

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JUNE 2017

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Current Affairs – June 2017

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **June 2017**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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Appointments

1. President approved the appointments of Chairman and Members in the NCSC

The President of India has approved the appointments of Professor (Dr.) Ram Shankar Katheria as the Chairman and Mr. L Murugan as the Vice-Chairman in National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

The President also approved the appointment of Mr. K Ramulu, Dr. Yogendra Paswan and Dr. (Ms.) Swaraj Vidwan as Members in the NCSC.

The President has approved these appointments on May 31, for a period of 3 years with effect from the date they assume charge of their respective offices, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment said in a statement.



2. RBI appoints Ganesh Kumar as the ED

The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Shri S. Ganesh Kumar as Executive Director (ED) consequent upon voluntary retirement of Shri Chandan Sinha.

Mr. Ganesh Kumar will look after the Department of Information Technology, the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems, and the Department of External Investments and Operations.

Shri Ganesh Kumar joined the Reserve Bank in 1984. Prior to being promoted as ED, Ganesh Kumar was Chief General Manager-in-Charge, Department of Information Technology in the Reserve Bank.



3. Sanjiv Singh takes over as the IOC Chairman

Mr. Sanjiv Singh has taken over as Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (Indian Oil). Prior to his elevation, he was Director (Refineries) on the Indian Oil Board since July 2014.

Concurrently, he will also be Chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL) and Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Ltd. (HURL), a joint venture company set up to revive the fertiliser plants at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni.

Mr. Sanjiv Singh joined Indian Oil in 1981. He has served Indian Oil for over 35 years, spearheading refinery operations as well as mega Greenfield and Brownfield projects in refining and petrochemicals.



4. Nirupama Rao appointed the Public Policy Fellow to US think-tank

Former Indian Ambassador to US Nirupama Rao has been appointed as a public policy fellow to a Washington-based think-tank where she will work on a project on the Sino-India ties. Rao will be affiliated with the Wilson Centre's Asia programme.

Mrs. Rao was India's first woman ambassador to China and its first woman spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She also served as India's foreign secretary from 2009 to 2011.



5. Vinay Dube appointed as the Jet Airways CEO

Vinay Dube has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jet Airways. Mr. Dube is currently senior vice-president, Asia Pacific, Delta Air Lines.

The position had been vacant for more than two years, since Cramer Ball resigned as CEO with effect from February 2016.

As CEO of Jet Airways, Dube will be responsible for strengthening the airline's overall business performance and its position in the domestic and international markets.



6. Indian-American Amul Thapar appointed as the Judge in the US Court of Appeals

US President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Amul Thapar as judge on the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He thus became only the second Indian-American judge of an appeals court.

Before his appointment to the Court of Appeals, Judge Thapar served on the District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Judge Thapar has served as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of Ohio and the District of Columbia.



7. Shashi Shekar Vempati named as the CEO of Prasar Bharati

Shashi Shekar Vempati has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati. He will replace Rajeev Singh, who has been serving as interim CEO since February 2017.

Mr. Vempati's tenure will be for five years from the date of assumption of office. Vempati previously worked with Infosys and now heads an online media company.

Vempati has been appointed on a recommendation by a three-member committee headed by the Vice-president Mr. Hamid Ansari.



8. Sharad Jain appointed as the new DG NWDA

Dr. Sharad Kumar Jain has assumed the additional charge of Director General, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. Mr Jain succeeds Mr. S. Masood Husain who has moved over as Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission.

Mr. Jain is presently working as Scientist G with National Institute of Hydrology (NIH),



Roorkee. He also was the Chairman of the panel, which cleared the Ken-Betwa river link project of the NWDA.

9. Hoshiar Singh appointed as the Chief of the Copyrights Office

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has approved the appointment of senior bureaucrat Hoshiar Singh as Registrar of the Office of Copyrights, under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.



The office is mandated to protect the music and film industry besides addressing its concerns, among others. Mr Singh has been appointed for a period of five years.

Mr Singh is a 1994 batch officer of the Indian Telecom Service.

10. K G Karmakar, Gauri Shankar appointed directors of IPPB

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved their appointment of K G Karmakar and Gauri Shankar as Independent Directors of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).



According to an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), they have been appointed to the post on the board of directors of the bank for a period of three years.

The IPPB has been incorporated as a public sector bank under the Department of Posts with 100 per cent equity of the government of India.

11. Lakshmi Vilas Bank appointed B K Manjunath as the part-time Chairman

The Board of Directors of Lakshmi Vilas Bank have co-opted B K Manjunath as additional director in the category of Non-Executive and Independent Director. The board of directors also appointed B K Manjunath as part-time chairperson for a tenure of three years.



Mr. Manjunath is a practicing chartered accountant for the last 25 years. He had also served as an Independent director of the Bank during the period from 2008 to 2015.

He has experience and knowledge in project financing, business administration and management.

12. Girish Wagh appointed as the Commercial Vehicle Business Head of Tata Motors

Girish Wagh was appointed as the Commercial Vehicle Business head of Tata Motors as well as a member of the Executive Committee (ExCom). Executive Director Satish Borwankar was appointed to a newly created position of Chief Operating Officer for a tenure of 2 years.



This appointment has been announced in a phase where, Tata Motors is undertaking a massive transformation process, with almost 1400 people losing jobs and roles and responsibilities for various key executives revised starting 1st of April under a program called Organizational Effectiveness.

13. Indian envoys to the European Union, Italy, Belgium and Denmark appointed by the Government

India announced new diplomatic appointments in its missions abroad for envoys to the Belgium and European Union, Italy, Belgium, and Denmark. India has appointed Gaitri Issar Kumar as ambassador to the European Union, Reenat Sandhu to Italy replacing Anil Wadhwa and Ajit Vinayak Gupte to Denmark replacing Rajeev Shahare.



The appointment marks importance given India's ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement with the EU, which has been hanging fire after 16 rounds of negotiations.

14. TCS executive Ramanathan Ramanan to head the Atal Innovation Mission

In order to promote entrepreneurship in India, government decided to appoint Tata Consultancy Services senior vice president Ramanathan Ramanan as head of Atal Innovation Mission, in the rank of additional secretary on secondment basis from the IT bellwether for two years initially.



As per the government's directives, Ramanan's appointment will be "without pay and allowances but with the provision of entitlement for government accommodation at New Delhi. Recruitment was done under the government's premier think tank NITI Aayog.

15. Jeevandas Narayan appointed as the MD of Manappuram Home Finance

Manappuram Finance has announced the appointment of Jeevandas Narayan as the Managing Director and Subhash Samant as CEO of its fully owned home loans subsidiary, Manappuram Home Finance.

Prior to this Narayan, who has more than 37 years of experience in the financial services industry, was Managing Director of State Bank of Travancore. Samant, with more than 20 years of experience, has worked with Larsen and Toubro Housing Finance, DHFL, ICICI Bank and GIC Housing Finance.



16. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov appointed as the Under-Secretary General of the UN Counter-Terrorism Office

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov of the Russian Federation as Under-Secretary-General of the newly created United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office. The Under-Secretary-General will provide strategic leadership to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts and participate in the decision-making process of the United Nations.



Mr. Voronkov is currently the Russian Federation's Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

17. Rajiv Gauba named the new Home Secretary

The Union Cabinet's appointments committee has appointed Rajiv Gauba as secretary in the union ministry for home affairs. He replaces Rajiv Mehrishi, who will retire on 30 August.

Mr. Gauba is an IAS officer of the 1982 Jharkhand batch and is currently posted as urban development secretary as officer on special duty.

Gauba has served in Home Ministry as joint and additional secretary, and looked after the Left-Wing Extremism division, among other responsibilities.



18. IDFC Bank appointed Sunil Kakar as MD and CEO

IDFC Ltd has appointed Sunil Kakar as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank with effect from July 16 for three years. He has also been appointed as additional director.

Mr. Kakar will replace Vikram Limaye who is set to join leading stock exchange NSE as its new Managing Director and CEO. Kakar had joined IDFC as the Group Chief Financial Officer.

He had previously worked with Max New York Life Insurance Company since 2001 as CFO. He has also worked with Bank of America for 18 years in various roles.



19. Kaushik Basu appointed as the President of International Economic Association

Kaushik Basu has taken over as President of the International Economic Association (IEA). Basu has also served as Senior Vice-President and chief economist at the World Bank from 2012 to 2016 and as the Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India from 2009 to 2012.

The IEA is a leading organisation for professional economists and it seeks to shape global economic policy and research. Among its past presidents are Nobel laureates Kenneth Arrow, Robert Solow, Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz.



20. Government appoints Priyanka Chopra as ambassador of Skill India campaign

The National Skill Development Corporation has roped in Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra as the ambassador to endorse the government's flagship Skill India campaign. Priyanka will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.

The Skill India campaign was launched by Prime Minister Modi in July 2015. The government aims to train 40 crore people by 2022 through its skilling initiatives.



21. R K Pachnanda took charge as Director General, ITBP

R K Pachnanda took charge as the new Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He took over from Mr Krishna Chaudhary, DG who retired on superannuation. Mr Pachnanda is the 29th Chief of the ITBP.



Mr. Pachnanda is a 1983 batch Indian Police Service officer of the West Bengal cadre. Prior to the appointment as DG ITBP, he has served in various capacities as Commissioner of Police, Kolkata and DG NDRF. He has been decorated with Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 1999 and President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2007.

22. Rajesh Shah appointed as NIFT Chairperson

Rajesh V Shah was selected as Chairperson on the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Fashion Technology replacing former cricketer Chetan Chauhan. Chetan Chauhan has been appointed as Sports Minister of Uttar Pradesh.



The selection was made based on the NIFT Act 2006, where, the Chairperson of its Board of Governors shall be an eminent academician, scientist or technologist or professional, who is to be nominated by the Visitor, in this case the President of India. The institute’s responsibility comes under Ministry of Textiles.

Awards

1. NAAC received Asia Pacific Quality Network Award 2017

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of India has received prestigious International Award of Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) titled "APQN Quality Award 2017 for International Co-operation in Quality Assurance" in recognition of NAAC's continued efforts as facilitator of quality culture and co-operation within and outside Asia-Pacific region.



APQN Quality Award is among the most prestigious International Awards in quality assurance of higher education.

2. Shri J P Nadda conferred WHO Director-General's Special Recognition Award

Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, was conferred the WHO Director-General's Special Recognition Award for global tobacco control.

The number of tobacco users in India have reduced by 81 lakhs. The Government has adopted the following measures to control the use of tobacco:

- Implemented large pack warnings with 85% pictorial health warnings on both the sides.
- Conducted second round of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS).
- Strengthened & upscaled cessation facilities with the launch of the toll-free national tobacco Quitline and mCessation services.



3. Soumitra Chatterjee to receive the Legion d' Honneur

Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee has been conferred with the highest French civilian honour, the Legion d'Honneur. Legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray had received the same honour 30 years ago.

Chatterjee has previously been conferred with the Commandeur de l' Ordre des Arts ET des Lettres, France's highest award for artistes. He is also the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, which is India's highest award in cinema.



4. Poet Haraprasad Das honoured with Kalinga Literary Award

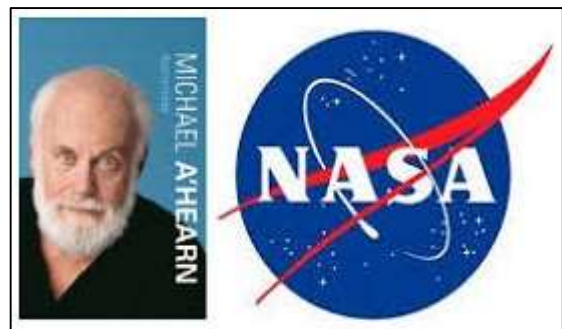
Kalinga Literary Award was honoured to famous poet and essayist Haraprasad Das for his work and contribution to literature at the fourth edition of Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF). Kalinga Literary Award was held in 3 days, representing literature for peace and harmony.



Two new awards were introduced namely, the Kalinga International Literary Award and the Kalinga Karubaki Award. Kalinga International Literary Award was received by Anand Neelakantan for his immense contribution in literature and Kalinga Karubaki Award was given to Paramita Satpathy for her contribution to Odia poetry.

5. NASA honored Comet Science Pioneer Michael A'Hearn

NASA has posthumously awarded the Exceptional Public Service Medal to Michael A'Hearn; one of the world's leading comet scientists. A'Hearn died May 29 at his home in University Park, Maryland at the age of 76.



The NASA Medal is for "fundamental work on comets and small bodies of the solar system, leadership in space missions, and ensuring public access to data from NASA missions and related projects.

Mike A'Hearn devoted his life to exploration, and his work has transformed our understanding of what comets are made of and how they interact within our corner of the universe.

6. Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute selected for PM's yoga award

Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune was selected as the first recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding contribution to promotion and development of Yoga.



The Institute has published books on Yoga and these have been translated into multiple languages. There are thousands of Iyengar Yoga teachers popularising and propagating yoga across the world.

The Award was recommended by an Evaluation Committee (Jury) constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary and included Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, Secretary (AYUSH) and Dr. Veerendra Hegde as its members.

7. Qatar Airways voted as the World's Best Airline in 2017

Qatar Airways has again been named as Airline of the Year by the prestigious 2017 Skytrax World Airline Awards. It was the fourth time that Qatar Airways has been given this global recognition as the world's best airline. Qatar Airways enjoyed further success by winning major awards for the World's Best Business Class, the World's Best First Class Lounge and as the Best Airline in the Middle East.



Referred to as the "Oscars of the aviation industry", the World Airline Awards are held in high esteem for clarity of process and independence, with no outside sponsorship or external influence. The survey voting processes and awards results analysis were subject to detailed, independent assessment by the UK advertising authority (ASA) in 2015 and found fully compliant, transparent and independent.

8. Anti-hunger activist Ankit Kawatra to be honoured by Queen Elizabeth II

Anti-hunger activist Ankit Kawatra received the prestigious Queen's Young Leaders Award with 60 others from all 53 Commonwealth countries. He was honoured by Queen Elizabeth II.



Ankit Kawatra has been committed to solving hunger and malnutrition in India. He quit his corporate business job and founded a not for profit organisation Feeding India that works towards solving problems of hunger, malnutrition and food wastage, mainly by redistributing extra food from restaurants, canteens, households, corporates etc. to help people in need.

9. Nisha Dutt bags Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Nisha Dutt, Chief Executive Officer of Hyderabad-based Intellectap has been honoured with the "Social Entrepreneur of the Year" award at the seventh Asian Awards in London for leading Intellectap to become a globally known enterprise that focuses on social capital and affects the underserved communities.



Earlier winners from India include Ratan Tata, Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan and singer Asha Bhosle.

10. West Bengal government received UN award

The UN awarded a scheme by the West Bengal government aimed at promoting girls' education with its highest Public Service Award. 'Kanyashree Prakalpa' scheme was chosen among 552 projects from 62 countries, which were nominated for the award.

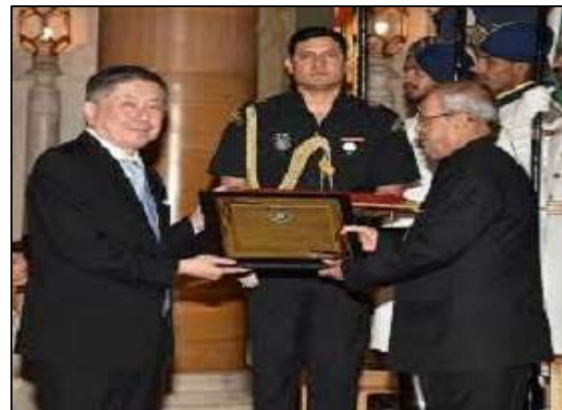
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee received a trophy and the certificate for the First Prize at the UN Public Service Forum. Kanyashree Prakalpa is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at promoting education among girls. Over four million girls are already enrolled in the scheme.



11. President of India presented the Hindi Sevi Samman Awards

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Hindi Sevi Samman Awards for the year 2015. The scholars received awards in 12 different categories for their contribution in the field of Hindi language and literature.

- Ganga Sharan Singh Award – Prof S Shesharatnam, M. Govindarajan, Prof Harmedra Singh bedi, Prof H Suvdani
- Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Puruskar-Baldev Sharma and Rahul Dev
- Aatmaram Award – Girishchandra and Fani bhushan
- Swami Vivekanand Award- Shridhar Pradakar and Shriranjan suridev.



12. Defence Minister presented the Raksha Mantri's Awards

Minister of Defence, Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley gave away Raksha Mantri's Awards for Excellence for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 in recognition of exemplary performance amongst Ordnance Factories and the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) in New Delhi.

- Institutional Awards (2014-15) - Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa
- Best Performing Division (2014-15) - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Ordnance Factory Medak, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited



- Institutional Awards (2015-16) - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited
- Best Performing Division (2015-16) - Naval Systems, Ordnance Factory Medak, Goa Shipyard Limited

13. Pune city police received FICCI Smart Policing Award 2017

Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries honoured Pune city police with Smart Police Award for the year 2017 due to its introduction of initiatives like Buddy Cop, Damini squad, "Lost & Found" portal, Beat Marshal Monitoring Sapience App, and Tenant Information System.



"BuddyCop" was introduced for helping women working in IT companies and 'Damini squad' was introduced where women police officials played a good role in tackling women security issues in the city. Pune Police Commissioner Rashmi Shukla received the award. Such initiatives focused on use of best technology for tackling internal security issues.

14. Satyabrata Rout awarded with Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar

Noted theatre director and Professor Satyabrata Rout was awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for the year 2016 due to his unique methodology of teaching and practising direction and design to theatres.

He is a professor from the Department of Theatre Arts, S N School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (UoH).



He has directed many plays and has participated in national and international theatre festivals. He has conducted various theatre workshops across the globe. He has also been honoured with META (Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Award) award in 2013 for his amazing production Matte Ekalavya.

15. Priyanka Chopra honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Veteran actor Priyanka Chopra was honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award in the new category of Internationally Acclaimed Actress. With this, Priyanka Chopra will be first recipient of this award category. She made India proud by performing internationally in American TV series Quantico and movie Baywatch.

Dadasaheb Phalke Academy honours artists from the Hindi and regional industry since the year 2000 and praises 22 different crafts of the industry, right from make-up artists to spot boys.

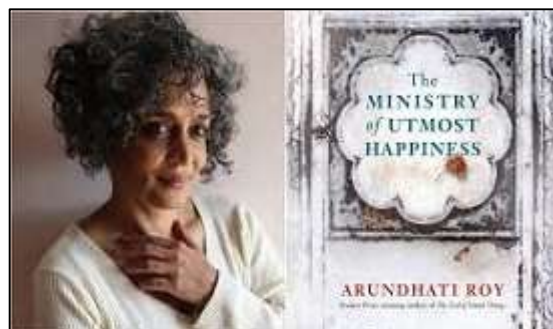


Books & Authors

1. "Ministry of Utmost Happiness" authored by Arundhati Roy released

The book "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" which has been authored by Arundhati Roy was released recently. It is fiction-based novel and will be published by Hamish Hamilton UK and Penguin India.

"The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" will be published in 30 countries and 26 languages. The book is already on Amazon's "top 50 best-seller books" list. Arundhati Roy had won the Booker prize for her previous novel "The God of Small Things".



2. Former Union minister Jairam Ramesh launched a book called "Indira Gandhi: A Life in Nature"

Congress president Sonia Gandhi launched a book called "Indira Gandhi: A Life in Nature" written by Mr Jairam Ramesh.

The book describes how Indira Gandhi led India to the path of conservation and made it a priority of economic development and the unexplored aspect of Indira Gandhi's life — her love for nature.

This book is published by Simon & Schuster. Jairam Ramesh presented first copy of the book to the Congress President, besides to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former minister Karan Singh and Priyanka Gandhi.



3. Book on Vajpayee 'Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji' released

BJP MP and author Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' officially handed over the first copy of the 450-page book titled -'Yug Purush, Bharat Ratna, Atal Ji' to the President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

The book will be officially released in near future. The book is based on life of politician Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his debut in politics.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the 10th Prime Minister of India for term from 1998 to 2004. He was honoured with Bharat Ratna award in 2014.



4. David Grossman bagged the Man Booker International Prize 2017

The 63-year-old David Grossman's novel 'A Horse Walks into a Bar' bagged the Man Booker International Prize 2017. This novel bagged the prize for the year's best fiction in translation, due to its Israeli comedy.

With this award, he became the first Israeli author to win the Man Booker International Prize.

"A Horse Walks into a Bar" throws light on the effects of grief and its character is challenging and flawed.



5. The fifth Bhupen Hazarika Award was given to Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi

The Fifth Bhupen Hazarika National Award, 2017 was honoured to Arunachal Pradesh writer Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi with prize money of 51,000 rupees, a memento and a certificate.

He has done creative work in a dozen novels, and numerous short stories and plays, all in Assamese language. Some of his best novels like Mauna Onth Mukhar Hriday bagged Sahitya Akademi award in 2005.

The Bhupen Hazarika National Award is an award, instituted by Sarhad, a Maharashtra-based organization.



6. 'The Emergency-Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour' book launched

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Venkaiah Naidu launched a book titled 'The Emergency-Indian Democracy's Darkest Hour' written by A. Surya Prakash, Chairperson Prasar Bharati Board.

The book launch was organized as part of the daylong convention organized to mark the anniversary of the Emergency by Megh Nirghosh Media in Ahmedabad.

The book details about the failure of media and the judiciary to stand up against emergency and highlights the role of Sarvodaya, Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh in restoring the democracy in the country.



Committees

1. SEBI Constitutes Committee on Corporate Governance

SEBI has set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank to advise on issues relating to corporate governance. The committee will submit the report within four months.

The Committee shall make recommendations to SEBI on the following issues:

- Ensuring independence in spirit of Independent Directors and their active participation in functioning of the company.
- Improving safeguards and disclosures pertaining to Related Party Transactions.
- Issues in accounting and auditing practices by listed companies.
- Improving effectiveness of Board Evaluation practices.
- Addressing issues faced by investors on voting and participation in general meetings.
- Disclosure and transparency related issues.



2. Expert Committee formed to examine rules Indo-Myanmar Border

A committee was formed to examine the rules, which allow free movement of people near Indo-Myanmar border. Committee will be headed by the special secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The committee will prepare standard operating procedures common for all the four states so that militants and criminals are filtered at the border.

However, visa-free movement regime is already allowed within 16 km on either side of the border, but these rules are widely exploited by militants for smuggling arms, drugs, and fake Indian currency, due to which committee has been formed to examine the rules.



3. GST Council to set up Anti-profiteering Panel

A five-member anti-profiteering authority will be established to take decisions on levying the penalty if businesses do not pass on the benefit of price reduction to consumers under GST regime. The GST Council headed by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, has also approved the anti-profiteering rules.



The anti-profiteering authority, to be headed by a retired secretary-level officer, can take *suo motu* action, besides acting on complaints of profiteering. As per the anti-profiteering rules, the authority will have a sunset date of two years and will decide on penalty to be levied.

4. RBI reconstituted Oversight Committee and appointed three more members

The Reserve Bank of India reconstituted the Oversight Committee by appointing three more members. The high-level panel was formed to examine the process to resolve mounting bad loans in the banking sector.

Former chief vigilance commissioner Pradeep Kumar will head the now reconstituted 5-member panel. The other three members of the committee are former SBI Chairman Janki Ballabh, former Canara Bank Chairman and MD MBN Rao, former Chairman of L&T Finance YM Deosthalee and S Raman, member SEBI.



The reconstituted Oversight Committee would also review cases, which were restructured under the Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets and resolution of other cases where the aggregate exposure of the banking sector to the borrowing entity is greater than Rs. 500 crore.

5. Government constitutes a committee to prepare the final draft of National Education Policy

The government has constituted a committee for preparation of final draft of National Education Policy under the Chairmanship of eminent Scientist Dr K. Kasturirangan.

The other members of the committee are – Dr. Vasudha Kamat, Shri K.J. Alphonse, Dr. Manjul Bhargava, Dr Ram Shankar Kureel, Dr. T.V.Kattimani, Shri Krishna Mohan Tripathy, Dr. Mazhar Asif and Dr. M.K.Shridhar.

The HRD ministry did not set a timeline for the new committee to submit a report. The



previous committee was constituted under the leadership of T.S.R. Subramanian by the government in 2015.

6. BCCI formed 7-member Committee to oversee Lodha Panel Reforms

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) formed a special seven-member committee to identify 'few critical points' that are difficult to be implemented, in regards to the Justice RM Lodha Committee reforms.

The four contentious Lodha panel recommendations, which are delaying the implementation process, are one-state one vote, age cap of 70 for office-bearers, cooling-off period for office-bearers and the size of the national selection panel.



The seven-member committee has Rajeev Shukla, former India captain Sourav Ganguly, Naba Bhattacharjee, TC Mathew, Jay Shah, Amitabh Choudhary and Anirudh Chaudhary. The committee will be headed by Rajeev Shukla.

Deaths

1. Eminent social activist Mehrunnisa Dalwai passed away

Eminent social activist Mehrunnisa Dalwai passed away at the age of 87 years. She was the wife of prominent Muslim activist and thinker late Hamid Dalwai. She worked for justice and equal rights for Muslim women.

Mehrunnisa Dalwai had lead a march to 'Mantralaya' in Mumbai seeking abolition of triple 'talaq'. After the death of her husband, she became the president of the Muslim Satyashodhak Mandal and later founded Islamic Research Institute and Maharashtra Talaq Mukti Morcha.



2. Adam West, popularly known as "TV's Batman", passed away

US actor Adam West, popular for his role in the 1960s TV series "Batman", passed away at the age of 88 years. Apart from playing in the Batman TV series, he also played the lead character in the first Batman movie series, "Batman: The Movie (1966)".

West made his feature debut in 1959's "The Young Philadelphians," starring Paul Newman. West continued his work with television guest appearances, small movie roles and as a voice actor. He also wrote the book titled "Back to the Batcave".



3. Former German chancellor Helmut Kohl passed away

Germany's former chancellor and architect of reunification in 1990 Helmut Kohl, died at the age of 87 years. He was known for bringing East and West Germany together after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

In addition, he was responsible for the introduction of the Euro. He made two great achievements i.e. German reunification and European unity. Helmut Kohl was the longest-serving chancellor of the 20th Century.



Helmut Josef Michael Kohl was born on 3 April 1930 in Ludwigshafen. In UK, he is known for his differences over the EU with the late UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

4. The 17th Chief Justice of India PN Bhagwati died

The 17th Chief Justice of India, Justice Bhagwati passed away at the age of 95 years. He was known for introducing the concept of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) in the country.

He served as judge of the Gujarat high court for 13 years. He was appointed as the judge of the Supreme Court in July 1973. He remained on the highest judicial post between July 1985 and December 1986.

Post his retirement, he performed the Pilot Project of free Legal Aid and Advice in the state as the chairperson of the State Legal Aid Committee.



5. Actor Sam Beazley passed away at the age of 101

British actor Sam Beazley passed away at the age of 101 years. He played various roles such as Professor Everard in Harry Potter, 2004's Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, "Don Bosco" and Johnny English (2003).

He has also performed in television shows like Pride and Prejudice (1995) as Vicar Longbourn, Midsommer Murders and Doctors. He started his career as a teenager in 1930s, in films like "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet".

Most recently, he was found acting in guest roles in Foyle's War, Kingdom and Casualty, all in 2007.



6. Greek's Ex- Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis passed away

Former Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis passed away at the age of 98 years. He served as prime minister of Greece from 1990 to 1993.

He has also served as finance minister, in liberal governments in 1951-52 and 1963-65. He retired from parliament in January 2004 but remained honorary chairperson of the centre-right New Democracy party.

He was presented with the Abdi Ipekci Peace and Friendship Award in 1997 in Istanbul. He was also honoured with 'Companion of the Order of Australia'.



7. Lupin Founder & Chairman Dr. Desh Bandhu Gupta passed away

Mr. Desh Bandhu Gupta, Founder and Chairman of pharma major Lupin, passed away at the age of 79 years.

Mr. Gupta founded Lupin in 1968. Lupin rose to become the second-largest Indian generics pharmaceutical company by revenue in 2016. It is now the 4th and the 6th largest generics pharmaceutical company by market capitalization and sales globally, according to Bloomberg.

Lupin was the only Indian pharmaceutical company to have made an entry into Japan, which is one of the toughest pharmaceutical markets in the world.



1. Prithvi-II missile successfully test-fired

India successfully test-fired the indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile from a test range in Odisha as part of a user trial by the Army. The indigenously developed Prithvi-II has a strike range of 350 kms. It is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1,000 kg of warheads and is thrustured by liquid propulsion twin engines.

The missile was inducted into Indian armed forces in 2003. Prithvi II is the first missile to have been developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.



2. Second Scorpene Class Submarine Ready for Sea Trials

The second Scorpene-class submarine is ready for surface sea trials. INS Khanderi, the second Scorpene class submarine has been built at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai in collaboration with France's DCNS as part of Project 75 of Indian Navy. Six Scorpene-class submarines are being built under 'Project 75' of the Navy.

INS Khanderi's features include superior stealth and ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapon. The attack from it can be launched with torpedoes, as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles, whilst on surface or underwater.



3. India successfully test-fired all weather tracked-chassis QR-SAM

India has successfully test-fired its first all-weather tracked-chassis Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) from a mobile launcher at Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha. QR-SAM is a fully indigenous missile system with better range than Akash SAM Systems.

The QR-SAM was jointly developed by the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Limited. It can engage multiple targets within a range of approximate 30 kilometers. It is truck-mounted missile and 360 degree rotatable. The system is all weather enabled.



4. INS Sahyadri on overseas deployment to Papua New Guinea

In pursuance of India's Act East policy, Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri is on an overseas deployment to the South East Asia and Southern Indian Ocean.

The visit of the Indian Naval Ships seeks to underscore India's peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly and harmonious countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain and to strengthen existing bonds between Papua New Guinea and India.



During the stay in harbour, various activities such as official calls, formal reception on board ships, ships open to visitors, guided tours for Indian naval personnel and Community Welfare activities were planned.

5. ATGM Nag was tested successfully

The Anti-Tank Guided Missile Nag was successfully flight tested in the desert ranges of Rajasthan. The Fire and Forget 3rd generation ATGM Nag is incorporated with many advanced technologies including the Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR) Seeker with integrated avionics, a capability that is possessed by few nations in the world.



The test was carried out by DRDO Scientists of the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Missile Complex at Hyderabad, DL Jodhpur, HEMRL and ARDE at Pune. The successful flight test of 3rd generation ATGM Nag further strengthens the country's defence capabilities.

6. Eastern Fleet Ships participated in AUSINDEX-17

AUSINDEX-17, a bilateral maritime exercise between the two navies would also be held as part of the visit. This would be the second edition of the exercise with the maiden edition having been conducted at Visakhapatnam in 2015.

The exercises aim to increase interoperability and are in consonance with the growing cooperation between the two countries. In April 2017, Prime Minister, Mr. Malcom Turnbull visited India and called on the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for bilateral talks and enhance the partnership between the two countries.



7. India-Australia naval exercise 'AUSINDEX' held

Indian warships began naval exercise off the coast of Western Australia. The second AUSINDEX exercises was aimed at increasing interoperability between Australian and Indian naval forces, executing complex naval manoeuvres.

The first AUSINDEX was held in the Bay of Bengal in 2015. As the only countries with the largest Indian Ocean coastline, Australia and India are natural partners in maritime security, particularly in the region where India has its greatest strategic interests.



8. Floating Dock – FDN 2 for the Indian Navy launched

The first indigenously built Floating Dock (FDN-2) for the Indian Navy was launched by Smt. Anjali Deshpande, wife of Vice Admiral DM Deshpande, AVSM, VSM, and Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition at a ceremony at Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) Shipyard at Kattupalli, near Chennai.

Floating Dock is an indigenously designed and built platform with state of the art machinery & control systems capable of docking warships of up to 8000 Tons displacement. The dock covers provided with the FDN-2 facilitate repair & refit activities in inclement weather conditions.



9. Defence Minister Arun Jaitley dedicated Aeronautical Test range to the Nation

The Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley inaugurated the newly built Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) at Chitradurga in Karnataka.

The ATR is the first of its kind range in the country exclusively meant to conduct flight-tests of indigenous unmanned and manned aircrafts, developed by the DRDO including the naval and trainer versions of the Light Combat Aircraft, the unmanned air vehicles.



This outdoor testing and evaluating facility has been set up by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), one of the premier laboratories of the DRDO.

Economic

1. India loses fastest growing economy tag after GDP in Q4 grew at 6.1%

India lost its status of the world's fastest growing economy after the country's GDP or gross domestic product grew 6.1% year-on-year during the January-March period.

China's GDP grew 6.9% during the same quarter. During Q4, forestry and fishing sectors grew at 5.2%; mining and quarrying at 6.4% and manufacturing at 5.3%.

The GDP growth rate for the full year (2016-17) stood at 7.1%. During the previous quarter, (October-December) India's GDP grew at 7%.



2. SEBI Approves Airtel and Telenor Merger

Market regulator SEBI and stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) have approved the proposed merger of Airtel with Telenor. Bharti Airtel will acquire the business of Telenor India for an undisclosed amount in all seven circles where the latter holds spectrum.

Airtel would take over Telenor India's spectrum, licences and operations, including its employees and customer base of 44 million. Telenor is currently running operations in seven circles - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP (East), UP (West) and Assam.



3. RCom-Aircel merged wireless company to be called Aircom

The merged entities of RCom and Aircel will be called Aircom. Both the companies, Reliance Communications and Maxis Communications Berhad (MCB), had announced their merger plans in September 2016.

Both RCom and Maxis Communications will hold 50% each in the merged entity and have equal representation on the board and committees. Once the deal is completed, RCom's overall debt will be reduced by Rs. 20,000 crore, while Aircel's debt will reduce by Rs. 4,000 crore.



4. India's Seafood Export at all-time High in 2016-17

India exported 11,34,948 MT of seafood worth an all-time high of US\$ 5.78 billion (Rs. 37,870.90 crore) in 2016-17 as against 9,45,892 tons and 4.69 billion dollars a year earlier. USA and South East Asia continued to be the major importers.



Frozen shrimp maintained its position as the top item of export, accounting for 38.28% in quantity and 64.50% of the total earnings in dollar terms. Frozen Fish was the second largest export item, accounting for a share of 26.15% in quantity and 11.64% in dollar earnings.

5. NHB approved merger of Aadhar Housing Finance and DHFL Vysya Housing Finance

The National Housing Board has given its approval for merger of Dewan Housing Group companies Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd and DHFL Vysya Housing Finance Ltd. The merger will be completed by August 2017.



Clearances from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and the National Housing Bank (NHB) have already been obtained. Under this scheme, Aadhar Housing will be merged into DHFL Vysya.

However, the merged entity will be named as Aadhar Housing Finance.

6. Microsoft to acquire Israeli security firm Hexadite

Microsoft has announced that it will acquire Hexadite, an Israeli start up that uses AI to identify and protect against attacks. The deal is finalised for a price of \$100 million.



Hexadite would be fully absorbed into Microsoft as part of the Windows and Devices Group. Its headquarters are based in Boston, with a team of researchers in Tel-Aviv, Israel. Other security acquisitions Microsoft has made in Israel include Aorato, Adallom and Secure Islands.

7. IRDAI took over administration of Sahara Life Insurance

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) took over the administration and management of Sahara India Life Insurance. RK Sharma, General Manager, IRDAI, has been appointed as administrator to manage the affairs of the insurer.

IRDAI has ensured to service policyholders and manage the affairs of the insurer in smooth and feasible manner.



Sahara India Life Insurance is a Lucknow-based fully owned life insurance company in the private sector with paid-up capital of ₹157 crore.

8. Verizon acquired Yahoo for \$4.48bn

Top ranked wireless operator of US, Verizon acquired Yahoo's core business for \$4.48bn (£3.51m). It has been announced that Yahoo Sports, Yahoo Finance, Yahoo Mail and more will remain same as before. As a part of new venture, Verizon is rebranding AOL and Yahoo under name Oath.



The remaining of Yahoo, which is not acquired by Verizon telecom, will change its name to Altaba Inc, due to acquisition. It will become a holding company with 15.5% stakes in Chinese Internet giant Alibaba and a 35.5% holding in Yahoo Japan Corp. It will begin trading under the ticker symbol "AABA".

9. India topped global remittance-receiving list

India has claimed the top spot among the remittance-receiving nations, surpassing China. According to United Nations report, Indians working across the globe sent home 62.7 billion US dollars.

According to the 'One Family at a Time' study by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development, about 200 million migrants globally sent more than 445 billion dollars as remittances in 2016 to their families.



Remittance flows have grown over the last decade from 296 billion in 2007 to 445 billion dollars in 2016.

10. Export of spices & spice products achieved growth of 12 % in 2016-17

The export of spices and spice products achieved a growth of 12% during 2016-17. According to Spices Board in Kochi, 9,47,790 lakhs tons of spices were exported earning 17664.61 crore rupee. In 2015-16, the country had exported 8.43 lakhs tons worth around 16 thousand crores.



Chilli continued to be the most sought after spice, registering an increase of 27% in value in the last fiscal year. Cumin was the second most exported spice recording a rise of 22% in quantity and 28% in value.

11. CCI slammed Rs. 87 crore penalty on Hyundai Motor India

Competition Commission of India slammed fine of Rs. 87 crore on Hyundai Motor India for offering unfair discounts on passenger cars. However, Hyundai has announced to challenge the ruling. According to CCI, Hyundai Motor India has a discount control mechanism whereby dealers are permitted to provide a maximum permissible discount and not beyond the recommended range by CCI.



A penalty was imposed to 0.3 per cent of the company's average relevant turnover in the last three financial years from 2013-14.

12. DGCA suspended flying license of Air Carnival

Coimbatore-based Air Carnival's flying permit was cancelled by Directorate General of Civil Aviation due to its delay in giving response to the show-cause notice. DGCA is the considered as a regulatory body governing the safety aspects of civil aviation in India. Air Operator Permit has also been cancelled for other two Airlines such as Air Pegasus and Air Costa.



DGCA may cancel or suspend AOP of an airline for such period when it feels that the holder of the permit has failed to establish a safe, efficient and reliable service.

13. Tata Group, Lockheed Martin signed deal to manufacture F-16 fighter jets in India

Tata Group and American aerospace giant Lockheed Martin signed an unprecedented deal to produce, operate and export the combat-proven F-16 fighters in India. This partnership significantly strengthens the F-16 'Make in India' offer, creates and maintains numerous new job opportunities in India and the US, and brings the world's most combat-proven multi-role fighter aircraft to India.



The deal is ideally suited to meet Indian Air Force's single-engine fighter needs. The deal is a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan 'Make in India'.

14. SpiceJet became world's top airline stock with 124% gain in 2017

Spicejet has become the world's best-performing airline stock. Its shares are the best performers on a Bloomberg Intelligence index of airline stocks in the year 2017.



The stock has gained 124% in 2017, and nearly 800% since the company's near liquidation situation in 2014.

The company currently has a market value of US\$ 1.2 billion. SpiceJet has announced an order worth \$22 billion for 100 new aircraft with Boeing.

Environment

1. TATA Projects launched Green Thumb initiative

On World Environment Day, TATA Projects has launched an initiative called Green Thumb to enhance the green cover.

TATA Projects planted over 42,000 saplings across over 100 locations during 2016-17. Under the Green Thumb initiative, while the company plants the trees, citizens who wish to do their bit to save the environment, can express their support for the cause by clicking on the banner to plant a sapling - on the Green Thumb Microsite; or on Facebook page or on LinkedIn page or on Company website www.tataproyects.com.



2. National Board of Wildlife cleared Rutland Island for DRDO's Missile Testing Project

The National Board of Wildlife has given clearance for long-range missile test facility at South Andamans' Rutland Island "considering the strategic importance of the project for country's defence". It had been held up since 2012.

The proposal involves diversion of 49.978 acres forest of which 0.84 ha falls in the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and 49.138 ha reserve forest within 10km of the Eco Sensitive Zone. Rutland Island is also very rich in marine life.



3. India's biodiversity riches grow by 499 species

According to the Animal Discoveries 2016, New Species and Records, brought out by the Zoological Survey of India and Plant Discoveries 2016, by the Botanical Survey of India, 313 species of animal and 186 of plants have been discovered from various areas of the country last year. The number of animal species is 1,00,693.

Most of the new species were from the four biological hotspots of the country — the Himalayas, the northeast, the Western Ghats and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



1. ADB and PNB inked \$100 million loan to finance Solar Rooftop projects

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a \$100 million loan — to be guaranteed by the Government of India — that will finance large solar rooftop systems on industrial and commercial buildings throughout India.

PNB will use the ADB funds to make further loans to various developers and end users to install rooftop solar systems.

This is the first tranche loan of the \$500 million multi tranche finance facility Solar Rooftop Investment Program (SRIP) approved by ADB in 2016.



2. India inked loan agreement of 36 million dollar with World Bank

The Government of India, the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank signed a \$36 million loan agreement to support Himachal Pradesh in its efforts to spend money more efficiently by improving the financial planning, budgeting and accounting of public funds in key government departments.

The four key departments that will directly benefit from the program include Finance, Excise and Taxation, Irrigation and Public Health, and the Department of Information Technology.

The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a 5-year grace period, and a maturity of 19 years.



3. RBI initiates 'prompt corrective action' for Dena Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has initiated prompt corrective action (PCA) for Dena Bank in view of high net non-performing assets and negative return on assets. It is the third bank after IDBI Bank and UCO Bank where PCA has been initiated under a revised framework.

The net NPA ratio at the end of the fourth quarter for the bank stood at 10.66% from 9.52% in the third quarter. Return on assets stood at -1.02% and -0.67% for financial year 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively.



4. SBI approves 100MW of Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Projects under the World Bank Program

The State Bank of India (SBI) announced financing of solar rooftop projects worth Rs. 400 crore, with private developers. This would add at least 100 MW of solar rooftop capacity to the grid.



The SBI has availed loan of USD 625 million from the World Bank for on-lending to viable Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar PV (GRPV) projects undertaken by PV developers/aggregators and end-users, for installation of rooftop solar systems on the rooftops of commercial, institutional and industrial buildings.

5. India to grow at 7.2% in 2017: World Bank

The World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) has projected a growth rate of 7.2% for India in the financial year 2017-18 as against 6.8% growth in 2016-17.

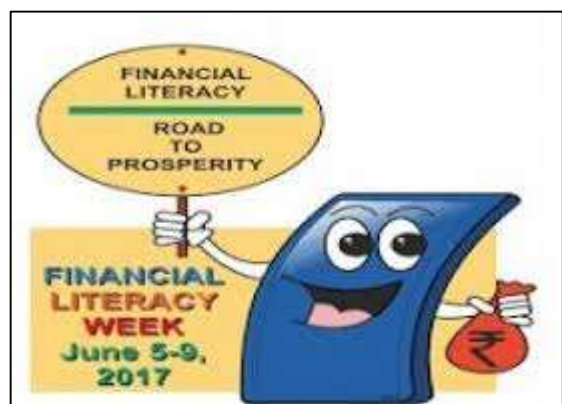


In addition, the bank in its report expects India's growth rate to remain at 7.5% in 2018-19 and 7.7% in 2019-20.

The Bank said the implementation of a multi-tier GST starting 1 July will play an important role in transforming the Indian economy and lead to substantial economic gains. The World Bank has kept the global growth forecast in 2017 and 2018 at 2.7% and 2.9% respectively.

6. RBI announced the Financial Literacy Week

RBI observed June 5-9, 2017 as Financial Literacy Week across the country in order to emphasize the importance of financial literacy. The literacy week focussed on four broad themes, viz. KYC, Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redressal and Going Digital (UPI and *99#).



The RBI released a booklet FAME (Financial Awareness Messages) that provides basic financial literacy messages for the information of the public. The booklet is available in 13 different languages.

7. NSE launched its exchange at GIFT City

The National Stock Exchange has launched its exchange, NSE IFSC, at GIFT IFSC, Gandhinagar. The IFSC has been established with the long-term vision to develop GIFT as a major global financial hub, to attract global investors and become price setters for key tradable products.



The NSE IFSC Limited (NSE IFSC) and NSE IFSC Clearing Corporation Limited (NICCL) have been formed as 100% subsidiary companies of NSE and National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL) respectively, to operate as a stock exchange and clearing corporation respectively from GIFT.

8. Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18

RBI announced the second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.25%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 6.0%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.50%.



The decision of the MPC is consistent with a neutral stance of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

9. Vijaya Bank set to develop 100 digital villages

Vijaya Bank is going to develop as many as 100 digital villages in various States of the country as part of its initiative to promote digital banking among the rural population. The bank has already developed five villages into Digital Villages.



In the Digital Villages, the bank would offer Internet, free Wi-Fi connectivity, mobile payment facilities, ATM cards, online banking and will carry out a door-to-door campaign to educate the villagers.

10. Axis Bank launched the environmental friendly biodegradable gift cards

Axis Bank has launched a biodegradable card thereby offering its customers a simple way of contributing towards environment-friendly payment solutions. These cards will soon be available on select gift card products and will be acceptable at all domestic merchant outlets and online portals.

These Biodegradable plastic cards look and feel like the usual payment cards but have a positive impact on the environment. These cards can also be recycled.



11. Indian Overseas Bank launched retail mart in Thiruvananthapuram

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched the Retail Mart, a retail lending concept, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. IOB is the Lead Bank for Thiruvananthapuram district.

The Retail Mart has been designed with an aim to complete all the pre-release formalities at the customer's doorstep and sanction quality retail loans at a competitive rate of interest with a minimum turnaround time.



The new facility will expeditiously entertain and process housing loans, vehicle loans and other mortgage loans. It is planning to disburse an additional Rs. 100 crore in retail loans during the current financial year.

12. Canara Bank tied up with New India Assurance Company

Canara Bank has tied up the state-owned general insurer The New India Assurance Co to sell policies through its branches.

The pact allows Canara Bank to offer non-life insurance products to its customers across an extensive network of over 6,000 branches.

The New India Assurance will make offer a bouquet of products — such as motor, home, health, travel, fire, marine, and engineering insurance policies — through branches of Canara Bank.



13. RBI identified 12 Bank Accounts accounting 25% of NPAs

According to RBI's Internal Advisory Committee, 12 bank accounts constitute nearly 25% of the gross bad loans for immediate referral and resolution under the bankruptcy law.

As of March 31, 2016, each of the 12 identified accounts was having more than 5,000 crore rupees of outstanding loans, of which at least 60% was classified as non-performing by banks.

Further, based on Internal Advisory Committee's recommendations, RBI will issue directions to the banks to initiate insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).



14. IDBI Bank's only PSB to receive 'high' rating for code compliance

As per the Code Compliance Rating of banks done by the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) 2017, IDBI Bank has been the only bank out of 26 public sector banks to receive 'high' rating for their adherence to code compliance. It has also been among eight private sector banks out of 17 private sector banks to receive such rating.

The other eight private sector banks were Axis Bank, DCB Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, RBL Bank and YES Bank. The code compliance rating was based on five parameters — information dissemination, transparency, grievance redressal, customer-centricity, and customer feedback.



15. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India notifies Fast Track Insolvency Resolution Process

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), in exercise of its powers conferred by sections 58, 196 and 208 read with section 240 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code), has notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Fast Track Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2017.

These regulations provide the process from initiation of insolvency resolution of eligible corporate debtors until its conclusion with approval of the resolution plan by the Adjudicating Authority. The process in these cases shall be completed within a period of 90 days, as against 180 days in other cases.



16. AIIB granted USD 150 MN loan for India Infrastructure Fund

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved two loans and one equity investment totaling US\$324 million to support infrastructure projects in India, Georgia and Tajikistan.

These approvals include the Bank's first equity investment of US\$150 million, which will help to attract much needed private investment capital for infrastructure projects in India.

The Fund aims to invest in mid-cap infrastructure companies in India, and to expand the Bank's equity and loan deal sourcing pipelines in the private sector through its equity participation in this Fund.



17. Yes Bank united with TerraPay for faster real time remittance

In order to ensure faster real-time money transfer to bank accounts in India and abroad, Yes Bank united with TerraPay.

The partnership has come up with Rupee Drawing Arrangement, which enables TerraPay's network partners to make instant cross-border money transfer to bank accounts in India.

This union allows Indian migrants globally to walk into TerraPay's partner outlet anytime and send money to the bank accounts instantly. For bank accounts other than Yes Bank accounts, Yes Bank will disburse funds using the 24*7 immediate payment service.



18. RBI restricted Central Bank of India's business and expansion

Reserve bank of India has restricted Central Bank of India from business expansion due to loss reported from NPAs. The restrictions will be on lending and branch expansion plans.

RBI has also asked for "prompt corrective action" from bank due to its high bad loans and negative return on assets. RBI has triggered PCAs for four other banks – IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Dena Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.



The Bank was restricted due to reason that it reported losses for two consecutive years, had negative return on assets and its share of bad loans has crossed 6%.

19. Centre made Aadhaar mandatory for transactions above Rs.50,000

With effect from June 1, Centre has made it mandatory to quote the Aadhaar number for opening bank accounts and for transactions exceeding Rs.50,000.

Government had made it mandatory to seed PAN with Aadhaar and quote it in income-tax returns. Section 139AA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 as introduced by the Finance Act, 2017 provides for mandatory quoting of Aadhaar ID, for filing of return of income and for making an application for allotment of Permanent Account Number with effect from 1 July 2017.



20. RBI restricted Bank of Maharashtra's business and expansion

Reserve bank of India has restricted Bank of Maharashtra from business expansion due to loss reported from NPAs. The restrictions will be on lending and branch expansion plans.

RBI has also asked for "prompt corrective action" from bank due to its high bad loans and negative return on assets. RBI has triggered PCAs for five other banks – Central bank of India, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Dena Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.



The bank was restricted due to the reason that it reported losses for two consecutive years.

21. SBI and Tirumala Milk products unite to provide loans to dairy farmers

South- based company Tirumala Milk Products united with State Bank of India, to provide loans to dairy farmers who supply milk to the Tirumala Milk Products.

The move has been taken to double the number of dairy farmers and enhance the amount of milk it delivers daily from 14 lakh liters to 25 lakh liters by 2020. SBI will offer loans to dairy farmers for construction of shed, purchase of milk cattle, milking machine, and chaff cutter.



Under this scheme, bank provides loans to dairy societies for purchase of automatic milk collection system, transport vehicles and bulk chilling unit.

22. Bank credit up 6.02 %, deposits rise 11.19 % in June 9 fortnight: RBI

According to the data released by RBI, banks' credit growth grew at 6.02% to Rs. 76,58,212 crore in the fortnight ended June 9 from Rs. 72,22,939 crore in the same period of fiscal 2016.

The data showed that the growth in advances in the reporting period was slightly higher than the previous fortnight ended May 26, 2017. In the fortnight ended May 26, advances had grown by 5.08% with an outstanding loans at Rs. 75,93,546 crore.

In the reporting fortnight, bank deposits grew at 11.19% to Rs. 105,77,947 crore from Rs. 95,13,148 crore in the fortnight ended June 10, 2016.



23. Axis Bank and Kochi Metro join hands to launch India's first single-wallet contactless, open loop metro card

Axis Bank in association with Kochi Metro Rail Corporation (KMRL) has launched KMRL Axis Bank 'Kochi1' Card, India's first open loop EMV contactless metro card that would make travel a convenient and hassle free experience for commuters in Kochi.

Axis Bank has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in developing this transit EMV contactless specification on interoperable open standards.



The prepaid card has integrated benefits and offers a plethora of services to commuters.

24. RBI announced states' fiscal deficit mounted to Rs 4.93 trillion in FY16

The gross fiscal deficits of all the states mounted to 4,93,360 crore rupee in the last fiscal from the 18,790 crore rupee in the financial year 1991, according to the latest RBI data.

Most populous state Uttar Pradesh and the largest Rajasthan lead the list of states with highest deficit.

According to the second edition of RBI's statistical publication titled 'Handbook of Statistics on States 2016-17', the gap is projected to improve in the current fiscal. It is estimated to be 4,49,520 crore rupee as per the budget estimates of the states for financial year 2017.



25. RBI amended Banking Ombudsman Scheme

The central bank has extended the scope of Banking Ombudsman Scheme. Under the amended scheme, a customer would also be able to lodge a complaint against the bank for its non-adherence to RBI instructions with regard to mobile banking/ electronic banking services in India.

As per the amendment, the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Banking Ombudsman to pass an award has been doubled to 20 lakh rupees.



Under the extended scope of Banking Ombudsman Scheme, banks could be penalized for mis-selling third-party products like insurance and mutual funds via mobile or electronic banking.

26. Banks Board Bureau added 2 more members to its board

The central government increased members in the Banks Board Bureau (BBB), headed by former comptroller and auditor general Vinod Rai by involving two more members.

The two members inducted into the board are former Allahabad Bank chairperson and managing director Shubhalaxmi Panse and private equity player Pradip Shah.

Board has responsibilities of appointments of heads of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), and for full-time directors and non-executive chairperson on the boards of PSBs.



Important Days

1. World Milk Day

The seventeenth World Milk Day was celebrated on 1 June 2017. It has been observed annually since 2001. The Day provides an opportunity to focus attention on milk and to publicise activities connected with milk and the milk industry.

The day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognise the importance of milk as a global food.



The theme for this year is "World Milk Day: Raise a Glass".

2. World Environment Day

The World Environment Day is observed annually on fifth of June. The day celebrates the natural environment and allows a global platform to raise awareness on the environmental issues worldwide, with plans to mitigate these issues as a global community.

The theme for 2017, 'Connecting People to Nature', urges to get outdoors and into nature, to appreciate its beauty and to think about how people are part of nature and how intimately they depend on it.



3. World Oceans Day

The World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on 8 June across the globe. The theme for this year was "Our oceans, our future". This year's theme encourages solutions to plastic pollution and preventing marine litter for a healthier ocean and a better future.

The Day is celebrated to honour the world's oceans, celebrate the products the ocean provides such as seafood.

It reminds every one of the major role the oceans have in everyday life and inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean.



4. International Albinism Day observed worldwide on June 13

The International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on June 13. This year it was the third International Albinism Awareness Day. The day focuses on raising public awareness of albinism and preventing attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism. People with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination worldwide.

Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference present at birth. Almost all people with albinism are visually impaired and are prone to developing skin cancer.



5. 2017 World elderly abuse awareness day observed

World elderly abuse awareness day was observed on 15 June across the globe. It was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 66/127 December 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

The 2017 WEAAD marks effective measures of strengthening protections against financial and material exploitation, including by improving the understanding of this form of elder abuse and discussing measures of ensuring the participation of older adults themselves in ending victimization.



6. June 21 observed as International Yoga Day

The International Day of Yoga was observed across the globe on 21 June. The theme was – "Yoga for Health".

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 21st of June as an International Yoga Day on 11th of December in 2014. The day is also called as the World Yoga Day.

In India, the Union Government organised many mass yoga demonstrations at various parts of the world. Many organisations around the world, organized events to create a Guinness World Record by forming longest human chains and other Yoga related activities.



7. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually on 26 June against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. The theme for 2017 is – "Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe."

The observance was instituted by the United Nations General Assembly on Dec 7, 1987. The day is celebrated worldwide to make people aware and emphasize the hazards of drug addiction and illegal trafficking.



8. National Statistics Day observed on 29 June

In recognition of the notable contributions made by Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning, Government of India in 2007, designated 29th June the birth anniversary of Prof. Mahalanobis as the "Statistics Day" in the category of Special Days to be celebrated every year at the National Level.



On the 11th Statistics Day, the Minister of Statistics and Program Implementation, Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda, inaugurated an exhibition on Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis in Mahalanobis Bhawan, Baranagar and Kolkata.

1. US successfully tested ICBM defence system for first time

The U.S. military successfully tested its defence system involving a simulated attack by an intercontinental ballistic missile. U.S. test fired an ICBM-type missile from the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands toward the waters just south of Alaska. It is considered as first live-fire test against a simulated ICBM for the Ground-based Midcourse Defence.



A ground-based interceptor was test fired from California air base that shot down a mock ballistic missile. This successful test demonstrates a capable and incredible deterrent against a very real threat.

2. The 70th World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland

The 70th World Health Assembly was held from 22 May to 31 May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. During the assembly, the Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) chose Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the new Director-General of WHO. He will succeed Dr Margaret Chan.



WHO has proposed program budget of US\$4.4215 billion for the biennium, which includes a 3% (or US\$28 million) increase in assessed contributions for 2018-2019. A resolution was made to strengthen the governance and leadership of national immunization programs and thus meet Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) goals.

3. General Assembly Elected Slovakia Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák as President of the 72nd session

The General Assembly elected Miroslav Lajčák, Slovakia's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, as President of its seventy-second session, while also selecting members to the Bureaux of its six Main Committees. He will replace outgoing President Peter Thomson of Fiji.



The Assembly also elected the following 21 Vice-Presidents of its plenary: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Chile, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

4. Japan launched second satellite for homegrown GPS system

Japan has launched a satellite to help build a high-precision geolocation system that will complement the US-operated GPS.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. launched an H-IIA rocket carrying the Michibiki No. 2 satellite from Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture.

The first satellite was put into orbit in 2010 and the third and fourth will be launched by March 2018 to start the service.



5. Leo Varadkar elected as the New Ireland PM

Indian-origin Leo Varadkar has been elected as Ireland's youngest and first gay Prime Minister. He will replace Enda Kenny. He won the Fine Gael party leadership. After Varadkar was elected by parliament, Irish President Michael D Higgins appointed him as prime minister by signing the warrant of appointment.

Varadkar appointed Frances Fitzgerald as deputy prime minister. Simon Coveney is named as minister for foreign affairs with special responsibility for Brexit.



6. Former Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic sworn in as the new President of Serbia

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic was sworn in as the new President of Serbia. He formally stepped down from his prime minister's post to take on the new responsibility. He succeeded Tomislav Nikolić.

Vučić served as Minister of Information from 1998 to 2000 and later as Minister of Defence from 2012 to 2013, as well as First Deputy Prime Minister from 2012 to 2014. He founded the Serbian Progressive Party in 2008.



7. Nepal Inked Agreement for Mega Hydroprojects with Chinese Firm

Nepal's Ministry of Energy on Sunday signed a MoU with China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC) to develop 1,200 MW Budhigandaki Hydroelectric Project. It is considered the biggest hydro project in Nepal that could resolve its perennial power crisis.



The project will be built under engineering, procurement, construction and finance (EPCF) model. Under this model, CGGC will help arrange funds required to develop the project. The funds will be mobilised in the form of soft loan or commercial loan from Chinese financial institutions.

8. Six Arab Nations Cut Diplomatic Ties with Qatar

Six Arab countries have cut diplomatic ties with Qatar, accusing it of destabilising the region. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Yemen, Libya and UAE have suspended their diplomatic ties with Qatar.



These six nations accuse that Qatar backs militant groups including so-called Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda, which Qatar denies. Wealthy individuals of Qatar are believed to have made donations and the government has given money and weapons to hardline Islamist groups in Syria. Qatar is also accused of having links to a group formerly known as the Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate.

9. Sher Bahadur Deuba elected Nepal's Prime Minister

Veteran Nepali Congress leader Sher Bahadur Deuba was elected as Nepal's prime minister for the fourth time. He became the 40th Prime Minister of Nepal. He secured 388 votes in his favour and 170 votes against him.



Outgoing Prime Minister Prachanda had resigned under a power sharing deal with the Nepali Congress leader.

Mr. Deuba served as the prime minister from 1995 to 1997, from 2001 to 2002, and from 2004 to 2005.

10. Montenegro became NATO's 29th member

Montenegro became NATO's 29th member. Montenegro Foreign Minister Srdjan Darmanovic submitted the official accession papers in a ceremony at the US State Department.



Montenegro became an independent republic in 2006 when it voted in a referendum to split with Serbia.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between several North American and European states based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.

11. India and Sri Lanka signed agreement for developing Railway sector

India signed an agreement with Sri Lanka to provide Indian assistance of US\$ 318 million credit line for the development of Sri Lanka's railway sector.



Government of India has already provided four Lines of Credit for the development of railway sector in Sri Lanka through its EXIM bank amounting to approximately US\$ 966 million. These credit facilities have been utilized to improve the Southern and Northern railway lines and for the procurement of rolling stocks for the Sri Lanka Railways.

12. India and 67 other countries signed OECD pact to check tax evasion by MNCs

India along with 67 other countries, at the OECD headquarters in Paris, has signed a ground breaking multilateral BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) convention that will close loopholes in thousands of tax treaties worldwide.



The OECD multilateral convention aims to crack down on tax evasion around the world.

MNCs often resort to artificial shifting of profits to low or no-tax locations, resulting in little or no overall corporate tax being paid.

13. India, Pakistan Become Full Members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India and Pakistan became full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). India feels that as an SCO member it will be able to play a major role in addressing the threat of terrorism in the region.



The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation. It is increasingly seen as a counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The SCO was founded at a Summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

14. EU, France grant 3.5m euros to curb emissions in India

France and the European Union extended a grant of 3.5 million euros under the 'Mobilise Your City' (MYC) initiative in order to curb emissions and promote sustainability to help India's smart city programme.



Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad will get the grant as part of the EU's commitment under the Paris Climate agreement. MYC aims to extend help to 100 cities globally to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by promoting sustainable urban transport and to promote sustainability in urban spaces.

15. China launched world's largest floating solar farm

China launched world's largest floating solar farm in Anhui province, of 40-megawatt power. It has 160,000 panels arising embedded in a lake that emerged after the collapse of a coal mine in central Anhui province. It is based on concept of utilizing Earth's surface area covered with water for collecting energy.



With such innovating ideas of China, the country is projected to get 20% of its power consumption from low-emission energy, including nuclear, by 2030. Floating solar farms help in clean tech solutions for the climate crisis.

16. USA unveiled world's smallest & cheapest private jet

USA's Cirrus Aircraft unveiled world's smallest & cheapest private jet carrying more people and cargo at a faster speed. It is named as 'Vision Jet' with only a single engine and flyable by a single pilot.

The Vision Jet can fly five adults at a speed of 345mph up to 1,150 miles at 28,000 feet. The jet is designed for private purpose at an affordable cost of \$1.96 million.

Cirrus Aircraft is an US based Aviation Company that has launched the Cirrus Vision Jet, world's cheapest private jet priced at Rs.12.6 Crore.



17. G7 Environment Ministers meeting conducted in Bologna, Italy

Bologna hosted the Environment Ministerial Meeting of the G7. The meeting was particularly committed to environmental policies, in representation of emerging countries like Chile, Maldives, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

It focused on theme of the global environmental challenge, such as the state of implementation of the goals set by the Paris Agreement to fight climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN 2030 Agenda.

A '5-year Bologna Roadmap' was also adopted at the meeting for important issues such as resource efficiency indicators, citizen involvement, awareness on food waste and economic analysis.



18. World Bank approved over \$500 million loan for Afghanistan to boost economy

World Bank approved financing worth more than 500 million dollars for Afghanistan to support a string of projects to boost the economy, help improve service delivery in five cities and support Afghan refugees sent back from Pakistan.

The international troop withdrawal, which began in 2011, and political uncertainties have affected Afghanistan's economy. The largest chunk of the package, some 205.4 million dollars, will go toward supporting communities affected by refugees returning from Pakistan.



19. EU to release remaining 25 Mn Euros of its grant for education in India

The European Delegation to India released final tranche of 25 million euros of its 80 million euro grant for upbringing of primary education and secondary education programs of the government. This is in support to a conclusion the EU's sector support to school education in India, to which it has contributed over 520 Mn Euros.



EU grants have been spent in setting up new schools, renovating existing ones, bridging gender gaps, providing toilets, training teachers, and increasing enrolment in the primary school years.

20. India Pavilion at Expo 2017 inaugurated at Astana

India's national pavilion at the International Exhibition Expo 2017 (June 10 – September 10) was inaugurated in Astana, Kazakhstan. India's participation in this event has been organized by the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), New Delhi.



'Creating a sync' with theme of the Expo "Future Energy", India pavilion features a model of Cochin Airport which is a 100 per cent world's first green airport generating more energy than required. India Restaurant is also set up for serving taste of Indian cuisine during the three months long EXPO.

21. 106th International Labour Conference, 2017 held

The 106th Session of International Labour Conference (ILC) was held from 5-16th June 2017 at Geneva in Switzerland. An Indian Tripartite Delegation led by the Minister of State for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge), Shri Bandaru Dattatreya participated in the ILC.



The Labour and Employment Minister informed about the amended Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017 that provides for paid maternity leave of 26 weeks, which would encourage women into employment. Indian delegation led by Labour and Employment Minister participated in bilateral meeting held with Iran and spoke about issues concerning MSMEs, rural employment and vocational training.

22. AIIB approved membership of Argentina, Madagascar and Tonga

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) announced that its Board of Governors has adopted resolutions approving three applicants Argentina, Madagascar and Tonga to join the Bank, bringing the Bank's total approved membership to 80. This round of approved applicants includes one regional and two non-regional prospective members.



The three prospective members will officially join AIIB once they complete the required domestic processes and deposit the first installment of capital with the Bank. AIIB is a new multilateral development bank founded to bring countries together to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia.

23. China unveiled World's first train that runs on Virtual Tracks

China has unveiled the world's first train that operates on a virtual track using sensor technology instead of metal rails.

This vehicle is fitted with sensors that detect the dimensions of the road allowing it to follow routes without the need for metal rails.

The new trains are battery powered. The train's top speed is 70 kilometres per hour, and it can travel 25 kilometres in distance after just 10 minutes of charging.



24. The fifth India Morocco Joint Commission Meeting held in Rabat

The fifth India Morocco Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in Rabat. The JCM was anchored by Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce and Industry Minister.

5th India Morocco JCM was convened in Rabat during which a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for Cooperation on Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati, India and Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision (SNRT), Morocco.



The fifth India Morocco JCM intensified the strong bilateral relations between India and Morocco, and provided an impetus for closer cooperation between the two countries.

25. Google fined 2.42 billion euros by the European Commission

Google has been fined 2.42 billion euros by the European Commission after it ruled the company had abused its power by promoting its own shopping comparison service at the top of search results. The ruling also orders Google to end its anti-competitive practices within 90 days or face a further penalty.

However, if Google fails to change the way it operates the Shopping service within the three-month deadline, it could be forced to make payments of 5% of its parent company Alphabet's average daily worldwide earnings.



26. Romanian President appointed Mihai Tudose as the new Prime Minister

President of Romania Klaus Iohannis has appointed Mihai Tudose as the new Prime Minister of the country. Mr. Tudose is a Social Democrat candidate. The ruling Social Democrat Party (PSD) removed its own government following an internal power row.

Mr. Tudose was the Minister of Economy in last the government led by Sorin Grindeanu. He was the chairperson of the Commission for Economic Policy, Reform and Privatization of the Chamber of Deputies.



27. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia inked MoU with EESL

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the administration of Ministry of Power, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Energy Services Company, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to implement energy efficiency programmes in the Gulf country.

According to the estimates by the World Bank, the electricity generated in Saudi Arabia completely relies on non-renewable sources like oil, gas and coal sources. The National Energy Services Company has engaged with EESL to replicate the success of the street lighting national programme and retrofit of buildings, with energy efficient appliances in Saudi Arabia.



28. UNESCO named Sharjah as 'World Book Capital 2019'

Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) was named World Book Capital for the year 2019 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova.

The city was selected because of the very innovative, comprehensive and inclusive nature of the application, with a community-focused activity program containing creative proposals to engage the very large migrant population. With the slogan "Read - you are in Sharjah", the program focuses on six themes: inclusivity, reading, heritage, outreach, publishing and children.



Miscellaneous

- Defence public sector BEML Ltd has bagged the Raksha Mantri's Award for Excellence for design and development of 180-tonne electric hydraulic excavator BE1800E.
- Reliance Infrastructure-promoted Mumbai Metro One Private Limited (MMOPL) has collaborated with Google to display its services in Google Maps application.
- In Romania, Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu has been forced from power by his own party, in a no-confidence vote in parliament after he had been accused for failing to carry out necessary economic reforms in the country.
- A London court has declared three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker bankrupt. The 49-year-old former Tennis player owed a firm of bankers a large sum, and the court said there was not enough evidence that he could pay.
- Indian agricultural microbiologist Shrihari Chandraghatgi has been conferred the Ministry of Environment Award for 2017 in Japan for developing innovative technologies to address burning environmental problems.
- Jammu and Kashmir governor NN Vohra has been appointed as the new president of the India International Centre (IIC) and will replace eminent jurist Soli Sorabjee who has stepped down.
- The USA designated Pakistan-based Hizb-ul-Mujahideen Chief Syed Salah Uddin as a specially designated global terrorist.
- Ela Gandhi, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, was honoured for lifetime activism at the 70th anniversary of the 1946 Indian Passive Resistance Campaign in South Africa.
- Theresa May has appointed conservative party member, Damian Green, as her first secretary of state.
- Lewis Hamilton won the 2017 Canadian Grand Prix.
- Arunachal Pradesh has recently demanded a separate time zone for the North Eastern states.
- The winners of the gold medal in the Mixed Team Air Pistol event at the International Shooting
- Sport Federation World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage taking place in Gabala are Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu.
- The winner of the 10th Mumbai Mayor's Cup International Open Chess Tournament is Nguyen Duc Hoa.
- Panama has cut its long-standing ties with Taiwan, choosing to establish diplomatic relations with China instead.
- The Centre has approved proposals for setting up of 100 AYUSH hospitals.
- The union government in June 2017 constituted an expert committee to examine the rules, which allow free movement of citizens with Myanmar within 16 kilometres of the border.

- The Reserve Bank of India recently issued a new batch of Rs 500 denomination notes with new inset letter A.
- Punjab State Government will start free mortuary van service for its citizens.
- The theme of the 2017 World Blood Donor Day is "Give Blood. Give Now. Give Often".
- NASA conferred the Exceptional Public Service Medal posthumously to Michael A'Hearn.
- France and UK have announced a joint anti-terror action plan to crack down on the spread of terror propaganda on the internet.
- Astana hosted the Expo 2017 with the theme "Future Energy".
- Bengaluru FC and Jamshedpur FC have been added for the fourth edition of Indian Super League (ISL).
- Nalanda University signed MoU for academic linkages and collaborations with South Korea.
- E Sreedharan was bestowed with the 2017 Nanniyode Rajan Memorial Award.
- Atal Pension Yojana was recently included under the Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- The Republic-led Senate has approved wide-ranging sanctions on Russia for interfering in last year's Presidential elections.
- The 16th North East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) Conference was held in June 2017 at Imphal, Manipur.
- The Union Cabinet recently approved Interest Subvention to banks on short-term crop loan to farmers. The amount allocated by the government for the scheme is Rs. 20339 crore.
- Damon Xi has been appointed as Alibaba Mobile Business Group's UCWeb Head in India and Indonesia.
- The Adani group recently commissioned a 50-megawatt solar Photo Voltaic plant in Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh.
- First Indian woman to be elected as judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) is Neeru Chadha.
- The world's largest refinery and petrochemical complex will be set up in Maharashtra by IOCL, BPCL and HPCL.
- Union Cabinet recently approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Palestine for Agriculture Cooperation.
- China recently launched its first X-ray Space Satellite named Insight.
- India, Japan and the Philippines were recently re-elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- Ajaib Singh Bhatti was elected as the Deputy Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly.

- Salman Khan's Sultan has been shortlisted to compete in one of the categories at the Shanghai International Film Festival.
- According to a new UN report, India has been ranked as the top exporter of Information and Communication Technology Services.
- Kerala launched the Anuyatra campaign for disabled persons.
- The 17th Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit was held in - Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Book written by Canadian author WO Mitchell, "Who has seen the Wind" came in news after it was returned to Noah Webster Library in West Hartford, Connecticut after 52 years.
- Preet Kaur Gill became the first female Sikh Member of Parliament in United Kingdom.
- Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi became the first turban wearing Member of Parliament in United Kingdom.
- The theme of the three-day Tourism Annual Conference of Arunachal Pradesh that concluded on 9 June 2017 was Tourist Friendly Arunachal.
- Chandrakant Patil will head the six-member high-powered committee that was constituted by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to look into the various demands of farmers, including a loan waiver.
- Ayush Minister Shripad Naik has announced that 100 yoga parks will be established across the country to promote yoga activities.
- Ireland and Afghanistan were recently given the status of test-playing nation by the International Cricket Council.
- Nigerian musician, Victor Uwaif, was recently named by UNESCO as Human Living Treasure.
- Tapan Ray was appointed as the Economic Affairs Secretary.
- World Milk Day (WMD) is observed every year on 1 June.
- USA has decided to pull out from the Paris Agreement on Climate.
- India signed a joint declaration to build an 'Energy Bridge' with Russia.
- Members of a committee in the Lower House of the Diet in Japan approved a bill enabling Emperor Akihito to abdicate.
- High Court of Delhi has said that no encroachment can be permitted in the ridge areas of the state, as these are primary natural features.
- The Indian duo who in Dusseldorf created the history by becoming the first pair to qualify into of the World Table Tennis Championships are Manika Batra and Mouma Das.

National

1. India signed seven agreements with Spain

India and Spain signed seven agreements after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Spanish President Mariano Rajoy in Spain. The two sides agreed on transfer of sentenced persons and visa waiver for holders of diplomatic passports.

Five MoUs were signed between the two countries on cooperation in organ transplantation, cyber security, renewable energy, civil aviation and one between India's Foreign Service Institute and Diplomatic Academy of Spain.



2. Swachhta Pakhwada successfully celebrated across India

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution celebrated Swachhta Pakhwada. The aim of the Swachhta Pakhwada observed by the Department was to spread Swachhta awareness and implementation across the country with a focus on role of the Consumer in taking a leadership role for sanitation initiatives.

In this direction, a series of activities were undertaken such as Nukkad Natak, slogan-writing competition, poster making competition, essay writing competition, special drives for cleaning of the work place and removing of old and unwanted articles from the office premises.



3. CBDT extended the due date for furnishing SFT to 30 June 2017

Section 285BA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 requires furnishing of a statement of financial transaction (SFT) for transactions prescribed under Rule 114E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962. The due date for filing such SFT in Form 61A in respect of specified financial transactions registered or recorded during Financial Year 2016-17 was 31 May 2017, which was extended to 30 June 2017.

Representations were received in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) requesting for extension of the date of filing. In view of these representations, the CBDT extended the due date of furnishing of the SFT.



4. India set to be first country to run all government ports on Green Energy

India is set to become the first country to have all government-owned ports running on solar and wind energy. The government plans to install almost 200 megawatt solar and wind power generation capacity at all the 12 major ports by 2019. Total initial investment in the project is expected to be Rs. 500 crore.



Out of the 200 MW, 150 MW will be solar power and 50 MW through wind power generation. The wind energy projects will be executed at three major ports – Kandla, VO Chidambaranar Port and Kamarajar Port.

5. Indian Railways to launch 'buy now, pay later' feature

Indian Railways will soon introduce the 'buy tickets now and pay later' service for any Express trains. IRCTC has collaborated with a Mumbai-based firm ePayLater for adding the new service option.



Through this service, a passenger can book a ticket five days prior to the journey with a service charge of 3.5% and pay it in the next 14 days. This option is valid only on e-tickets.

Passengers who want to opt for this service have to give their name, email ID, mobile number, their PAN card or Aadhaar details.

6. India and Russia signed St Petersburg Declaration

India and Russia signed the St Petersburg Declaration following the annual bilateral summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin.



The Declaration sets major economic objectives including expanding trade and investment and diversification of trade in goods and services.

Russia reaffirmed its support for India's bid for permanent membership in the UN Security Council and the Nuclear Suppliers Group. They also would work on development of high-speed railways.

7. Road ministry launched online platform INAM PRO+

The Government has launched INAM-Pro + which is an upgraded version of INAM-Pro, the web portal designed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL).



The upgraded portal is very effective in facilitating efficient and transparent procurement of construction material and service. It will include the A to Z of construction materials, equipments/machinery and services like purchase/hiring/lease of new/used products and services in the domains of Construction Materials.

8. India’s first Mobile Congress (IMC 2017) to be held in September

India will organise its first mobile congress in September with a special focus on reaching out to the South East Asian markets. The event will be held at Pragati Maidan starting 27 September.



All Indian mobile operators, Facebook, Huawei, Ericsson, Cisco, etc., are likely to participate in the three-day event. The event will be organised by telecom industry body Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) with support from the Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

9. Loan Agreement signed for “Assam Citizen Centric Service Delivery” project

The Government of India, the Government of Assam and the World Bank signed a \$39.20 million loan agreement to support the government in providing citizens in Assam, particularly in tribal districts, access to public services in a timely, efficient, and accountable manner.



The programme size is USD 49 million, of which USD 39.2 Million will be financed by the Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded-out of State Budget. The programme duration is 5 years. The objective of the project is to improve access in the delivery of selected public services in Assam. The Project seeks to enable citizens to access services under the RTPS Act in a timely, efficient, and accountable manner. The Project adopts an integrated approach to improve access and accountability.

10. MoU signed between CISF & NSDC

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) & National Skill Development Fund (NSDF), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU aims at assisting retiring/retired, serving low medical category (LMC) CISF personnel to acquire additional skills and facilitate their resettlement through a second career. The MoU shall remain in effect for a period of 5 years (starting from 5 June 2017 until 5 June 2022), subject to a mid-term review after 3 years.



11. Government to implement India’s first Rural LED Street Lighting Project in Andhra Pradesh

The Government of India, through the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power, would be retrofitting 10 lakh conventional streetlights with LED lights in Gram Panchayats of seven districts in Andhra Pradesh. This is the first project for rural LED street lighting in the country under the Government of India’s Street Lighting National Project (SLNP).

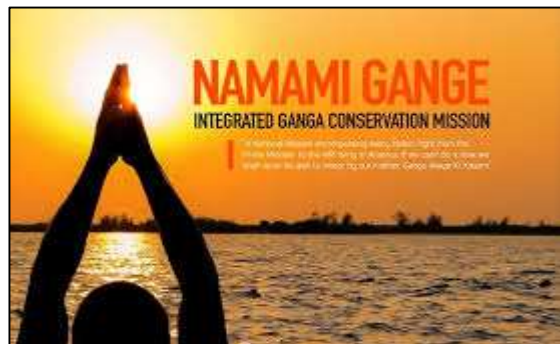
The entire upfront capital cost of this project is being funded by French Development Agency Agence Française de Développement (AFD). EESL would be carrying out the entire annual maintenance and warranty replacement in these gram panchayats for a period of 10 years.



12. NMCG approves projects worth Rs. 1900 crore for Sewage Treatment

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved projects worth Rs 1,900 crore for the creation of hundred percent sewage treatment facility in Haridwar, Rishikesh, Vrindavan, Varanasi, Allahabad and NCT of Delhi.

On afforestation front, an all-encompassing programme in five Ganga main stem States – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal – at an estimated cost of Rs 61.5 crore has also been given a go-ahead.



This would include sapling preparations in nurseries, soil work, plantation and care.

13. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Korea for export credit of USD 9 Billion

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) and Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM) for export credit of USD 9 Billion for infrastructural development in India and for the supply of goods and services as part of projects in third countries.



The decision is expected to promote the country's international exports, and deepen political and financial ties between India and Korea. The export credit will be utilized through lending by EXIM Bank. USD 9 billion would be extended by KEXIM by way of Investment Credit.

14. Cabinet approved agreement between India and Cyprus on Merchant Shipping

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the Agreement between India and Cyprus on Merchant Shipping, which was signed in April 2017.



The Agreement in Merchant Shipping will pave the way for cooperation in eliminating any hindrances, which may hamper the development of sea trade between the two nations. The MoU will encourage participation in the transport of goods between the countries and from third countries. The MoU further seeks to enhance cooperation for employment, improvement of conditions of work and for the welfare of seafarers employed on each other's vessels.

15. Cabinet approves a Bilateral MoU between India and Iran

The Union Cabinet has approved the Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), Iran in relation to mutual-cooperation on matters pertaining to securities markets.



The MoU is likely to promote further development of economic links and cooperation between the two regulators, and aims at creating conditions for an effective development of securities markets in the two countries. It would also contribute towards strengthening the information-sharing framework between the two countries.

16. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Mali for standardization and conformity assessment

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), India and Direction Nationale De Industries (MLINDI), Republic of Mali on Standardization and Conformity Assessment.



The MoU aims to facilitate closer cooperation and provide a mechanism by which India and Mali can work together towards the common aim of strengthening standardization and conformity assessment activities in order to facilitate sharing of expertise and mutual trade.

17. Cabinet approved Agreement between India and Somalia on transfer of sentenced persons

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and subsequent ratification of the Agreement on Transfer of sentenced persons between India and Somalia.



Signing the Agreement with Somalia shall facilitate the Indian prisoners imprisoned in Somalia or vice-versa to be near to their families, for serving remaining part of their sentence and shall facilitate their social rehabilitation. The Government of India has signed bilateral Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons with several other countries as well.

18. Cabinet approved Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between SEBI and ESMA

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) in relation to Mutual Co-operation.



This MoU is likely to establish cooperation arrangements as a precondition for ESMA to recognize Central Counter Parties (CCPs) established in India. It is going to be supervised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India to provide clearing services to clearing members or trading venues established in the European Union. It will also help to provide ESMA with adequate tools to monitor the on-going compliance by the Covered CCPs with the Recognition Conditions.

19. Cabinet approved Initial Public Offer of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to issue 13,90,00,000 fresh equity shares of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) of Rs.10 each to the public on book-building basis through the IPO.



The Public issue of equity will enable IREDA to increase its equity base, which will help them raise more debt resources for funding RE projects. IREDA has to cater to the increasing needs of the sector to sustain its contribution to the Renewable Energy Sector. Government of India has scaled-up the RE targets to 175 GW by the year 2022.

20. India signed the Multilateral Convention to implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent BEPS in Paris

The Union Minister of Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley signed the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) reaffirming India’s commitment to co-operate in the global efforts to tackle aggressive tax planning.



The event marks a milestone in the global efforts to check tax evasion and tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax jurisdictions where there is no or little economic activity resulting in no or little overall corporate tax being paid.

21. NSDC inked MoU with BIRD ACADEMY

A MoU was signed between National Skill Development Corporation and Bird Academy concerning the skilling of unemployed youth in the aviation and aerospace Sector.



With the signing of this MoU, NSDC has agreed to enter into an arrangement with BIRD ACADEMY. They will train, skill & empower more than 30,000 unemployed youth across various states including North Eastern states. This will be done with a special focus to train and empower a minimum of 5,000 women & tribal youths from the underprivileged sections of the society and assist states in capacity building over the next six years.

22. TRAI launches three new apps

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched three new apps – Mycall app, MySpeed app and 'Do not disturb (DND 2.0)' app, to increase transparency between the consumers and the service providers.

- **MyCall app:** will help mobile phone users rate their experience about voice call quality in real time.
- **MySpeed app:** will enable TRAI to obtain test-data from users in all service areas, without any action by the users.
- **DND service app:** will enable users to register their mobile number under DND to avoid unsolicited commercial communication.



23. UGC, AICTE to be scrapped soon and replaced with HEERA

The Union Government is all set to replace the University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) with a single education regulator named Higher Education Empowerment Regulation Agency (HEERA).

The Human Resource and Development Ministry (HRD) is working with the Niti Aayog towards the implementation of this new proposed regulatory body. The new body would be empowered to take strong penal action. It will be short and clean and would outline minimum standards, which would focus on outcomes.



24. Penury Grant to Non-Pensioner Ex-Servicemen/Widows Enhanced

The government has enhanced penury grant to non-pensioner Ex-Servicemen/Widows to Rs. 4,000/- per month from the existing rate of Rs. 1,000/- p.m., payable from April 2017.

The penury grant is provided to non-pensioner Ex-servicemen/widows, who are above 65 years of age by the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence through Kendriya Sainik Board.

The step of enhancement of penury grant will benefit a large number of non-pensioner Ex-



servicemen and widows who are in a state of penury. It was last revised from one time grant of Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 1,000/- per month in October 2011.

25. Centre approved modifications to ‘Kambala’ Bill

The Union Government has approved the modifications to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill 2017 to pave way for organising ‘Kambala’ in the coming season.

The Bill proposes to exempt ‘Kambala’ from the ambit of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. Kambala is an annual buffalo race, which is a tradition in the Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts' farming community.



This area is called Tulunadu (Land of Tulu Language).

26. National Level Conference on "Capacity Building of SDRFs-2017"

The two-day National Level Conference on "Capacity Building of SDRFs-2017" concluded. The conference was inaugurated by the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.

It was organised by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to develop a synergy and to highlight the way ahead to strengthen the response capabilities of State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs).

The following agenda points were discussed:

- Streamlining the training process of State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs).
- Integrations of operational efforts between NDRF & SDRF.
- Requirement and creation of training infrastructure in each States.
- Sharing of best practices, improving response time by SDRF's.



27. 'DigiYatra' – A New Digital Experience for Air Travellers

The Ministry of Civil Aviation is adding a Digital experience for Air Travellers through DigiYatra Platform. The 'DigiYatra' is an industry-led initiative co-ordinated by the Ministry.

Few important features for customers:

- Plan their trips efficiently by identifying price trends and estimate future airfares at the time of ticket booking
- Optionally link their Aadhaar to airlines and other ecosystem players at the time of booking for faster airport entry
- Get real time notifications about congestion and delays to have greater visibility on the next step of journey
- Get a prompt when their luggage reaches the baggage claim belt
- Submit grievances, share experiences and provide feedback



28. Tele-Law through CSCs to Mainstream Legal Aid in Rural India

In its effort to make legal aid easily accessible to the marginalized communities and citizens living in rural areas, the Government of India has launched the 'Tele-Law'.

Under the scheme, a portal called 'Tele-Law' will be launched, which will be available across the Common Service Centre (CSC) network. 'Tele-Law' will enable people to seek legal advice from lawyers through video conferencing available at the Common Service Centres (CSC). The pilot test will be rolled out across 1000 Common Service Centres (CSC) in Uttar Pradesh & Bihar.



29. GST Council constitutes 18 Sectoral Groups for smooth rollout of GST

The GST Council has constituted 18 Sectoral Groups representing various sectors of the economy in order to ensure smooth rollout of GST. These Sectoral Working Groups consist of Senior Officers from the Centre and the States.

These newly constituted groups will represent various sectors of the economy. They will be headed by senior officers of the Centre and the states. These officers will ensure smooth implementation of GST by timely responding to the issues and problems of their respective sectors.



30. NITI Aayog launched SATH program

NITI Aayog has launched SATH, a program providing 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital' with the State Governments. The vision of the program is to initiate transformation in the education and health sectors.

SATH aims to identify and build three future 'role model' states for health systems. Five states have been shortlisted. Subsequently, three will be selected based on further evaluations. The program will be launched in the three selected states by NITI Aayog along with global consultancy McKinsey & Company and IPE Global consortium after the signing of MoUs.



31. CSIR signed an agreement with Ethiopia

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) entered into an agreement with the Metal Industries Development Institute (MIDI), Ethiopia to implement a twinning program. The same is aimed at R&D capacity building of MIDI. CSIR has clinched this multi-million US dollar assignment through a process where many international organizations were considered.

The twinning is one of the largest programs (in terms of contractual amount) between a CSIR institute and a foreign entity. It should also facilitate CSIR's future collaborations with African Organizations.



32. Minister of Railways launched Mission Retro-Fitment

To enhance the passengers experience by upgrading existing fleet of coaches with better furnishing, aesthetics & amenities and better safety features with a view to provide a safe and comfortable travel, Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu launched MISSION RETRO-FITMENT in Rail Bhavan.

Under MISSION RETRO-FITMENT, it has been planned to induct about 40,000 coaches with upgraded interiors by 2022-23 at an approximate cost of Rs. 30 lacs per coach.



33. India & Mauritius signed MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cooperatives

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh and Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, Govt. of Mauritius, Shri Soomilduth Bholah signed on MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cooperatives & related areas.



The MoU will enable the two countries to collaborate in this vital sector and can significantly benefit thousands of Mauritian. India offered to exchange its expertise and technology with Mauritius in agro industry, fisheries and dairy sector. The two ministers expressed satisfaction at the historic relationship between India and Mauritius, which is anchored in linkages of culture.

34. Dr. Jitendra Singh announced “Hill Area Development Program” for Northeast

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the launch of, “Hill Area Development Program” (HADP) for Northeast in Imphal (Manipur).



The hilly areas of Manipur, Tripura and Assam have a distinct geo-physical entity. They are lagging in socio-economic development. The Hill Area Development Program is aimed at giving a focused attention to the lesser developed hilly areas and will be initiated on a pilot basis in the hilly districts of Manipur.

35. Nalanda’s ‘Project Jal Sanchay’ selected for National Award

Ministry of rural development selected a model of water conservation of Nalanda district of south-central Bihar for the national award for excellence in the Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee program (MGNREGP).



This award was given for project ‘Project Jal Sanchay’. Project Jal Sanchay is a water conservation project that has increased water availability of district. Under this project, dams were created, traditional Aahar-Pyne irrigation system was created, traditional water bodies were reformed and campaigns were organized to create awareness about rainwater harvesting.

36. India's first canal top solar PV system inaugurated at NTPC Mouda

NTPC has energized 150 kWp Canal Top Solar PV System on cooling water (CW) channel at its 2320 MW Mouda Thermal Power Project, near Nagpur in Maharashtra. This novel Solar PV system makes use of sidewalls of CW channels as load bearing structure thereby significantly decreasing cost of civil and mounting structure.



The system also has several other unique advantages such as Land Conservation, water conservation due to reduced evaporation, increased PV generation due to cooling and reduction in dirt, leaves thereby reducing chemicals for water treatment.

37. India ratified two key ILO conventions on child labour

India ratified two key ILO conventions No. 138 and 182 on child labour in Geneva, Switzerland. India now has ratified six out of eight ILO fundamental conventions.



During the 106th International Labour, Indian government presented its ratification for ILO Conventions No. 138 on Minimum Age to Employment and No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. India has become 170th ILO member state to ratify Convention No 138.

This ratification has provided almost half a billion Indian children and adolescents up to 18 years of age under the protection of the provisions of these instruments.

38. Centre launched IDCF to reduce child deaths due to Diarrhoea

Union Health Ministry launched an Intensified Diarrhea Control Fortnight (IDCF) across the country to reduce child deaths due to Diarrhoea. Through this initiative, the Ministry will mobilize health personnel, State Governments and other stakeholders in controlling the disease which one of the most common childhood illnesses.



Nearly 12 crore under five children will be covered during the program. According to the Ministry, there has been a consistent decline in the infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate due to increased access to immunization and child healthcare services.

39. Cabinet approved Interest Subvention on Short-Term crop loan to farmers

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) for farmers for the year 2017-18. This will help farmers in getting short-term crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh payable within one year at only 4% per annum. The Government has earmarked a sum of Rs. 20,339 crore for this purpose.



The objective of the scheme is to make available at ground level, agricultural credit for Short Term crop loans at an affordable rate to give a boost to agricultural productivity and production in the country.

40. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Palestine on agriculture cooperation

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 Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture in the State of Palestine on agriculture cooperation.



The MoU provides for cooperation in the fields of agricultural research; veterinary field including capacity enhancement of Palestinian Veterinary services and Animal Health; irrigation and climate change.

41. Cabinet approved proposal to introduce the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill 2017

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal to introduce a Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017. The Bill would provide for a comprehensive resolution framework for specified financial sector entities to deal with bankruptcy situation in banks, insurance companies and financial sector entities.



The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance, Bill 2017 when enacted, will pave the way for setting up of the Resolution Corporation. It would lead to repeal or amendment of resolution-related provisions in sectoral Acts as listed in Schedules of the Bill.

42. Cabinet approved signing of MoU between India and Armenia

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised about a Memorandum of Understanding, which has already been signed between India and Armenia for cooperation on youth matters.



The objective of the MoU is to strengthen and encourage cooperation between the two countries on youth matters. The areas of cooperation on Youth matters includes exchanges of youth, representatives of youth organizations and government officials, who are in-charge of youth policy-making. It will also be applicable for extension of invitations to international conferences and seminars on youth matters held in the two countries.

43. Cabinet approved signing of MoU between India and Bangladesh

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised about a MoU between India and Bangladesh for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics (IT&E).



The MoU in the field of IT&E is technical in nature and focused primarily on e-Governance, m-Governance and e-Public Services Delivery, Cyber Security, Capacity Building etc. The MoU aims to explore business opportunities, IT&E market in Bangladesh by Indian IT companies and attract investment in Indian electronics and IT sectors in India, which would indirectly generate employment opportunities.

44. Centre to set up 100 AYUSH hospitals across India

Minister of state for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik announced setting up of 100 Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) hospitals across the country. In the past last 3 years, 4000 AYUSH doctors in primary health centers have been posted. Government has released Rs 283.6 lakh out of sanctioned amount of Rs 563 crore for medicinal plants across Tamil Nadu.



AYUSH ministry announced setting up of two 50-bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals at Theni and Tiruvannamalai districts in Tamil Nadu.

45. India to be a co-partner in ANUGA 2017

Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal addressed a Joint Press Conference with the organizers of ANUGA - an international business platform for Food Industry to be held in Cologne, Germany. She signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in the ANUGA Exhibition with Ms. Katharina C Hamma, Chief Operating Officer, Koelnmesse GmbH (Organizers of ANUGA).



The Minister recognized the importance for India to be displaying its strength in Food Processing Industries by participating in various International Food Exhibitions like SIAL in France and ANUGA in Germany.

46. Ministry of Culture to start implementation of ‘National Mission on Cultural Mapping of India’

In the year of commemoration of the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, who hailed from Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India launched the implementation of the ‘National Mission on Cultural Mapping of India’ at Goverdhan Block, Mathura District and Uttar Pradesh. This Mission is part of the ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ umbrella.



The mission aims at converting the vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective cultural map, designing a mechanism to fulfil the aspirations of the whole artist community of the nation.

47. Ministry of Steel organized Second Steel Consumers’ Council Meeting

The Second Meeting of the National Steel Consumers’ Council, on the theme of ‘Current Status of Steel Industry and the Way Forward’ held under the Chairmanship of the Union Steel Minister Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh in Bhubaneswar. The function of the Steel Consumer Council is to advise Government on matters relating to supply, availability, quality and the market trends of iron and steel.



This meeting provided a vibrant platform to discuss the viable options for generating domestic steel consumption, domestic steel industry scenario, global steel trends and advantages of using steel over any other construction materials.

48. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated KIP for young overseas Indians

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated Know India Program, KIP, for young overseas Indians at a function in New Delhi.



It was an orientation program for the Indian diaspora to help students and young professionals of Indian origin to visit India, share their views, knowledge, experiences and develop bonding with the contemporary India.

The main objective of the program was to create awareness on different aspects of life in India and the progress made by the country in various fields such as economic and education.

49. India and Portugal inked agreement to promote cooperation in the field of archives

A Protocol of Cooperation was signed between the National Archives of India and the Minister of Culture of the Portuguese Republic in the field of archives in Lisbon, Portugal.



As a first step under this agreement, the Torre do Tombo (National Archives of Portugal) handed over to the National Archives of India digital copies of 62 volumes of the collection known as 'Moncoes do Reino'.

These volumes were originally part of over 456 volumes that cover the period from 1568 to 1914 and form the largest of all record collections in the Goa State Archives.

50. Government of India and ADB inked \$275 million loan

The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a \$275 million loan for improving urban services in 64 small towns in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The project will develop sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient water supply in 64 small and medium-sized towns, and integrated storm water and sewerage infrastructure in two heritage towns of Khajuraho and Rajnagar.



Along with ADB's loan, the Government of Madhya Pradesh will provide counterpart support of \$124 million. The project will run for almost five years with an expected completion date of June 2022.

51. Prime Minister dedicated POWERGRID's 400 kV Lucknow – Kanpur D/C Transmission Line

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated POWERGRID's 400 Kilo Volt (kV) Lucknow – Kanpur Direct Current (D/C) Transmission Line with associated bays to the Nation in Lucknow.

Constructed as a part of "Northern Region Strengthening Scheme-XXXII", this transmission line will provide high quality transmission infrastructure for ensuring reliable and quality power supply in Uttar Pradesh especially in the areas like Lucknow, Panki, Unnao and Kanpur. The transmission line will also facilitate import of additional power to Uttar Pradesh from power surplus Eastern Region/ North Eastern Region.



52. Government decided to establish GST facilitation cell in DIPP

In pursuance to Cabinet Secretary's directions, a GST facilitation cell has been set up in the Department with a view to facilitate the rollout of GST.

The GST facilitation cell is headed by Sh. Sudhansu Sekhar Das, Economic Adviser.

The cell shall be in constant touch with the major industry and business associations relating to the Department and shall be the first point of contact for addressing any issue being faced by any sector related to the Department.



53. Cabinet approved amendment of the Social Security Agreement between India and the Netherlands

The Union Cabinet has approved Amendment of the bilateral Social Security Agreement (SSA) between India and the Netherlands by incorporating the "Country of Residence" Principle into the said SSA.

A bilateral Social Security Agreement, (SSA) was signed between India and the Netherlands on 22 October 2009. This came into force on 15 June 2010. The SSA allows exemption from double contribution to the social security system in both jurisdictions, exportability of accumulated social security benefits across jurisdictions (applicable even to the self-employed).



54. Cabinet approved MoU between India and the Netherlands in the field of water resources management

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Netherlands for bilateral cooperation in the field of water resources management.

The MoU envisages that both the Governments shall work to enhance cooperation at the National, regional and international levels in the field of Water Resources Management and Development. The two countries will collaborate, share experience and expertise including techniques in the efficient use of water resources, river basin management, decision support systems, delta management, water quality issues and wastewater recycling, and re-use through innovative concession arrangements.



55. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Portugal on Cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Government of India and Government of Portuguese Republic for 'Cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms'.

The areas of co-operation under this MoU include:

- Digital transformation of Government.
- Administrative simplification and process re-engineering.
- Public Service Delivery.
- Building and developing staff capability.
- Sharing good governance practices in public administration.
- Public Grievance Redress Mechanism.



56. Cabinet approved MoU on cooperation in the textiles, clothing and fashion sectors between India and Australia

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the textiles, clothing and fashion sectors with Australia.



The MoU will facilitate cooperation in relation to matters within the textiles and fashion sectors that may be of mutual interest and benefit to the participants. The participants will jointly identify appropriate measures to connect the Australian and Indian textile and fashion sectors. The weavers including ancillary workers will be benefited from activities to be taken under MOU.

57. Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space between India and Armenia

The Union Cabinet was apprised about a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space between India and Armenia. The MoU has already been signed in April 2017.



This MoU shall enable the areas of cooperation such as, space science, technology and applications including remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication and satellite based navigation; space science and planetary exploration; use of spacecraft and space systems and ground system; and application of space technology.

58. Cabinet approved MoU for cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy between India and Sri Lanka

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy between India and Sri Lanka.



The signing of the proposed MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of traditional medicine and homoeopathy. There are no additional financial implications involved. The financial resources necessary to conduct research, training courses, conferences / meetings will be met from the existing allocated budget and existing plan schemes of Ministry of AYUSH.

59. Six Waste Management Rules (2016) - National Productivity Council

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has notified Six Waste Management Rules in year 2016. These are – Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016. E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016. Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016. Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.



As part of Swachh Bharat Mission, the Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change have launched a National Capacity Building Project in 68 Cities on the above rules and their implementation aspects for the Urban Local Bodies / UAs and various stakeholders in the identified cities.

60. India Signed Loan Agreement with World Bank for USD 240 Million and USD 160 Million from AIIB

A Loan Agreement for part funding of USD 240 million from the World Bank (IBRD) and USD 160 Million from AIIB (60:40 ratio) for “24X7 Power for All in Andhra Pradesh Project” was signed. Total Cost of the project is USD 570 Million. The rest will be counterpart funding from GoAP.



The objective of the project is to increase the delivery of electricity to customers and to improve the operational efficiency and system reliability in distribution of electricity in selected areas in Andhra Pradesh.

61. EPFO signed MoU with HUDCO under new Housing Scheme of EPF & MP Act-1952

EPFO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HUDCO for facilitating “Housing for All by 2022”.

EPFO has amended EPF Scheme 1952 vide Gazette notification No. G.S.R. 351(E) dated 12th April, 2017 to provide assistance in acquiring affordable houses to the EPF members by allowing withdrawal from the provident fund to the extent of 90% of the total PF accumulation and also facilitating payment of instalment of housing loan.



62. Cabinet approved Constitution of INMMS as Organized Group 'A' Engineering Service

Cabinet has approved Constitution of Indian Naval Material Management Service (INMMS) as an Organized Group 'A' Engineering Service. The move will attract the best talents available and bring in technically qualified Material Managers. It will improve the functional efficiency of Material Management of Naval Stores and ensure operational readiness of the Navy at all times.



It will improve the functional efficiency of Material Management of Naval Stores and ensure operational readiness of the Navy at all times as well as provide better career prospects for the incumbents.

63. Government approved construction of over 70,000 affordable houses for urban poor in UP

Government has approved construction of over 70 thousand affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor in Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana with an investment of 3528 crore rupees.



Out of the 70,784 houses approved, over 56 thousand will be constructed under the Affordable Housing in Partnership component and over 13 thousand houses under Beneficiary Led Construction component of PMAY (Urban). With this, the total number of affordable houses approved for construction under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has now increased to over 20 lakh 95 thousand.

64. MeitY launched Web Portal for smooth GST implementation

In order to ensure smooth GST implementation from 1 July, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched a dedicated Webpage for facilitating taxpayers with regard to addressing issues related to Information Technology Services and Electronics goods.



It also enables filing of grievances in relation to implementation of GST. Individuals, Companies and Entrepreneurs in IT and Electronics sector can visit the webpage for sector-specific information.

The webpage can be accessed through Ministry's Web Portal www.meity.gov.in.

65. Shri Piyush Goyal launched POSOCO-IMD Weather Portal for Power Sector & Web Portal 'MERIT'

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched Weather Portal for Power Sector in association with POSOCO and IMD. The Portal provides information like Regional Weather Summary, Weather Forecast, Weather Warning and Satellite Images.



He also launched another portal 'MERIT' (Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency). This has been developed by Ministry of Power in association with POSOCO and Central Electricity Authority. The MERIT Web portal displays extensive array of information regarding the merit order of Electricity procured by State(s).

66. Union Government launched VAJRA scheme to attract Indian scientists abroad

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched the Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (VAJRA) scheme in a bid to bring together the Indian scientists abroad and India-based researchers for conducting joint researches in India.



Areas of research like energy, health, advance material and others would be promoted under the scheme. Under the scheme, foreign researchers would receive endowments at par with those in their own countries.

67. India, Portugal signed 11 MoUs for cooperation in various areas

India and Portugal signed eleven MOUs for cooperation in areas including double taxation avoidance, investments, science and technology, nanotechnology, space research, administrative reforms and culture.



India and Portugal have agreed to set up a joint fund of four million Euros to support bilateral collaboration in innovative technology. The two countries expressed determination to deepen cooperation against terrorism and violent extremism.

The Prime Minister thanked Portugal for supporting India's bid to permanent membership of UN Security Council and multi-lateral export control regimes.

68. Government launched a portal on weather information

Union Minister of State for Power launched the weather portal for power sector in association with POSOCO and IMD at the meeting of the Forum of Regulators in New Delhi.

The weather information on the portal will also help in better planning for infrastructure availability to ensure cost effective and reliable supply. The portal provides regional weather outlook for current day and up to next 7 days.

Weather stations of meteorological department have been mapped to the nearest important electrical station/power stations.



69. India and Fiji signed MoU on defence cooperation

An MoU on defence cooperation envisaging several areas of cooperation including in defence industry, military training and humanitarian assistance & disaster management was signed between The Minister of Defence and National Security of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola and the Minister of Defence, Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.



The Ministers discussed expanded defence partnership in maritime security between both the countries, and naval cooperation was identified as an area of promise.

70. Swachh Bharat Mission to go all out for ‘Darwaza Band’

For promotion of toilet usage across the country’s villages, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has come out with an aggressive new campaign called Darwaza Band. Iconic actor, Shri Amitabh Bachchan will be brand ambassador of the campaign. The campaign has been supported by the World Bank.



It is designed to encourage behaviour change in men who have toilets but are not using them. The campaign also features actor Anushka Sharma, who will be seen encouraging women to stand up for this issue in their villages and assume a leadership role.

71. HR Ministry launched UGC App to fight Ragging

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar launched an Anti-Ragging Mobile App introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to help students register complaints to counter the menace of ragging. App will work on android system on which students can log in and register their complaints immediately.



Accordingly, all concerned will be informed immediately and action will start immediately. The Minister categorically cautioned that those who are involved in ragging would not be allowed to continue their education in that institution and face penalty and punishment as per the law.

72. MoS (Home) flagged off “Bicycle Patrols”

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir flagged off the “Bicycle Patrols” launched by the Delhi Police. The Chief Guest flagged off the first batch of 65 bicycles allotted to the Eastern Range of Delhi Police.



As a 'green' initiative for patrolling the parks, congested lanes and by-lanes, the cooperative societies etc., the Delhi Police has introduced bicycle patrols to complement and supplement its existing motorcycle and PCR patrols, which focus mainly on crime prevention along the arterial and main roads of Delhi. As a beginning, 65 high-end bicycles have been operationalized.

73. India, Portugal signed 11 MoUs across various fields

India and Portugal have signed eleven MOUs for cooperation in areas including double taxation avoidance, science and technology, trade and investment, nanotechnology, space research, administrative reforms and culture.



Five of these MoU's were in the area of science and technology. The two sides signed MoUs for the creation of an India Portugal Space Alliance for advancing collaborative research and launched a unique startup Portal- the India-Portugal International StartUp Hub (IPISH).

74. Aadhaar not valid for travel to Nepal, Bhutan

According to the Union Home Ministry, Aadhaar is not a valid identification document for Indians travelling to Nepal and Bhutan.

Indians can travel to Nepal and Bhutan without visas if they possess a valid national passport or election ID card issued by the Election Commission.

Nepal shares borders with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Bhutan, which shares borders with Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal.



75. India and Netherlands signed three MOUs

India and Netherlands signed three MOUs on water management, cultural cooperation and on amending social security arrangement. The MOUs were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte, during Mr. Modi's Netherlands visit.



The two nations signed a joint water technology initiative, Dutch Indian Water Alliance for Leadership Initiative (DIWALI). Netherlands is the fifth largest investment partner globally and in the last three years, it has emerged as the third largest source of FDI for India.

76. Kalraj Mishra launched Digital MSME Scheme

Union Minister Kalraj Mishra launched a Digital MSME Scheme. This scheme revolves around Cloud Computing, which is emerging as a cost effective and viable alternative in comparison to in-house Infrastructure installed by MSMEs. In this scheme, MSMEs can use the internet to access common as well as tailor-made IT infrastructure including software for managing their business processes.



Three MoUs were also exchanged with SAP India, Intel and HMT. MSME has jointly launched Bharat ERP with Tech major SAP, a program aimed at digital empowerment of small businesses in the country.

77. World Bank approved \$250-million loan to train India's job seekers

The World Bank has approved \$250 million Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO) loan to India to help increase the market relevance of short-term skill development programs (3-12 months or up to 600 hours) at the national and state level. The focus will be on providing skills training opportunities for adult workers between the ages 15 to 59 (underemployed or unemployed).



SIMO which is a six-year program in support of the Government of India's skill development strategy as outlined in the National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (2017-2023).

78. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Israel on National Campaign for Water Conservation in India

The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Israel on National Campaign for Water Conservation in India. This will benefit the country in conserving water for future generations.

The two countries agreed to work on the water conservation campaign to achieve the following objectives:

- Put water conservation on the national agenda in India
- Encouraging every citizen to save water in everyday life
- Generating awareness about water
- Promoting Re-use, Recharge and Recycling of water



79. Cabinet approved MoU between India and the USA on Homeland Security

The Union Cabinet has approved signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between India and the United States of America on Homeland Security.

The Memorandum of Cooperation will further strengthen bilateral security relations between India and the USA and will help in coordination and interactions among the six Sub-Groups that are going to be formed under the Homeland Security Dialogue between the two countries.



80. Cabinet gives ‘in principle’ approval for disinvestment of Air India

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its in-principle approval to strategic disinvestment of Air India and five of its subsidiaries based on the recommendations of Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD).



The government will constitute an Air India-specific Alternative Mechanism to guide the process on strategic disinvestment and decide the following – Treatment of unsustainable debt of Air India; Hiving off certain assets to a shell company; Demerger and strategic disinvestment of three profit-making subsidiaries; the quantum of disinvestment; and the universe of bidders.

81. The CBDT entered into Five Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreement with Indian taxpayers

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into Five Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreement with Indian taxpayers during June 2017. A Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (involving United Kingdom) was also signed during the month.



The APAs signed in June 2017 pertain to healthcare, information technology and gaming/animation (media) sectors of the economy. The number of Unilateral APAs signed in the current financial year is now nine and the number of Bilateral APAs is one. With this, the total number of APAs signed since the commencement of the program stands at 162 (Unilateral-150 and Bilateral-12).

82. War room set up to deal with GST crises

A “mini war room” has been set up in the finance ministry to deal with crises related to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The room will be equipped with computers and phone lines.



The unit will act as a quick resource centre for Central and State government officials to address their queries on the historic tax reform scheduled to be implemented from July 1.

It will act as a single-window for anything and everything related to the GST.

83. India's GSAT-17 Communication Satellite Launched Successfully

India successfully launched GSAT-17 communication satellite using the European Ariane 5 Launch Vehicle from Kourou, French Guiana.

The 3477 kg GSAT-17 carries communication payloads in C-band, Extended C-band and S-band for providing various services to the country. The satellite also carries equipment for meteorological data relay and satellite based search and rescue services.



The GSAT-17 became India's third communication satellite to reach orbit in the past two months.

84. The sixth Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar

The sixth India - Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting was held on 27 June 2017 at New Delhi. The Joint Trade Committee plays a key role in facilitating issues related to enhancement of the bilateral economic partnership between the two countries.



India's trade with Myanmar grew by 6.01% from USD 2.05 bn in 2015 -16 to USD 2.18 bn in 2016-17. The total export achieved in 2016-17 was 1.11 USD Billion, reflecting an annual growth of 3.79%. The import stood at 1.06 USD Billion showing a growth of 8.43%.

85. India and Thailand sign MoU on Cooperation in Controlling Narcotic Drugs

India and Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in Controlling Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, their Precursors and Chemicals and Drug Abuse.



The MoU will enhance the cooperation between India and Thailand in regulation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and combating drug trafficking. It will facilitate the exchange of information of new trends of drug traffickers, sharing the list of smugglers/syndicates in operation, sharing of best practices in the field of supply and demand reduction and help to provide mutual assistance & cooperation in investigation of drug offences.

86. Rail Land Development Authority and NBCC signed an MoU

The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), an institution under Ministry of Railways and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC), a PSU of Ministry of Urban Development have signed an MoU for implementation of station redevelopment projects for 10 identified stations in partnership with respective Smart Cities.

These 10 stations are – Tirupati, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Nellore, Madgaon, Lucknow, Gomtinagar, Kota, Thane New and the Ernakulam Jn.



Persons in News

1. Ganeshan Neelakanta Iyer became First Indian to be inducted in ITTF URC

Ganeshan Neelakanta Iyer became the first Indian to be nominated as a member of the Umpires and Referees Committee (URC) by International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

He has been nominated for a period of two years which can be extended further.

Ganeshan has also been recommended as the Technical Commissioner from the Asian Continent to ITTF and his term will be for a period of four years.

Ganeshan hails from Thiruvananthapuram and he is the only assigned competition manager of the ITTF, the world governing body of table tennis.



2. Sachin became part of the UN Campaign "Super Dads"

Sachin Tendulkar along with other stars from the world of entertainment and sports like David Beckham, Novak Djokovic, Lewis Hamilton, Hugh Jackman, joined Super Dads, a new UNICEF initiative launched for Father's Day to celebrate fatherhood.

The 'Super Dads' initiative forms part of UNICEF's #EarlyMomentsMatter campaign and it highlights the importance of love, play, protection and good nutrition for the healthy development of young children's brains.



3. Indian American Raja Chari among 12 new astronauts chosen by NASA

Indian-American Raja Chari has been selected by NASA along with 11 other candidates who will be trained for missions into Earth orbit and to deep space. The seven men and five women comprise the 22nd class of American spaceflight trainees since 1959.

Raja is a Lieutenant Colonel with the US Air Force. He is a commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron and the director of the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California. He earned a Master's degree



in aeronautics and astronautics from MIT and graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School.

4. Padmalaya Nanda crowned Little Miss Universe Internet 2017

12-year-old Indian girl from Odisha, Padmalaya Nanda was crowned title of "Little Miss Universe Internet 2017" and "Little Miss Actress" in Little Miss Universe 2017 contest held at the Batumi in Georgia.

She will further compete in the "Little Miss World 2017" competition that will be held at Greece. With this, she created history by becoming youngest girl to bag the crowns.



Padmalaya Nanda is a student of class 8th at a school in Cuttack. It is first time that a 12-year Indian girl has won this beauty pageant title.

5. Neeru Chadha elected as 1st Indian woman member of ITLOS

Indian nominee Neeru Chadha was elected to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). She became first Indian woman to be appointed as a judge at the tribunal.

She won by 120 votes, the highest in the Asia Pacific group and was elected in the first round of voting itself. Elections were conducted for a total of seven seats.

The Tribunal consists of 21 independent members who are elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation in the field of law.



6. Katy Perry became first person to mark 100mn twitter followers

Pop Singer Kate Perry created history by becoming the first person to mark 100 million followers on Twitter, leaving behind popular personalities such as Justin Bieber on second spot with 96.7 million followers, Barack Obama on third spot with 90.8 million followers, Taylor Swift at 4th spot with 85.1 million followers and Rihanna at 5th spot with 74.1million followers.

The 'Twitter' website posted a video compilation of her tweets since she joined in 2009. Katy Perry, is an American singer and songwriter with \$125 million as her Net worth.



7. Amitabh Bachchan appointed as brand ambassador to promote GST

In order to promote Goods and Services Tax (GST), ahead of the sweeping tax reforms implementation scheduled from July 1, government has roped in popular Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador. It has been decided to launch a video of 40 seconds casting Amitabh Bachchan.

Actor will promote GST stating that GST is an initiative to create 'one nation, one tax, one market', just like the three unifying colors of national flag. GST is expected to give value addition to 2% points to the GDP growth rate.



8. Manushi Chhillar won the title of Femina Miss India World 2017

Manushi Chhillar from Haryana has won the 54th Femina Miss India World 2017. The first runner-up is Sana Dua from Jammu and Kashmir and the second runner-up is Priyanka Kumari from Bihar.

Vinali Bhatnagar won the Miss Active crown whereas Vamika Nidhi won the special award of 'Body Beautiful'. The event was held at Yash Raj Studios in Mumbai. The panel of judges included Miss World 2016 Stephanie Del Valle, along with other Bollywood stars.



9. Bhumika Sharma won Miss World title in bodybuilding championship

Bhumika Sharma of Dehradun has won the Miss World Body Building Championship held in Venice, Italy. The championship drew 50 competitors from different countries.

Bhumika gained maximum points in three categories – individual posing, body posing and fall in. The international championship was organized by World Amateur Body Building Association (WABBA).



Bhumika will next participate in the Miss Universe title in the bodybuilding championship.

10. Indian Film Festival of Melbourne appointed Vidya Balan as its brand ambassador

Victorian Government appointed famous Bollywood actress Vidhya Balan as the ambassador of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. The theme of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne is diversity.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne has selected over 60 films from India and several short films in 20 different languages which will be screened in the festival.

In the past, various other actors such as Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Fawad Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sonam Kapoor and Kangana Ranaut have participated in the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.



Places in News

1. Varanasi to get India's first freight village

Varanasi will get the country's first 'freight village' spread over around 100 acres. It will be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The cost of the project is expected to be around Rs 1,000-crore.

A 'Freight Village' is a specialised industrial estate which attracts companies that require logistics services and can cluster to improve their competitiveness.

'Freight Village' also includes an inter-modal terminal, which facilitates integration between different modes of transport.



2. Mysuru to have country's first public bicycle sharing project

The Mysuru City Corporation has introduced India's first Public Bicycle Sharing service - Trin Trin. A total of 450 bicycles can be borrowed from 48 docking stations set up across the City for a nominal fee.

The users have to be registered as members by paying Rs 350 that also includes a refundable deposit and obtain a smart card by swiping which they can take out a bicycle from the docking station.



3. Habibganj Railway Station to become India's First Private Railway Station

Bhopal's Habibganj will become the first railway station of the country to be built under a public-private partnership (PPP) under Indian railways' plan of refurbishment. Bansal Group, a local firm, has been awarded the contract to build, maintain and operate the station for eight years.

Bansal Group will invest Rs 100 crore to overhaul the station and around Rs 350 crore to develop four commercial land parcels adding up to 17,245 sq. m.



4. Second edition of National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga held in New Delhi

The second edition of National Health Editors' Conference on Yoga was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik at National Media Centre in New Delhi.

The conference was organized by Ministry of AYUSH in association with the Press Information Bureau (PIB), M/o Information & Broadcasting; and Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (M/o AYUSH) as a part of celebrations of the 3rd International Day of Yoga on 21st June, 2017.



The theme of this year's conference was "Yoga for Health and Harmony". The aim of the conference is to give insight to the journalists about the scientific aspects of yoga and its benefits for human health.

5. Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated 16th NERCPA Conference at Imphal

Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the 16th North East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) Conference at Imphal in Manipur. The theme of the Conference was North East and Look East Policy.



The Conference was deliberated on three significant themes - North East and Look East Policy, special plan for development of railways, airways, surface road and inland waterways connectivity for speedy economic development of North East Region and setting up of a chapter of Speaker's Research Initiative in the North Eastern Region.

6. Gem & Jewellery Training Institute set up in Udupi

Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman laid the Foundation Stone for a premier Gem & Jewellery Training Institute in Udupi, Karnataka.



This training centre shall be amongst the series of Training Institutes & Facility Centres set up by GJEPC (Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council) across India.

With IIGJ Udupi, GJEPC forays into Education & Training field in the Southern India for the first time. The Institute will provide training to the

youth in the region in various aspects of hand-crafted jewellery making, which could eventually lead to employment opportunities in the G & J sector.

7. Indore became India's first city to use robot to control traffic

Indore became the first city in India to use Robot on an experimental basis to control its ever growing and unruly traffic.

The traffic police in association with a private engineering college of the city for the first time has installed a metallic robot at a busy MR 9 intersection. The robot has been quite successful in controlling traffic.

Indore was recently ranked number one clean city of India by the Government of India.



8. Bengaluru based Mypetrolpump becomes 1st in India to deliver diesel at home

Bengaluru has become the India's first city where one can have fuel delivered at one's doorstep. A city based start-up, Mypetrolpump, has begun delivering diesel on customers' doorsteps. The company conducted a soft launch with three delivery vehicles, each with a capacity of 950 litres.

For up to 100 litres, the one-time delivery charge is Rs 99. Above 100 litres, one needs to pay the day's running diesel price plus one additional rupee per litre. The minimum order now is 20 litres.



Regional

1. Delhi Assembly passed state GST Bill

Delhi Assembly passed the state Goods and Services Tax, GST Bill in a special session following an extensive discussion while also adopting a resolution on lowering tax slabs.

Under the GST regime, tax slabs should be 10 per cent, 5 per cent each for the Centre and the states claiming that higher tax slabs may trigger inflation.

The GST bill is a transparent system that will benefit small traders. The Centre plans to launch the GST on July 1. The other states to have passed the Bill are Telangana, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.



2. Punjab constituted commission to probe into sand mining auctions

Inquiry Commission has been constituted by the Punjab Government to probe into alleged irregularities in the sand mining auctions case involving Cabinet Minister Rana Gurjit Singh.

The one-man Inquiry Commission of the retired Punjab and Haryana High Court judge, Justice J S Narang, will probe all aspects of the allegations of impropriety against Irrigation and Power Minister Rana Gurjit Singh in the multi-crore sand mining auctions conducted recently by the state government.

The commission has also been mandated to inquire whether the Minister has received any undue financial benefit.



3. Delhi Police launched bicycle patrol

The Delhi Police has launched bicycle patrol to improve policing in congested localities in trans-Yamuna region of the capital. The bicycle patrols would reach narrow roads and heavily congested areas.

The bicycle patrols will move around in pairs and each patrol will cover a distance of two to five kilometres.



The first batch of 65 bicycles were allotted to the Eastern Range of Delhi Police that comprises three districts – east, northeast and Shahdara.

4. Arun Jaitley inaugurated solar plant in Telangana

Union Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated a grid-connected solar power plant of 16 MW capacity at the Ordinance Factory in Medak district of Telangana. It has been set up at a cost of Rs 105 crore by Bharat Electronics Limited. The plant has been set up for captive consumption of the factory.



The Minister also dedicated a 9 MW capacity windmill project installed at Dammur in Karnataka at a cost of Rs 53 crore by BEML, a defence PSU.

5. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis launched portal for job seekers, employers

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched a web portal 'Mahaswayam' that will cater to job seekers, employers, entrepreneurs, and training institutes who can avail details regarding skill development and employment.



Mahaswayam portal has been developed by the Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department. This portal will provide single interface to all the stakeholders to obtain information related to Skill Training, Job vacancies and Entrepreneurship development programs.

At 'Mahaswayam', job seekers will be able to register themselves, search as well as apply for jobs, inquire for training, get information on self-employment and get details of job fairs.

6. MITS Mega Food Park inaugurated at Rayagada, Odisha

The first Mega Food Park in the state of Odisha M/s MITS Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd was inaugurated at Rayagada by Union Minister Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal.



The Mega Food Park has been set up in 50.05 acre of land at the cost of Rs. 80.17 crore. Government of India has provided a financial assistance of Rs. 50.00 crore to the project. The food park has facilities of fully operational industrial sheds for SMEs, developed industrial

plots for lease to food processing units, Rice Processing Complex of 12 TPH, Dry Ware-House of 10,000 MT, Cold Store of 2500 MT etc.

7. Odisha to get first automatic coastal warning for disasters in India

Odisha is set to become the first state to get automatic coastal warning for disasters in India. It can warn the residents along its 480 km-long coast by pressing a single button from a control room in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters like a tsunami or a cyclone.



The State government is all set to commission the ambitious Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) that would enable loud sirens go off simultaneously from towers at 122 locations by July.

8. Telangana Launched T-Wallet

The Telangana state government has launched its T-Wallet as an "anytime anywhere digital payment option for everyone". T Wallet serves through Online Web Browser, Smart Phone, Feature Phone and even No phone.



It supports Telugu & Urdu besides English. There is no service charge for using T Wallet. It uses two factor authentication, through Aadhaar + Biometric or Aadhaar + OTP to Aadhaar linked mobile number, for feature phone and no phone users.

9. AP's Vizianagaram won MGNREGA national award

The Union Ministry of Rural Development has selected Vizianagaram for MGNREGA annual award for its effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act during the time period 2015-16. The district was selected among the 17 districts across the nation.



Vizianagaram had generated works for 3,61,668 households in 2015-16 and disbursed ₹483.42 crore as wages to the workers with an average wage of ₹106.

10. Telangana launched single-woman pension scheme

Telangana state government has launched the single-women pensions scheme across the state, a first of its kind in India. Single women will be given Rs 1,000 per month.

The government had also increased the Kalyana Laxmi and Shaadi Mubarak scheme amount from Rs 50,116 to Rs 75,116. Children of single women would be admitted into all Telangana Residential Educational Institutions without having to write an examination or waiting for the lottery system.



11. Kerala government implemented 'green protocol' for weddings

The Kerala state government has implemented a green protocol to make wedding and other auspicious occasions more nature-friendly. As a part of the protocol, plastic and other non-biodegradable articles including disposable glasses and plates and thermocol decorations will be kept at bay from such functions.

The government has asked people to use tumblers, plates and other utensils made of glass and environment-friendly metals. Inspections will be held at marriage halls, convention centres and hotels and other venues of the wedding ceremony. Suchitwa Mission, the state nodal agency for sanitation, has already launched the initiative.



12. Tamil Nadu government signed MoU with Aviation Ministry for UDAN Scheme

The Tamil Nadu state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Civil Aviation Ministry for the implementation of the Centre's UDAN scheme which seeks to promote regional air connectivity.

The government plans to start flight services to towns like Hosur, Salem and Neyveli in the first phase under the "Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik" (UDAN) or regional connectivity scheme. The UDAN scheme aims to stimulate regional connectivity with flights covering distances up to 800 km through a market-based mechanism.



13. India's first underwater Metro to be launched in Kolkata

India is all set to get its first underwater metro in 'City of Joy' Kolkata. Metro rail will run beneath the Hooghly river. The train will run 30 metres below riverbed, just a few metres away from the famous Howrah Bridge. Metro will connect Howrah and Sealdah - each of which has a footfall of about 10-12 lakh passengers per day.



It is for the first time that earth pressure balancing tunnel boring machines and standard gauge with better technology have been used. The project is expected to finish by December 2019.

14. Arunachal Pradesh demanded for separate time zone

Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu demanded for a separate time zone for the northeastern states to save electricity in the region.

Bengaluru-based National Institute of Advanced Studies survey concluded that a separate time zone for the northeastern states could help in saving 2.7 billion units of electricity per year, as people begin their day at 4 am but government offices start at 10 am, due to which several day light hours are wasted.



A separate time zone called as **chai bagan time** is followed in some regions, which is one hour ahead of the Indian Standard Time.

15. CRY Report: Uttar Pradesh ranks First in Number of Child Labourers

According to CRY Report on child labour, Uttar Pradesh was found to have the highest number of 2,50,672 children engaged in labour, followed by Bihar with 1,28,087 children and Maharashtra at 82,847.



It was surveyed that over 8 lakh children in India between the age group 5 and 6 years are engaged in child labour for the sake earning livelihood.

However, it was found that Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) suffers many limitations and is now covering only 50% of the child labourers. Government has been trying to introduce new schemes so as to avoid children from child labour.

16. Sikkim inked MoU with British Council for education sector

In order to improve education sector of Sikkim state, Human Resource Development department of Sikkim government signed an MoU with the British Council. The MoU was signed by G P Upadhaya, additional chief secretary cum principal Human Resource Development department and Alan Gemmell, Head of British Council.



The MoU will boost the capacity of the teachers and other professionals, working with youth in the state and support its cultural economy.

In order to improve teaching, learning and research pedagogy of teachers, UK higher education experts will train Social Science teachers from undergraduate colleges and universities in Sikkim.

17. Telangana launched website for online cattle sale

In order to ease facility of online sale or purchase of cattle, Telangana government launched a website named as pashubazar.telangana.gov.in.



This will not only save time for farmers to bring cattle every time to shanties but also save transportation cost on cattle. The farmer is permitted to keep maximum five registrations for sale at any time.

The new cattle rules issued by the Central government would be applicable to online sale too. The website is developed with NIC's support.

18. PM Modi inaugurated Kochi Metro

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Kochi Metro, and travelled briefly on the new metro line. He later addressed a large gathering at the function to dedicate Kochi Metro to the nation.



Kochi Metro Rail Limited is a fifty - fifty Joint Venture of Government of India and Government of Kerala. The Union Government has so far released over two thousand crore rupees for Kochi Metro.

The phase will operate from Aluva to Palarivattom. It will cover 13.26 kilometres and eleven stations.

19. Uttarakhand and Haryana declared 4th and 5th ODF States in the country

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G), rural Uttarakhand and rural Haryana have declared themselves as the 4th and 5th Open Defecation Free (ODF) States of India.

The two states joined the league of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala, which were the first three states to be declared ODF.

Nationally, the sanitation coverage has increased from 42% to over 64% in just two and a half years since the launch of SBM.



20. World Bank sanctioned 44 million dollars loan for ASPIRe

World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a loan assistance of 44 million dollars for the Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRe) Project. The loan was sanctioned by World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

The project aims at improving predictability and transparency in budget execution and efficiency in tax administration in Assam.

ASPIRe project is based on three important components - Strengthening public finance institutional capacity, strengthening expenditure and revenue information systems and on project management, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination.



21. 53 New Projects for 9 Cities Approved in Odisha under Amrut

Odisha Government approved 53 additional projects under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme. The total projects to be carried under Amrut scheme has reached 148 in Odisha.

The new projects would be carried out in nine cities including Bhubaneswar, Puri, Baripada, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak, Berhampur, Rourkela, Baripada and Sambalpur.

The main objective of Amrut is to provide basic services (e.g. water supply, sewerage, urban transport) to households and build amenities in cities which will improve the quality of life for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged.



22. Mizoram launched scheme for better treatment of HIV-Hit people

The Mizoram state government has launched the 'Test and Treat Strategy' of the Mizoram state AIDS Control Society (MSACS) to improve treatment for HIV affected people in the state.

Under the 'Test and Treat Strategy', the HIV affected people would be given free Anti Retrovira Therapy (ART) irrespective of the CD4 count. ART has been found to be able to resist TB and other bacterial diseases. The Test and Treat Strategy is a new initiative of the Centre to combat the HIV/AIDS disease.



23. India's biggest municipal bonds programme launched in Maharashtra

Pune Municipal Corporation has launched India's biggest municipal bonds programme to finance its 24x7 water supply project.

On June 19, the Pune Municipal Corporation raised Rs. 200 crore by selling ten year bond, becoming the first civic body to beat money from this route in 14 years. The project looks to raise Rs 2,264 crore in five years.



Municipal bonds are debt instruments through which a corporation or municipality raises money from individuals or institutions.

24. Maharashtra government announced Rs 34,000 crore farm loan waiver

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a mega farm loan waiver package of Rs 34,000 crore for farmers in distress in the state since 2012 due to continuous drought.

Named after the Maratha warrior king Shivaji Maharaj, the programme will benefit 89 lakh farmers and make 40 lakh agriculturists debt-free.

Farmers who have taken loan up to 1 lakh 50 thousand will be waived off completely and those farmers who have paid back their loans regularly, will get 25 per cent loan return benefit.



25. MSMEs minister announced Technology Centre for Tripura

Union Minister of MSMEs Kalraj Mishra announced sanctioning a Technology Centre for Tripura. For that, around Rs 20 crores will be provided to the state Govt. This centre will be utilized for bamboo and rubber related enterprising works, which, in turn, will benefit the youth of the state.



Rubber growers will also help in increase of earnings. Tripura Govt. will look into the coir sector and suggested to establish coir industry in the state.

MSMS-DI will provide training to youth for different enterprising activities in setting various micro and small scale industrial units as entrepreneurs.

26. Haryana to implement health insurance scheme for poor

Haryana government will implement a health insurance scheme in the state to provide free health services to the poor. The state government will bear the cost of the premium.



The state government is establishing medical colleges in every district to meet the shortage of doctors in government hospitals and as many as 28 colleges will be established in the state over the next two years.

Also, private organizations have been invited to establish Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy colleges in the state.

27. Government doctors in UP to retire at 62

In Uttar Pradesh, the government extended the retirement age from 60 to 62 years of the doctors working under provincial medical service. In view of non-availability of medic practitioners across the state, the government has taken the decision.



More doctors are needed to open new units at different hospitals, to set up new hospital, to open new 100 bed hospital and to run trauma centre and women hospitals qualified medical practitioners are needed.

About 3 to 4 hundred doctors are being retired every year but qualified doctors are not available to fill up the vacancies.

28. UP government signed pact with ADB for strengthening of roads

Uttar Pradesh Government has signed an agreement with Asian Development Bank ADB for a loan of 1950 crore rupees for strengthening of roads in different district.

As per agreement, ADB will provide the loan amount for Uttar Pradesh Main District Roads Development Project of 2782 crore rupees cost.

The State government will spend 832 crore rupees from its own resources on the project.

Project is scheduled to be completed by 2024 and ADB will provide the loan for the period of 25 years on the interest rate of 2%.



29. India signed Loan Agreement with the World Bank for USD 35 Million for "ASPIRe Project"

The Government of India, the Government of Assam and the World Bank signed a \$35 million loan agreement for the Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRe) Project. It will be implemented over a period of five years. The programme size is USD 44 million.

It will help the Government of Assam put in place a financial management architecture that will support it in utilizing its public resources more efficiently through better management of its finances, increasing the efficiency of its tax administration as well as improving the transparency and predictability in the execution of its budget.



30. Odisha to set up the first Blood Bank in the country for cattle

Odisha is all set to become the first state in the country to set up a blood bank for the cattle. The project will have a 60:40 sharing between the Centre and the state government.

The blood bank would be established on the premises of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) at a cost of Rs. 3.25 crore. The National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) has already accorded its approval.



Reports

1. Kohli, Dhoni, Yuvraj and Raina feature in ESPN World Fame 100 list

Virat Kohli, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and Suresh Raina have featured in this year's ESPN World Fame 100 list. Kohli is ranked 13th in the list, Dhoni 15th, Yuvraj at 90th and Raina at 95th.



The list is topped by Cristiano Ronaldo followed by NBA great LeBron James at second, Lionel Messi at third, Roger Federer fourth and American Golfer Phil Mickelson at fifth.

The ranking is based on endorsements, social media reach and other data to create a comparative ranking system.

2. Global Peace Index 2017: India ranks 137th

According to the Global Peace Index 2017 prepared by the Australia-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), India is ranked at 137th globally in 2017. Bhutan, which ranked 13, has been named as the most peaceful country in South Asia, followed by Sri Lanka 80th, Bangladesh 84th, India 137th, Pakistan 152nd and Afghanistan 162nd.



Top 10 Peaceful Countries: Iceland (1), New Zealand (2), Portugal (3), Austria (4), Denmark (5), Czech Republic (6), Slovenia (7), Canada (8), Switzerland (9), Ireland (10).

Top 10 Least Peaceful Countries: Syria (163), Afghanistan (162), Iraq (161), South Sudan (160), Yemen (159), Somalia (158), Libya (157), Sudan and Central African Rep., both countries placed at 155th position and Ukraine (154).

3. India slipped to 45th spot in IMD's World Competitiveness list

According to the World Competitiveness list compiled by the International Institute for Management Development's (IMD) World Competitiveness Center, India has been ranked 45th, four points down the previous ranking.

Hong Kong was ranked first followed by Switzerland and Singapore at second and third



respectively, with the USA at the fourth spot. Netherlands was ranked fifth in the list. Others in the top 10 list include Ireland at 6th, Denmark 7th, Luxembourg (8th), Sweden (9th) and UAE at 10th. China improved its position by seven places to 18th.

4. India ranked at top position in Global Retail Development Index

According to the 2017 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI) titled 'The Age of Focus', India has been ranked top among 30 developing countries on ease of doing business.

| 2017 Global Retail Development Index Ranking | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Country | 2017 Rank | 2016 Rank |
| India | 1 | 2 |
| China | 2 | 1 |
| Malaysia | 3 | 3 |
| Turkey | 4 | 6 |
| United Arab Emirates (UAE) | 5 | 7 |
| Vietnam | 6 | 11 |

The index ranks the top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide and analyses 25 macroeconomic and retail-specific variables.

The ease of FDI rules, rapidly expanding economy and a consumption boom are the key drivers for India's top ranking. The index has placed China at the second place.

5. Virat Kohli only Indian in top 100 of Forbes list of world's highest paid athletes

Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli has been ranked 89th on the 2017 Forbes list of 'The World's highest paid athletes' with a total pay of \$ 22 million.



The list is topped by soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo with a total pay of 93 million dollars. The others in the top five are LeBron James with \$ 86.2 million, Lionel Messi (\$80 million), Roger Federer (\$64 million) and Kevin Durant (\$60.6 million) respectively. Serena Williams, at the 51 spot with \$ 27 million, is the lone female athlete to make the cut this year.

6. UNCTAD: India among Top FDI Destinations

According to the UNCTAD World Investment Report 2017, India continues to be a favourite FDI destination though tax-related concerns remain a deterrent for some foreign investors.



According to the report, the favourite FDI destinations remain the US, China and India. In South Asia, FDI inflows increased by 6% to USD 54 billion. Flows to India were stagnant at USD 44 billion.

For the first time, China was the world's second-largest investor as FDI outflows surged by 44% to USD 183 billion, a new high.

7. QS World Universities Ranking 2018

In the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2018 list, three Indian universities, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bombay at 179, IIT-Delhi at 172 and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru at 190, have featured in the top 200 global universities.

IISc has been placed at 6th position among 959 universities for 'Citations per Faculty' in the 2018 rankings. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been ranked as the world's best university for the sixth consecutive year. Stanford University and Harvard University have been ranked second and third respectively. The list has a total of 959 top universities. 20 Indian institutions have been included in the ranking table this year.



8. Forbes world's highest-paid celebrities list unveiled

Forbes list of world's highest-paid celebs was unveiled where musician Sean Combs topped the list with \$130 million, followed by musician Beyoncé Knowles with \$105 Million at 2nd spot and writer J.K. Rowling with \$95 Million at 3rd spot.

The list also included Indian Bollywood stars such as actor Shah Rukh Khan at 65th position with \$38 million earnings, Salman Khan at the 71st spot with \$37 million earnings and actor Akshay Kumar at 80th position with \$35.5 million.



9. GII Rankings placed India at 60th spot in most innovative global country

According to Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings released by GII Rankings for the second year in succession, India was placed at 60th spot in most innovative countries list.

The list was topped by Geneva (Switzerland), followed by Sweden at 2nd place, Netherlands at 3rd place, US at 4th place and UK AT 5TH place. Last year, India was placed at 66th spot in most innovative countries list.

List highlights the India's rise as an emerging innovation centre in Asia. Index was formulated by Cornell University, INSEAD and World Intellectual Property Organization.



10. Mumbai most expensive for expatriates in India

According to Mercer's 23rd annual Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai is the most expensive city for expatriates in India. It has been ranked 57th on the list. Delhi at 99, Chennai 135, Bangalore 166 and Kolkata 184 were the other cities in the list.

Luanda, the capital of Angola, was the costliest city with Hong Kong and Tokyo at the second and third places, respectively.

Others in the top 10 include Zurich at the 4th place, Singapore (5th), Seoul (6th), Geneva (7th), Shanghai (8th), New York City (9th), and Bern (10th).



11. Dangal became 1st Indian movie to earn Rs 2,000 cr worldwide

According to Forbes Magazine's latest report, 'Dangal' has become the first Indian movie in the history to earn Rs. 2000 crores (307 million USD) worldwide. Dangal achieved this feat by earning Rs 2.5 crore on its 53rd day at the China box office.

'Dangal' has also become the fifth highest-grossing non-English film in the history, and the highest-grossing live actions sports movie of 2017. The movie also became the only non-Hollywood film to be listed among the top 16 highest-grossing films of all time at the China box office.



12. India can integrate 175 Gigawatts of renewable energy into the electricity grid

The first part of the study "Pathways to Integrate 175 Gigawatts of Renewable Energy into India's Electricity Grid", confirms the technical and economic viability of integrating 175 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy into India's power grid by 2022.

The study was released by Union Minister Piyush Goyal. A multi-institutional team from India's Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) produced the report using advanced weather and power system modeling.



Resignations & Retirements

1. Shaktikanta Das retired as Economic Affairs Secretary

Shaktikanta Das retired as the Economic Affairs Secretary, after being associated with the Government of India for almost 37 years.

Mr Das had served as Secretary of the Industries Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, Chairman and Director of Titan Company Limited, Director at Life Insurance Corporation of India, Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd., Non-Executive Director at Indian Bank, Director of Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited etc.



Mr Tapan Ray will take the additional charges as the new Economic Affairs Secretary.

2. Ramachandra Guha resigned as BCCI Administrator

Cricket historian Ramachandra Guha has resigned from the Committee of Administrators (CoA) of BCCI.

Guha was one of the four members appointed by the Supreme Court in January 2017 to implement the Lodha Committee reforms in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The committee was meant to function as the new interim bosses of the BCCI and run the day-to-day administration of the cricket body till the Lodha reforms are fully implemented and elections are held.



1. Super-Earth found 21 light years away

Scientists have discovered a potentially habitable Earth-like planet, located just 21 light years away, that may host liquid water on its surface.

US Scientists found that the planet, with a mass between two and three times the Earth, resides at the edge of the habitable zone of its host star Gliese 625.

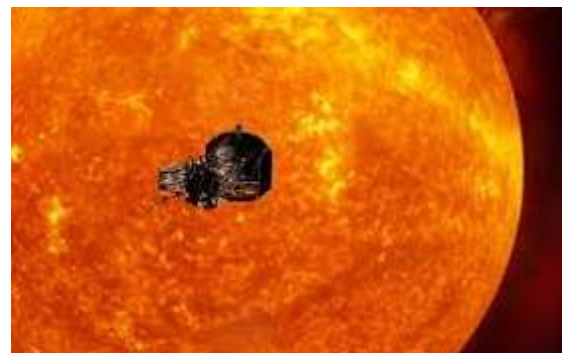
Planet is a relatively cool star and situated at the edge of its habitability zone, in which liquid water can exist on its surface. This is the sixth super-Earth closest to our solar system in the habitability zone.



2. NASA renamed solar probe mission to honor physicist Eugene Parker

NASA has renamed the Solar Probe Plus spacecraft, humanity's first mission to a star, which will launch in 2018, as the Parker Solar Probe in honor of astrophysicist Eugene Parker.

This is the first time NASA has named a spacecraft for a living individual. It's a spacecraft loaded with technological breakthroughs that will solve many of the largest mysteries about our star.



The mission is a part of NASA's Living with a Star program to explore aspects of the Sun-Earth system that directly affect life and society.

3. First Developmental Flight of India's GSLV Mk III Successfully launched GSAT-19 Satellite

The first developmental flight (GSLV MkIII-D1) of India's heavy lift launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III was successfully conducted from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota with the launch of GSAT-19 satellite.

This was the first orbital mission of GSLV MkIII which was mainly intended to evaluate the vehicle performance including that of its fully indigenous cryogenic upper stage during the flight. Weighing 3136 kg at lift-off, GSAT-19 is the heaviest satellite launched from the Indian soil.



4. China launched its 1st X-ray space telescope with the name "Insight"

In order to study black holes, pulsars, and gamma ray bursts, China launched its first 2.5-tonne Hard X-ray Modulation space telescope with name 'Insight'.

According to scientists, Insight will allow them to observe magnetic fields and the interiors of pulsars and better understand the evolution of black holes.

Since the black holes are usually undetectable, Insight has a larger detection area and a broader energy range which makes it easier to scan the galaxy.



5. PSLV-C38 Successfully Launched 31 Satellites in a Single Flight

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C38 successfully launched the 712 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 30 co-passenger satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. This is the 39th consecutively successful mission of PSLV.

One of the 30 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C38 was the 15 kg NIUSAT, a University/Academic Institute satellite from Nurul Islam University, Tamil Nadu, India.

The remaining 29 co-passenger satellites carried were international customer satellites from USA (10), United Kingdom (3), Belgium (3), Italy (3), Austria (1), Chile (1), Czech Republic (1), Finland (1), France (1), Germany (1), Japan (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1) and Slovakia (1). The total number of customer satellites from abroad placed in orbit by India's PSLV has reached 209.



6. Scientists develop new drought resistant plants

A team of scientists, including one of Indian origin, from Australian National University mapped a new molecular signalling pathway that controls the ability of plants to close the pores on their leaves to conserve water during drought stress.

Researchers have developed plants that have a better chance of surviving droughts by enhancing the natural ability of their leaves to preserve water. The new method has helped some plants survive 50% longer in drought conditions, and could eventually benefit major crops such as barley, rice and wheat, which are crucial to world food supplies.



1. Harmanpreet Kaur became the first Indian woman to play in Kia Super League

Captain of India's T20I team, Harmanpreet Kaur has been selected to feature in the second season of the Kia Super League, the English domestic T20 league. With this, she became first Indian woman to play in Kia Super League. She was signed up by Surrey Stars.

Kia Super League is also known as the Women's Cricket Super League. It is a game of domestic T20 tournament held in England and Wales played among women cricketers. Harmanpreet has played 139 international matches for India.



2. Barcelona's Lionel Messi honored with fourth Golden Shoe

Lionel Messi won the European Golden Shoe as he scored 37 goals in the Spanish league. With this, he drew level with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo with the fourth honour.

Golden Shoe award is given to the leading goal scorer from every top division national league in Europe.

Lionel Messi's other achievements include five Ballon d'Or awards so far, five La Liga Best Player awards, and both a FIFA World Cup Golden Ball and Player of the Year title.



3. West Indies cricket team's official name changed to WINDIES

The cricket board for West Indies has re-branded themselves as Cricket West Indies from the former West Indies Cricket board. The board also announced that the cricket team from now on will be officially known as "WINDIES."

The WINDIES name has been associated with the representative teams within International cricket for long and this new brand will be printed on all the teams' playing shirt. Also, the board has come up with a new website that will provide user-friendly information on match scores, team updates, videos and player information.



4. Real Madrid became first team to win consecutive UEFA Champions League titles

Real Madrid created history after they became the first team to win back-to-back European Cups since the Champions League era began in 1992-93. Real Madrid defeated Juventus, 4-1 in the Champions League final.

Real Madrid now have 12 European titles, the most ever. Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice in the game. Real Madrid is a Spanish Club while Juventus is an Italian club.

The coach of Real Madrid is Zinedine Zidane. Cristiano Ronaldo scored 600th career goal in win over Juventus.



5. B Sai Praneeth won Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold title

India's B Sai Praneeth won the \$120,000 Thailand Open after he defeated Indonesia's Jonatan Christie 17-21, 21-18, 21-19 in the final. Praneeth became the second Indian man after Kidambi Srikanth to win a Superseries and a Grand Prix Gold event.

This is Praneeth's second consecutive title win, following the Singapore Open victory. In 2016, Sai Praneeth had won the Canada Open Grand Prix. He reached the final of the Syed Modi GP Gold in January.



6. Rohan Bopanna won maiden grand slam with French Open mixed doubles title

Rohan Bopanna lifted his maiden Grand Slam title after he won the French Open mixed doubles trophy with Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski. The duo made a memorable 2-6 6-2 12-10 win over Germany's Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Colombia's Robert Farah in the final.

Rohan became only the fourth Indian ever to clinch a major, only Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza have won Grand Slam trophies for India. The only other time Rohan had played in the final of a Grand Slam was in the 2010 US Open.



7. Ramkumar Ramanathan lifts ITF men's Futures tennis title

Indian player Ramkumar Ramanathan won the \$15,000 ITF men's Futures tennis title in Singapore after he defeated Raymond Sarmiento of the USA in straight sets. It was his first title of the season and 15th of his career.



Ramakumar Ramanathan is a regular in India's Davis Cup team. Currently he is ranked second in the top ten Indian male singles tennis players list. He beat the Indian No.1 Somdev Devvarman in the first round of the 2014 Aircel Chennai Open.

8. Muttiah Muralitharan inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

Muttiah Muralitharan was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in London. The legendary off-spinner, with 800 Test wickets to his name, became the first Sri Lanka to be inducted into the prestigious list.



Muralitharan became the first player from Sri Lanka and the 83rd overall to be formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

The retired Sri Lanka spin great was awarded the honour along with Arthur Morris, George Lohmann and Karen Rolton by fellow ICC Cricket Hall of Famers and members of the media.

9. IOC approved new events for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved new events for the 2020 Tokyo Games. The choices reflect the IOC's focus on gender equality and appeal to young people.



The additions include a mixed team event for judo. Table Tennis will also get a mixed doubles competition. The IOC has also included three-on-three basketball, a 10-minute match on a half-sized court which is known for its speed.

The number of mixed events will double from 9 in Rio 2016 to 18 in Tokyo 2020.

10. Michael Venus-Ryan Harrison won French Open men's doubles title

New Zealand's Michael Venus and America's Ryan Harrison won the French Open men's doubles title. The duo defeated Santiago Gonzalez of Mexico and American Donald Young 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 in the final at Roland Garros.



Michael Venus became New Zealand's first Grand Slam champion since 1974. He won the championship after Onny Parun had won the men's doubles crown in Paris 43 years ago.

11. Jelena Ostapenko won French Open title 2017

Unseeded Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia won the women's singles of the French Open 2017 after she defeated Simona Halep of Romania 4-6 6-4 6-3 in the finals.



She became the first unseeded woman to win the Suzanne Lenglen trophy since 1933. She had never won a single championship at any event on the WTA Tour.

She won a prize money of €2,100,000. The French Open is a major tennis tournament held over two weeks between late May and early June at the Stade Roland-Garros in Paris, France.

12. French Open 2017 winners announced

French open title 2017 was organized in Paris, France. The list of winners is as follows-

| Category | Winner | Defeated |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Men's single | Rafael Nadal | Stan Wawrinka |
| Women's Singles | Jelena Ostapenko | Simona Halep |
| Men's Doubles | Michael Venus and Ryan Harrison | Santiago Gonzalez and Donald Young |
| Women's Doubles | Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova | Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua |
| Mixed Double | Rohan Bopanna and Gabriela Dabrowski | Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Robert Farah |

13. Shashikant Kutwal bagged gold at World Chess Championship

Pune's Shashikant Kutwal bagged gold medal after scoring 7.5 points from a possible 9, in the 17th World Individual Chess Championship for differently-abled, held in Slovakia. It was organized by Physically Disabled Chess Association.

Shashikant Kutwal is a railway employee. Shashikant Kutwal has represented India in Central Railway, Indian Railways and India at various chess competitions.



Around 40 men and women from 12 countries took part in the championship, where 4 players were participants from India.

14. Ace shooters Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu bagged gold medal in ISSF World Cup

Among 430 athletes from 45 countries, India's Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu bagged gold medal in mixed team 10m air pistol event of the ISSF World Cup held in Gabala, Azerbaijan, defeating Russia by 7-6 in finals.

Similarly, France beat Iran by an identical score to win the bronze in the event. Event was topped by China with 6 medals.



The mixed team air pistol event is one of the new events qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. India was represented by a 23-member Rifle and Pistol squad.

15. Lewis Hamilton clinched Canadian Grand Prix

Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton dominated the Canadian Grand Prix for the 6th time beating Sebastian Vettel's title lead to 12 points, held at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. It was the Mercedes team's first one-two finish win of the year 2017 and Hamilton's 56th career win.



The Canadian Grand Prix is an annual auto race championship held in Canada since 1961. It has been part of the Formula One World Championship since 1967.

16. Virat Kohli ranked topmost ODI batsman

Virat Kohli's performance in ICC Champions Trophy 2017 has made him ranked first in ODI batsman list, followed by Australia's David Warner and South Africa's AB de Villiers.



Similarly, bowlers were also ranked where Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood took over from Proteas pacer Kagiso Rabada as the No.1 ranked bowler, followed by South Africa's Imran Tahir at 2nd spot and Australia's Mitchell Starc at 3rd spot.

Two unbeaten fifty-plus scores improved Virat Kohli's ranking from No.3 to No.1 in the latest ICC ODI rankings.

17. K Srikanth bagged Indonesian Open Super Series badminton title

Veteran player Kidambi Srikanth bagged Indonesia Open Super Series badminton title backing Japan's Kazumasa Sakai. With this win, it was Srikanth's third Super Series title after 2014 China Open and 2015 India Open. Among other Indian players, Saina Nehwal has eight Super Series titles.



With this victory, Srikanth is likely to move in the top-five and even as good as World No 2 after his remarkable win over Wan Ho. It was the first time an Indian male player has won the title in Indonesia.

18. Kidambi Srikanth bagged Australia Open Super Series

Kidambi Srikanth clinched his fourth Super Series title with an incredible straight-game triumph over reigning Olympic and world champion Chen Long in the Australian Open final in Sydney.



The world no.11 Srikanth won 22-20, 21-16 in a 45-minute clash against the world no. 6 Chinese, who is also a two-time All-England champion.

The triumph is his second successive after clinching the Indonesia Open Super Series Premier title. Entering the summit showdown, Srikanth was only the fifth player in the world to contest three successive Super Series finals.

19. Srinivas Gokulnath became 1st Indian to finish solo Race Across America

Srinivas Gokulnath from Maharashtra created history by becoming the first Indian to complete the 4,900-km Race Across America (RAAM) in solo category.



Considered to be the toughest cycle race in the world, he cycled for 11 days, 18 hours and 45 minutes.

Among the nine men who finished, Gokulnath stood 7th while another Indian, Dr Samarth, was at number 8. The race was won by Christoph Strasser.

20. Yashaswini Deswal bagged gold in 10m air pistol in ISSF Junior World Championship

India's Yashaswini Singh Deswal has won a gold at the women's 10 metre air pistol event in the ISSF Junior World Championship. Anish Bhanwala won gold in the 25m standard pistol men's event. He also teamed up with Anhad Jawanda and Shivam Shukla to total 1733 in the 25m pistol and win gold.



The Indian shooting squad finished a creditable second at the ISSF Junior World Championship with three gold, two silver and three bronze medals in Suhl, Germany. China topped the tally in the rifle/pistol tournament with 19 medals, including eight gold.

21. India cricket team sets record for most 300-plus totals in ODI cricket

The India cricket team created record for the most 300-plus totals in One Day International Cricket.

| TEAM | MAT | WON | LOST | TIED | N/R |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| INDIA | 96 | 75 | 19 | 2 | 0 |
| AUSTRALIA | 95 | 84 | 10 | 0 | 1 |
| SOUTH AFRICA | 77 | 69 | 7 | 0 | 1 |
| PAKISTAN | 69 | 59 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| SRI LANKA | 63 | 50 | 12 | 0 | 1 |

India crossed the 300-run mark for the 96th time after they scored 310 runs while playing against West Indies. The previous record was held by Australia with 95 such occasions.

India and Australia are the only countries who have notched up a 300-plus totals over 90 times. South Africa have registered 300-plus totals 77 times.

22. Ankush Dahiya won Gold at Mongolia boxing tournament

Ankush Dahiya (60 kg) clinched a gold while the experienced L Devendro Singh (52 kg) settled for a silver medal on the final day of the Ulaanbaatar Cup boxing tournament in Mongolia. Ankus defeated Korean Man Choe Chol while Devendro lost to Indonesia's Aldoms Suguro.

India finished with a gold, a silver and three bronze medals from the tournament. K Shyam Kumar (49 kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (56 kg) and Priyanka Chaudhary (60 kg) won the bronze medals.



23. Federer won his ninth Halle Open title

Tennis legend Roger Federer has clinched his ninth Halle Open title after beating hapless Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-3 in the final. It was the quickest final in the history of the Halle Open.

This was the first time Federer won a tournament nine times. He has won 18 grand slam singles titles, the most in history for a male tennis player.

Federer is currently ranked world number 5 by the Association of Tennis professionals (ATP).

