SPORTS

Mirabai Chanu wins India's first World Championships gold in 22 years

• India won its first weightlifting World Championships gold medal since 1995 when Mirabai Chanu defeated the Thailand’s Thunya Sukcharoen in the women’s 48kg.
• India's last World Championships winner was Karnam Malleswari, who in 2000 became the country's first female Olympic medalist in any sport.
Men's Hockey World League title

- Event held at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- Gold medal - Australia.
- Silver medal - Argentina.
- Bronze medal - India.

South Asian badminton title - India defeated Nepal to win the first ever South Asian Regional Badminton Tournament (team championship) in Guwahati.

Cristiano Ronaldo - Wins fifth Ballon d’Or for the fifth time to equal his great rival Lionel Messi’s haul. (FIFA Ballon d’Or Award is an annual football association award given by FIFA to the male player who has performed the best in previous calendar year).

**December Part II (16 – 31)**

**Nation**

Triple talaq Bill
The Lok Sabha passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriages) Bill 2017 declaring instant triple talaq illegal and criminalizes it with up to three years in jail for the husband.

Key Features of Bill

- The Bill makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form (text message, email etc) to be void and illegal i.e. not enforceable in law.
- It defines *talaq as talaq-e-biddat* or any other similar form of talaq pronounced by Muslim husband resulting in instant and irrevocable divorce to his wife.
- Talaq-e-biddat - practice under Muslim personal laws where pronouncement of word 'talaq' thrice in one sitting by Muslim husband to his wife results in instant and irrevocable divorce.
- Offence and penalty: It makes declaration of talaq a cognizable and non-bailable offence i.e. offence for which police officer may arrest an accused person without warrant.
- Moreover, if Muslim husband declaring triple talaq can be imprisoned for upto 3 years along with a fine.
- **Allowance:** It entitles Muslim woman against whom triple talaq has been declared to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children. First Class Magistrate will decide this allowance amount.
- **Custody of minor children:** Muslim woman, against whom triple talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek custody of her minor children. First Class Magistrate will make determination of custody of her minor children.
LDF-Mobile App

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched Livestock Disease Forewarning -Mobile Application (LDF-Mobile App).
- This app will be beneficial for consumers and stakeholders engaged in disease control programmes.
- The app will provide early diseases warning and also information about clinical samples for diagnosis in case of epidemic so that immediate action may be taken.

Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga

- The ambitious 2,655 km long JHBDPL project also known as 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga' project originates at Jagdishpur [Uttar Pradesh]. The main trunk of pipeline ends to Haldia (West Bengal) and Dhamra (Odisha).
- The pipeline passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.
- JHBDPL - Jagdishpur - Haldia & Bokaro - Dhamra Natural Gas Pipeline

Blue Flag pilot project

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched pilot project 'Blue Flag' to develop and enhance standards of cleanliness on beaches.
- The 'Blue Flag' is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, Marina or sustainable boating tourism operator, meets its stringent standards.

e-HRMS

- e-HRMS is an online platform for central government employees to apply for leave and access their service-related information. It will enable these employees to see all their details with respect to service book, leave, salary, GPF, etc. and also apply for different kind of claims and reimbursements, loan and advances, leave, leave encashment, LTC advances, tour etc. on a single platform.

BND-4201

- India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard.
India Government Mint, a unit of Security Printing and Minting Corp of India Ltd has launched India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard - Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (B N D-4201).

The BND-4201 is reference material for gold of ‘9999’ fineness. It will be beneficial to the consumers and public at large to ensure purity of gold.

**Ganga Gram project**

- The Union Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has formally launched 'Ganga Gram' project at the Ganga Gram Swachata Sammelan held in New Delhi. The project was launched under the clean Ganga mission-Namami Gange Programme.
- Ganga Gram project is an integrated approach for holistic development of villages situated on the banks of the holy River Ganga with active participation of villagers. The objectives of project include solid and liquid waste management water conservation projects, renovation of ponds and water resources, organic farming, horticulture, and promotion of medicinal plants.
- Ganga Swachhata Manch, a forum of individuals, academicians, civil society organisations and the like was also launched on the sidelines of Gram Swachata Sammelan.

**SAMEEP**

- The Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched SAMEEP (Students and MEA Engagement Program).
- It is an outreach mission that aims to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across country and also to look at diplomacy as a career option.

**National AYUSH Mission (NAM)**

- Launched in September 2014.
- It is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH with the objective of providing cost-effective universal access to AYUSH Services.
- It aims to address gaps in health services through supporting efforts of State/UTs for providing AYUSH health services and education in country, part particularly in vulnerable and far-flung areas.
- The NAM intends to build on India’s unmatched heritage represented by its ancient systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Yunani, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy (AYUSH), which are treasure house of knowledge for preventive and promotive health care.

**e-way bill mechanism**
• In order to provide seamless movement of goods across state borders, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council at its 24th meeting decided to make electronic permits compulsory for inter-state movement of goods from 1 February.
• The e-way bill system, which will be available on a trial basis for voluntary adoption by businesses from 16 January, will also help the tax authorities to monitor cross-border movement of consignments and check instances of under-valuation of goods.
• States have time till 1 June to implement the national e-way bill system for intra-state goods movement.

Project Swarn

• Launched by the Ministry of Railways
• Objective - To significantly improve the passenger experience across 9 dimensions which include coach interiors, toilets, onboard cleanliness, staff behavior, catering, linen, punctuality, security, on-board entertainment.

Darpan

• Launched by the Ministry of Communications for financial inclusion of rural population
• DARPAN – “Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India” Project
• To improve the quality of service, add value to services and achieve “financial inclusion” of un-banked rural population.

National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)

• NAFCC is a flagship Scheme of Union Government launched in 2015 to provide 100% central grant to the State Governments for implementing climate change adaptation projects.
• The objective of NAFCC is to assist states/UTs that are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change in meeting the cost of adaptation.
• The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is National Implementing Entity (NIE) responsible for implementation of adaptation projects under NAFCC.
• The Environment Ministry has approved regional project on Climate Resilience Building among Farmers through Crop Residue Management under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC).

STRIVE Project - India inks S125 Million Financing Agreement with World Bank. (STRIVE project - Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation Project).

The Union Government has inked Loan agreement with World Bank for $40 Million IBRD Credit for "Uttar Pradesh Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project". The objective of UP Pro-Poor
Tourism Development Project is to increase tourism-related benefits for local communities in targeted destinations.


The Parliament has passed The Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) Bill. The Bill establishes the IIPE at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh as an institution of national importance.

The Parliament has passed Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies and help improve ease of doing business in the country.

The Union cabinet has approved auction of 633 private FM radio frequencies in 236 cities across country under Phase III of FM radio privatization. This decision will usher in new/enhanced experience of FM radio in more cities.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography, as a Category-2 Centre (C2C) of UNESCO, in Hyderabad.

India to become fifth largest economy in 2018: Report titled 2015 World Economic League Table.

NITI Aayog to set up Methanol Economy Fund.

India to become fifth largest economy in 2018: Report

India has largest diaspora population in world: UN Report.

Iraq has overtaken Saudi Arabia for the first time to become India's top crude oil supplier in the current fiscal.

Crypto currency dealer Pluto Exchange has announced the launch of India's first mobile application for transacting in virtual currencies. It is the country's first app-based wallet that enables bitcoin transactions using a mobile number.

India ranks 5th in list of countries with highest non-performing assets (NPA) among BRICS countries and is ranked fifth on a list of countries with the highest levels of NPAs, a report by CARE Ratings revealed.
Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited has been awarded the prestigious "Golden Peacock Award for Risk Management" for the year 2017.

India's National Rail and Transport University (NRTU) to come up at Vadodara in Gujarat.

India's first and only design university of World University of Design opens it campus at Sonipat, Haryana.

After China, India is the second largest producer of horticultural crops and fruits.

India ranks 109th in mobile internet speed and 76th in fixed broadband.

**STATES**

**Fiber Grid Project**

- Andhra Pradesh
- Aimed at providing affordable high speed internet service to every household in the state at a nominal rate.
- Fibre Grid project also termed as Triple Play2 Services envisages to provide internet, television and telephone services to more than one lakh households in the state at a nominal price.

**First National Training of trainers programme for Sendai Framework held in New Delhi.**  
(Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-30 SFDRR is an international Treaty that was approved by UN member states in March 2015 at Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan).

Haryana is all set to become the first state in the country to fix a protected price for vegetable crops. The farmers will be ensured of protected price for their vegetables under the 'Bhavantar Bharpai Yojna' or the price deficit compensation scheme.

Odisha police is all set to go digital from January 1, 2018 with computerisation of police station work under the Criminal Tracking and Networking System (CCTNS).

Odisha government has decided to set up a unique 'Heritage Cabinet' and an Odia Language Commission as part of its move to preserve the relics and monuments in the state and enrich its rich culture and language.

The Centre has recognised Odisha as a 'Champion State' for recording the highest growth in exports during 2016-17, official sources said.

Uttar Pradesh has launched a free household power connection scheme (‘Prakash hai to vikas hai’) for the poor in the state to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s birth
anniversary. The government has also introduced **Kisan Uday Yojana**, a novel scheme for farmers, under which existing 5 HP/7.5 HP submersible and coupling sets will be replaced free of cost.

**NYAYA GRAM Project** - A building project at the High Court of Allahabad.

**Tamil Nadu** - The Government of India, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the World Bank have signed a $318 million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project to promote climate resilient agriculture technologies, improve water management practices, and increase market opportunities for small and marginal farmers.

**Bengaluru** - becomes first city to get its own logo - Brand Bengaluru got its own logo and the tagline 'Bengaluru - Be U' (be you) is expected to build the city's image on the global stage.

India’s first AC local train flagged off in **Mumbai**, from Borivali station to Churchgate in the southern part of Mumbai.

**Maharashtra** and Uttar Pradesh are top contributors among states and Union Territories in the first five months since the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in July 1, 2017.

**Meghalaya** has become the first state in India to operationalise a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.

**Meghalaya** - 60 MW Tuirial hydropower project - Aizawl. It is the first large hydropower project in Mizoram which will boost the socio-economic development of the state.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed complete blanket ban on use, sale, purchase and storage of plastic items such as carry bags, plates and spoons in towns of Haridwar and Rishikesh till upper areas of Uttarkashi along the Ganga River in Uttarakhand.

Union Cabinet approves Agreement with UNESCO on establishment of ITCOO (International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography) in **Hyderabad**.

**Andhra Pradesh** government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Alphabet InC.’s X (Google X) to bring Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) technology to India.

**The Andhra Pradesh** Government in association with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) is planning to establish a centre of excellence for children as well as a “gaming for e-learning hub”. It will be the first of its kind in India and in Asia-Pacific region.

**Karnataka's Tirthahalli taluk** - Has come under the grip of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as monkey fever. Monkey Fever – It is a tick-borne viral diseases caused by Kyasanur forest disease virus (KFDV), a member of the virus family Flaviviridae, which also causes dengue and yellow fever. It is endemic to South Asia and was first detected in 1957 in Kyasanur Forest of Karnataka.
Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme - The Telangana government’s prestigious Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) finally gets the green nod.

Losar Festival - Celebrated in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir to mark the beginning of New Year in this Himalayan region.

Bhagavad Gita Research Institute - To be set up in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

Karnataka HC strikes down 85% pictorial warning rule for tobacco.

Kolkata Police wins NASSCOM-DSCI excellence award.

WORLD

1. France to ban all oil, gas production by 2040. The French government claims the ban is a world first.
2. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is set to classify gaming disorder as a mental health condition in its forthcoming 11th international Classification of Diseases (ICD) is due to be published in 2013.
3. The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a measure rejecting the Trump administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. 128 countries voted against US.
4. Nepal has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in an attempt to reduce accidents and make mountaineering safer.
5. The president of Guatemala says the Central American country will move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.
6. WHO declared Gabon (a country in Africa, Capital - Libreville) as polio-free country.
7. ‘Youthquake’ - Word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries. An amalgamation of “youth” and “earthquake”, the noun is defined as “a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people.”

INDIA AND THE WORLD

1. India has signed agreement with Switzerland for automatic sharing of tax-related information from January 1, 2018 with an aim to combat black money.
2. India declares $25 million assistance for Myanmar’s Rakhine State, from where thousands of Rohingya Muslims recently fled following incidents of violence against the community.
3. The Government of India is providing medical assistance worth about US$ one million to Republic of Yemen in response to a request from the Yemeni government. India has been a member of the ‘Friends of Yemen’ Group.
4. India to set up Information Technology centre in Egypt’s Al Azhar University.
5. India selected as Chair of Ad Hoc Committee of Kimberley Certification Scheme.
6. India, Sri Lanka complete 2nd phase of joint oceanographic survey.
DEFENCE

1. Indigenously developed Prithvi Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile was successfully test-fired from a test range in Odisha.
2. ICGS Sujay - An offshore patrol vessel commissioned into by Indian Coast Guard. ICGS Sujay - means Great Victory. It will be based at Paradip, Odisha.
3. Hamesha Vijayee - The Indian Army's Southern Command exercise held in Rajasthan.
4. Exercise Ekuverin - Eighth annual joint military training between India and Maldives.
5. Naseem-Al-Bahr (meaning Sea Breeze) - bilateral naval exercise between Indian Navy and Oman Navy. Indian Naval Ships Trikand and Teg are deployed to Oman for bilateral exercise.
6. The last MiG-27 ML aircraft roared over Hasimara Air Force base in Bengal for the last time as the IAF bade farewell to this legacy fleet in a function. The MiG-27 ML, codenamed 'Bahadur' in India, has had an impeccable track record in its more than three decades of glorious service to the nation.
7. Flag 4 - Joint military exercise between UAE, England, America and France - held in Abu Dhabi.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. China successfully tested its first photovoltaic (solar) highway based on home-grown technology in country's eastern Shandong province. With this, China became the second country in the world to construct a photovoltaic highway. France had introduced world's first photovoltaic road fitted with solar panels in late 2016.

2. China's home-grown AG60O, also known as Kunlong, the world's largest amphibious aircraft took off from the southern city of Zhuhai and landed after roughly an hour-long flight.


4. LKW-2 - China has successfully launched its second Land Surveying Satellite LKW-2 (also known as Yaogan Weixing-32).

5. Liocheles schallen - Scientists have discovered new scorpion species named Schaller's wood scorpion (Liocheles schallen) from at Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura. It has been
named in honour of celebrated wildlife biologist George Schaller who has studied wildlife across the world, including the snow leopards of the Himalayas and central India's tigers.


7. **Kepler-90i** - Eighth planet in Kepler-90 solar system discovered by NASA.

8. US based private rocket launching company SpaceX for first time ever has successfully launched used Dragon spacecraft with a used Falcon 9 rocket.

9. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted permission to Indian firm to conduct Phase-I clinical trials for a Zika vaccine.

10. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA are jointly working on the development of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR), a Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging Satellite.

**Achievements of ISRO, in 2017**

- **Record of launches 104 satellites**: These satellites were launched in a single launch on board PSLV-C37 in February 2017. These satellites include two Indian Cartosat-2 series satellites, two Indian Nano-Satellites, one Nano satellite from Indian University and 130 foreign satellites from 19 countries.

- **31 satellites Launched**: These satellites were launched in a single launch on board PSLV-C38 in June 2017.

- **South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9)**: The 2230 kg satellite was launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-II (GSLV-F09) into its planned Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) in May 2017. This was the fourth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage.

- **First developmental flight of GSLV MkIII-D1**: GSLV Mk-III is India's heavy lift launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III. Its first test was successfully conducted in June 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota with launch of GSAT-19 satellite.

**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

2017 Sahitya Akademi Award winners

Awardees are

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Mamang Dai for his novel *The Black Hill*.

Poets: *Inqulab* (Tamil) for his poetry collection *Kaandhal Naatkal*.


**Sahitya Akademi Award**

- Sahitya Akademi Award is conferred annually on writers of outstanding works in one of the twenty-four major Indian languages (22 eighth Scheduled Languages- English and Rajasthani). The award consists of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and a cheque of 1 Lakh rupee

Actress *Rekha* - received the first *Smita Patil Memorial Award*.

*Shree Saini* - A resident of Washington state - Crowned *Miss India USA 2017*.

Bengali poet *Joy Goswami* - Recipient of 31st *Moortidevi Award*.

*Pranita P Sarangi* - A professor of Biotechnology at IIT, Roorkee, has bagged this year's *Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award*.

*Satheesh Reddy* – Recipient of *National Design Award*.

Globally acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik claimed to have created the “world's biggest” sand Santa face with message “World Peace” on the Puri beach of Odisha on Christmas eve.

Patanjali has been ranked as India's most trusted Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Brand by the Brand Trust Report India Study 2017.

UK tops Forbes’ List of Best Countries for Business in 2018.

**SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES**

- National Children’s Science Congress - Gujarat. The theme for this year's National Science Congress is "Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development". The special focus area is on accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- 11th WTO Ministerial Conference - Argentina
- 100th Indian Economic Association conference - Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur of Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Science Congress (105th) will be held at Manipur University, Imphal.
- World Conference on Vedas - New Delhi.
- 'World sweet festival' - Telangana
- 78th session of Indian History Congress - Kolkata
• 22nd National Youth Festival - Jaipur.
• India International Coffee Festival - Bengaluru.
• Society for Nuclear Medicine International Conference - New Delhi.
• World Telugu Conference - Hyderabad
• Indian Science Communication Congress - Delhi
• Regional Conference on 'Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices' - Guwahati.
• International herbal fair - Bhopal

PERSONS IN NEWS

Anushka Sharma Named PETA's Person Of The Year.

Jairam Thakur - 14th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.

Vijay Rupani - 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Nitin Patel - Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Lt Gen B S Sahrawat - Director General of National Cadet Crops

Abhay - Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

Amardeep Singh Bhatia - Director Of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), a fraud investigating agency in India, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Saba Karim - General Manager of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe - President of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Kumi Naidoo - Secretary General of the global human rights movement, Amnesty International.

Belgium appoints world's first female (Dominique Mineur) ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Henrietta H Fore - New executive director of UNICEF.

Direndra pal singh – chairman of UGC

Justice U.D. Salvi – Chairperson of National Green Tribunal.

Buddhist monk Dhammapiya from Tripura - Secretary general of International Buddhist confederation.

Surya Prakash - Chairman of Prasar Bharathi.

Senior journalist J. R. Sundaresan (pen name - Backiam Ramasamy) expired.
SPORTS AND GAMES

2. The first ever International Wheelchair Cricket Tournament was organised in Nepal's Kathmandu.
3. PV Sindhu won silver at the Dubai World Super series Finals after losing a contest against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.
4. Tribal Sports Meet 2017 - A first-of-its kind event in the country to promote sports among tribals in Odisha. Mascot of the meet 'Olly'.
5. Bangladesh won the title of the inaugural edition of SAFF Under-15 Women's Football Championship with a solitary goal victory against India.
6. Saudi Arabia has hosted a world chess tournament for the first time. The tournament is called the King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships.
7. Puducherry to host international sailing event in January 2018. The event is titled 'Sailing the East Coast'.
8. Real Madrid forward, Cristiano Ronaldo, has won the Best Player of the Year accolade at the Globe Soccer Awards. He also won his fifth Ballon d’Or.
10. Shooting excluded from 2022 Commonwealth Games.
11. Birmingham officially named as 2022 Commonwealth Games host city.

BBC Sports Personality Awards

- BBC Sports Personality of the Year: Mo Farah
- Overseas Sports Personality of the Year: Roger Federer
- Lifetime Achievement: Jessica Ennis-Hill
- Coach of the Year: Benke Blomkvist, Stephen Maguire and Christian Malcolm
- Team of the Year: England’s women cricket team

DECEMBER – MISCELLANEOUS

- **R-Mitra** - a mobile-based application system introduced by Eastern Railway, to ensure women’s safety. R-Mitra is an acronym of Railway Mobile Instant Tracking Response and Assistance. It is to alert the nearest RPF inspector and divisional security control room in case of any emergency with the press of a button only”. The app works both online and offline in SMS mode by using the helpline number 56161.
- Total number of judges allowed in Madras High court – 75. Total number of judges at present - 60.
- Tamil Nadu State Chief Information Commissioner - Sheela Priya.
- Bharathi award Recipient - Former Director of CBI, Karthikeyan.
- Operation Synergy - Rescue operations of Cyclone Ockhi.
• 32nd Indian Engineering Congress – Chennai.
• Mystic Kalinga – International literary festival at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
• Purvasha folk and tribal art museum – Barkul, Odisha
• Orange music festival – Dambuk, Arunachal Pradesh.
• 9th edition of International Youth Sailing Competition of India - Krishnapatnam Port in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.
• Cabinet clears National Medical Commission Bill 2017.
• Punjab government bans manufacture and distribution of nylon and plastic.
• East India’s first Compressed Natural Gas Station – Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
• Naval Maritime Aircraft Museum – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
• India’s first runway over a bridge constructed over sea – Agatti Airport, Lakshadweep islands.
• Centre for Entrepreneurship opportunities and learning CEOL – inaugurated in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
  - West Bengal – First state in India to set up Green University for environmental studies at Hooghly district.
  - Kerala Government has decided to increase the age for alcohol consumption to 23.
• India’s first Madame Tussauds Wax Museum - New Delhi.
• First state to give 24 X 7 free electricity to farmers – Telangana.
• Haryana tops in ease of doing business among Indian states.
• Jokapath, Chhattisgarh - Provided with electricity connections after 70 years of independence.
• Rs. 1500 monthly pension for transgenders – Andhra Pradesh Government.
• Modi Kaka Ka Gaon – A film on PM Narendra Modi.
• All trains to have bio-toilets by March, 2019 – Railways.
• Indian Oil Corporation to book LPG cylinders through Facebook and Twitter.
• India tops in highest number of unemployed people in Asia - Report by Bank of Thailand.
• World’s first exclusive hospital for camel – Dubai.
• Typhoon Tembin - Created disaster in Philippines.