

CURRENT AFFAIRS



MAY 2017

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Current Affairs – May 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 **May 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. Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts

Mr. Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts with effect from May 1. Mr Lianzuala worked at higher positions in the Central Board of Direct Taxes(CBDT), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Mr Lianzuala was the first Director of training institute in the field of Public Financial Management and Accounting in the North-East named INGAF-NER, based in Aizawl, Mizoram.

He was instrumental in computerising the functions of the State Treasuries of Mizoram. He has also served in Mizoram as Secretary in various departments including Agricultural Marketing, Border Trade and Relief & Rehabilitation.



2. Kharge replaced Congress leader K V Thomas as new Chairman of Public Accounts Committee of Parliament

Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge became the new Chairman of the 21-member Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. He replaced Congress leader K V Thomas. The Parliamentary panel is traditionally headed by an opposition leader.

The Committee on Public Accounts is the oldest Parliamentary committee that examines the accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for expenditure of the government and such other accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies. The committee also examines the reports of CAG on various subjects.



3. Shobana Kamineni appointed as the new CII President

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announced new office-bearers for the year 2017-18. Ms Shobana Kamineni, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd., has assumed office as the new President of CII. She takes over from Dr Naushad Forbes, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Limited.

Mr Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, is the new President Designate, CII. Mr Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is the new Vice President of CII.



4. Soumen Ghosh appointed as MD - Financial Services of Bharti Enterprises

Bharti Enterprises has appointed Soumen Ghosh as the Managing Director (MD) of its financial services business which includes the insurance businesses, namely Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co. Ltd and Bharti AXA General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Prior to this, Mr Ghosh was Executive Director and Group Chief Executive Officer at Reliance Capital. He has over 28 years of experience in the Insurance sector across Asia-Pacific and West Asian region.



5. Yusra Mardini appointed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced the appointment of Syrian refugee and Olympic athlete Yusra Mardini as a Goodwill Ambassador.

Since her selection for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, Mardini has worked closely with UNHCR, highlighting with her own inspiring performances the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team and the wider global refugee crisis.

In January 2017 she represented UNHCR at the World Economic Forum in Davos, where she was the youngest participant.



6. Braj Bihari Kumar appointed as new chairman of ICSSR

Braj Bihari Kumar replaced economist S K Thorat and became new chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). Braj Bihari Kumar has been editor of quarterly journals Dialogue and Chintan Srijan. He has been appointed by HRD Ministry for a period of three years.



Braj Bihari Kumar has written, edited and co-authored 136 books and has been founding member of Astha Bharati, a NGO dedicated in promoting the "India's unity and integrity."

7. Cabinet approved appointment of Chiefs for Coffee and Tea Boards

Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah and M S Boje Gowda were appointed as chairmen of the Tea Board and the Coffee Board by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. At present, Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah is a leading tea association industrialist. He has previously served as the chairman of Assam Tea Planters' Association. He will serve till November 1, 2018.



Gowda is a famous coffee grower and will be in the post until December 14, 2018. Since, the tea industry is plagued with the higher cost of production, cabinet appointed heads of board.

8. Venu Rajamony appointed as next ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

IFS officer and senior diplomat Venu Rajamony was selected as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He has also been press secretary to President Pranab Mukherjee.



Prior to this appointment, he has served as joint secretary and head of Multilateral Institutions Division in the Finance Ministry's Department of Economic Affairs and as Consul General of India in Dubai (2007-2010).

He has been assigned with such important duty because Netherlands is one of India's leading trade and investment partners.

9. Sanjay Mitra appointed as new Defence Secretary

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Sanjay Mitra as the new Defence secretary for a fixed two-year tenure. Mr Mitra is currently Road Transport and Highways Secretary. The current defence secretary G Mohan Kumar completed his tenure on May 24.

Mr Mitra is a 1982 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the West Bengal cadre. He also served as a joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office of Manmohan Singh.



10. Twitter elevated Taranjeet Singh as its Country Director for India

Twitter has promoted India business head Taranjeet Singh as its Country Director. Mr Singh will be responsible for driving audience growth, engagement and revenue of Indian operations.

Mr Singh has been business head of Twitter's India operations since January 2015. Before joining Twitter, Singh was sales director, South Asia for BBC Advertising. Prior to BBC, he held various positions at Outlook Publishing. Twitter had recently launched a lighter version of its platform, Twitter Lite for users in India.



11. Vinay Mohan Kwatra Appointed as Ambassador to France

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed seasoned diplomat Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the next ambassador to France. Mr Kwatra is currently a joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. He is a 1988-batch foreign service officer and will succeed Mohan Kumar.

Mr Kwatra has had held vital positions in the UN organisations such as ILO and WHO. He has served in Indian diplomatic missions in China and the US. He has also held the position of joint secretary in-charge of the counter-terrorism division in the MEA.



12. Ovais Sarmad appointed as Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Ovais Sarmad of India as Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Mr Sarmad will succeed Richard Kinley of Canada.

Mr Sarmad was serving as Chief of Staff to the Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). He joined IOM in 1990 in Geneva where he worked in several policy and management areas.



13. Renu Satti appointed as Paytm Payments Bank's new CEO

Renu Satti, vice-president of business at Paytm, will take on duties as the chief executive officer of Paytm Payments Bank.

As per the guidelines of RBI, the company will be transferring its wallet business to the newly incorporated payments bank entity, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd.

At present, Paytm has close to 218 million wallet accounts and it aims to open 200 million accounts within 12 months of the launch.

Paytm offers mobile wallet and e-commerce services to over 220 million users.



14. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus selected as the new WHO Chief

Member States of WHO elected Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the new Director-General of WHO for five-year term replacing Dr Margaret Chan.

Prior to this appointment, WHO's next Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia from 2012–2016 and as Minister of Health, Ethiopia from 2005–2012.

As Chair of the Global Fund and of RBM, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus secured record funding for the two organizations and created the Global Malaria Action Plan.



15. Syed Ghayorul assumed charge of Chairman of National Commission for Minorities

Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi assumed charge of the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities in New Delhi. Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi is a graduate in Arts and also holds Diploma in Mechanics. He served as Chairman, U.P Minority Finance Development Corporation Ltd.

Shri Rizvi has been actively participating in social service. He worked for the improvement of the basic facilities and working conditions of Beedi workers and Weaver community in Uttar Pradesh.



Awards

1. Chandrababu Naidu won the US India Business Council Award

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has won the US-India Business Council award for his role in advancing the US-India partnership at the state level.

Mr Naidu was presented the 'Transformative Chief Minister Award' during the USIBC West Coast Summit in the Silicon Valley.

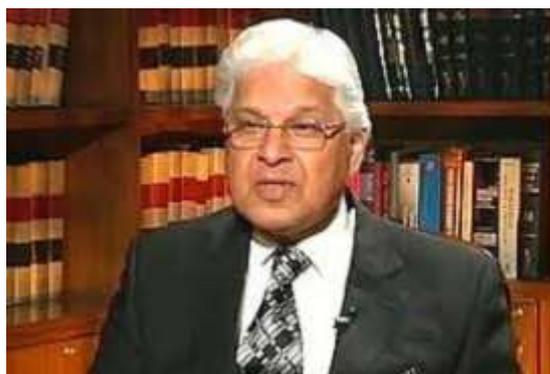
Ministry of Electronics and IT Aruna Sundararajan was honoured with the 'Transformative Leadership Award' for excellence in public service and for her commitment to advancing US-India cooperation and Digital India.



2. Former Union Minister Ashwani Kumar received Japan Imperial Decoration

Former Union minister Ashwani Kumar has been honoured by Japan for this year's Spring Imperial Decorations, for his contribution to strengthening of bilateral ties and promotion of friendship between the two countries. Kumar contributed to the promotion of Japan-India relations.

The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, the highest category of decorations among the Orders of the Rising Sun, is conferred in recognition of distinguished accomplishments of individuals.



3. Sanjay Pratihari won INSA Medal for Young Scientist

Sanjay Pratihari of Assam has been chosen for the the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for the Young Scientist Award for the year 2017 for his excellent contribution to multi-metal complexes, theoretical understanding, selective sensing of Hq2+ions and important applications in agriculture.

He is a scientist at Tezpur University at the Department of Chemical Sciences.



The INSA medal for young scientists are awarded annually to honour talented young Indian scientists in recognition of their outstanding contributions in any branch of science or technology.

4. President presented 64th National Film Awards

President Pranab Mukherjee gave away the 64th National Film Awards in New Delhi. He conferred Dadasaheb Phalke Award to eminent Director K.Vishwanath for the year 2016.



Akshay Kumar was conferred Best Actor award for his role in Hindi Movie - Rustom. Malayalam actress Surabhi was given best actress for her role in - Minnaminungu - The Firefly.

Some other awardees were as follows:

- Best Film – Neerja
- Best Feature Film Award – Kaasav (Marathi Movie)
- Best children film award – 'Dhanak
- Best popular film – Sathamanam (Telugu)

5. South Korea honoured Rajive Kaul with diplomatic service award

Prestigious Order of Diplomatic Service Merit Sungnye Medal of the Republic of Korea was conferred to Rajive Kaul, Chairman of Nicco group and past president of CII.



He was honored for his services rendered as honorary consul general of South Korea in Kolkata.

Acting President and Prime Minister of South Korea Hwang Kyo-ahn gave away the honorship to Rajive Kaul at a ceremony in New Delhi. Kaul was appointed as honorary consul general in November 1998.

6. 44th EMMY Awards 2017 announced

44th Annual Daytime Emmy Award winners 2017 were announced by National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

List of winners-

- **Good Morning America** (ABC) - Outstanding Morning Program
- **Steve Burton** - Outstanding Supporting Actor (Drama Series)
- **Kate Mansi** - Outstanding Supporting Actress (Drama Series)
- **General Hospital** (ABC) - Outstanding Drama Series
- **Jeopardy** - Outstanding Game Show
- **The Talk** (CBS) - Outstanding Entertainment Talk Show Hosts
- **Scott Clifton** - Outstanding Lead Actor (Drama Series)
- **Gina Tognoni** - Outstanding Lead Actress (Drama Series)



7. Padma Venkatraman awarded Avvaiyar Award

Veteran social worker Padma Venkataraman was conferred with "Avvaiyar Award" for 2017 by Tamil Nadu government. She is the daughter of former President of India, late R Venkataraman.

She was awarded for her tremendous efforts in the areas of women's welfare, empowerment and rehabilitation of leprosy-affected persons. She has been contributing best of her efforts since 30 years.



The "Avvaiyar Award" was constituted by late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa to honour women for their efforts. Award winner is given Rs one lakh prize money, a gold medal weighing 8 gm, and a certificate.

8. New York Indian Film Festival honored Adil Hussain's Mukti Bhawan movie

New York Indian Film Festival honored Adil Hussain's acted movie *Mukti Bhawan* as Best Film. The film, directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani and featuring Adil Husain and Lalit Behl, revolves around an interesting relationship between a father and son, where son accompanies his father on a journey to Varanasi.



NYIFF was held in New York April 30-May 7 and is known for supporting Indian films. Mukti Bhawan received a special mention at the National Film Awards.

9. Konkona Sen Sharma honored at New York Indian Film Festival

37-year-old actress Konkona Sen Sharma was honored with Best Director for her movie 'A Death in the Gunj' and Best Actress for her performance in Lipstick Under My Burkha by New York Indian Film Festival.



This movie is the directorial debut of Konkona Sen Sharma. The film also featured one of the last performances by famous actor Om Puri, who passed away in January 2017.

Other winners at the fest were K Kaladharan for best actor in a Malayalam film "Ottayal Paatha" and "Aaba" as best short film.

10. Sachin Tendulkar conferred with Fellowship Award in UK

Veteran Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar was honored with Fellowship Award at the 7th annual Asian Awards in UK. He was praised for his social work in the form of charities and various initiatives to help the under-privileged people.



He provided solar lights to poor people and made toilets under Swachh Bharat mission in the villages allotted to him.

Other recipients were singer Adnan Sami for 'Outstanding achievement in music', actor 'Om Puri' for his lifetime contribution to Indian cinema, Ajay banga for 'Business Leader of the year' and Krishnan Guru-Murthy for Outstanding achievement in television.

11. The President conferred Florence Nightingale Awards to 35 Nurses

The President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Florence Nightingale Awards to 35 nurses from across the country on the occasion of International Nurses Day.

The Florence Nightingale awards were given to the outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs. Nurses working in Government, Voluntary Organizations, Mission institutions and the private institutions can apply with the due recommendation of concerned State Government.

The Florence Nightingale Awards carries Rs. 50,000 cash, a certificate, a citation certificate and a Medal.



12. Chanda Kochhar received Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship

Ms. Chanda Kochhar, MD & CEO, ICICI Bank received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship from the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC for demonstrating a commitment to the common good - beyond the bottom line.

Another recipient this year is Senator Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the Senate. He was conferred with the 2017 Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service.



Previous recipients of the Woodrow Wilson Awards include former president Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Infosys founder N. R. Narayana Murthy.

13. Pawan Kumar Chamling honored with first BS Shekhawat award

President Pranab Mukherjee presented first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service to Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling for his contribution to Sikkim and its efforts behind making Sikkim as a role model for other states.

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was the vice-president between 2002 and 2007 and was observed as a graceful leader who cared for his people and their welfare. Pawan Kumar Chamling has been serving as Chief Minister of Sikkim for 22 years. He became chief minister of Sikkim in 1994.



14. IIT-Hyderabad professor honored with INSA Young Scientist award

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad's professor Aravind Kumar Rengan was honored with National Science Academy (INSA) award under Young Scientist category for 2017. Award ceremony will take place during the anniversary general meeting in December 2017.

Professor Aravind Kumar Rengan has immensely contributed in scientific work related to curing cancer and his research to engineer a biodegradable nano-system for photothermal therapy of cancer.

INSA every year honors young scientists who contribute immensely towards research in science and technology.



15. Indian Scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni Won Dan David Prize

Indian scientist and astronomer Shrinivas Kulkarni has won the prestigious Dan David prize for his contribution in the field of astronomy. He is a professor of astrophysics and planetary science at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Mr Kulkarni built the Palomar Transient Factory, with which he conducted a large-area survey of the night sky in search of variable and transient phenomena. The award consists of \$1 million prize money.



16. Sanjay Gubbi and Purnima Barman Bagged Whitley Awards 2017

Sanjay Gubbi and Purnima Barman have won the prestigious Whitley Award for their efforts in wildlife conservation. The award is also popularly known as the Green Oscars and is instituted by the U.K. registered charity Whitley Fund for Nature.

Mr. Gubbi has been awarded for his work to protect tiger corridors in Karnataka. Ms. Barman has been awarded for her work in conservation of Assam's Greater Adjutant Stork and its habitat.



17. Two Indian peacekeepers honored posthumously with UN medal

Two Indian peacekeepers along with 117 military, police and civilian personnel were honored with a prestigious UN medal awarded posthumously for their courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

Rifleman Brijesh Thapa who served with the UN Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Private Ravi Kumar who was deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon was honoured with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.



18. ISRO received 2014 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2014 was presented to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in recognition of its path-breaking achievements, culminating in the Mars Orbiter Mission; its significant contributions in strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space etc.



The award consists of a trophy, a cash award of Rs 1 Crore and a Citation. The prize was received by Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, ISRO.

19. Prashant Ranganathan of India Won Intel International Science Award in US

Prashant Ranganathan of India has won the Intel International Science Award in US in the environmental engineering category for his project on biodegradation of pesticides. It is the world's largest pre-college science competition.



20 high school students from various parts of India had participated in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. The topmost Gordon E Moore Award of USD 75,000 went to Ivo Zell, 18, of Germany for designing and constructing a remote-control prototype of a new "flying wing".

20. EDII and ITC honored with Porter Prize 2017

Porter Prize 2017, instituted by the Institute for Competitiveness was honored to Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Gujarat and ITC Ltd.

Dr Sunil Shukla, Director, EDII and Sanjiv Puri, the CEO and ED of ITC were presented Porter Prize 2017 by Michael E Porter.

ITC Ltd was given the Porter Prize 2017 for "Excellence in Corporate Governance and Integration" and for its contribution in "Creating Shared Value". EDII was honored in the category of education and training.



21. Cartoonist Rohan Chakravarty bagged WWF International President's Award 2017

Cartoonist Rohan Chakravarty was honored with WWF International President's Award 2017 under the age of 30 from around the world, for his amazing cartoons centred on conservation issues under the banner of Green Humour.

His cartoon gives an impression of conservation that leaves an instant impression in the minds of young and old alike. Rohan is best known for his wildlife and environment cartoons made for conservation of nature.

Rohan Chakravarty has made over 400 cartoons and has become one of the largest online cartoon repositories — under the banner of Green Humour.



22. The President presented the Dr. Ambedkar National Awards

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Dr. Ambedkar National Awards for outstanding contribution to the promotion of social understanding and for the upliftment of weaker sections of the society for the years 2011, 2012 and 2014.

The President congratulated Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot and his colleagues for working to extend a helping hand to those in need and mobilizing social forces to ensure that all can enjoy the fruits of development.



Books & Authors

1. Aamir Khan launched Asha Parekh's autobiography

Aamir Khan launched Asha Parekh's autobiography "Asha Parekh: The Hit Girl" in New Delhi. The autobiography was written by film critic-writer Khalid Mohamed.

The book has been published by Om Books International.

Asha Parekh was one of the top stars in Hindi films from 1959 to 1973. She was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1992.

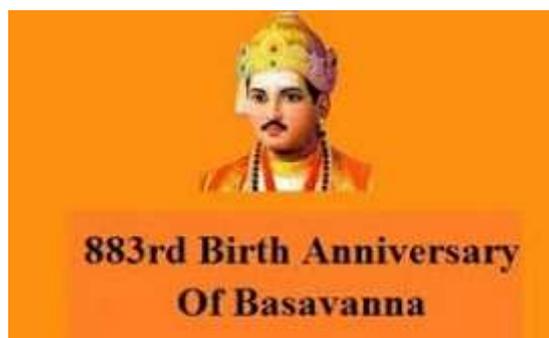
She won the Filmfare Best Actress Award for Kati Patang (1971) and Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award (2002).



2. Narendra Modi released 23 Volumes of Basavanna's Vachana

On the occasion of Basavanna's birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released translated volumes of Vachana in 23 Indian languages, penned by 12th century social reformer Basavanna and various other saints.

Vachana is a prosaic form famously known in the Kannada literature. The 23 Vachana volumes are edited by literary scholar late M M Kalburgi and translated by even more than 200 people. Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher and Kannada poet together with a social reformer.



3. M. Venkaiah Naidu released book titled "Swachh Jungle ki kahani – Dadi ki Zubani"

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for Information & Broadcasting released a set of books titled 'Swachh Jungle ki kahani – Dadi ki Zubani' published by Publications Division. The books aimed at sensitizing and creating awareness amongst children would provide a fillip to the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The set of four books written in a storytelling format by renowned children's author Dr. Madhu Pant would conveyed the message



in an interesting manner through the clean Jungle tales. The series of books had been published in 15 Indian languages.

4. National Book Trust to host book fairs in Panchayat

National Book Trust has planned to conduct book fairs at the panchayat level to inhibit the reading habit in villagers under scheme called as 'Panchayat Pustak Mela'. Under this scheme, regular book fairs will be conducted in rural areas.



The National Book Trust (NBT) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Books will be displayed related to lives of freedom fighters, children's books etc. The NBT will also ask State governments to arrange libraries at the panchayat level.

5. The WCD Ministry released a Manual titled "Living conditions in Institutions for Children in conflict with Law"

Women and Child Development Ministry has developed a manual on "Living conditions in Institutions for Children in conflict with Law".

Manual provides guidelines to the States and union territories and other stakeholders which will help them to establish institutions for Juveniles and providing appropriate institutional and rehabilitative services to them.



The Manual has been drafted within the purview of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016.

6. President received first copy of "Metaphysics, Morals and Politics"

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of book 'Metaphysics, Morals and Politics' from Prof. Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyay.



Prof. Amal Mukhopadhyay was a research scholar at the London School of Economics. Prof. Mukhopadhyay was awarded Ph.D. degree by London University.

His thesis was published in a book titled 'The Ethics of Obedience'. Now, the book has come with a new title 'Metaphysics, Morals and Politics'. Prof. Mukhopadhyay was applauded for establishing the extreme relevance of Green's ideas in the modern world.

7. Prime Minister Released 2 Part Book Series written by MS Swaminathan

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, released a two-part book series on the eminent agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. The series is titled - M.S. Swaminathan: The Quest for a world without hunger.



Dr. M S Swaminathan is known as the Father of the Green Revolution in India for his leadership and success in introducing and further developing high-yielding varieties of wheat in India. In 1987, he was the first recipient of the World Food Prize, considered equal to a Nobel in the field of agriculture.

8. Union Home Minister released the book 'India 2017 Yearbook'

The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh released the book 'India 2017 Yearbook' authored by the Union Home Secretary, Shri Rajiv Mehrishi.



The book was published by the Mc Graw Hill Education India. The book was written in a very professional manner and have important persons on the panel of contributors.

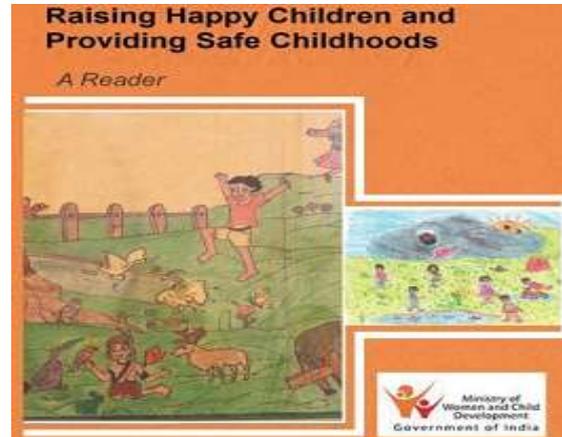
India 2017 YEARBOOK is published annually and provides information on current affairs of the Indian Union, including facts on Indian policy, political systems, the Indian Constitution and states, international relations and recent issues like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and demonetization.

9. Reader titled “Raising Happy Children and Providing Safe Childhoods” released

The Ministry of Women and Child Development developed a reader titled “Raising Happy Children and Providing Safe Childhoods”.

It provides advisory guidelines to parents, teachers and community to protect children from being involved in delinquent behavior through early detection, counselling and positive engagement.

It draws upon basic principles laid down in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 which provides a strong formal framework for dealing with children in conflict with the law throughout the criminal justice process.

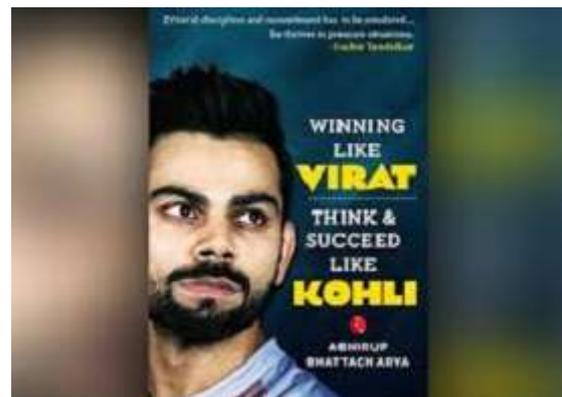


10. Abhirup Bhattacharya released book on Virat Kohli's triumph

"Winning like Virat: Think & Succeed like Kohli" is the new book released by author Abhirup Bhattacharya, revealing secrets of success of cricketer Virat Kohli.

The book unveils Virat's personal life as a family man and love for his family. Author has also included detailed study of his fitness regime of batsman Virat Kohli.

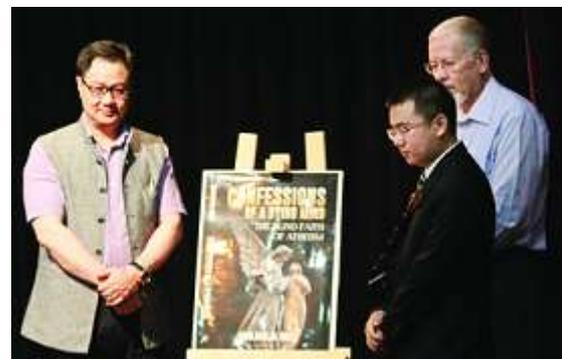
The book is published by Rupa publications. Book defines cricketer's art of nurturing relationships both inside and outside the game.



11. Kiren Rijju launched world's first philosophical novel on God

Union Minister Kiren Rijju launched world's first philosophical novel on God named as "Confessions of a Dying Mind", penned by IAS officer Haulianlal Guite. He is the first Indian civil servant to write on philosophy. Book reveals the nature of science, religion, evidence etc. It makes use of the latest surveys and research of modern science and the most solid theories in philosophy.

"Confessions of the dying mind" is a story about journalist, Albert Dyers, who undergoes a life transformation near-death experience.



Committees

1. IBBI constitutes Technical Committee under IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations 2017

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has constituted a Technical Committee in accordance with Regulation 14 of the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017.

The Technical Committee shall include the following members:

- Dr. R. B. Barman – Chairperson
- Dr. Nand Lal Sarma – Member
- Dr. Pulak Ghosh – Member
- Sh. V. G. Kannan – Member



The Committee shall give its recommendation for laying down Technical Standards for the performance of core services and other services such as registration of users, risk management framework, data integrity, identification and verification of persons etc.

2. Justice Mudgal elected head of FIFA Governance Committee

Justice (Retd) Mukul Mudgal has been elected as head of FIFA's governance committee at the world football governing body's 67th Congress in Bahrain's capital city of Manama.

Justice Mudgal's name was proposed by the FIFA Council for the vacant position of the governance chief after Miguel Maduro was reportedly 'fired' for his role in blocking Russian World Cup official Vitaly Mutko from retaining his seat on ruling council.



3. 'Maa' committee formulated to check mid-day meal quality in UP schools

On the occasion of Mother's day, Uttar Pradesh state government formed a committee of six mothers under name 'Maa', from all sections of society, whose students are studying in that school to keep an eye on mid-day meals served to students in state-run primary schools.

State government is making all possible efforts to bring improvement in educational sector of



the state. Some other changes were also made such as 'no school bag day' on Saturdays, change in syllabus etc.

4. Chitale Committee recommended several measures for Desiltation of Ganga

Chitale committee on de-siltation of Ganga has recommended a slew of measures which include study of reach wise sediment transport processes along with establishing annual sediment budgets to guide de-silting activities.



The committee was constituted in July 2016 by the Ministry of Water Resources under the chairmanship of Madhav Chitale, expert member of National Ganga River Basin Authority to prepare guidelines for de-siltation of river Ganga from Bhimgauda in Uttarakhand to Farakka in West Bengal.

Deaths

1. Sufi legend Begum Yaman passed away

Popular Sufi singer Begum Yaman K. Khan passed away at the age of 52 years. She was the granddaughter of Ustad Inayat Khan and daughter of Ustad Vilayat Khan of the Imdadkhani (named after her great-grandfather Imdad Khan) or Etawah Gharana.

Begum Yaman was the recipient of 'Hasrat Amir Khusrao Award' by Urdu Press Club International. She also received an award for her excellence and contribution to semi-classical and Sufiana kalam by Balkan-Ji-Bari International.



2. NCP leader A T Pawar passed away

Senior NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Arjun Tulshiram Pawar passed away at the age of 80 years due to prolonged illness.

He was the minister of state for tribal welfare in the Congress-NCP government led by Vilasrao Deshmukh in 1999.

Mr Pawar was elected to the state assembly from Kalwan constituency in Nashik eight times in a row, until he lost the seat in the 2014 Assembly elections.



3. Veteran sitar player Ustad Raees Khan passed away

Legendary Pakistani sitar maestro Ustad Raees Khan passed away at the age of 77. He was born in Indore in Madhya Pradesh in 1939 and moved to Pakistan in 1968.

He breathed his last in Karachi. He was praised with Presidential award and Sitara-e- Imtiaz in 2005 and 2017, respectively.

Some of his best composed songs were "Jab Tera Hukam Mila Tarkay Mohaabat Kar Di", "Ab Kay Saal Poonam Main", "Neend Ankhoun Se Uri" "Mojoun Sahil Se Milo", "Main Khayal Hun Kisi Aur Ka" and many more.



4. Puducherry politician S Ramaswamy passed away

84-year-old Puducherry's former Chief Minister S Ramassamy died at the age of 80 years. He served as Chief Minister from 1974 to 1978. He performed duties of Home Minister in the DMK-CPI union from 1969 to 1973.

Mr Ramaswami lost elections in his Karaikal (South) Constituency in 1980 by Savarirajan of Congress party. Ramassamy joined Congress party in 1992.

In 1985 elections, S Ramassamy fought elections as an Independent candidate and in 1990 poll for AIADMK.



5. Veteran actress Reema Lagoo passed away

Veteran film and theatre actor Reema Lagoo passed away in Mumbai at the age of 59 years.

The senior actress started her career as a Marathi stage artist in 1970s. Over the course of her career, she played the mother's role opposite some of the biggest stars in the industry.

Her popular films include Aashiqui, Qayamat se Qayamat Tak, Kal Ho Na Ho, maine Pyaar Kiya, Vaastav, Kuch Kuch Hota Hain, etc. She was acclaimed for her acting in Rui Ka Bojh (1997). She has won four Filmfare Awards for Best Supporting Actress.



6. Union environment minister Anil Madhav Dave passed away

60-year-old Union environment minister Anil Madhav Dave passed away due to illness. Rajya Sabha member Anil Madhav Dave was given duties of environment, forest and climate change in 2016. Science and technology minister Harsh Vardhan is given additional duty of the environment ministry.

Mr Dave became Rajya Sabha member in 2009 and member of the Parliamentary Forum on Global Warming and Climate Change in 2010. He was also member of consultative committee for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



7. Actor Roger Moore passed away

Famous James Bond actor Roger Moore died at the age of 89. He played role of a spy in James Bond 007 seven feature films between 1973 and 1985.

Some other movies and best of his work were Live and Let Die, 'A View to a Kill', 'For Your Eyes Only' and 'The Man with the Golden Gun'.

Moore was also known for his performance in TV series The Persuaders and The Saint. Actor Roger Moore was appointed as a goodwill ambassador to Unicef in 1991.



8. Real-life Hero Mathunny Mathews who inspired 'Airlift' died

Mathunny Mathews, who was known for his brave act of safe evacuation of Indians during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, passed away in Kuwait at the age of 81. Mathunny Mathews was known to be the inspiration of Akshay Kumar's character in Bollywood film 'Airlift', a movie based on true incident.

He was praised by Kerala Chief Minister for his help to thousands of Indians to flee the gulf nation, during 1990 Gulf war. Over 1.50 lakh standard Indians were brought back safely by the government.



9. Former DGP of Punjab KPS Gill passed away at 82

Former Punjab Police chief, KPS Gill, who tackled militancy in the state, died of cardiac arrest at Gangaram hospital in Delhi at the age of 82.

He played a key role in ending terrorism in Punjab. Gill joined the Indian Police Service in 1958 and retired in 1995. KPS Gill, known as a Supercop, had played a key role in ending the terrorism in Punjab.

In May 1988, he conducted the Operation Black Thunder-II with precision and transparency, without evoking public protest. The Punjab Story and "Punjab, the Knights and Falsehood" were the popular books authored by him.



1. Indian Army test-fired Brahmos Cruise Missile block III

Indian Army successfully test-fired advanced Block-III version of Brahmos cruise missile in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Brahmos is a supersonic cruise missile developed jointly by Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation. The Block-III version is a land attack variant of the weapon system was tested in steep-dive mode.



Apart from land, the weapon system can also be fired from sea, submarine and air. The missile can be fired on three different targets.

2. Surface-to-surface Agni-II ballistic missile successfully test-fired

India's nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface Agni-II ballistic missile, was test-fired from the Wheeler Island, off Odisha coast. It has a strike range of 2000 kms.

The test was aimed at re-establishing the operational effectiveness of the weapon system. The successful launch proved reliability of the medium range surface to surface missile.



The missile can carry a nuclear payload of 1000kgs. Agni missile series being developed by DRDO as a deterrent against nuclear armed neighbours are among India's most sophisticated weapons.

3. INS Karwar and INS Kakinada decommissioned

Indian Naval Ships Karwar and Kakinada were decommissioned on 09 May 2017.

INS Karwar (M67), was the first of the 'Natya' class minesweepers acquired from Russia. She was commissioned on 14 Jul 1986. The ship operated from Vishakhapatnam till 2013 after which she was based at Mumbai.

INS Kakinada (M70), was the second of the class and also commissioned at Riga, Russia on 23 Dec 1986. Both the ships have undertaken countless mine-sweeping missions.



4. Tejas Successfully Test Fired Derby Air-to-Air

Tejas, the Light Combat Aircraft successfully demonstrated an Air-to-Air beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile firing capability by releasing Derby Air-to-Air BVR missile in RADAR guided mode.



The objective of the test was to assess the Derby integration with aircraft systems on-board Tejas including the aircraft avionics, fire-control radar, launchers and Missile Weapon Delivery System and to verify its performance.

The test was conducted on a Manoeuvrable Aerial Target at the Interim Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. The sensors at ITR also tracked the target and missile.

5. INS Rajput on a 3-day visit to Yangon

INS Rajput, Indian Navy's front line guided missile destroyer entered Yangon, Myanmar for an Operational Turn around (OTR) from 11-13 May 17.



The ship was given a traditional welcome and received by Commodore Thant Sin Lay Deputy Commander Naval Dockyard.

During the visit, 35 Indian Naval officers visited the Myanmar Naval Training Command and 35 Myanmar Navy officers and 160 under trainee sea cadets visited the ship and were given a guided tour of the ship. A friendly volleyball match was also with Myanmar navy personnel.

6. INS Darshak completes hydrographic surveys in Sri Lanka

INS Darshak of the Eastern Naval Command which has been on a two-month deployment to Sri Lanka successfully completed surveys of Weligama Bay and Southern coast of Sri Lanka. The survey operations were undertaken in three phases and ship also visited Colombo and Galle harbour.



The ship and ship's survey motor boats fitted with multi beam systems were extensively deployed and the hydrographic survey data for more than 7000 nautical miles was collected. INS Darshak has the unique distinction of having surveyed in Mauritius.

7. India test-fired 'Spyder' surface-to-air missile from Odisha test range

India test fired a surface-to-air missile 'Spyder' from a mobile launcher at launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha.

Spyder (Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby) is an acquired missile system from Israel which is a short-range, quick reaction surface-to-air missile to neutralise enemy targets up to a distance of 15 km and at heights between 20-and-9,000 metres. Spyder deal was inked by the IAF with Rafael and Israeli Aircraft Industries (IAI) in 2008.



8. BSF to use Invisible Laser Wall Kavach to Secure Border

The Border Security Force (BSF) will make use of a newly developed technology, called Kavach (KVx) series laser walls, to guard the the 198 km India-Pakistan international border. The laser walls can detect intrusions and relay information immediately to the nearest post for action.

The new technology has been developed by Delhi-based defence IoT firm, CRON Systems. It is based on infrared array, which is invisible. Kavach walls can also work in transparent water and glass.



9. Joint HADR Exercise held at Naval Station Karwar

The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise involving multiple agencies and conducted by Indian Navy's Western Naval Command was held at Naval Station Karwar.

The exercise is named as "KARAVALI KARUNYA". It involves both professional exchange and actual disaster response mechanisms and is set on a Tsunami disaster scenario.

Naval Ship Repair Yard (Karwar) has been set up as a repair and refit organisation, on the Western Coast, as part of truncated Phase-1 of Project Seabird.



10. Indian Navy and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad Sign Memorandum of Understanding

The Indian Navy and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding on Data Sharing and Scientific cooperation in the field of Meteorology and Oceanology'.

The broad areas of cooperation include, sharing of non-confidential observational data for pre-launch sensor calibration and post launch satellite data validation, operational use of SAC generated weather products, provisioning expertise for installation of various satellite data processing modules at Naval METOC organisations and sharing of subject matter



experts between the organisations for effective knowledge transfer.

11. Indian Army gets its first modern artillery gun after 30 years

Two of the 145 M-777 ultra-light howitzers artillery guns will be received by Indian Army from US, after the Bofors scandal broke out nearly 30 years ago. These artillery guns are of benefit to Indian Army as they will be deployed along the India-China border.

India and US has entered into an agreement where India will buy first 25 guns from the US and the rest 120 guns will be assembled in India at a cost of around \$700 million.



12. India-Singapore joint naval exercise concluded

The Indian Navy and the Singapore Navy concluded bilateral military exercise in the South China Sea, during which they conducted a series of advanced naval warfare drills, including air defence exercises and gunnery live-firings. The Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise 2017 displayed the maiden participation of Singapore's F-15SG fighter jets.

"SIMBEX-17", is the bilateral naval exercise between Navies of the Republic of Singapore and India. SIMBEX is an acronym for "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises". 2017 bilateral exercise is the 24th iteration of the annual bilateral exercise held since 1994.



13. Air Marshal PN Pradhan Appointed as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff

Air Marshal PN Pradhan took over as the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations). Pradhan has held several key positions including Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Transport and Helicopters) at Air Headquarters and Senior Air Staff Officer at the Southern Air Command.

For his distinguished service, Pradhan was awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2014.

The IDS is a key platform to ensure a high degree of synergy between the armed forces and was created in 2001.



14. 3rd Defence – ITTA Joint Seminar and Exhibition: 2017

The 3rd Defence – ITTA (Indian Technical Textile Association) Joint Seminar cum Exhibition was inaugurated by Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Govt of India, on 22 May at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.

The exhibition included topics related to developments in personal and protective clothing as also building, medical and geo textiles. Items like Special Snow Socks, HAPO Chambers, Snow Goggles, Thermal Insoles and Ruck Sacks being used in Siachen Glacier and other super high altitude areas which were being imported till recently will now be manufactured in India of matching quality and at a much cheaper price.



15. \$630 million deal inked between Israel aerospace and India

Israel Aerospace Industries signed \$630 million deal with India for providing better and advanced long range air and missile defence systems for four ships of the Indian Navy. The deal is mainly done for supplying Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) systems.

The deal gives major boost to India's DRDO, IAI and the defence forces of both countries. The LRSAM is a joint collaboration of IAI and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation.



Economic

1. UN predicts India to achieve 7.1% growth this year and 7.5% in 2018

According to a UN report, India is expected to grow at 7.1% this year and at 7.5% in 2018 on account of higher private and public consumption and increased infrastructure spending.

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific or ESCAP launched its annual flagship report 'The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017'.

The report also warned that the country faces heightened risks related to the concentration of bad loans in the public sector banks. It has projected inflation to reach 5.3-5.5% in 2017 and 2018.



2. Reliance in union with SAP launched 'SARAL GST' app for taxpayers

Reliance Corporate IT Park Limited ("RCITPL") in union with SAP software Solutions signed MoU to launch 'SARAL GST' solution for GST taxpayers. SARAL GST will ease the GST tax payment by GST Suvidha Provider (GSP) and SAP as Application Service Provider (ASP).

This will enable taxpayers to be GST compliant, pay online tax and smoothly access the Government's GST System, once GST is rolled out from July 1, 2017.



SARAL GST offers taxpayers, focused and simplified operations, unified support and high quality of service, with enhanced with security features.

3. Facebook 'Express Wi-Fi' launched in India

In order to get more people online, Facebook launched Facebook Express Wi-Fi in India in union with Bharti Airtel. With this Facebook will launch another 20,000 hotspots in India.

Anyone can run an Express Wi-Fi hotspot, which means entrepreneurs across the country can offer their communities faster and more affordable internet.

A user can access the Express Wi-Fi network by signing up with an Express Wi-Fi retailer and purchase a daily, weekly or monthly data



pack. Then a user will be allowed to start browsing and get connected to the Express Wi-Fi hotspot.

4. India's forex reserves reached record breaking \$372.73 billion

Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement reported India's foreign exchange (Forex) reserves at \$372.73 billion. India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$1.594 billion. The gold reserves remain at \$19.869 billion.



Special Drawing Rights' value has increased \$8.5 million to reach \$1.460 billion. RBI's reserve position with the IMF also increased by \$15.8 million to reach \$2.347 billion.

The components of India's Foreign Exchange Reserves include: Foreign currency assets (FCAs) and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). RBI's reserves with International Monetary Fund FCAs constitute the largest component of the Forex Reserves.

5. India's largest blog conference BlogX acquired by Techmagnate

India's largest blog conference BlogX was acquired by India's leading Digital Marketing Agency Techmagnate. Blog X is blog conference where bloggers and content managers connect.



The step was taken by Techmagnate to expand and increase the reach of BlogX across the country and hoping to connect with buzzing community of bloggers and social influencers. Techmagnate offers digital marketing services in India.

The new acquisition is meant to open doors of new opportunities for Techmagnate and further give a competitive edge to its growth.

6. Ola in union with Airtel to bring digital offerings to customers

Ola Money to integrate with Airtel digital properties to offer a wide range of convenient digital payment solutions to customers.



In an innovative collaboration, Airtel retail points will set up special mobility assistance zones to help customers make Ola bookings; Ola's driver partners to assist Airtel customers recharge prepaid accounts.

Ola devices will be powered by Airtel 4G so as to enhance Ola's mobility experience and benefit Ola's driver partners. Ola app will offer a range of exciting digital services to customers, after this strategic partnership.

7. IMF predicted India's GDP at 7.7% in 2018-19

The International Monetary Fund predicted India's growth at 7.2% in the 2017-18 and 7.7% in 2018-19 due to disruptions caused by demonetization.

IMF has also recommended the removal of long-standing structural bottlenecks to enhance market efficiency. It said temporary disruptions caused by cash shortages accompanying the currency exchange initiative are expected to gradually dissipate in 2017 as cash shortages ease.



According to IMF, disruptions would also be offset from a favorable monsoon season and continued progress in resolving supply-side bottlenecks.

8. IRCTC launched cash-on-delivery for train tickets

IRCTC has launched 'Pay on Delivery', which allows people to book their train tickets online and get them delivered at home. 'Pay on Delivery' payment option would allow the user to pay at the time of delivery through any payment mode including cash. The customer will have to provide either their ADHAAR or PANCARD to avail this payment option.



IRCTC will make this service available in over 600 cities and towns in the first phase. The facility would be initially available 5 days before the departure date. The charges for delivery will be Rs 90 + service tax for transaction up to Rs 5,000 and Rs 120 + ST for more than Rs 5,000.

9. India will clock over 7.5% growth in 2017-18: Finance Secretary

Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa said that India can clock a GDP growth of over 7.5% in the fiscal 2017-18.

Mr Lavasa said that the potential for additional consumption in India, driven by changing lifestyles and growing urbanisation, are several positives in the Indian economy. This would help the Indian economy to continue to grow at a healthy rate as well as be a very attractive destination for many investors.



10. Government revised base year of WPI, IIP to 2011-2012 from 2004-05

The government has revised the base year of Wholesale Price Index, WPI and Index of Industrial Production, IIP to 2011-2012 from 2004-05. As per the new series, April WPI inflation stood at 3.85% and March IIP at 2.7%. The Consumer Price Index-based inflation in April stood at 2.99%.



In the new series, prices used for compilation do not include indirect taxes and will remove impact of fiscal policy. 173 new items have been added under manufacturing goods. The new Index of Industrial Production, IIP series captures work in progress for capital goods to avoid volatility. It has 407 item groups, as against 399 in old series.

11. FICCI projected India's GDP at 7.4% in 2017-18

Economic Outlook Survey released by FICCI pegged India's gross domestic product at 7.4% for the year 2017-18, owing to performance in industry and services sector growth. According to FICCI, industry and services sector are expected to grow by 6.9% and 8.4% respectively in 2017-18.



FICCI projected a median forecast of 48% for the Consumer Price Index in 2017-18. The wholesale price index based inflation rate is projected at 5% in 2017-18, with a minimum and maximum range of 36% and 59% respectively.

12. Tata Group Named as Most Valuable Brand in India

According to a report released by Brand Finance, a global brand valuation and strategy consultancy firm, Tata Group is the most valuable brand in India at an estimated \$13.1 billion in 2017. The report published list of India's 100 most valuable brands.



Airtel, with an estimated valuation of \$7.7 billion, ranked second in the list followed by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) with \$6.8 billion. Infosys ranked fourth in the list with an estimated value of \$6.2 billion. SBI ranked fifth in the list.

13. Japan's SoftBank made largest fund infusion in Indian start-up Paytm

A huge amount of funds Rs. 9,000 crore was invested by Japan's SoftBank in Indian start up Paytm. The deal values \$8 billion. The deal will help Paytm achieve their targets, expand payments bank operations, introduce more financial products for consumers.



The other start-ups who are involved with the investment by SoftBank are Snapdeal and Ola earlier with an amount of \$2 billion.

Paytm has marked huge expansion in number of users during demonetization and the company offers mobile wallet and e-commerce services to over 220 million users.

14. Forex reserves decline by USD 443.6 million to USD 375.27 billion

India's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 443.6 million to USD 375.27 billion in the week ended 12th May. Foreign currency assets, a major part of the overall reserves, dipped by USD 429.4 million to USD 351.10 billion. In the previous week, the reserves had touched a life-time high of USD 375.71 billion.



Gold reserves remained steady at USD 20.438 billion. India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund decreased by USD 5.5 million to USD 1.454 billion, while the country's reserve position also dipped by USD 8.7 million to USD 2.280 billion.

15. BSNL inked agreements with Facebook and MobiKwik

BSNL has signed a pact with Facebook and MobiKwik to commemorate the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.



As a part of the MoU with Facebook, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will provide connectivity for the social network's Rs. Express Wi-Fi Program' while Mobikwik will help co-create a BSNL mobile wallet to facilitate payment for its products and services. MobiKwik will also enable "digital sale" of BSNL SIM cards through its app and website.

Environment

1. Dumping e-waste near Ramganga river to cost penalty of Rs 1 lakh

The National Green Tribunal announced that anyone found dumping electronic waste (e-waste) on the banks of river Ramganga in Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh would have to pay Rs 1 lakh as environment compensation.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also constituted a committee of representatives of departments concerned to immediately remove the waste lying on the river bank and sought a detailed report within two weeks. The committee would comprise member secretary of UPPCB, district magistrate of Moradabad, representative from UP government and Deputy Superintendent of Police.



2. Scientists discovered last species of dinosaur to survive on earth

Last fossil of species of dinosaur to survive on Earth, *Chenani Saurus Barbaricus*, was discovered by scientists in a phosphate mine in northern Morocco. Most of the fossils have been discovered from marine rocks.

It is discovered that an asteroid strike wiped out all dinosaurs of this species, 66 million years ago. *Chenani Saurus Barbaricus* is smaller African contemporary of North American T-Rex. The credit of research goes to research carried out by Milner Centre for Evolution at the University of Bath.



3. Environment ministry banned sale of cattle for slaughter

Environment ministry introduced stringent new rules that ban sale and purchase of cattle from any animal/livestock market for purposes of slaughter or religious sacrifice. The Centre has brought in the rule only to regulate animal markets and ensure the safety of cattle.

The combined effect of both the rules will surely reduce sale of animals for slaughter, including buffaloes. Under this rule, the seller and purchaser will have to submit an undertaking that the animal is not for slaughter.

The animals defined under the rule are bulls, bullocks, cows, buffaloes, steers, heifers and calves and includes camels.



1. RBI asked ARC to have a minimum net corpus of Rs100 crore by 2019

The Reserve Bank of India has asked all the existing Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to have a minimum net-owned corpus of Rs 100 crore by March 2019 in view of their enhanced role and greater cash based transactions.

ARCs are in the business of buying bad loans from banks to turn them around. As per amended SARFAESI Act, 2016, ARCs cannot carry on the business of securitisation or asset reconstruction without having NOF of not less than Rs 2 crore or any other amount stipulated by the RBI.



2. Cabinet approved issuing ordinance to resolve NPAs of banks

The Union Cabinet approved a new framework for dealing non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking system and details will be announced after President Pranab Mukherjee gives his assent to an ordinance to amend the Banking Regulation Act to resolve the Non Performing Assets crisis.

The set of measures includes the promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the Banking Regulation Act to give more powers to Reserve Bank of India and its committees to act on behalf of banks while deciding on NPAs.



3. RBI made changes in norms for dealing with stressed loans

RBI made substantial changes in the norms for dealing with stressed loans and warned banks they will be penalised for missing Non-Performing Assets (NPA) resolution timelines.

RBI, through a notification, eased the decision making process in the Joint Lenders' Forum and Corrective Action Plan under the 'Framework for Revitalising Distressed Assets in the Economy'. The government notified an ordinance empowering the Reserve Bank to issue directions to banks to initiate insolvency resolution process in case of a default under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.



4. Cabinet committee approved appointments of heads of 7 PSU banks

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed heads of 7 PSU banks. The appointments are as below-

- Usha Ananthasubramanian - MD & CEO of Allahabad Bank
- Sunil Mehta - MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank
- Dinabandhu Mohapatra - MD and CEO of Bank of India
- G Rajkiran Rai - MD & CEO of Union Bank of India
- R Subramaniakumar - MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank
- RA Sankara Narayanan - MD & CEO of Vijaya Bank
- MO Rego - MD & CEO of Syndicate Bank



5. India's first life insurance product that can be bought via PoS launched

India's simplest life insurance product that can be bought at a point of sale (PoS) was launched by Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance, termed as 'PoS Saral Nivesh'.

With this 'PoS Saral Nivesh' becomes the first product to be approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's guidelines on point of sale-life insurance products.

Various attractive features of product include its easiest way of buying, guaranteed benefits payable at time of maturity or death, guaranteed return etc. The best feature of product is that the product is simple, easy to understand, and easy to buy.



6. YES Bank in union with Cashkaro.com to bring card-linked offers

Cashkaro.com in union with Yes bank to bring unique Card Linked Offers such as cash-back proposition. It provides online and offline shoppers with personalized merchant deals on which shoppers can avail cash-back offers.

YES BANK debit cardholders can avail cash-back offers from a wide range of participating online merchants such as Forever 21, Chaayos, Junkyard Cafe, UrbanClap, Zivame, Nearbuy, Limeroad, etc.

This launch by Yes bank is India's first Card Linked Offers (CLO) cash-back proposition to earn cash-back which reflects into their bank accounts instantly and encourage cashless economy.



7. SEBI permits investors to buy mutual funds via digital wallet

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed investors to invest in mutual funds through digital wallets in order to channelize household savings into capital markets and promote digitisation in investment instruments.

SEBI said mutual fund houses can now allow retail individual investors to invest up to Rs 50,000 or 90% of the folio value, whichever is lower, per financial year through the digital wallet route. Investors can redeem such purchases only into their bank account.



8. NHAI Masala Bond Launched at London Stock Exchange

The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri. Nitin Gadkari launched the NHAI Masala Bond issue at the London Stock Exchange. The NHAI issue witnessed an overwhelming response from a wide range of investors, some of them being first timers to participate in the Masala Bond market.

The spectrum of investors shows bright prospects of the Masala Bond as an instrument of raising rupee denominated resources internationally. On this occasion London Stock Exchange presented a Memento to Shri Nitin Gadkari.



9. HDFC Life entered into bancassurance tie-up with Catholic Syrian Bank

HDFC Life entered into a bancassurance distribution tie-up with Catholic Syrian Bank to distribute its individual life insurance products to the private lender's customers.

HDFC life products such as individual life insurance, health and pension products will be offered to million customers of bank.

HDFC Life is a long-term life insurance provider, offering individual and group insurance.

Its products will be offered to customer base of 430 branches of Catholic Syrian Bank. HDFC Life has entered into tie up with Kerala based bank for the first time.



10. RBI restricted UCO Bank's business and expansion

Reserve bank of India has restricted UCO bank 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. It is second bank facing restrictions after IDBI bank Ltd.

UCO Bank reported Rs 22,541 crore gross NPA at the end of FY17, which was 17.1% of total advances. However, the bank managed to curtail down losses to Rs 588 crore in the fourth quarter of 2016-17.



11. RBI gives authorization to Paytm to start operations as Payment Bank

Reserve Bank of India gave final approval to Paytm payments bank under its Authorised Entity One97 Communications Ltd to start operations as Payments bank.

It has been decided that Renu Satti, vice-president of business at Paytm, will take on duties as the chief executive officer of Paytm Payments Bank.

As per the guidelines of RBI, the company will be transferring its wallet business to the newly incorporated payments bank entity, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. At present, Paytm has close to 218 million wallet accounts and it aims to open 200 million accounts within 12 months of the launch.



12. RBI to reconstitute oversight committee to deal with bad loans

The RBI decided to reconstitute the oversight committee, OC, with more members after the government armed it with additional powers to resolve bad loans with banks that have crossed Rs 8 lakh crore.

RBI stated that while the current members will continue in the reconstituted OC, names of a few more will be announced soon.

The apex bank would be constituting a Committee comprised majority of its independent Board Members to advise it in the Non-Performing Asset matter and it has also envisaged an important role for the credit rating agencies in resolving the issue.



13. Bank of Baroda and IFFCO to issue debit card for farmers

In order to motivate digitalisation and cashless economy, Bank of Baroda (BOB) and IFFCO will unanimously issue co-branded debit cards for farmers with inbuilt overdraft facility of Rs 2,500 in special savings bank account, meant for purchase of various agri products at IFFCO sale counters.

As a part of initiative, 200000 co-branded debit cards will be issued initially to the farmers, starting in the states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. These co-branded debit cards will be compulsorily used for the purchase of IFFCO products only.



14. Karnataka Bank signed MoU with HDFC Asset Management

HDFC Capital Asset Management Ltd entered into MoU with Karnataka Bank Ltd to cross-sell mutual fund products. It is a kind of a distribution agreement.

Karnataka Bank is a time-tested customer-centric Bank and its 769 branches will provide an opportunity to the customers to invest in a strong brand like HDFC Mutual Fund.



This tie-up is a big opportunity for both the Bank as well as HDFC AMC, as there is a gradual shift from physical assets to financial assets.

Important Days

1. Armoured Corps celebrated '79th Armour Day'

The Armoured Corps celebrated its '79th ARMOUR DAY' on 1st May. The event commemorates the mechanization of the erstwhile Indian Cavalry on 01 May 1938, when the SCINDE HORSE became the first Indian Cavalry Regiment to stable its horses and convert to the Vickers Light Tank and Chevrolet Armoured Cars.

The elite 'Tank' Corps celebrated the day with serving & veterans officers' fraternity of the Corps and other arms/services. The elegant function truly epitomized traditional elan, camaraderie and all – round excellence that characterizes the Armoured Corps.



2. International Labour Day celebrated worldwide

The International Labour Day, also known as May Day, was celebrated on 1st May 2017. Around 80 countries across the world have declared it as national holiday.

The day is also known as International Workers' Day. The day is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement.

In India, the day is celebrated as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas. The day is a public holiday in many countries worldwide.



3. 3rd May observed as World Press Freedom Day

The World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on 3rd May across the world. The day celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom. It also reminds that many journalists brave death or face jail to bring daily news to the public.

UNESCO and the Government of Indonesia co-hosted the World Press Freedom Day's main event and the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize Ceremony in 2017 which took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1-4 May 2017. 2017 theme was 'Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies'.



4. BRO celebrated 57th Raising Day

Border Roads celebrated its 57 years of glorious service to the nation on 07 May 2017. On this occasion, Director General Border Roads Lt Gen SK Shrivastava has conveyed his felicitations to all veterans and personnel of BRO, and has called upon all ranks of the organisation to rededicate themselves to the motto "ShramenaSarvamSadhyam" and strive for further excellence.

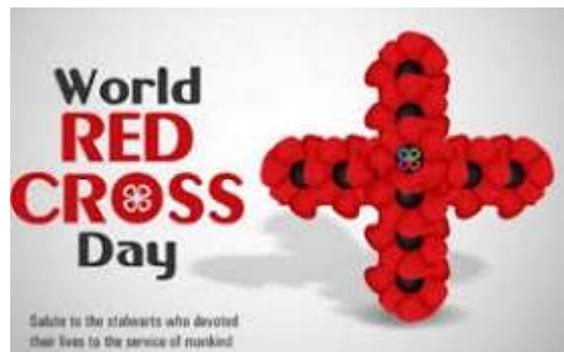


BRO has been a potent ambassador of the nation's message of peace and prosperity through developmental works in several friendly foreign countries. The works executed by BRO, have contributed in the socio-economic development of the country.

5. 8th May observed as World Red Cross Day

In order to celebrate the birthday anniversary of founder of the Red Cross, World Red Cross day is observed on 8th of May every year.

Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), born in the Geneva in the year 1828. World Red Cross Day 2017 was celebrated on theme "Less Known Red Cross Stories".



World Red Cross Day is a celebration of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

6. 10th May observed as World Migratory Day

The World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated across the world on 10th May 2017. This year's theme was 'Their Future Is Our Future' which focused on the topic of "Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People".



It is a 2-day event annually held on the second weekend of May to highlight the need to protect migratory birds and their habitats. The day is celebrated by organizing public events such as bird festivals, education programs and bird-watching excursions.

The 2017 campaign focused at raising awareness on the need for a sustainable management of our natural resources, such as bird's conservation and their importance for the future of humankind.

7. 11th May observed as National Technology Day

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee attended the National Technology Day Celebrations in New Delhi. Technology Day is celebrated to encourage the upcoming innovators and entrepreneurs, whose efforts are helping in percolating the benefits of science and technology to the society at large and the common man in particular.

11th of May is commemorated as the National Technology Day to mark India's scientific prowess and technological advancements. It was the same date in 1998 when India successfully conducted first among the five nuclear tests in Pokhran under the leadership of Vajpayee.



8. 15th May was observed as International Day of Families

The International Day of Families is observed annually on 15th May to highlight the role of families and family-oriented policies, all caregivers in families, be it parents, grandparents or siblings and the importance of parental upbringing for the welfare of children. 2017 theme was about role of families and family-oriented policies.

Since 1995, International Day of Families is celebrated. It is also considered as one of Sustainable Development Goals. An event was conducted at New York and families were welcomed to promote a better understanding of the functions, strengths and needs of families.



9. International Day to save Biological Diversity observed on 22nd May

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on 22nd May to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

The theme for 2017 for World Biodiversity Day was "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism". The UN also marked attention to the role of biodiversity in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity focusses on mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors. 22nd May marks the date of Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi on 22 May 1992.



International

1. India will give Rs 35 cr to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh

India will give Rs 35 crore to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh in the next five years under the new 'Muktijodha scholarship' scheme. 600 undergraduate students were awarded the scholarships this year.

The scheme was initiated in 2006 and more than 10,000 scholarships worth Tk150 million have been disbursed since then.

Under the new scheme, students at a higher secondary level will get a one-time grant of Tk 20,000 (Rs 1,53,700) and those at the undergraduate level will get Tk 50,000 (Rs 38,430).



2. Two-day international meeting on Syria held in Kazakhstan

The two-day international meeting on Syria held in the Kazakhstan capital, Astana. A high level delegation of guarantors of the Syrian ceasefire, Russia, Turkey and Iran, UN special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura and representative from Jordan as well as US Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs, Stuart Jones attended the meeting.

The delegation of the Syrian government was headed by the permanent representative of Syria to the United Nations, Bashar Jaafari. The delegation of the armed opposition was led by the representative of the Jaysh al-Islam group Mohammed Allush.



3. Ballistic missile test-fired from California coastal base

An unarmed missile capable of sending a nuclear bomb across the world was launched from California amid rising tensions between the US and North Korea.

The unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile blasted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base. The test was the latest designed to check the readiness and accuracy of a weapon system that forms part of the US nuclear force. The US has about 450 such missiles, each capable of traveling about 8,000 miles.



4. 27th Session of Universal Periodic Review Working Group held in Geneva

The 27th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group held from 1st to 12th of May at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva.

During the session, India's National Report for the UPR-III was reviewed. Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi presented the Indian delegation.

The National Report of India covered areas that were part of the recommendations accepted by India following the UPR-II in 2012. The report also covered areas of cooperative engagement and collaboration that has marked the approach to the issue of human rights.



5. India elected to head UN-Habitat, the United Nations' Human Settlements Programme

India was unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat, an organ of the United Nations' Organisation (UNO) that promotes socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements across the world, after 10 years. UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly.

Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu chaired the four-day meeting of the 58-member Governing Council of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya and presided over the deliberations of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat for the next two years.



6. Moon Jae-in elected as South Korea's 19th president

The newly elected President of South Korea, Moon Jae-in, was sworn in as 19th President of the country.

Mr. Moon took the oath of office, a day after his liberal Democratic Party's decisive victory in a snap election called to find a replacement for Park Geun-hye, who was ousted in March over a corruption scandal.

Mr. Moon appointed South Jeolla Province Governor, Lee Nak-yeon as the Prime Minister.

Moon won by defeating his rivals -- Hong Joon-pyo of the conservative Liberty Korea Party and Ahn Cheol-soo of the centrist People's Party.



7. Sohail Mahmood appointed as Pakistan's new envoy to India

55-years-old Pakistani diplomat Sohail Mahmood replaced Abdul Basit to become Islamabad's new High Commissioner to New Delhi. Prior to this appointment, he was holding post of Ambassador of Pakistan in Turkey.



He has also served as High Commissioner to Thailand and at the embassy in Ankara between 1991 and 1994.

He has attended several Pakistani missions including ones in Washington and New York. Abdul Basit, who completed his 3 years' tenure will be appointed as head of the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) in Islamabad.

8. Emmanuel Macron won French presidential election

Emmanuel Macron won French presidential election by 66.06% votes defeating Marine Le Pen. With this win, he became France's youngest president.



Emmanuel Macron was a banker and then turned into an economic advisor for the former president Francois Hollande. Emmanuel Macron became economic minister in 2014.

Macron's triumph came by voters support for his policy platform for free market, pro-business ideas, handle social issues and his promises to support the European Union.

9. 19th Session of India-Italy Joint Commission held in Rome

19th Session of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation was held during 11th – 12th May, 2017 in Rome.

The Joint Commission was co-chaired by the Minister of Economic Development Mr. Carlo Calenda from the Italian side and by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman from the Indian side.



Both Sides reiterated the importance of the JCEC towards the development of bilateral economic and trade relations through facilitating dialogue and enhancing cooperation on a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

10. North Korea carried out new ballistic missile test

North Korea has carried out another ballistic missile test. The missile was launched near north-western Kusong, flying hundreds of miles then landing in the Sea of Japan.



South Korea's President Moon Jae-in condemned the latest launch as a provocation. The US has described the missile test as a provocative behaviour and called for stronger sanctions against Pyongyang.

A series of North Korean missile tests this year has sparked international alarm and raised tensions with the US.

11. China, Pakistan inked 6 pacts to boost cooperation

China and Pakistan have signed six pacts to boost co-operation on the 46 billion US Dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.



The agreements included cooperation in framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative, Economic and Technical Cooperation for Gwadar Airport and for East bay Expressway.

Three agreements were signed pertaining to economic and technical cooperation worth 3.4 billion yuan (about USD 490 million) for the strategic Gwadar port in southern Pakistan and East Bay expressway.

12. Portugal won Eurovision 2017 Song Contest for the first time

Portugal won the Eurovision-2017 Song Contest for the first time ever with a melancholy ballad performed by a singer who suffers from a serious heart condition.

The fado-tinged song "Amar Pelos Dois" was performed by 27-year old Salvador Sobral, who is awaiting a heart transplant.



It scored a crushing victory, winning top marks both from the televoters and the countries' professional juries. Bulgaria's big-voiced 17-year old singer Kristian Kostov came second with a confident performance of "Beautiful Mess". Third was Moldova's SunStroke Project with a raucous song called "Hey, Mamma".

13. Hubert Minnis elected as new prime minister of Bahamas

The Bahamas has elected Hubert Minnis of the Free National Movement (FNM) as the new Prime Minister of the country. He defeated Perry Christie's Progressive Liberal Party in a 34-5 parliamentary split.

Mr Minnis was sworn in by Governor General Marguerite Pindling. Christie, who was finishing his second non-consecutive term as prime minister, was dogged by scandals and double-digit unemployment. Minnis campaigned on a platform of change.



14. WHO declared Ebola outbreak in Congo

World Health Organization (WHO) has declared an Ebola outbreak in Congo. WHO Congo representative Allarangar Yokouide said that at least one person has died after contracting the virus in the country's north-east.

WHO described the outbreak as a public health crisis of international importance. The teams of experts, including epidemiologists, biologists and hygiene specialists had been dispatched to the region.

More than 11,000 people died in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014-2015, mainly in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.



15. Nepal inked MoU with China on Cooperation under OBOR initiative

Nepal has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China on Cooperation under One Belt and One Road, OBOR initiative.

The MoU seeks to strengthen cooperation in connectivity sectors including transit transport, logistic systems, transport network and related infrastructures development such as railway, road, civil aviation, power grid, information and communication.

The major thrust of the MoU is to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between Nepal and China in various fields including economy, environment, technology and culture.



16. Brazil Declared End to Zika Emergency

Brazil has declared an end to its public health emergency for the Zika virus. The announcement came 18 months after a surge in cases made headlines across the world. The World Health Organization lifted its own international emergency in November 2016.

Zika could lead to severe birth defects. One of those defects, microcephaly, causes babies to be born with skulls much smaller than expected. One of those defects, microcephaly, causes babies to be born with skulls much smaller than expected.



17. Amnesty International launched new global campaign 'Brave'

Amnesty International launched a new global campaign 'Brave' to fight against a growing wave of attacks against those defending human rights.

According to Front Line Defenders' estimated, six human rights defenders were killed in India in 2016 and activists using the RTI to expose human rights abuses, corruption and environmental issues.

The new Brave campaign calls on states to recognise the legitimate work of those working to stand up for the inherent dignity and equal rights of all people, and to ensure their freedom and safety under the United Nations declaration adopted in 1998.



18. Yemen declared state of emergency over cholera outbreak

Yemen declared a state of emergency in the capital, Sanaa, due to a deadly outbreak of cholera. The International Committee of the Red Cross stated that the disease killed at least 115 people and left more than 8,000 others infected across the country between April 27 and May 13.

According to the World Health Organization, Sanaa has been worst hit. The ministry launched an appeal for help from international humanitarian organizations to deal with the crisis. The World Health Organization now classifies Yemen as one of the worst humanitarian emergencies in the world.



19. Headquarters of IPHRC of OIC inaugurated in Saudi Arabia

The headquarters of Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was inaugurated at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Adel Al-Jubeir and Secretary General of OIC Dr Yousef Al-Othaimeen jointly inaugurated the headquarter.

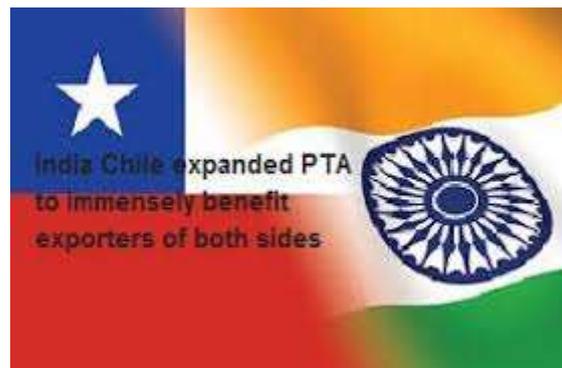
The headquarters will help promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Muslim world through provision of objective and neutral views on many human rights issues, in accordance with international rules and in consonance with Islamic principles.



20. India-Chile expanded PTA comes into implementation

India and Chile have entered into another milestone in their trade relations as an agreement on expansion of India-Chile PTA which was signed on 6th September 2016, is finally being implemented on 16th May, 2017. The Union Cabinet had approved the expansion of PTA in April, 2016.

The expanded PTA has a wider coverage wherein Chile has offered concessions to India on 1798 tariff lines and India has offered concessions to Chile on 1031 tariff lines.



21. India and Palestine signed 5 MoUs

India and Palestine Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas signed five agreements such as visa exemption for diplomatic passport holder, agriculture cooperation, cooperation in IT & Electronics, health sector and youth affairs and sports.

India has provided support of material & technical assistance and is building a techno Park in Ramallah at the cost of \$12 million. Palestine praised India for supporting it in numerous international forums and its efforts in combating Terrorism.

India has arranged for Palestine's participation in the International Yoga Day to be held in June 2017.



22. French President Emmanuel Macron selected Edouard Philippe as new Prime Minister

Édouard Philippe, mayor of the Normandy port town Le Havre was appointed as new Prime minister of France by France's centrist president, Emmanuel Macron.

46-year-old Edouard Philippe would be the second-youngest Prime Minister of France after Laurent Fabius. Édouard Philippe is a member of the Les Républicains party.

The announcement of appointment taken by President was to destabilise the already divided French right and win over rightwing politicians to his La République en Marche (La REM) movement. Edouard Philippe has also been an author and an advocate.



23. Japan cabinet approved bill allowing emperor's abdication

The Japanese government approved a one-off bill allowing ageing Emperor Akihito to step down from the Chrysanthemum Throne, in the first such abdication in two centuries.

The bill is likely to receive final approval in parliament. Abdication must take place within three years of the bill becoming law.

Earlier this year reports suggested that 83-year-old Akihito could step down at the end of December 2018 and be replaced by Crown Prince Naruhito on January 1, 2019.



24. China, ASEAN agree on framework for South China Sea code of conduct

China and Southeast Asian countries have agreed to a draft framework for a long-mooted code of conduct for the disputed South China Sea.

Senior officials have completed the negotiations of the draft code of conduct (COC) framework, ahead of the mid-2017 timeline which leaders of ASEAN and China had set.

The draft COC framework will be submitted to the foreign ministers for consideration. China and the ASEAN had been hoping to agree on the framework this year, 15 years after committing to draft it.



25. US and Saudi Arabia signed defence deals

US President Donald Trump and King Salman of Saudi Arabia signed 110 billion dollar defence deals to support the long term security of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region in the face of the Iranian influence and Iran related threats.

The two nations also signed a Joint Strategic Vision Statement promising close collaboration to counter violent extremism, disrupt the financing of terrorism, and advance defence cooperation.



26. Asia-Pacific trade ministers agreed to revive Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal

Asia-Pacific trade ministers have agreed to revive the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, despite US President Donald Trump abandoning it. Trade Ministers from the 11 remaining countries have met in Vietnam to get the deal back on track.

The bid to restore the TPP, which would have covered 40% of the global economy, was led by trade Ministers from Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The representatives also agreed to help the US rejoin the deal at any time.



27. Hassan Rouhani re-elected as Iran's President

Hassan Rouhani has been re-elected as the President of Iran. Rouhani defeated his conservative challenger Ebrahim Raisi and garnered 57% of the vote. He will serve the office for another four years of term.

Rouhani was elected as president for his first term in 2013. He is a lawyer, academic and a former diplomat. He had spent 16 years as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, which is Iran's top security post.



28. NATO to join US-led anti-Islamic state coalition

NATO Member States are expected to formally join a US-led coalition against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant armed group in Syria and Iraq.

It comes on the back of pressure from US President Donald Trump, who has urged NATO members to do more in the fight against ISIL.

Trump is also expected to urge NATO members to increase defence spending to the target of two percent of a country's annual gross domestic product, as they agreed in 2014.



29. Lenin Moreno became new Ecuador president

64-year-old Lenin Moreno was sworn in as Ecuador's president with 99.65% of the votes and his vice president Jorge Glass won 149 votes.

He defeated Guillermo Lasso, who was a banker and lost elections by 2.3% margin votes. Lenin has promised to continue anti-poverty programs with more open dialogue with adversaries.

Moreno promised to focus on private investment to help up bring the dollarized Ecuadorean economy. Moreno's cabinet includes various business executives including trade ministers.



30. UN released first draft of nuclear ban treaty

In order to eliminate nuclear weapons, UN disarmament panel released the first draft of nuclear ban treaty. The decision was taken in the wake of all countries, when North Korea has threatened to launch nuclear-armed missiles at its enemies.

According to treaty, the nuclear draft text would commit treaty signers to "never use nuclear weapons", never "develop, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices" and never "carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion."



Miscellaneous

- Ganga Cleanliness Resolution Day was observed in 15 cities and 985 villages situated on the banks of the river in Uttar Pradesh.
- Aymanam ward in the Kerala district on became India's first digitalized panchayat ward.
- Union Minister of state for home affairs Kiren Rijiju has said that Union Government will seal borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh by using Hi- tech physical and non-physical barrier technology by 2018.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has hiked the prize money for this year's Champions Trophy by \$ 500,000, making it \$4.5 million with a winner's share of \$2.2 million.
- Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the review meeting in Gangtok of Chief Ministers of states bordering with China where central assistance for Border Area Development Programme was enhanced from Rupees 990 Crore in 2016-17 to Rs. 1,100 Crore.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of Headquarters of Sashastra Seema Bal's (SSB) 36th Batallion Gayzing in Western District of Sikkim.
- Gujarat government has come out with a policy to assist Start Ups in the state and is currently assisting as many as 31 incubator institution and 101 Start-up projects. Over 45 ventures have been incubated in diverse domain like health, energy etc.

National

1. One IP – Two Dispensaries” and “Aadhaar Based Online Claim Submission” schemes launched

Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched two schemes “One IP – Two Dispensaries” and “Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission” on International Labour Day. Under One IP – Two Dispensaries scheme, ESIC has given an option to an Insured Person (IP) to choose two dispensaries, one for self and another for family.



Under Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission scheme all EPF Members who have activated their UAN and seeded their KYC Aadhaar with EPFO will be able to apply for PF final and PF part withdrawal (Form31) from the their UAN Interface directly.

2. Department of Telecom Launched Web Portal – Tarang Sanchar

The Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched – Tarang Sanchar, a web portal for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliances. This portal will help users to know about the working towers in a locality. It will also let the users know whether they are compliant to the EMF emission norms, which are defined by the Government.



This portal also has 'EMF Overview' and 'Learn' Sections, which provide numerous articles, booklets and videos, to further educate the citizens about EMF and coverage of telecom services. Portal will allow users to get a tower checked for radiation emission, for a fee of Rs. 4,000.

3. Human Resource Ministry launched Vidya Veerta Abhiyan

Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the VIDYA VEERTA ABHIYAN in New Delhi, to revive the patriotic feeling in youth. A collage of photo portraits and book on Param Vir Chakra recipients was released and presented to Vice-Chancellors of universities.



With this campaign, a wall of valour will be built in colleges and universities across the country, which will depict the portraits of all the 21 Param Vir Chakra recipients. The event was attended by several vice-chancellor of universities, scholars, ex-servicemen and schoolchildren.

4. 'Wall of Valour' launched by Defence Ministry

Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar and Minister of State for Defence Dr. Subhash Bhamre jointly launched a campaign to have a 'Wall of Valour' in 1,000 educational institutions across the country.



Portraits of Param Vir Chakra (PVC) decorated soldiers will be displayed at designated places on educational campuses to instil sense of nationalism among the students.

This wall will be 15X20 feet in size and will depict the portraits of all the 21 Param Vir Chakra recipients.

5. The RERA Act, 2016 comes into effect from 1 May 2017

The Real Estate (Regulation Development) Act, 2016 or RERA has come into effect from May 1, 2017. The Act would regulate the real estate sector, to bring clarity and fair practices that would protect the interests of buyers and impose penalties on errant builders.

A couple of important provisions are mentioned below:

- Depositing 70% of the funds collected from buyers in a separate bank account in case of new projects and 70% of unused funds in case of ongoing projects.
- Both developers and buyers to pay the same penal interest of SBI's Marginal Cost of Lending Rate plus 2% in case of delays.



6. Google launched 'Solve for India' campaign

Google has launched “Solve for India” initiative directed towards entrepreneurs and developers of the country. The campaign is focussed primarily for two-tier cities such as Pune, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Indore, Nagpur, Nashik, Kanpur, and Chennai.

The program will provide a platform for developers, entrepreneurs to learn about the latest Google Technologies. The program comes with a 6-month mentorship program along with \$50,000 worth of equity-free investments. Google would also provide over \$20,000 of Google cloud credits.



7. India and Turkey signed Three Agreements

India and Turkey signed three agreements in the fields of ICT, training and culture. The agreements were signed following delegation-level talks headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The three agreements are as follows:

- MoU was signed on a cultural exchange programme for the years 2017-2020.
- MoU was signed on cooperation in the area of information and communication technologies (ICT).
- MoU was signed between the Foreign Services Institute (FSI) of India and the Diplomacy Academy of Turkey.



8. Cabinet approved cooperation between Indian and Japan on Railway Safety

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval to the signing the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Japan on Railway Safety. The signing of MoC will enable track safety and rolling stock safety.

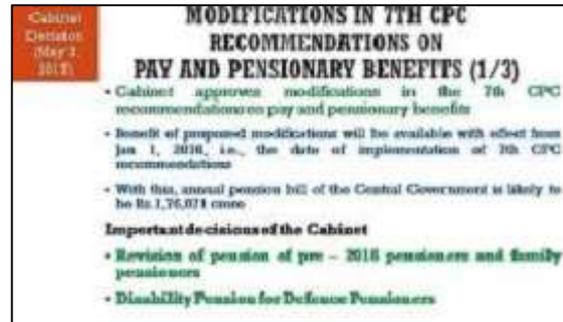
The MoC would provide a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest development and knowledge in the railway sector. The cooperation under this MoC will involve dispatch of experts, training of core staff in Japan and sharing of information and best practices.



9. Cabinet approved modifications in the seventh CPC recommendations on pay

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved important proposals relating to modifications in the seventh CPC (Central Pay Commission) recommendations on pay and pensionary benefits in the course of their implementation.

Earlier, in June 2016, the Cabinet had approved implementation of the recommendations with an additional financial outgo of Rs 84,933 crore for 2016-17.



Cabinet had approved the changed method of pension revision recommended by the seventh CPC for pre-2016 pensioners, comprising of two alternative formulations, subject to the feasibility of the first formulation, which was to be examined by the Committee.

10. Cabinet approved National Steel Policy 2017

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved National Steel Policy 2017. It seeks to enhance domestic steel consumption, ensure high quality steel production, and create a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry.



The New Steel Policy, 2017 aspires to achieve 300MT of steel-making capacity by 2030. This would translate into additional investment of Rs. 10 lakh Crore by 2030-31. New Steel Policy seeks to increase per capita steel consumption to the level of 160 Kgs by 2030 from existing level of around 60 Kg.

11. Cabinet approved MoU on Third Line of Credit of US \$ 4.5 billion to Bangladesh

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Third Line of Credit (LoC) of US \$ 4.5 billion to Bangladesh for implementation of developmental projects.



The MoU provides for deepening the strategic partnership, development of infrastructure in Bangladesh, improving connectivity between India and Bangladesh, thus enhancing accessibility to our North Eastern Region, as well as creating new business opportunities for Indian companies in Bangladesh.

12. Cabinet approved New Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved for re-structuring the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) for the period 2016-20).



SAMPADA with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore is expected to leverage investment of Rs. 31,400 crore, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing Rs. 1,04,125 crore, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20.

13. Three-day National Workshop on e-Granthalaya held in New Delhi

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) organized a three-day National Workshop on e-Granthalaya 4.0 for Automation and Networking of Government Libraries in New Delhi from 2nd-4th May 2017.



With the objective to train library professionals on e-Granthalaya 4.0, the latest version of the library management software developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), the workshop comprised of theoretical and hands-on training sessions on its admin, cataloguing, circulation and serial modules.

The workshop has 43 participants from different institutions including research councils of AYUSH, Banaras Hindu University and University of Kashmir.

14. Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra to be set up by Swachh Bharat Mission

Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra" will be set up by "Swachh Bharat Mission" Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), Rajghat by "Swachh Bharat Mission" Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the vision of Prime Minister during the centenary year of Champaran Satyagraha.



The total budget for Swachh Bharat Mission is now Rs 19,300 crore with a Central share of Rs 14,000 crore and Rs 5,300 crore is the budgetary provision declared by all government departments.

15. Minister of Railways inaugurated Global Technology Conference

Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inaugurated the two-day Global Technology Conference for Leveraging World Class Technology (International Conference on Development & Adaptation of Advance Technology for Railways) in Delhi.

The Conference focused on critical areas of Indian Railways - Reliability, Safety and Customer Service. The Conference featured technical sessions, technical presentations, and table top exhibits, besides wide opportunities for several industries networking too.

Conference would enable the emergence of a multi-disciplinary logistics interface and eco-systems that would enable the Indian Railways to deliver new levels of value along with modernization.



16. Centre advanced target of power to all from 2022 to 2018

The Centre advanced the target of providing electricity to all from 2022 to 2018 while inaugurating the State power and Mines Ministers' Conference in New Delhi. Centre also sought cooperation from the States to achieve the target.

Country has surplus coal and there should not be shortage anywhere in the country. Government is focusing on quality of coal to improve power generation.

Due to transparent auction of 1000 megawatt of wind energy, the power tariff of clean energy has halved and come down to 3 rupees 46 paise per unit.



17. Fourth National Standards Conclave held in New Delhi

Department of Commerce, Government of India in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and other knowledge partners organized the fourth National Standards Conclave on 1-2 May 2017 at New Delhi.

The objective of the two-day Conclave was to bring awareness and prepare Industries, Central Government Ministries, State



Governments, regulatory/standards setting and conformity assessment bodies on the growing importance of "Standards" in the changing scenario of global trade.

18. First Home Affairs dialogue between India and UK held in Delhi

The First Home Affairs Dialogue between India and UK was held as a follow up of UK Prime Minister's visit to India in November 2016 and the commitment of the two Prime Ministers for enhanced and strengthened Dialogue.



Both sides agreed to address the challenges of illegal migrants. The two sides will work together to ensure smooth return of Indians overstaying in UK subject to nationality verification.

India raised the issue of visa related difficulties faced by Indian students, skilled professional and dependents of Indian diplomats.

19. Transport Ministry inaugurated India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit

The Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the three day India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit (IITLS) organized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in New Delhi.



The IITLS was organized with the objective of facilitating constructive dialogue between various stakeholders for the development of multimodal infrastructure in the country.

The IITLS is envisaged as a platform for all stakeholders in transport and logistics sectors to come together and initiate collaborative partnerships to realize the various Greenfield and brownfield opportunities in logistic parks, freight corridors and IT solutions.

20. Maneka Gandhi launched online registration facility of Child Care Institutions

Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi launched the online registration facility of Child Care Institutions across India. Online registration will provide a centralized system where all the information will be readily available about the CCIs in the country and through the system; it will be possible to know the number of children in each CCI, their availability for adoption and requirement of assistance to them.



The Online System includes features such as e-alerts to the applicants and the registration authorities, easy information sharing and online issuance of registration certificates.

21. India's first bio refinery plant inaugurated in Pune

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the India's first bio refinery plant for renewable fuels and chemicals, which produces ethanol from variety of biomass. The project is situated at Rahu in Pune district.

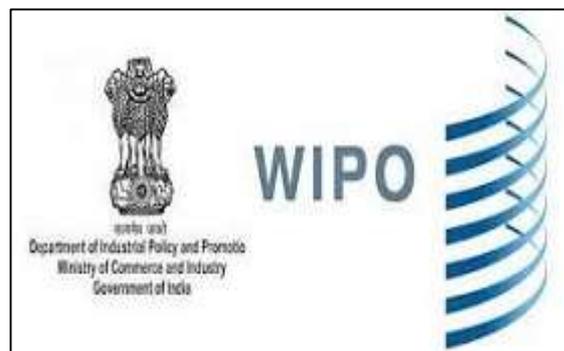


The plant can produce one million litre of ethanol per annum by processing a variety of agro-residue like rice and wheat straw, cotton stalk, cane trash, corncobs with superior product yields. The plant has been set up by Praj Industries. Pipelines of other renewable fuels and chemicals will also be produced with the help of this technology.

22. DIPP & WIPO to set up Technology and Innovation Support Centres

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) signed an agreement to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC).

WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) program provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights.



Services offered by TISCs may include monitoring technology, access to online patent, training in database search etc.

23. Railway Ministry inaugurated “Udaan – A Sports Conclave”

Shri Rajen Gohain, Minister of State for Railways inaugurated “Udaan – A Sports Conclave” organized by Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) under Ministry of Railways.



The conclave was an effort to bring all stakeholders on one platform and get inputs to explore more opportunities in making Railways a better organisation in terms of sports.

The discussion pertained to ‘Sports in India: Challenges & the Road Ahead’ and ‘Convergence of Stakeholders – Strategic Partners to Rejuvenate Indian Sports.’”

24. India and Russia reviewed bilateral cooperation

India and Russia agreed to work closely in various sectors including security, nuclear energy and disaster management at a meeting held in New Delhi.



The progress made in implementation of agreements signed between the two countries during the last BRICS Summit, was discussed. Ministries, Departments and private sector celebrated 70th year of Indo-Russian diplomatic relations.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dimitry Rogozin appreciated relationship between India and Russia calling it as dynamic and strengthening trade and economic cooperation. The two countries will further cooperate in sectors like agriculture, aviation and space.

25. Railways planned to acquire EOTT system to run trains without guards

The Indian Railways has planned to run 1000 trains without guards by installing sophisticated equipment in them. Railways will acquire 1000 End of Train Telemetry, EoTT equipment to begin with, for its container operations and later more such units will be procured for all trains.



Railways will float global tenders worth over 100 crore rupees for acquiring the equipment. The EoTT equipment is designed to do the guard's job by giving indication to the loco driver in case of parting of coaches or wagons from the rear side of the train.

26. Election Commission of India launched National Contact Centre

Election Commission of India launched National Contact Centre with a toll-free number 1800111950. Now any citizen from any part of the country can call on the toll-free in English or Hindi with any query or complaint at any time of the day.

Callers can enquire on subjects such as elections, voting dates, EPIC, electoral roll, online registration etc. and lodge a complaint by simply dialling in to the toll free no.



The Contact Centre is Commission's step forward towards bringing about electoral reforms where citizens and officials are empowered to report any violation of ECI instructions during elections.

27. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister launched e-Krishi Samvad

Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched e-Krishi Samvad. This e-Krishi Samvad is internet-based interface and is a unique platform that will provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.



Stakeholders can upload photographs related to diseases of the crops, animals or fishes for diagnostics and remedial measures instantly from the specialists.

People can directly connect to the ICAR website <http://icar.org.in> and get the appropriate solutions from the subject matter specialists and institutes through web or SMS.

28. MHA Mobile Application launched for Grievances Redressal of CAPF personnel

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Mobile Application for grievance redressal of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel.



The BSFMyApp has been developed to cater to the requirement of BSF personnel regarding Grievance Redressal as well as various other service and welfare related issues such as Pay, GPF, Leave, Deputation etc. The most significant feature of the Application is its Financial Literacy Module, which educates BSF Personnel about investment of their savings.

Ministry will review the dashboard of the App every month and check the status of redressal of grievances.

29. I-T department launched new facility to link Aadhaar with PAN

The Income Tax department has launched a new link on its homepage making it easy to link a person's Aadhaar with the Permanent Account Number (PAN). This will be useful for E-Verification of Income Tax returns using OTP sent to their mobile registered with Aadhaar.

In case of any minor mismatch in the Aadhaar name, as compared to the actual data in Aadhaar, a One Time Password will be sent to the mobile registered with Aadhaar. Taxpayers should ensure that the date of birth and gender in PAN and Aadhaar are exactly same.



30. India and USA exchanged views on maritime developments in Asia-Pacific & IOR

India and the USA exchanged views on maritime developments in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region and considered steps to strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation.

The two sides held second round of the India-US Maritime Security Dialogue on 9th and 10th of May in Newport, Rhode Island in the USA.

They also reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken at the first Maritime Security Dialogue held in May 2016. The next round of the dialogue will be held in India on mutually convenient dates.



31. PM launches integrated case management system of Supreme Court

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) of the Supreme Court, which will help litigant's access data and retrieve information online. Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khehar was also present on the occasion.

The new system, aimed at serving as a digital repository for case-related information, can be accessed at www.sci.gov.in. It will help usher transparency, reduce manipulation and help the litigant know about the progress of the case on a real time basis.



32. IFSC at GIFT signed agreement with GNLU to start course on IFSC regulations

The International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT) signed an agreement with Gujarat National Law University (GNLU).



As a part of the memorandum of understanding (MoU), GNLU will introduce a new course on International Financial Services Centre from its June 2017 Semester. It will also organise a program for Lawyers covering IFSC, International Arbitration and related fields. The MoU will also look into developing and conducting programmes in financial markets.

33. India and UK to cooperate in urban transport sector

India & UK agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on bilateral cooperation in urban transport policy planning, technology transfer and institutional organization of transport.



Under the proposed MOU, the TFL will share with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways its expertise on the mobility and efficiency of transport system and methodologies to facilitate the planning and delivery of mobility solutions including ticketing, passenger information, major project financing, infrastructure maintenance strategies and behavioural change and public transport promotion.

34. Shri J P Nadda launched Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare announced the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) of the country.



PCV protects children against severe forms of pneumococcal disease, such as pneumonia and meningitis. Currently, the vaccine is being rolled out to approximately 21 lakh children in Himachal Pradesh and parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in the first phase.

To raise awareness about PCV, Shri Nadda also unveiled the communication material comprising TV and radio spots, posters, banners, etc. at the event.

35. NCRB organized a National Workshop on “Crime Data Analytics”

A National Workshop on “Crime Data Analytics” was organised by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) in association with Indian Police Foundation.

Delegates from State Police, CAPFs, Industry, ISRO, NTRO, IIT Mumbai and BITS Pilani participated in the meeting. In the conference the topics on Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Dash boarding and its possible deployment in Police domain were thoroughly discussed.



Delegates shared the problems like poor data quality, non-availability of tools and work force, which needs to be overcome to adopt the Data Analytics Framework.

36. Union Government to issue Universal Identity Cards to disabled persons

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale said that the union government would soon issue universal identity cards to persons with disabilities to help them avail various government welfare schemes.

A survey in this regard is being undertaken to identify beneficiaries. All the preparatory work has been done including design of the card by National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.



The centre was also promoting disabled friendly buildings for public utility services to help the community.

37. Centre asks ISPs to prevent transmission of child sexual abuse material by 31 July

The Centre has asked all internet service providers to prevent the distribution and transmission of child sexual abuse material into the country by implementing the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) Resources by 31 July.

IWF maintains a dynamic global list of websites and URLs, which contain Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). Implementation of IWF Resources will result in the relevant content being blocked or removed on an ongoing basis.



It is an interim measure until the centralised mechanism is put in place to monitor CSAM.

38. Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the second meeting of NPDRR

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day second meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The theme of the Second meeting of NPDRR was "Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030".



The NPDRR is a multi-stakeholders National Platform headed by the Union Home Minister and it promotes participatory decision making in disaster management, and strengthens federal policy of our country.

Shri Rajnath Singh shared the recent initiatives of Government of India for increasing the regional co-operation.

39. The Union Minister of Finance launched Operation Clean Portal

The Union Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, officially launched the Portal of Operation Clean Money (<https://www.cleanmoney.gov.in>) in New Delhi. The Operation Clean Money was initiated by the Income Tax Department (ITD) on 31 January 2017 with the launch of e-verification of large cash deposits made during 9 November to 30 December 2016.



Operation Clean Money Portal will enable citizen engagement for creating a tax compliant society, enable transparent tax administration by sharing status reports and providing comprehensive information at one place.

40. EPFO's Citizens Charter 2017 & e-court management system launched

The Minister of State for Labour & Employment(IC), Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched EPFO's Citizens' Charter 2017 and e-court management system in Bangalore.



The Citizens' Charter 2017 is an attempt to bring transparency and accountability on the part of EPFO and make service delivery system and grievance redressal mechanism more efficient so that it delivers goods and services to its all stakeholders in a time bound manner with a reduced timeline from earlier timeline of 30 days.

The objective of the EPFO e-court Management System is a transparent and electronic case management system.

41. Minister of Railways inaugurates Round Table Conference on Data Analytics

Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inaugurated Round Table Conference on "Data Analytics for Indian Railways". Round Table Conferences are being conducted to ideate on various issues concerning Indian Railways. Data Analytics can help to create a system that may benefit Railways immensely.



Indian Railways is one of the largest Data creators in the world; it has to handle large volume of Data. Privacy shall be protected and one of the largest ERP is created in Indian Railways. Round Table Conference is to ideate on Data Analytics on Indian Railways.

42. Cabinet approved pharma mission to develop bio pharmaceuticals

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating discovery and research to early development for biopharmaceuticals.



The Mission will be implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology.

It will be a Pan-India program and help in preparing India's technological and product development capabilities in the bio-pharmaceutical sector to a level that it is globally competitive over the next 10-15 years.

43. Centre to open 94 new Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas

Centre will open 94 new Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas (KGBV) across the country for girl students belonging to minority and disadvantaged sections. There are currently 3,703 KGBVs functional across the country.



KGBVs are upper primary residential schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC categories besides other minority and disadvantaged sections of society. While 75% seats are reserved for girls from the mentioned category, 25% seats are for girls from families below the poverty line.

44. Railways to install CCTV cameras under Nirbhaya Fund

Railway Ministry has decided to install 19,000 high definition CCTV surveillance system at more than 900 stations at the cost of Rs 500 crore under Nirbhaya Fund.

At present 344 stations have already been provided with CCTV cameras. Ministry of Finance has set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya Fund amounting to Rs.3000 crore for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country.



It is an important step taken for 24*7 security of passengers. The CCTV footages would be monitored by trained RPF personnel and the concerned stationmaster.

45. India imposed anti-dumping duty on glasses and Chinese radiators

In order to protect domestic industry from cheap imports, India imposed anti-dumping duty of up to \$55.59 per tonne for a period of five years on a certain type of glass from Iran and on Chinese aluminium radiators.



According to the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties, these products cause material injury to the domestic industry. Anti-dumping steps are taken for fair trade practices. They also help in protecting the domestic industry from any material injury. They are not a way to restrict imports.

46. Cabinet approved signing of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.



The Convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 BEPS Project to tackle base erosion and profit shifting through tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity, resulting in little or no overall corporate tax being paid.

47. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Australia

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Australia on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.



The proposed MoU would strengthen the relationship between India and Australia for building peace and stability in the region through exchange of information, expertise, experience and capacity building. The cooperation would facilitate the institutional interactions between the two countries.

48. Cabinet approved Faculty Exchange Agreement between National Defence College, New Delhi and National Defence College, Dhaka

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the Faculty Exchange Agreement signed between the National Defence College, New Delhi and National Defence College, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



The objective of the Agreement is to institutionalize regular exchange programs and establish sustainable mechanisms between the two National Defence Colleges. This is being done with an aim to enhance mutual-cooperation in the field of national security, development and strategic studies.

49. Union Cabinet approved Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program, which now has been extended, to all districts of the country w.e.f. 01.01.2017.



The Maternity Benefit Program will provide compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives. This is being done so that, women can take adequate rest before and after the delivery. In addition, they should not be deprived of proper nutrition.

The total cost of the proposal for the period from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2020 including Central and State Government share is Rs. 12,661 crore. Government of India's share during the period 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2020 comes to around Rs. 7932 crore.

50. Cabinet approved Agreement between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratifying, an Agreement between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.

This Agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences.

This Agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries.



51. Cabinet approved Amendment of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958

The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament with the following amendments:

- Insertion of a new definition of “public works” in section 2 of the Act.
- Amendment to section 20A of the Act so as to allow any Department or Office of the Central Government to carry out public works in the prohibited area after obtaining permission from the Central Government.
- Insertion of a new clause (ea) to section 20-I of the principal Act.



52. Cabinet approved setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam.

IARI-Assam would be a Post-Graduate Institution of higher learning in Agricultural Education. It will have the hallmark identity of an IARI including all sectors of agriculture like field crops, horticultural crops, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry, piggery, silk rearing, honey production, etc. It will be an off-campus of IARI, New Delhi and



integrated multi-disciplinary research would be undertaken in school mode, i.e., Schools of Crop Sciences, Natural Resource Management, and Animal Sciences & Fisheries.

53. Cabinet approved Restructuring plan for Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a restructuring plan for Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL).

The restructuring plan involves closing down the operations of all the non-viable plants at Rasayani unit of HOCL except Di-Nitrogen Tetroxide (N₂O₄) plant which is to be transferred to ISRO on 'as is where is' basis, with about 20 acres of land and employees associated with the plant.

The N₂O₄ plant is of strategic importance as it is the only indigenous source of N₂O₄, which is used as liquid rocket propellant by ISRO in the space launch vehicles.



54. The 18th Session of India-Sweden Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation

The Eighteenth Session of India-Sweden Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation (JCEC) was held in New Delhi on 17 May 2017. Some of the highlights of this JCEC are:

- The two sides are working towards a Memorandum of Understanding in order to strengthen the cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property. It was also agreed to expedite the finalization of other bilateral agreements currently under discussion.
- Both sides expressed interest on promoting innovation partnerships between the two countries.



55. The 15th National Meeting of State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities

The two-day 15th National Meeting of the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) to review Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and Full Participation) Act-1995 was organized by the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.



During the two days meeting, the status of implementation of various provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and Full Participation) Act-1995 in the States and Union Territories was reviewed.

56. NITI Aayog holds the first Samavesh meeting

In pursuance of the Prime Minister’s call for a New India 2022, the first meeting of the National Steering Group and other knowledge partners was held in NITI Aayog on 17 May 2017.



The meeting was aimed at bringing together 32 premier educational and policy research institutions to catalyse the development process, to enhance the institutional capacity development and a field level interface with the community for New India 2022.

57. Centre sanctioned 1,793 crore rupees for 8 National Highway in Andhra

The Centre has sanctioned 1,793 crore rupees for construction of eight National Highway roads in phase-1, in Andhra Pradesh.



Eight roads covering 1249 km were declared as the National Highways in the State this year covering Anantapur, Guntur, West Godavari, East Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts. The Andhra Pradesh Road Maintenance has completed data collection for 13 districts. They are rolling out plans for State Highways in 10 districts.

58. Centre granted Rs 11 crore to IEST for homeopathy research

The Centre has granted 11 crore rupees to the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, IEST, Shibpur of West Bengal, for conducting medical research on homeopathy under the 'Ayush' project.

The institute will buy instruments for its laboratory. The laboratory will give stress on biophysics, bi-chemistry-based research and dedicated towards understanding science, which is trusted by many. As per the recent MHRD ranking, the institute is ranked above almost all IITs in the country.



59. Cabinet approved Coal linkage policy 2017

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the signing of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) with the Letter of Assurance (LoA) holders.

The approved framework ensures that all projects with linkages are supplied coal as per their entitlement. This will ensure the rights of coal supplies for FSA holders and signing of FSA with LoA holders.



Allocation of linkages in future will be transparent and bidding based, barring some exceptions as per Tariff Policy. Future allocation/grant of linkages will be based on auction and/or tariff based bidding.

60. India to launch UJALA scheme in the United Kingdom

India will export cheap and affordable LED bulbs to London, United Kingdom. It is done with an aim to in reducing global carbon intensity through efficient and sustainable energy.

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd, an energy services company promoted by Indian state-run power majors takes care of project, Ujala.

Under this scheme, government plans to replace all 770 million inefficient incandescent and CFL bulbs. Government has already marked 10-12% of the global market with 4 billion bulbs of world's LED capital.



61. IEST built India's first smart grid project

Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology created India's first smart grid project, which will provide electricity from renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind and vegetable waste resources, depending on the weather conditions and availability of waste products.

It is considered as first of its kind in India. Project will be inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee. Government aims to generate 32 kW of power from renewable sources of energy and collaborate the smart grid to take the power in the system for use.



62. The 14th GST Council meeting approved GST rates for goods and GST Compensation Cess

The 14th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting, chaired by the Union Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, was held at Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. The fitment of rates of goods were discussed during the Council meeting.

The Council has broadly approved the GST rates for goods at nil rate, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% to be levied on certain goods. The Council has also broadly approved the rates of GST Compensation Cess to be levied on certain goods.



The information has been uploaded after the GST Council's decision on the website of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and is available at <http://www.cbec.gov.in>.

63. Suresh Prabhu launched free Wi-Fi facility at 28 stations in Konkan

Railway minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the free Wi-Fi facility at 28 stations of Konkan Railway. He launched the services from Kudal railway station.

The Wi-Fi service will be provided at stations located between Kolad and Madure. The move will help commuters of Konkan Railway and tourists to access essential information available on the internet.

Railways has tied-up with Maharashtra's leading broadband and internet service provider company Joister, which will provide free Wi-Fi hotspots at 28 stations.



64. Turbo Megha Airways became the first private airline to get UDAN Licence

Turbo Megha Airways has become the first private airline in the country to get a licence to fly under the government's regional connectivity scheme, UDAN. The airline flies in the name of TruJet.



Turbo Megha Airways will launch flights on Hyderabad-Cuddapah, Hyderabad-Nanded and Nanded-Mumbai routes. The five airlines awarded the rights to fly UDAN flights are Air India, SpiceJet, Turbo Megha, Air Odisha and G.R. Gopinath led Deccan Air. The first flight under the scheme was launched on the Shimla-Delhi route, operated by Alliance Air, the regional arm of Air India.

65. PM launched various projects of Kandla Port Trust

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched various projects of Kandla Port Trust at Gandhidham in Gujarat. He unveiled plaques to mark the laying of Foundation Stone for construction of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Convention Centre and the development of the 14th and 16th General Cargo Berth.



Stating that the nation is celebrating the centenary year of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, the Prime Minister suggested that Kandla Port Trust be renamed as "Deendayal Port Trust - Kandla." The combination of infrastructure and efficiency is vital for the port sector to thrive and the Kandla Port has emerged as one of the finest in Asia.

66. Dr. Harsh Vardhan assumed charge as the Environment Minister

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science and Technology and Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, assumed charge at the IP Bhavan, following the sudden and untimely demise of former Minister of State (Independent Charge) Shri Anil Madhav Dave.



Dr. Harsh Vardhan reviewed the key areas of concern and priority with the Secretary and other senior officers of the Ministry. The progress of work in the last 3 years of this government and the key initiatives taken were discussed. He exhorted all the officers to continue to strive hard and meet these and other similar challenges in the coming years.

67. Central Board of Direct Taxes signed two unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into two Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APA) on 04 May 2017 and 11 May 2017 respectively, with Indian taxpayers.

The two APAs signed pertain to chip design/development of embedded software and Information technology (software development) sectors of the economy.

The APA Scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and determining the arm's length price of international transactions in advance for the maximum of five future years.



68. Union Minister of State (IC) for Power launched 'SEWA' App

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the Saral Eindhyan Witaran Application (SEWA), developed in-house by Coal India Limited (CIL) for power sector consumers.

SEVA is a part of 'Digital India' initiative, which is aimed at increasing the Consumer Connect as well as the Transparency and Accountability in Coal dispatch.

The consumer friendly mobile app helps in tracking of coal dispatch to 118 Power Plants through Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) of around 500 MT.



69. Cabinet approved policy for providing preference to 'Make in India'

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a policy for providing preference to 'Make in India' in government procurements. The new policy will give a substantial boost to domestic manufacturing and service provision, thereby creating employment.

It will also stimulate the flow of capital and technology into domestic manufacturing and services. It will also provide a further thrust towards manufacture of parts, components, sub-components etc. of these items, in line with the vision of 'Make in India'.



70. Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in outer space

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.



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. The MoU would lead to develop a joint activity in the field of application of space technologies for the benefit of humanity.

71. Cabinet approved Joint Declaration of Intent between Germany and India

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between Germany and India regarding cooperation in the sector of alternative medicine.



The signing of the JDI will enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of traditional/alternative medicine. Initiation of collaborative research, training and scientific capacity building in the field of alternative medicine under the JDI between the two countries would contribute to the enhanced employment opportunities in the AYUSH sector.

72. Cabinet approved phasing out Foreign Investment Promotion Board

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved to the phasing out of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The proposal entails abolishing the FIPB and allowing administrative Ministries/Departments to process applications for FDI requiring government approval.



Henceforth, the work relating to processing of applications for FDI and approval of the Government thereon under the extant FDI Policy and FEMA, shall now be handled by the

concerned Ministries/Departments in consultation with the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion(DIPP), Ministry of Commerce.

73. Cabinet approved MoU between Spain and India for organ transplant services

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Transplant Organization, Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, Spain and the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India on cooperation in the field of Organ Transplant Services.



The MoU would facilitate bilateral cooperation in the field of organ and tissue procurement and transplantation and better understanding between the two countries.

74. Swachh Bharat App launched in National Museum

“Swachh Bharat App” was launched in National Museum under Ministry of Culture by the Minister of State (I/C) for Culture & Tourism Dr. Mahesh Sharma. The focus of this “Swachh Bharat App” was to involve people actively to become part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Movement).



In this App, the concept of Physical web is implemented. This Application will be monitored by the Ministry of Culture. It will play an important role in cultivating the significance of cleanliness to the citizens.

75. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to Initiate “Adopt a Slum” campaign

Minister of (Independent Charge), Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Vijay Goel announced “Adopt a Slum” - a new campaign to mark completion of three years of the Government.



The idea is to initiate developmental work in these slums and help the slum-dwellers in resolving various issues. The NYKS will adopt slums across 11 districts and will work for their overall development with young volunteers.

The "Slum Yuva Daud" was organized in Delhi. A booklet, highlighting the key issues was addressed with this campaign. In addition, there was a discussion on how this entire process will be initiated and executed.

76. Cabinet approved issuing bonds to raise Rs 2,360 crore for renewable energy schemes

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved raising of Bonds of Rs. 2360 crores for Renewable Energy. The Bonds will be raised by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) during the 2017-18.



These funds will be used by MNRE in the approved programmes/schemes for solar park, green energy corridor, generation-based incentives for wind projects etc. The resources raised would be used for developing additional capacity in renewable energy sector, which would result in generation of additional employment.

77. HR Ministry launched 'eSanad' for online document verification

An online verification portal to make the document verification process easier for students, who plan to study abroad named "eSanad", was launched by HR and External Affairs Ministry. Employers and educational institutions are given access to verify students' academic records online. Any educational institute or verifier can register to the portal.



Verifiers will have pay online some amount to register and verify data. The request will be forwarded to CBSE, and once approved, verification data will be emailed to the verifier and the corresponding student will be notified.

78. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan Scheme launched

The Minister of State for Communications (IC), Shri Manoj Sinha launched Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award Scheme and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan Scheme. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award will be given to the person who will perform at par excellence.



About 10,000 people from 10 States/UTs will be trained in the first phase under the scheme of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan Scheme. DoT will provide broadband connection to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayat by December 2018.

79. Prime Minister inaugurated India's third Indian Agricultural Research Institute

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the Foundation Stone of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Gogamukh in Assam.

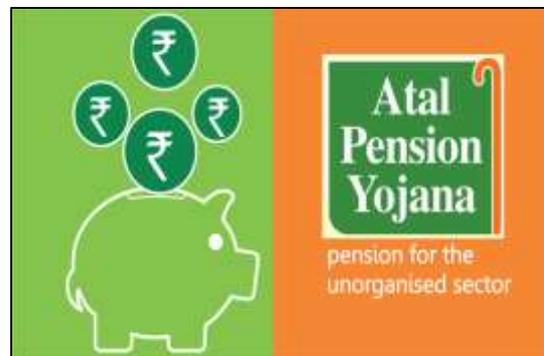
The Ministry mentioned several farmer friendly schemes and programmes initiated by the present government, which include soil health card for improvement in the soil nutrition health, and traditional agriculture development scheme for improvement of organic farming.



The Prime Minister congratulated the State Government in Assam and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, for the work done by them in the State.

80. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) reached 53 lakhs subscribers' base

The subscriber's base under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has reached about 53 Lakhs. During the year 2016-17, it has earned a return of 13.91%. With a view to empower the APY subscribers, new functionalities have been developed where under a subscriber can view and print the ePRAN card and Statement of Transactions.



Presently males account for 62% of the subscribers and female for about 38%. The Atal Pension Yojana became operational from 1 June 2015. It is available to all the citizens of India in the age group of 18-40 years.

81. Union Minister Vijay Goel flagged off Slum Yuva Daud

Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel flagged off the Slum Yuva Daud to mark the beginning of the Adopt Slum Campaign initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).



The run started from Delhi University – Shankarlal Hall and ended at the Rugby Stadium with participation of about 5000 youngsters from various slums of Delhi.

The NYKS has adopted slums across 11 districts. They will work for their overall development with young volunteers. Similar runs will also be organized in many more areas of Delhi.

82. India and Mauritius discussed bilateral relations and security cooperation

India and Mauritius discussed bilateral relations and security cooperation, including maritime security, hydrocarbon sector and counter terrorism. Both the leaders agreed to take the relationships between the two countries to greater heights.



Mr Pradhan conveyed India has continued support to Mauritius in meeting its energy requirement and expressed India's commitment in Mauritius becoming a regional petroleum hub.

Since 2006, Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Ltd India's PSU refinery, has been supplying petroleum products to Mauritius. Both countries are presently working towards further deepening the engagement in the oil and gas sector.

83. PM Gram Sadak Yojana implemented in Ladakh region

To improve road connectivity in Ladakh region of the Jammu and Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, seven major roads projects under the centrally sponsored scheme - Central Road Fund - have been implemented in the last two years.



Five road projects were implemented to connect the remote and difficult terrain villages of Leh district. Road projects of more than 77 crore rupees are underway in the district to connect the inaccessible villages and rebuild the existing roads.

Persons in News

1. Saqib Majeed won 2016 Wisden-MCC Cricket 'Photograph of the Year' Award

Kashmir's freelance photographer Saqib Majeed bagged title of 2016 Wisden-MCC Cricket 'Photograph of the Year'. The picture he clicked was image of boys playing cricket at the Nishat garden in the outskirts of Srinagar.

With this award, he became the first Kashmiri and second Asian after Atul Kamble to be honoured with the prestigious award.

Wisden Cricketer Almanack is a book, every year published by MCC, which displays best sports pictures from across the globe.



2. Emma Watson was honoured with first ever 'Genderless Acting Award'

27-year-old Hollywood actress Emma Watson created history by taking away first-ever Genderless Acting Award under Best Actor category for "Beauty and the Beast" at the recent MTV Movie and TV Awards.

She was honoured at a ceremony held at the Shrine Auditorium. MTV introduced this award to create a genderless award for acting where acting need not to be separated into two different categories.

Emma Watson played character of a girl named Belle in "Beauty and the Beast" whose curiosity and passion for knowledge were grounds for her upliftment.



3. Lion' actor Sunny Pawar named Rising Star at Asian Awards

Oscar-nominated film Lion's child artist 'Sunny Pawar' was honoured with Rising Star Award at the 7th Annual Asian Awards. Sunny Pawar is known for his acting in an Australian drama. He played the role of young Saroo Brierley in the film Lion. Sunny belongs to Mumbai, India.

The Asian Awards honour people who have achieved the excellence in their field such as Shah Rukh Khan, Bruce Lee, Zayn Malik, Jack Ma, Dr Amar Bose, David Tang, Freddie Mercury, Kunal Nayyar and Ahmed Kathrada.



4. Amitabh Bachchan appointed WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region

World Health Organization has appointed legendary actor Mr. Amitabh Bachchan as its Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region to boost awareness and intensify action to arrest the hepatitis epidemic.



Though preventable, viral hepatitis kills 4,10,000 people in the Region every year, mostly people in their productive years. Mr Bachchan will lend his voice and support to public awareness programmes. Mr Bachchan had served as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Polio in India.

5. Nepalese woman created world record for scaling Everest 8 times

A 44-year-old Nepalese woman Lhakpa Sherpa created world record by scaling Mt Everest for the 8th time from the North Col (Tibetan side).



She broke her own record. Lhakpa scaled Mt Everest from Tibet side for the 7th time and first time from Nepal side in 2000. She aims to climb Mt Everest for 10 times.

Mt Everest is earth's highest mountain peak located in the in the Mahalangur Range, 8,848 metres above the sea level. Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay are known to complete the first confirmed ascent of Mount Everest in 1953.

6. Pranay Varada bagged 2017 National Geographic Bee Competition

A 14-year-old Texas' Pranay Varada won the 29th annual National Geographic Bee contest held at National Geographic headquarters in Washington, D.C.



The winner was given \$50,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. The second runner up of the contest was 14-year-old Thomas Wright of Mequon, Wisconsin, who received \$25,000 prize money.

Around 54 state and territory winners took part in the preliminary rounds of the 2017 National Geographic Bee contest.

7. India's Anshu Jamsenpa becomes first woman to conquer Mt Everest twice within 5 days

India's Anshu Jamsenpa has become first woman to conquer Mount Everest twice within five days. Anshu Jamsenpa along with Nepali climber Furi Sherpa scaled the peak. Earlier, the Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer stood atop of world's highest mountain on May 16.

Jamsenpa set the world record becoming the first woman climber to make double ascent in five days-time, she is also the first Indian woman to scale Mt Everest for the fifth time.



Places in News

1. Dubai became first city in the world to get its own Microsoft font

Dubai has become the first city in the world to get its own Microsoft font. It is the first font to be created by a city and named after it.

The font, available in three styles as 'Dubai', 'Dubai Medium' and 'Dubai Light', can be in italics, underlined and bold.

It is designed for more than 180 countries and 23 languages integrating Arabic and Latin typefaces. The font can also be downloaded from the website: www.dubaifont.com.



2. India's Second Tallest Flag Pole came up in Kolhapur

A 300-foot flag post to fly the tricolour, which would be the "second tallest" flag pole in India, was inaugurated in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The tallest flagpost, 360-foot high (110 meters), was inaugurated on March 6 at the Indo-Pak Attari Border.

The flag post in Kolhapur was installed by Kolhapur Street Beautification Project (KSBP). The flag post was built at a cost of Rs 1.1 crore raised through donations. The flag on the post is 90 feet long and 60 feet wide.



3. Two-day State Power Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi

Two-day State Power Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi. There was a wide consensus amongst all the Chief Ministers of States/UTs present to achieve the target of 24x7 affordable and quality power for all citizens of the country by December 2018, thereby reinforcing the Vadodara resolution.

The issues included mandatory recycling of wastewater from power plants for usage for drinking, better management of Dry Ash by encouraging setting up of cement plants in proximity of power plants for its consumption etc. The next State Power Ministers Conference would be held in Rajgir, Bihar.



4. India's first "Village of Books" inaugurated in Maharashtra

India's first "Village of Books" was inaugurated by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and opened for public reading at Maharashtra's Bhilar village.

In total, 25 premises, including residences, hostels, temples and schools will have about fifteen thousand books belonging to different genres.

Walls of each of these 25 premises, measuring a total of 11,000 square feet have been adorned with different painting signifying the theme of books available there.



An initiative of the Rajya Marathi Parishad and residents of Bhilar, this concept is modelled on Hay-on-Wye, the world famous 'town of books' in Wales.

5. Indian heads of mission meet held in New Delhi

A 4-day conference 'Indian Heads of Mission' was held in New Delhi to address key foreign policy issues and challenges including India's engagement with major powers faced by Indian envoys.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Indian Heads of Mission meet and conference was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. Envoys made presentations regarding their respective countries of posting.

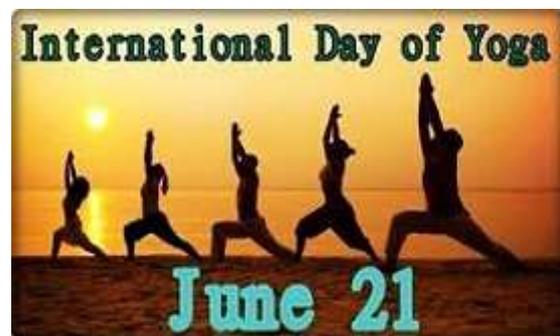


Conclave discussed major developments such as strain in ties with Pakistan and China, major developments globally, India's relationship with the Trump administration and ties with Russia.

6. Ahmedabad to host biggest ever International Yoga Day event on June 21

Ahmedabad will host biggest ever International Yoga Day event on 21 June. About five lakh people are expected to participate in the event. Saints and spiritual leaders from Art of Living, Arya Samaj, Bramhakumaris and other organization will participate in the event.

The event is a non-political program in partnership with Gujarat Government, which will also involve various social organizations. UNESCO had inscribed Yoga as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



7. Govardhan Eco Village was honored with Smart village award

Government honored ISKCON Govardhan eco village with Smart Cities India Award in the "Smart Village Award" category for adopting innovative measures of 'sustainable tourism' in Wada district of Maharashtra.

The project linked tourism initiatives at the Govardhan Eco village by providing basic needs to the local tribal communities in villages.

Award ceremony took place at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Smart Cities India awards is an annual event designed to praise work of individuals, policy makers, companies, government bodies and associations for 100 smart cities development and rejuvenation of 500 cities in India.



8. Start-up India Summit held in Dubai

CGI Dubai and Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi in partnership with iSPIRIT, a non-profit think tank and supported by TiE, Dubai hosted a two-day "Start-up India Summit" in UAE.

This is the first such "Start-up Summit" held in the UAE. The aim was to provide a shared platform for the Start-up eco system in both India and UAE for greater collaboration, exchange ideas, interact with academia, investors and industry and have access to funding from the venture capitalist in the UAE.



9. IIT Kharagpur takes on duty to turn Varanasi into smart city

British Geological Survey and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur will together help Varanasi turn into a smart city. They will work on preservation of archaeological sites, infrastructure improvement, sustainability of water supplies, flood and drainage system management.

The project includes application of geoscientific methods (e.g. drilling, geological, geophysical, tectonics etc).

IIT Kharagpur will undergo the first major 3D subsurface urban study and planning of its kind in India. Department of Architecture & Regional Planning, IIT Kharagpur will transform the city completely so that people desires to go again and again.



10. Five-Day African Development Bank's Annual Meeting held in Gujarat

The Prime Minister declared the Five Day African development bank's annual meeting open at an impressive ceremony in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. He gave a clarion call for further strengthening of the cooperation between India and African countries.

The President of the African Development Bank Shri Akinwumi Adesina, in his keynote, shared the Bank's new transformation agenda encapsulated in the High 5s and underscored the need to support the Bank with the resources required to enable it accomplish its ambition programs for the good of the African continent.



Regional

1. Union Government released ₹714 Cr to Karnataka government for implementing various schemes

Union Minister of Urban Development and Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation M Venkaiah Naidu released 714 crore rupees to the Government of Karnataka which included 428 crore rupees for Smart City Mission, 191 crore rupees for ATAL Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Urban Transportation (AMRUT), 36.7 crore rupees for Swachh Bharat Mission and 58.3 crore rupees for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Bengaluru will be added under the Smart City scheme in the second phase. The State government was being funded with 4953 crore rupees worth central schemes for urban development.



2. Centre sanctioned ₹588 crores as drought relief for Rajasthan

The Union Government has sanctioned Rs 588 crore as drought relief for Rajasthan. The decision was taken at a meeting of a High Level Committee chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and attended by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley among others.

The committee took the decision based on the report of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team, which visited the drought-hit state. The assistance was approved from the National Disaster Relief Fund.



3. Uttarakhand becomes fifth state to pass GST bill

Uttarakhand Legislative assembly has passed State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) bill unanimously and thus became the fifth state to pass the GST bill. It was tabled by the Finance Minister Prakash Pant who informed that liquor and five petro products will be out from the GST. Farmers will also be exempted the GST.

The Centre plans to launch the Goods and Services Tax in the country on July 1. The other states to have passed the Bill are Telangana, Bihar, Rajasthan and Jharkhand.



4. First automatic weather station of Maharashtra inaugurated in Nagpur

Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the state's first automatic weather station in Nagpur. The government has plans to set up around 2065 such weather stations across the state on public private partnership (PPP) model this year, and 1,000 of these to be set up by June 2017.



The weather conditions for farmers in different regions will be available on Mahavedh portal (Maharashtra agriculture weather information network) and mobile application of Skymet Weather Private Ltd.

5. AIIB approved \$160 million loan for power project in Andhra Pradesh

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approved 160 million dollar loan for a power project in Andhra Pradesh. It is the first credit from the bank for an Indian project.



The project is part of the Government of India's Power for All Program to provide an affordable 24*7-electricity supply to all citizens.

The AIIB has approved the project with the objective to strengthen power transmission and distribution system in Andhra Pradesh. The project is co-financed by the World Bank.

6. Assam to provide Rs. 5000 each to divyangs for their development

The Assam government will provide five thousand rupees each to five lakh divyangs for their development for which a survey is being conducted to know the exact number of divyangs in the state. As per the 2011 census, there are 68 thousand divyangs in the state.



Under budget of Assam, announced in April 2017, state has allocated around Rs 250 cr for Deen Dayal Divyank Sahajya Achari. Under this scheme, 4.5 lakh divyankas will be given Rs 5000 each.

7. Madhya Pradesh state legislative assembly passed GST Bill

Madhya Pradesh state legislative assembly passed the Madhya Pradesh Goods and Services Tax Bill. A one-day special sitting of the state legislative assembly was held in Bhopal to pass the Bill.



The GST bill is a transparent system that will benefit small traders. Madhya Pradesh is the sixth state of the country to pass the bill. A help-centre would also be established and officials will help for the implementation. All the decisions in this regard would be taken by the GST Council, which included representatives of 21 states.

8. Madhya Pradesh became the 1st state to shift to calendar year as the financial year

In the first of the states, Madhya Pradesh switched to the January-December financial year from April – March financial year. With this, it became first state to announce shifting of its financial year format to January-December from the present April-March cycle. Thus, the Budget session of the next financial year will be held in either December 2017 or January 2018.



The Central Government had constituted a high-level committee under former Chief Economic Advisor Shanker Acharya to prepare a quarterly, half-yearly and annual road map of works to be done with fixed deadlines.

9. Haryana Assembly passed state GST Bill

The Haryana Assembly passed the state Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017. More revenue is likely to accrue by broad basing the tax base, better reconciliation of business transactions and input tax credits, with the help of GST bill.



The Section 164 of the bill empowers the state government to make rules to carry out the purpose of the Act and 101st Amendment, Act, 2016 empowers the state government to levy tax on intra state supply of Goods and services by subsuming value added tax, entry tax, luxury tax, advertisement tax except VAT on alcohol and petroleum products.

10. West Bengal announced to distribute free ration to mothers with new-born babies

The West Bengal Government will distribute free ration to mothers with new-born babies across the State so that they do not suffer from malnourishment. The State Food department will distribute coupons to around 30,000 mothers across the state.

The mothers can now show the coupons to ration shops where they will be supplied with rice, wheat, grams and lentil every month.

The State government has taken such step to tackle malnutrition figures among the new mothers belonging to the economically weaker class.



11. Madhya Pradesh opens India's first private small arms manufacturing unit

Madhya Pradesh in union with Israel opened India's first private small arms manufacturing plant at Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh. It is a joint venture between Indian defence conglomerate Punj Lloyd and Israel Weapons Industries (IWI) to develop a hub for providing weapons not only to Israel and Indian markets, but also to the world markets.

This deal is a part of 'Make in India' project. Weapons like X95 assault rifle, Galil sniper, Tavor assault rifle, Negev light machine gun and the Ace assault rifle will be manufactured under this deal.



12. Narmada River announced as living entity by Madhya Pradesh Assembly

Madhya Pradesh government passed a resolution bill-stating river Narmada as a living entity and committed itself to the protection of its legal rights. As of now, other rivers such as Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries have been declared as living entities by Uttarakhand High Court.

The living entity status means granting Narmada, owner of all property and litigation for its conservation and legal case could be initiated on the river's behalf against anyone exploiting river. In this way, the river's biodiversity will be protected.



13. Odisha introduced boat ambulances in four districts

Odisha introduced boat ambulance service in four districts where people face difficulties in getting health service. The boat ambulance service will be available in Koraput, Malkangiri, Kendrapara and Kalahandi districts where people face problems in availing the 108-ambulance service due to intervening large water bodies in the form of rivers and dams disrupting road communication.

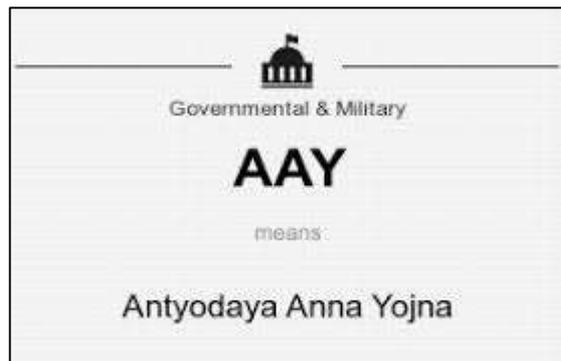
The state government has sanctioned six boat ambulances for these areas, which will be part of the 108-ambulance service.



14. Haryana Government to offer affordable meals to Antyodaya Anna Yojana workers

In order to provide meals at reduced rates to registered construction workers under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Haryana government will be opening canteens at 23 locations in the state and mobile food vans would be established at 23 places with huge number of workers. Canteens will be opened from 8 am and 2 pm.

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is a Government of India sponsored scheme to provide highly subsidized food to millions of the poorest families. It was first implemented in the Indian state of Rajasthan.



15. Haryana approved over Rs. 52.16-crore for construction of roads in four districts

Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal accorded administrative approval amounting to over Rs 52.16 crore for construction of different roads in four districts of Nuh, Faridabad, Palwal and Jind. Over 26.20 crore rupees have been approved for construction of Ring road in Nuh district.

Around 21.84 crore rupees have been approved for construction of road on Yamuna riverbank in Faridabad district. A sum of over 2.50 crore rupees have been approved for construction of road in Palwal district. About 1.61 crore rupees have been approved for upgradation of road in Jind district.



16. Oracle inked MoU with Jharkhand to offer cloud-based citizen services

A MOU was inked between the Government of Jharkhand and Oracle to improve cloud-based citizen services. Oracle Corporation is a multinational computer technology corporation, headquartered in California.

As part of the agreement, the Government of Jharkhand and Oracle will unanimously explore and identify areas of growth in which Oracle's latest cloud-based technologies can be used to meet the state's citizen and business requirements. Jharkhand wants its state to become an attractive destination for start-ups.



17. NITI Aayog to collaborate with Uttar Pradesh for holistic development

The delegation led by NITI Vice Chairman, Dr. Arvind Panagariya held daylong deliberations in Lucknow on developmental challenges before Uttar Pradesh.

The delegation met UP CM Yogi Adityanath along with seniors Ministers and officials of the state government and it was agreed that NITI would partner with UP in areas such as doubling the farmers' income, livelihood opportunities, enterprise, investment and growth in the State, among others.



NITI Aayog Member Agriculture, Shri Ramesh Chand shared in great detail issues related to the growth of agriculture and possible solutions for doubling farmers' income in UP.

18. Haryana to conduct survey to provide affordable houses to people in urban areas

Haryana Government has decided to conduct a survey to provide affordable houses under 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All' to the people living in urban areas.

The residents living in urban areas as on June 17, 2015, would be eligible to participate in the survey. Only those applicants would be given the benefit of the scheme who would have Aadhar card, a bank account and nobody in his family have any pucca house in any locality.



Those who have been benefited under any Central or State Housing Scheme would not be eligible to avail the benefit under this scheme.

19. Assam assembly passed State GST Bill

Assam Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017, was unanimously passed by the state legislative assembly. Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma presented the Bill in the assembly.

Assam passed the Bill on the last day of a three-day special session called for its passage. In August 2016, the assembly ratified the Constitution Amendment Bill on Goods and Services Tax, making Assam the first state in the country to do so.



20. Telangana became the first state with logo for hearing impaired drivers

Telangana became the first state in the country to introduce a logo for identifying vehicles driven by persons with hearing impairment. The logo consists of a hearing-impaired mark along with text saying, "Driver is deaf — please watch out."

The logo, that hearing impaired drivers will have to fix on their vehicles, was designed by city-based graphic designer Manikanta Annapragada. He also became the first person to obtain a driving license in the 'hearing impaired' category in the country.



21. Aadhaar not mandatory for PAN, ITR in J&K, Assam & Meghalaya

Government has exempted the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Meghalaya and citizens above 80 years from mandatory quoting of Aadhaar to obtain PAN cards and file tax returns. The exemption will also apply on non-residents and non-citizens.

The government, under the Finance Act 2017, has made it mandatory for taxpayers to quote Aadhaar or enrolment ID of the Aadhaar application form for filing tax returns. Besides, quoting Aadhaar has also been made mandatory for applying for PAN with effect from 1st of July.



22. Maharashtra Government to provide medical tests for certain diseases free-of-cost

The Maharashtra government has decided to provide medical tests for some specific diseases free-of-cost to poor patients. The cost of medical tests for 44 critical diseases, like cancer and thyroid, will be borne by the state government.



The service of free medical tests for certain critical illnesses is already available in 16 districts of Maharashtra. Now, it will be expanded across the state for the benefit of poor patients. Maharashtra government has tied up with private diagnostic centre to open at least one laboratory in every district to carry out such tests for patients from government run hospitals.

23. Gujarat Government launched implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojna

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojna. The scheme will cover more than 14,000 homeless families in the rural areas in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Anand, Aravalli and Kheda districts.



Under this scheme, the rural homeless people can build their own house with 20% subsidy to be directly deposited in their bank account. State Government has made provision of Rs.1372 crore in the budget for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana.

24. Deputy CM RC Lalloo released Meghalaya Disaster management plan

Deputy Chief Minister of Meghalaya Prof RC Lalloo released the Meghalaya State Disaster Management Plan- 2016 during a one-day Incidence Response System (IRS) Training for the State Response Team in Shillong.



The State Government has come up with the Disaster Management Plan-2016 in consultation with NDMA by putting special focus on preparedness and mitigation in times of disasters. The training will enhance the ability of the Government functionaries in management and execution of different tasks in the event of any disaster.

25. UP Assembly passed state GST bill

Uttar Pradesh passed Goods and Service Tax bill in Assembly. This bill was tabled in house by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. After passage from the lower house, it will now be taken to upper house of legislature -Legislative council. GST is the biggest economic reform by the union government, eliminating and multiple taxes on any single transaction.



Different indirect taxes like the central excise duty, central sales tax and service tax are to be merged with the C-GST, while S-GST will subsume state sales tax, VAT, luxury tax and entertainment tax.

26. West Bengal announced to accept Aadhaar as proof of residence for caste

The West Bengal Government decided to allow the use of Aadhaar card as proof of identity as well as residence for issuing cast certificates.

A notification issued by the Backward Classes Welfare Department in Kolkata announced Aadhaar card to be treated as a valid document for residential proof and identity of the applicant, applying for Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and Other Backward Class certificates. It is stated that Aadhaar cards needs to be treated as a valid document about proof of identity and local residence.



27. PM Modi launched Narmada Seva Mission in Madhya Pradesh

Narmada Seva Mission was launched by Indian Prime minister Narendra Modi in Amarkantak for the conservation of the Narmada River. Narmada Seva mission plan document prepared by the Madhya Pradesh government was appreciated by Prime minister.



The Narmada River captured the attention of the nation when it became the centre of a decades-long struggle to stop the raising of the Sardar Sarovar Dam.

Since the Central Pollution Control Board recently found that at least in three stretches of the Narmada, water quality is not even good for bathing; campaigns are being launched by state government to keep it pollution free.

28. Telangana organized Videsh Sampark

'Videsh Sampark' is first outreach programme of the Ministry of External Affairs to engage the State governments and make them aware about various programmes of the Ministry such as schemes and initiatives launched by the Ministry with regard to consular and passport services; engagement with overseas Indians; and welfare and protection of overseas Indians.

The first such programme was hosted by Telangana state and inaugurated by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. V.K. Singh, said Regional Passport Officer E. Vishnuvardhan Reddy.



29. Over 28 lakh benefited from Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme in Bihar

Over 28 lakh households have been benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme in Bihar. About 60 lakh families would be covered under this ambitious scheme in next two years. Around 47% households of the state have come under coverage of LPG connection.

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a welfare program of the government of India, launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016. The stated objective of the program is providing 5,00,00,000 LPG connections to women from families below the poverty line. As of 3 April 2017, twenty million LPG connections had been completed.



30. Chennai to set up India's first ornamental fish park

Under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives of the state, India's first Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park will be established at the cost of 10 crore rupees. It will have an ultra-modern facility for ornamental fishes equipped with multi-species hatchery, breeding technologies and live feed culture units, to be operational in 3 months.

The MPEDA had also been extending financial help and technical experts to various states in the area of freshwater and marine ornamentals to have a quarantine lab where exotic fish varieties imported from other countries would be treated from viral infections.



31. Odisha Legislature passed SGST Bill and VAT Amendment Bill 2017

The Odisha Legislature passed the State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) Bill and the Value Added Tax (VAT) Amendment Bill 2017 by voice-vote. State finance minister Shashi Bhusan Behera had moved the two bills in the two-day special session of the Assembly.



The passage of State GST bill paved the way for introduction of a uniform tax structure in the State. As per the decision, the Odisha government would impose State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) on all items barring petrol, diesel, petroleum crude, ATF, natural gas and alcoholic liquor for human consumption.

32. Haryana launched e-textbook portal for school students

Haryana has launched the e-textbook portal. Students can download schoolbooks instantly from the e-textbook portal of the Haryana School Education Board.



Around 26 textbooks of classes IX to XII have been uploaded on the portal and these can be easily converted into audio files. These included 11 books of class IX, 9 books of class X and 3 books each of classes XI and XII.

The portal also provides a facility to highlight certain portions of the e-textbooks making it easier for students to study.

33. Puducherry CM Narayanasamy presented 6945 crore rupees budget for 2017-18

Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy presented 6945 Crore-rupee budget for the current fiscal. Chief Minister who holds the finance portfolio allocated 2500 crore rupees under plan head and set aside 4445 crore rupees for non-plan expenditure. No new taxes were proposed despite the Union Territory's poor finances. About 16 percent of the outlay goes for debt servicing alone.



The Chief Minister also announced a slew of schemes to better the power distribution system in the Union Territory. Under the Clean Puducherry initiative, the Government is constructing 10,000 household toilets and plans to declare the Union Territory Open Defecation Free.

34. Centre initiated various reforms in Meghalaya

Centre initiated various reforms to ensure development, transparency and accountability in governance. The Government has brought a sea change in administrative functioning by introducing e-governance, adhering to the National e-Governance Plan.

Applications of schedule caste or tribe certificates are being done online. This has immensely helped people in terms of time, money and transportation cost.

The Meghalaya Government has made sure that people opt for digital payment in all form of economic activities. People now pay electricity, water bills and even taxi fare through various electronic mode of payment.



35. UP launched JE vaccination drive in 38 districts

In Uttar Pradesh, a massive immunisation drive was launched in 38 districts to eradicate Japanese Encephalitis (JE). The government has fixed the target of immunisation of over 88 lakh 55 thousand children in the age group of one to 15 during the drive in the targeted districts.

The government also launched a special cleanliness drive in all 38 districts along with the vaccination drive, as poor hygiene was the main reason for this disease.



36. Mizoram Legislative Assembly passed state GST bill

The Mizoram Legislative Assembly passed the Mizoram Goods & Service Bill. With the new taxation regime coming in place, the present three taxation systems in the state, namely the Mizoram Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products including Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Act, 1973, the Mizoram Entry Tax Act 2015 and the Mizoram Entertainment Tax Act 2013 will have to be removed.

Under the Mizoram GST Bill, a person not from the state should possess valid Inner Line Permit (ILP) for a minimum of two years in order to take up business activities in Mizoram.



37. Tripura assembly passed the State GST Bill

Tripura assembly passed the Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill. The proposed bill would replace most of the indirect taxes currently levied by the central and state governments. It will lead to substantial increase in the collection of tax revenue. Additionally, the scope of tax evasion will be diminished.



Then, there would be more transparency in the proposed tax system and cascading effect on tax on price of goods and services will be diminished. GST will remove multiplicity of taxes and bring uniformity in rate of taxes all over the country.

38. MP Government and IIT-Kharagpur inked MoU for measuring the Happiness Index

In order to measure the well-being of the people of the state, the Madhya Pradesh Government inked a MoU with IIT Kharagpur's Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness.



IIT-KGP will formulate the index and analyse data collected by the state government to assess the level of happiness and suggest suitable recommendations that can be used to enhance happiness.

IIT will provide online courses on happiness through online screening and assessment system, available at the Centre for Educational Technology of IIT-KGP.

39. India's First Fleet of 200 Electric Vehicles Launched in Nagpur

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis launched India's first multi-modal electric vehicle project at the Nagpur airport complex.



This unique project brings together e-buses, e-cabs, e-rickshaws and e-autos on a single platform, the Ola App, which will enable commuters in Nagpur to book them.

The fleet of 200 vehicles consists of 100 of Mahindra's new e20 Plus vehicles, besides those from other manufacturers like Tata Motors, Kinetic and TVS.

40. PM Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge - the Dhola-Sadia Bridge in Assam. Mr Modi named the bridge after legendary singer Bhupen Hazarika. This three lane, 9.15 Kilometre Bridge has been built over the Brahmaputra River. It links Dhola to Sadia, both in Assam.

The travel time between the two places will come down from the current six hours to just one hour, a total five-hour reduction. This will result in saving of petrol and diesel worth 10 Lakh rupees per day. Road connectivity will ease, as this bridge will fill a huge connectivity gap.



Reports

1. Global Financial Integrity report estimated entry of \$770 billion black money into India

Global Financial Integrity released its 'Illicit Financial Flows to and from Developing Countries report for year 2005-2014. Report estimated entry of \$770 billion black money into India during 2005-2014 and exit of \$165 billion in illicit money out of the country. Global Financial Integrity report is the first global study that has placed equal emphasis on illicit outflows and inflows.



The report asked the governments to set up public registries to check black money and banks to check for the true beneficial owner of any account.

2. Swachh Survekshan 2017 Rankings released

Indore emerged as the India's Cleanest City in the Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns, the results of were announced by the Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu.



The Quality Council of India that conducted the survey during January-February 2017 deployed 421 assessors for on the site inspection of cleanliness in 434 cities and another 55 for real time monitoring of progress of survey and field inspections.

3. United Kingdom's rich list 2017 topped by Hinduja brothers

The 29th United Kingdom's rich list 2017 was topped by Hinduja brothers as their wealth increased by a further £3.2billion to estimated fortune of 16.2 billion pounds. With this, Hinduja brothers became the richest people in Britain.



Among the other 40 Indian-origin super-rich list names, new billionaires Gujarati based Mohsin and Zuber Issa, with estimated wealth of 1 billion pounds.

The Hinduja brothers bought British assets like Careline, an outsourcing business, and the bus maker Optare. They possess assets in Switzerland of about 3.6 billion pounds.

4. Forbes Middle East lists top 100 Indian business leaders

According to a Forbes ranking for the Middle East, Retail Mogul Yusuff Ali and Pepsico executive Sanjeev Chadha are among the top 100 Indian business leaders in the Arab World 2017.

Mr Ali was followed by Sunil Vaswani, Chairman of Stallion Group and B R Shetty, Founder of NMC Healthcare and the UAE Exchange. While Mr Chadha was followed by Raghavan Seetharaman, Group CEO of Doha bank and Adnan Chilwan, Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank holding the top three positions.



Forbes Middle East is an annual ranking of the top 100 Indian business owners and the top 50 Indians in executive management.

5. Bengaluru ranked world's most affordable tech city Index

Bengaluru has topped the list of 22 tech cities across the world in affordable living, as per the Savills Tech Cities Index. Overall, Bengaluru ranks a low 20 among tech cities in the world, with Austin topping the list, followed by San Francisco and New York.



The Savills Tech Cities 2017 programme aims to understand the diverse factors that make up a good location choice for the tech sector – examining 22 global centres.

6. Indian Exclusion Report (IXR): Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims remain Worst-Hit Communities

According to the 2016 Indian Exclusion Report (IXR) released by the Centre for Equity Studies (CES), Dalit's, Adivasi's and Muslims continue to be the worst hit communities in terms of exclusion from access to public goods: pensions for the elderly, digital access, agricultural land, and legal justice for under trials.



The rate of landlessness was highest among Dalit's at 57.3%; Muslims at 52.6% and 56.8% of women-headed households were landless. In addition, in terms of internet reach, almost 1.063 billion Indians were offline.

7. Kerala topped the Public Affairs Index

The 2017 Public Affairs Index (PAI) was topped by Kerala followed by Tamil Nadu on the 2nd place, Gujarat on the 3rd place, Karnataka on the 4th and Maharashtra on the 5th place. Bihar was placed at last position. The survey was conducted based on 10 themes, 26 focus subjects and 82 indicators.



According to PAI survey, women and children continued to be the most vulnerable section of the society. Punjab topped the category of essential infrastructure; Kerala topped the human development category and women and children category. Tamil Nadu secured first place in maintaining law and justice.

8. India ranks 26 in World Bank's electricity accessibility list

India moved up from 99th place to 26th place in World Bank's electricity accessibility ranking released recently.

The improvement has been possible due to government's rural electrification programme of providing power to all households by 2019. The government has electrified over 13,000 villages out of 18,452. The remaining work is on track for completion within the targeted 1,000 days.



One of major scheme Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with an aim to provide 24×7 uninterrupted electricity supply to each rural household across the country by 2022.

9. Reliance Industries Chairman topped Forbes list of 'Global Game Changers'

In the Second list of 'Global Game Changers' among 25 top businesspersons, who bring digital transformation and bring millions to internet, released by Forbes, was topped by Reliance Industries chairperson Mukesh Ambani. According to Forbes, Reliance Jio leader gained 100 million customers in just six months.



The other business leaders were founder of home appliances company Dyson, James Dyson, Larry Fink, Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman and Evan Spiegel.

10. India becomes the second best in renewable energy attractiveness index

According to 'Renewable energy country attractiveness index', a report by UK accountancy firm EY, India has become the second-most attractive country after China for renewable energy investment. India pipped USA to secure the second spot. The report ranks top 40 renewable energy markets worldwide.



India has added more than 10 GW of solar capacity in the last three years. In addition, there was a record new wind capacity of 5.4 GW installed in 2016-17.

11. India betters ranking in international tourist arrivals

India has jumped 16 places in the revised World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) rankings to settle at 24th for 2014 and 2015. Earlier, India was ranked 41st and 40th in 2014 and 2015 as per the global ranking.



UNWTO is the United Nation's agency ranks countries in terms of their ITAs- comprising both foreign tourist arrivals as well as non-resident arrivals. India's rank in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), 2017

had also shown a 12 places jump from 2015. Rank of India in TTCI Report of 2017 was 40 as compared to 52 in 2015, 65 in 2013 and 68 in 2011.

12. Visakhapatnam railway station cleanest, Darbhanga dirtiest

According to a survey carried out by the Quality Council of India and released by the Railways Ministry, Visakhapatnam railway station is the cleanest followed by Secunderabad, among the 75 busiest stations. The Jammu railway station stood third in the list.



The Darbhanga railway station in Bihar was the dirtiest. Among the A category, Beas railway station was the cleanest. The railways has about 8,000 stations which are classified into – A1, A, B, C, D, E and F categories – based on annual passenger revenue.

13. India becomes world's second largest steel producer

According to data released by the International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF), India replaces Japan to become the second-largest steel producer in the world after China. As per the latest statistics, India's stainless steel production rose to 3.32 million tons for 2016 compared to 3.0 million tons of 2015.



Indian Stainless Steel Development Association has been continuously providing support to take the Indian stainless steel industry to newer heights. Several government schemes such as 'Make in India', smart cities promotion, building new infrastructure has uplifted the stainless-steel industry's growth and production.

Resignations & Retirements

1. UK Prince Philip to retire from royal duties

Prince Philip, the 95-year-old husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, will step down from carrying out royal engagements from September 2017. The Buckingham Palace announced the retirement of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Prince will continue to attend previously scheduled engagements with the monarch and individually but he will not be accepting any new invitations for visits and engagements.

Prince Philip is patron, president or a member of over 780 organisations, with which he will continue to be associated, although he will no longer play an active role by attending engagements.



2. Tennis player Mitsuhashi gets life ban for match fixing

Japanese player Junn Mitsuhashi was banned for life following an investigation into match fixing. The Tennis Integrity Unit announced that he has also been fined 50,000 US Dollars after being found to have made corrupt approaches to other players and to have placed bets on matches.

Mitsuhashi, 27, cannot compete in, or attend, any tournament or event organised or sanctioned by the governing bodies of the sport. The player was offered 2,000 US Dollars to underperform in a singles match and 600 US Dollars in a doubles match.



3. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' resigned from the post of Nepal's Prime Minister

The 62-year-old Prachanda resigned from the post of Nepal's Prime Minister, following an understanding with Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba that he would step down as Prime Minister and hand over the power to him after nine months. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' was 39th prime minister of Nepal.

According to the pact signed, it was decided to run the government on a rotational basis until elections to the parliament are held in February 2018. Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda submitted his resignation to President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.



1. IIT Roorkee Scientists Create Low Cost Solar Cells using Jamun

IIT Roorkee scientists have used Jamun to create inexpensive and more efficient solar cells. Jamun is a juicy Indian summer fruit.

The team of scientists used naturally occurring pigment found in jamun as an inexpensive photo-sensitizer for Dye Sensitised Solar Cells (DSSCs) or Gratzel cells. Natural pigments are too economical as compared to regular Ruthenium-based pigments.



The research was published in the Journal of Photovoltaics.

2. GSLV successfully launched South Asia Satellite

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F09) successfully launched the 2230 kg South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) into its planned Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

It took place from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. This is the fourth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage.



The South Asia Satellite will be commissioned into service after the completion of orbit raising operations and the satellite's positioning in its designated slot in the GSO following in-orbit testing of its payloads.

3. The first Inflatable Nasa's Greenhouse could enable water recycling on Mars

NASA scientists at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida are collaborating with a university team to develop long-term methods that could help sustain pioneers working in deep space. The Prototype Lunar/Mars Greenhouse project will support ongoing research in space to grow vegetables for food and cultivating plants to sustain life support systems.



The prototype involves an inflatable, deployable greenhouse to support plant and crop production for nutrition, air revitalization, water recycling and waste recycling. The process is called a bio regenerative life support system.

4. NASA to Measure Greenhouse Gases over the Mid-Atlantic Region

In May, a team of Goddard scientists will begin measuring greenhouse gases over the Mid-Atlantic region — an area chosen in part because it encompasses a range of vegetation, climate, and soil types that would influence the exchange of carbon dioxide and methane between the Earth and the atmosphere.



The airborne campaign, called the Carbon Airborne Flux Experiment, or CARAFE, could help scientists better understand the exchange process, also known as flux, and improve computer models that predict Earth's carbon sinks, natural or artificial areas that absorb carbon dioxide or methane.

5. NASA named new species after Late APJ Abdul Kalam

Scientists at NASA have named a new organism discovered by them after the late president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. Researchers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL, the foremost lab of NASA for work on interplanetary travel, discovered the new bacteria on the filters of the International Space Station, ISS, and named it *Solibacillus kalamii* to honour the late president.



The new species is a spore forming bacteria. The filter on which the new bug was found remained on board the International Space Station for 40 months.

6. NASA detected Signs of Water in a distant Neptune Sized Planet

Scientists at NASA have detected "a strong water signature" in the atmosphere of a distant Neptune-sized planet, HAT- P-26b. It has a primitive atmosphere composed almost entirely of hydrogen and helium and orbits a star roughly twice as old as our Sun.



The study is based on observations from NASA's Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes. Scientists have detected the presence of water by pooling data obtained from four transits when the planet passed in front of its host star.

7. NASA found signs of presence of water on a distant Neptune sized planet

A study combining observations from NASA's Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes reveals that the distant planet HAT-P-26b has a primitive atmosphere composed almost entirely of hydrogen and helium. Located about 437 light years away, HAT-P-26b orbits a star roughly twice as old as the sun.



The researchers determined that HAT-P-26b's atmosphere is relatively clear of clouds and has a strong water signature, although the planet is not a water world. Because the study provided a precise measurement of water, the researchers were able to use the water signature to estimate HAT-P-26b's metallicity.

8. World's smallest Satellite KalamSat developed for NASA

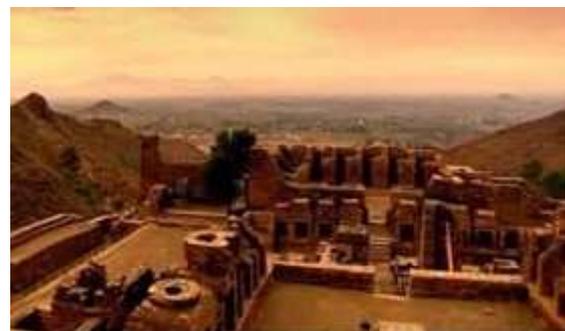
The 18-year-old Tamil Nadu boy Rifath Sharook developed world's smallest satellite for US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration and named it 'KalamSat'. It is for the first time that US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration will be piloting an experiment by an Indian student.



'KalamSat' is named after India's former President, APJ Abdul Kalam. This amazingly built KalamSat weighing 64 grams, would be functional for 12 minutes in a micro-gravity environment of space. The main function of the KalamSat will be to perform the performance of 3D-printed carbon fibre.

9. ISRO and NASA to inspect 'oldest civilization' site in Haryana

US space agency NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will jointly inspect the excavation being carried out at an archaeological site in Haryana's Fatehabad district.



The archaeologists have recovered artefacts, which included ornaments and pots, apart from spherical structures from the site, which is located in village Kunal.

NASA and ISRO are likely to start the inspection from October 2017. The artefacts are estimated to be 6000 year old.

10. SpaceX launched Super-Heavy Communications Satellite

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from launch pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre with a communications satellite that will complete Inmarsat's fifth-generation broadband network, marking its first launch for the London-based mobile broadband company. The Inmarsat-5 F4 satellite was built by Boeing.



The satellite is the fourth in the company's Global Xpress (GX) constellation, aimed at providing high-speed mobile broadband service. SpaceX is headed by Elon Musk.

11. IIT Delhi researchers made cheapest respiratory filter

In order to save people from increased alarming air pollution, IIT Delhi scientists developed world's cheapest respiratory filter which filters entry of up to 95% dust and air particles. It is available at the price of Rs 10.



It protects against the finest particulate pollutants in the air for at least eight hours. The researchers received "National Startups Award" by President Pranab Mukherjee.

The innovators team members were IIT Delhi faculty members Manjeet Jassal and Ashwini K Agrawal, besides institute alumni Sanjeev Jain, Prateek Sharma, Tushar Vyas and a student Jatin Kewlani.

12. Scientists Discover First Human Antibodies to Fight Ebola Viruses

Researchers have discovered the first natural human antibodies that can neutralize and protect animals against all three major disease-causing ebolaviruses.



The team of scientists analyzed the blood of a survivor of the 2013-16 Ebola outbreak.

The researchers also highlighted about the human genes, which are likely the source of the immune cells that produce the two antibodies.

These findings could help speed the development of vaccines to prevent ebolavirus infection.

1. Valtteri Bottas won his first F1 race in the Russian Grand Prix 2017

Mercedes' new recruit Valtteri Bottas won the Russian Grand Prix 2017 at Sochi. It was the first victory of his Formula 1 career at the 81st attempt.

Sebastian Vettel came second while Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen took third place. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton finished fourth while Max Verstappen was fifth and Sergio Perez of Force India finished at sixth.

Valtteri Victor Bottas is a Finnish racing driver currently competing in Formula 1 with Mercedes. Bottas previously drove for Williams from 2013 to 2016.



2. Rafael Nadal won his 10th Barcelona Open Title

Rafael Nadal clinched his record-extending 10th Barcelona Open title after he defeated Dominic Thiem of Austria 6-4, 6-1 in the final. It was the second clay court title in a row for Nadal. It was also his 51st tournament win on clay.

Nadal won in Barcelona between 2005-2009 and 2011-13 as well as now in the last two years. Thiem had beaten world number one Andy Murray to earn a place in the final.



3. Pankaj Advani wins a silver at the Asian Snooker Championship

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani finished runner-up at the Asian Snooker championship that was held at Doha, Qatar. He lost to Lv Haotian 3-6 in the final. This was Advani's fourth appearance in Asian Snooker Championships.

Pankaj became the Asian Billiards champion sixth time in the second week of May. He also won gold medals at the National Championships of Billiards as well as 6-red Snooker and 15-red Snooker.



4. Joshna Chinappa became first Indian to win Asian Squash title

Joshna Chinappa became the first Indian to clinch the Asian Squash title after she defeated Dipika Pallikal Karthik in the women's final held in Chennai.

Hong Kong's Max Lee won the men's final by defeating Saurav Ghosal of India in the final. Ghosal became the first Indian to reach the title round on the men's side.

The Asian Team Championships are the international squash competition played between teams representing different nations organised by the Asian Squash Federation.



5. India placed on the 4th position in ICC T20 International team rankings

India dropped two places to slip to fourth position in the ICC Twenty20 International team rankings following the annual update on May 1. Having dropped six points, India are now on 118 points, three behind second placed England and third placed Pakistan -- both of whom are on 121 points each. New Zealand topped the rankings.

South Africa lost two places to be on the 5th spot and Australia at 6th spot. Sri Lanka was ranked 8th. Bangladesh are ranked 10th on 78 points after gaining four points, while Zimbabwe have retained 12th position.



6. India placed in the top 100 of FIFA rankings for 1st time in 21 years

According to the latest FIFA rankings released, India broke in to the top 100 rankings for the first time in over two decades. For the first time in 21 years and only the sixth time after independence, the national football team has found a place in top-100 of FIFA rankings.

This is India's best-ever FIFA ranking since April 1996 when they were also ranked 100. India's highest FIFA Ranking until date has been 94, achieved in February 1996. India meanwhile has retained 11th spot in AFC.



7. Jhulan Goswami became the world's highest wicket-taker in ODIs

Indian women's team fast bowler Jhulan Goswami became the highest wicket-taker in history of ODIs. She eclipsed the decade-long record in the name of Australian Cathryn Fitzpatrick.

Jhulan Goswami dismissed South Africa's Raisibe Ntozakhe to claim her 181st victim in the 50-over format, breaking Fitzpatrick's record of 180 wickets from 109 matches. Jhulan was also adjudged ICC's 'Women Cricketer of the Year' in 2007. Jhulan Goswami also has 40 wickets in 10 Tests and 50 wickets in 60 Twenty20 Internationals.



8. Logo and mascot of Asian Athletics Championships revealed

Since Bhubaneswar is the host for the international sports event, the logo and mascot of the Asian Athletics was unveiled at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The logo displayed image of an athlete crossing the finishing line, having historical tourist attractions of Odisha in the background. The mascot represents the famous Olive Ridley sea turtle.



The mascot is named as OLLY. The mascot is named on famous Olive Ridley sea turtle because beaches of Odisha are a prime nesting site for these endangered sea turtles.

9. Great Britain bagged the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2017

Great Britain defeated Australia by 4-3 to win Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2017 hockey tournament held at Ipoh, Malaysia.

With this win, Great Britain became the first European team to win the Sultan Azlan Shah cup since the Netherlands in 2006.

The win became perfect due to a perfect pass by Dylan Wotherspoon to Joshua Pollard to set the score 3-2.

The other three goals were scored by Ollie Willars, Alan Forsyth and David Goodfield.



10. N'golo Kante named Football Writers' Association Footballer of the year

The 26-year-old Chelsea's famous footballer N'Golo Kante was voted Player of the Year by the Football Writers Association (FWA) edging out Chelsea teammate Eden Hazard.



Voting was done among 17 players including five from Chelsea. Recently, N'Golo Kante was honored with Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award.

Kante is the 4th Chelsea player to be voted FWA Footballer of the Year in the 69-year history of the award. Others recipients were Gianfranco Zola (1997), Frank Lampard (2005) and Hazard (2015).

11. NBA Officially Opens First Academy of Its Kind in India

The National Basketball Association (NBA) announced the official opening of NBA Academy India. It is an elite basketball-training centre at Jaypee Greens Integrated Sports Complex in Delhi for the top male and female prospects from throughout India.



Twenty-one elite male prospects, who were selected following a three-month, nationwide basketball talent search, will receive scholarships and training at NBA Academy India. Three experienced coaches have been selected to guide the development of the players at NBA Academy India.

12. Asian Wrestling Championship 2017

India stood fifth among the 12 participating teams in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2017. Bajrang Punia provided India its only gold medal after he defeated South Korea's Seunghui Lee 6-2 in the final of the men's 65kg freestyle category. India bagged a total of 10 medals, which included five silver and four bronze medals.



Sakshi Malik (60 kg), Divya Kakran (69 kg), Vinesh Phogat (55 kg) and Sarita (58 kg) won silver in the women's category while Ritu Phogat (48 kg) and Jyoti (75 kg) won the bronze. Sumit (125 kg) won the silver in the men's free-style while Harpreet Singh (80 kg), Anil Kumar (85 kg) won the bronze in men's greco-roman. Japan ranked top in the list followed by Iran.

13. VVS Laxman Awarded Honorary Life Membership by Marylebone Cricket Club

The MCC has elected former India batsman VVS Laxman as an Honorary Life Member of the Club. He joins fellow India icons Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly on the prestigious list of MCC Honorary Life Members.

Laxman played 134 Test matches and 86 One-Day Internationals. He scored 8,781 Test runs at an average of 45.97, and over 2,338 One-Day International runs at an average of 30.76. He was the 2002 Wisden Cricketer of the Year.



14. Vijay Goel, Carles Puyol handed over First Ticket of FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Vijay Goel attended an event to promote the ticketing launch for FIFA Under-17 World Cup India 2017 at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. Spanish World Cup winner, Carles Puyol joined the Minister on the occasion. Shri Goel and Carles Puyol handed over the first ticket to Ms. Gouri Bhaduri, the grand daughter-in-law of Shibdas Bhaduri, captain of Mohun Bagan AC.



Tickets for the first FIFA event in the country will go live on May 16 at exactly 19:11 hrs, paying tribute to the year in which Indian football made history.

15. Ramit Tandon won maiden PSA title

US-based Indian squash player Ramit Tandon won his maiden professional title with a convincing win over compatriot Kush Kumar in the SYS Open. The one-time top Indian junior, Tandon, who had come into this event as a qualifier beat third seed Kumar 11-3, 11-2, 11-3 in the final.



This was Tandon's third appearance in a Professional Squash Association final. This was his second tournament in the year, the earlier being a brief appearance in the qualifying phase in the Tournament of Champions.

16. Arjun Maini became first Indian to win a GP3 race

Jenzer Motorsports' 19-year-old Indian driver Arjun Maini created history by becoming the first Indian driver to win a GP3 race. Jenzer Motorsports was co-powered by TVS Motorsport and JK Racing.



This victory has placed him in the driver's championship standings at 3rd position. He created record with an amazing six-second gap to the nearest car behind him. While competing for race, Arjun finished off ahead of Frenchman Dorian Boccia and teammate Alessio Lorandi of Italy.

17. India retain top position in latest ICC Test rankings

India have retained its top position in the latest ICC Test rankings with 123 points. Now, India are six points ahead over the second placed South Africa. Australia ranks third in the list and is 26 points behind India. England has stayed in fourth position followed by New Zealand at 5th, Pakistan at 6th, Sri Lanka at 7th, West Indies at 8th and Bangladesh at 9th.



Out of the 13 matches that India played on the home turf, India registered wins in 10 matches, lost two and one ended in a draw.

18. Mohammad Anas created national record of 400m race

Kerala's Mohammad Anas created national record in men's 400m race on route by completing race in 45.32 sec at the third leg of the Indian Grand Prix Athletics Meet and bagged a gold medal. He qualified for The World Championships to be held in London in August 2017.



The runner-ups of the race were Rajiv Arokia and Sachin Baby, finishing off race in 46.32 secs and 47.18 secs. The other qualifiers for World Championship were Davinder Singh Kang of Punjab in category Men's javelin throw.

19. Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut created cricket history with a record 320-run stand

India women's cricket team openers Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut created cricket history with record 320-run stand for the Indian women's cricket team in their ODI encounter against Ireland. The team scored 358 for 3 in 50 overs in the match at Potchefstroom in South Africa.



Deepti made 188 off 160 balls, hitting 27 fours and 2 sixes while Poonam made 109 off 116 balls, with 11 fours. Deepti's 188 is the second highest individual score by a woman cricketer in ODIs. Belinda Clark of Australia holds the record with 229 runs scored against Denmark in 1997.

20. Vijay Goel Launched a Big Football Balloon to Popularise Football

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Vijay Goel launched a 25-ft football in New Delhi to popularize the game in the country.



Mr Goel has invited players with a minimum age of 8 years to upload their video, or bio-data on the Sports Ministry Talent Search Portal, after which young players will be adopted and given scholarships by the Sports Authority of India.

The objective behind the event is to popularize football in the country, in view of FIFA Under-17 World Cup being hosted in India from October 6 to October 28, 2017.

21. India won 10 gold medals in South Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships

India have won all 10 gold medals on offer in the South Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships held at Mount Lavinia, near the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.



In addition, India also claimed four silver medals from the regional championships. Earlier, the Indian and Sri Lankan juniors booked their berths in the Asian Juniors, to be held in Ansan, Korea from 29th of next month.

22. Indian eves win the four nation women's cricket tournament

Indian women's cricket team has won the four nation women's cricket tournament played in South Africa.

In the final, India beat hosts South Africa by eight wickets with 102 balls remaining. India's Poonam Raut was declared player of the match while opening batswomen Dipti Sharma was declared player of the series.

With this win, Mithali Raj became the first Indian and third women cricket captain in the world to lead 100 One-day Internationals.



23. R Vaishali wins women's title in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess

India's R Vaishali won the women's title in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in Chengdu, China. She won the title with eight points from nine rounds.

Vaishali clinched the gold medal after drawing her final round game against Uurtsaikh Uuriintuya of Mongolia to finish half-a-point ahead of Iran's Sarasdat Khademalsharieh. Padmini Rout of India finished third with seven points after a last round win over Yuxin Song of China.



24. HCL to host Asian Junior Tennis Championship 2017

HCL will host Asian Junior Tennis Championship 2017, the most reputed tennis championship in the Asian circuit for the under 18 category in association with the Maharashtra State Lawn tennis Association.

The Championship is the only B1 category tournament in Asia. Players from 11 countries in the region - Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Hong-Kong, Malaysia, China, Sri Lanka, Iran and India - will participate.

The Championship is the second highest tournament anywhere in the world after the junior grand slams.



25. Germany's Alexander Zverev won Italian Open

20-year-old Germany's Alexander Zverev won Italian Open title, defeating four-time Rome champion Novak Djokovic by 6-4, 6-3. With this victory, he became the youngest player to win a Masters 1000. Zverev has bagged four career titles until now, in year 2017.



Zverev was praised as he broke in the first game of the final on his way to the first set and carved out the crucial first break of the second set in the third game. The Italian Open women's Singles Title 2017 was won by Ukraine's Elina Svitolina.

26. Mumbai Indians bagged tenth IPL

Mumbai Indians lifted the 10th Indian Premier League trophy of cricket for the third time beating Rising Pune Supergiant. Mumbai Indians successfully defended a score of 129 score and restricted Pune to 128/6 to win their third IPL trophy.



With the victory, Rohit Sharma became the most successful IPL captain, who led his team to the third title in the last ten years. Some players brilliantly performed such as Johnson who not only dismissed Tiwary off the second ball but also took the crucial wicket of Smith off the third.

27. Ravichandran Ashwin honoured with International Cricketer of the Year Award

Cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin won the international cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017. With this, he became third Indian cricketer after Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar to win the ICC Cricketer of the Year Award.



R Ashwin has taken 99 wickets in the last one year and became the fastest Indian bowler to reach the 50-, 100-, 150-, 200-, and 250-wicket mark in Test Cricket. In the past, R. Ashwin has also been honoured with Arjuna Award, BCCI's International Cricketer of the Year award and ICC Test Cricketer of the Year Award.

28. ICC Cricket Committee recommended DRS for T20 Internationals

ICC Cricket Committee chaired by India's head coach Anil Kumble made a host of recommendations at its annual meeting in London concerning future international cricket. One of the notable recommendations is the use of DRS for all T20 Internationals.

Another important recommendation is to give power to on-field umpires to send-off players in response to the most serious incidents of player's misconduct, such as violence on the field. The committee expressed unanimous support for the implementation of a Test cricket competition. It also reiterated its full support for cricket being involved in the Olympic Games.

