

CURRENT AFFAIRS



OCTOBER 2017

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Current Affairs – October 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 **October 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. The President appointed five new governors

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Governors in five states and Lieutenant Governor in one Union Territories. Former Union Minister Satya Pal Malik was appointed as the new Governor of Bihar while Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit will now be the new Governor of Tamil Nadu. Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar, Jagdish Mukhi replaced Mr. Purohit as the Governor of Assam.

Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi will be the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar in place of Prof. Mukhi. B D Mishra has been appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Ganga Prasad as Governor of Meghalaya.



2. Rajni Kant Mishra takes charge as new DG SSB

Rajni Kant Mishra took over as Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) succeeding Smt. Archana Ramasundaram. He is a U.P. Cadre Police Officer of 1984 Batch. Mr. Mishra joined CBI in the year 2002 and worked there as DIG & IG until 2009. He joined Border Security Force (BSF) in June 2013 and worked as IG/ADG BSF, Frontier Headquarters, Tripura and South Bengal.

Before taking over the charge of DG, SSB, he was working as ADG, BSF Headquarters. Mr. R. K. Mishra is a recipient of Police Medal in 2003 and Prestigious President Police Medal in 2009.



3. Soumya Swaminathan appointed as the new Deputy Director General at WHO

The 58-year-old Soumya Swaminathan was appointed as one of two new Deputy Directors General at WHO. With this, she will be called to hold the second-highest position in the global body working under Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The other Deputy Director General for Corporate Operations (DDC) is Ms Jane Ellison whereas Soumya Swaminathan will be Deputy Director General for Programs.



Prior to this appointment, Soumya was the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Soumya Swaminathan has served as clinical scientist and the director of the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis.

4. Param Shah selected as the FICCI UK Director

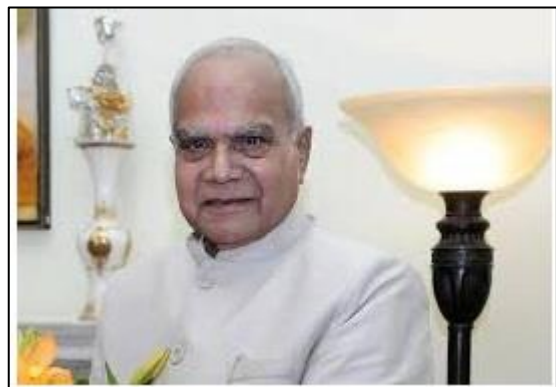
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry selected Param Shah as the new Director for the United Kingdom (UK) operations, replacing Pratik Dattani. Param Shah has served for more than 15 years in various capacities, which also include his experience as Deputy Secretary General for Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Prior to this appointment, he was head of FICCI – Gujarat State Council. Now Biju Namboothiri has been appointed as the new head of FICCI Gujarat State Council.

5. Banwarilal Purohit selected as the new Governor of Tamil Nadu

Chief Justice of Madras High Court Indira Banerjee administered the oath of office to the new Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan in Chennai. With this oath, he became 25th governor of Tamil Nadu. He has handled various responsibilities such as member of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Home Affairs, member of the Standing Committee on Defence, Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Defence Ministry and a member of the Public Sector Undertaking Committee.



He has also served as Governor of Assam State in 2016 and as a Member of Parliament from Nagpur.

6. Appointments by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

Following are the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet:

- Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change as Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Expenditure
- Shri C.K. Mishra, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- Shri Injeti Srinivas, IAS, Secretary, Department of Sports & DG, SAI as Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Shri Alok Shrivastava, IAS, Special Secretary, Ministry of Shipping as Secretary, Department of Justice.



7. Anupam Kher appointed as the Chairman of FTII Pune

Anupam Kher, veteran cine star, was appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Kher succeeded Shri Gajendra Chauhan. Shri Kher who has appeared in over 500 films is a recipient of the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan for his contribution in the field of cinema.

Earlier he served as the Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and was the Director of National School of Drama from 2001 to 2004. FTII is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



8. U.S. Chamber Appoints Nisha Desai Biswal as the President of the US-India Business Council

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce announced that the Hon. Nisha Desai Biswal has been appointed as the President of the US-India Business Council.

Biswal served as Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in the U.S. Department of State from 2013 to 2017. In recognition of her efforts, Biswal was awarded the prestigious Samman Award by the President of India in January 2017. USIBC is the largest bilateral trade association in the United States, with liaison presence in New York, Silicon Valley, and New Delhi.



9. V M Kwatra appointed as the Ambassador to the Principality of Monaco

Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra, (IFS: 1988), presently the Ambassador of India to France, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Principality of Monaco, with residence in Paris.

Mr. Kwatra will replace Dr. Mohan Kumar. Mr. Kwatra was a joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. 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.



10. HSBC named Retail Head John Flint as their next CEO

HSBC Holdings Plc has named John Flint as its next Chief Executive Officer. Flint is currently head of retail banking and wealth management. He will take over from incumbent Stuart Gulliver in February.

Flint joined HSDB in 1989. During his career at HSBC, he has worked across most of its businesses - treasurer, deputy head of markets, chief of staff and head of strategy.

The appointment marks the first major decision taken by the bank's new chairperson, former AIA Group chief Mark Tucker.



11. Gautam Bambawale appointed as India's new ambassador to China

IAS officer Gautam Bambawale was appointed as India's new envoy to China replacing Vijay Gokhale, by the external affairs ministry. Gautam has served in Hong Kong and Beijing between 1985 and 1991.

In Beijing, he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Indian Embassy in Beijing.

He has experience of working as a director in the Americas Division of the ministry from 1993-94 and first as desk officer for China in the Ministry of External Affairs.



12. Ex-French Culture minister Audrey Azoulay appointed as the UNESCO Chief

Former French Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay was selected as UN cultural agency new Chief by UNESCO's executive board. She replaced Bulgaria's Director-General Irina Bokova. Bulgaria's Irina Bokova completed her 8-year service. She was criticized for Palestine's inclusion as a member. She was selected by a 28-30 win vote over her competing Qatari candidate Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari.

45 year old Audrey is second French leader of the organisation since Rene Maheu, UNESCO's director general from 1961-74.



13. Rukaiya Rangwala selected as the head of MobiKwik Payment Gateway

Former Jabong vice-president Rukaiya Rangwala was selected as Business Head of 'MobiKwik Payment Gateway' by major digital wallet MobiKwik. Rukaiya Rangwala will have to look after Mobiwik's re-launched payment gateway Zaakpay as MobiKwik Payment Gateway which assumes to have over \$5 billion worth of transactions processed on the platform by the end of 2017-18.

Rukaiya Rangwala has served for 15 years in various organizations such as Dell, Rocket internet, Groupon India and Marketplace division at Jabong. Mobiwik is all ready to expand its payment gateway operations for over 30,000 ecommerce websites and apps.



14. Sunny Verghese appointed as the new Chairman of The World Business Council

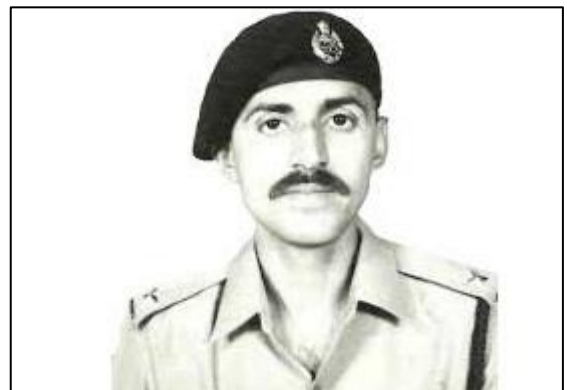
Sunny Verghese was announced as new Chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable Development, with effective from 1 January 2018 for a duration of two years. Prior to this, he was Co-Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer of Olam International. The appointment was enacted by a vote from members at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of WBCSD.



Sunny Verghese will replace Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, who has been Chairman of WBCSD since 2014. Verghese also serves as a commissioner of the Business and Sustainable Development Commission.

15. Shri Alok Kumar Pateria appointed as the ADG of the CISF

The appointments committee of the cabinet has approved the appointment of Alok Kumar Pateria as the new additional director general (ADG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on deputation basis for a period up to May 31, 2020 - day of his superannuation from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Pateria is a 1986 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre. He was awarded the President's Medal in 2010 for handling various sensitive and high profile cases for the government.

16. IPPB appoints Suresh Sethi as their MD & CEO

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has appointed Mr. Suresh Sethi as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Prior to this appointment, Mr Sethi was MD of Vodafone M-Pesa Ltd.



Mr. Sethi has broad international experience of over 27 years in the Banking and Financial Services industry with Citigroup, YES Bank and Vodafone M-Pesa across India, Kenya, UK, Argentina and US.

IPPB has been incorporated as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts with 100% GOI equity.

17. Rakesh Asthana appointed as the new CBI Special Director

The cabinet committee for appointments has appointed 1984- batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as CBI special director. He is currently posted as additional director.

Similarly, Gurbachan Singh has been appointed Special Director in Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Sudeep Lakhtakia as Special DG in CRPF.

Rajesh Ranjan and AP Maheshwari have been promoted as Special DG in the Border Security Force (BSF). AGMUT cadre IPS officer of 1984 batch Deepak Kumar Mishra has been named Special DG in CRPF.



18. Jayant Rikhye appointed as the CEO of HSBC India

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited has appointed Jayant Rikhye as the Chief Executive Officer for HSBC India with effect from 1 December 2017, subject to regulatory approvals.

Mr. Rikhye is currently Head of International, Asia-Pacific, responsible for 11 markets in the region. He is also Head of Strategy and Planning, Asia-Pacific.

Mr. Rikhye succeeds Stuart Milne. Rikhye joined the bank in 1989. During his tenure with HSBC, Rikhye has worked across various divisions.



19. Sibi George will be the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Sibi George as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland. He will replace Smita Purushottam.

George is presently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Mr. George is a 1993 batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer. He has also served as deputy chief of mission of Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia.



20. NS Venkatesh appointed as the new CEO of AMFI

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has appointed N S Venkatesh as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), after C V R Rajendran vacated the post in mid of 2016.

Mr. Venkatesh is currently working as the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer of Lakshmi Vilas Bank. Before that, Venkatesh served in Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for over 19 years, where he held several senior positions.

Amfi has been hunting for a new CEO for quite some time after Rajendran left while half way through in his tenure.



Awards

1. FB Group 'My Delhi Keep It Clean' gets Swacchata Award for voluntary citizen action

Delhi based citizen group 'My Delhi Keep It Clean' gets the award for promoting voluntary efforts to clean public places effectively using Face Book, in the Self-Help Group category, by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs on the occasion of the third anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission(Urban).



Other recipients were fertilizer cooperative, KRIBHCO chosen among the Companies category for marketing the highest quantity of 22,768 tons of compost during 2016-17. The Ministry felicitated 20 individuals and agencies in seven categories for significant contribution towards furthering the Clean India objective in urban areas.

2. PM presented the Swachh Bharat Awards on Gandhi Jayanti

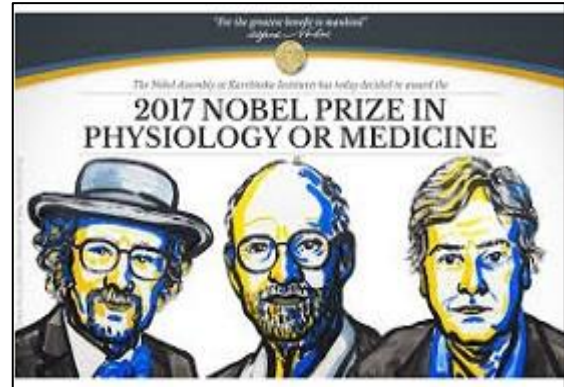
The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on the third anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Swachh Bharat Diwas, and the conclusion of Swachhata Hi Seva, gave away the Swachh Bharat National Awards at a ceremony in New Delhi. Awards were given to winners of essay, film and painting competitions organized as part of Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi.



The PM inaugurated a multimedia exhibition at the venue, which demonstrated various aspects of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign and the Swachh Bharat Mission progress in the country.

3. The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awarded to Jeffrey, Michael and Young

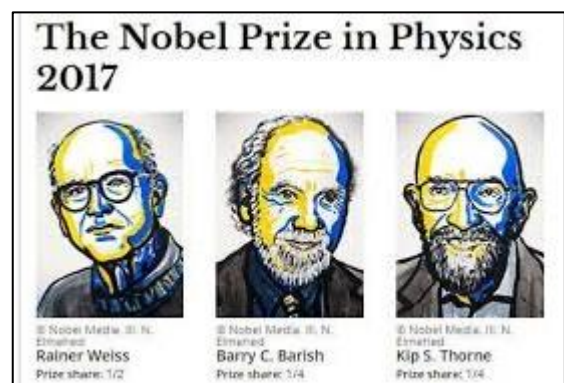
The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2017 was awarded to USA's trio Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm. Awardees will be honoured with £825,000 and a medal encrypted with their name by The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute.



Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with the Earth's revolutions. Using fruit flies as a model organism, this year's Nobel laureates isolated a gene that controls the normal daily biological rhythm.

4. The 2017 Nobel Prize for Physics shared by three people

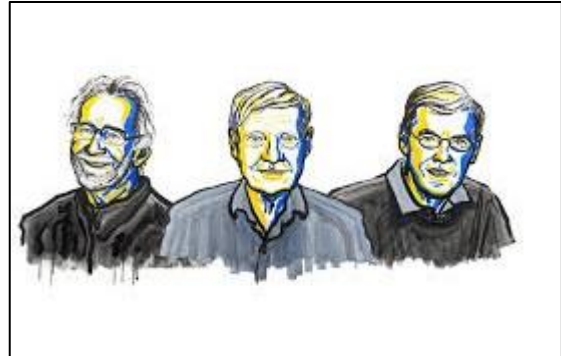
The Nobel Prize in Physics 2017 was divided, among three, one-half awarded to Rainer Weiss, the other half jointly to Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne "for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves".



In 2015, the universe's gravitational waves were observed for the very first time. The waves, which were predicted by Albert Einstein a hundred years ago, came from a collision between two black holes. It took 1.3 billion years for the waves to arrive at the LIGO detector in the USA. The 2017 Nobel Laureates completed the project.

5. The 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry shared by three people

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017 was awarded to Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson "for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution". Cryo-electron microscopy, which both simplifies and improves the imaging of biomolecules. This method has moved biochemistry into a new era.



Researchers can now freeze biomolecules mid-movement and visualize processes they have never previously seen, which is decisive for both the basic understanding of life's chemistry and for the development of pharmaceuticals. Awardees will receive 9 million Swedish krona, to be shared equally between the Laureates.

6. Indian Entrepreneur B. Sasmal honoured with the UK Business Award

Indian Businessman and CEO of Subah, Birendra Sasmal was honoured with Asian Achievers Awards in London for International Business Person of the Year.

He was honoured for his immense contribution in turnover of a company into IT, telecoms and manufacturing success story thus extending its operations across West Africa.



Birendra Sasmal is based in Ghana. He has not only increased the company's group revenue by over 3,000%, but also has proved it as one of Africa's fastest growing tech company.

7. Ministry of Health received the award for 'Swachhta Pakhwada'

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been adjudged as the best department for its contribution during Swachhta Pakhwada, an inter-Ministry initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The award was presented to the Ministry on 2 October 2017, the third anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission. Shri C K Mishra, Secretary (HFW) received the award on behalf of the Ministry.



Swachhta Pakhwada started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhta by engaging GOI Ministries/Departments in their jurisdictions.

8. Kazuo Ishiguro honoured with 2017 Nobel Literature Prize

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2017 was awarded to 64 year old English author Kazuo Ishiguro "who, in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world". Ishiguro's writings are marked by a carefully restrained mode of expression, independent of whatever events are taking place.



He has written novels such as 'A Pale View of Hills', 'An Artist of the Floating World', 'The Remains of the Day' etc. Apart from his eight books, Ishiguro has also written scripts for film and television.

9. 2017 Nobel Peace Prize honoured to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

The Norwegian Nobel Committee decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The organization is receiving the award for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.



Through its work, ICAN has helped to fill this legal gap. Furthermore, ICAN has been the leading civil society actor in the endeavor to achieve a prohibition of nuclear weapons under international law.

10. The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences 2017 to Richard H. Thaler

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decided to award the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 to Richard H. Thaler (University of Chicago, IL, USA) "for his contributions to behavioral economics". Richard Thaler's contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.



Richard H. Thaler has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making. By exploring the consequences of limited rationality, social preferences, and lack of self-control, he has shown how these human traits systematically affect individual decisions as well as market outcomes.

11. Journalist Late Gauri Lankesh honoured with Anna Politkovskaya Award

Late Kannada journalist Gauri Lankesh became first Indian to be honoured with Reach All Women in WAR (RAW in WAR) Anna Politkovskaya Award. Anna Politkovskaya Award was given to journalist Gauri Lankesh and Pakistani peace activist Gulalai Ismail who was threatened by Taliban for raising voice against them.



Anna Politkovskaya Award is given to brave-heart human rights defenders and victims of war who raise voice against wrong. Gauri Lankesh often raised her voice against religious violence, caste system and rise of Hindu groups. She was shot dead by unidentified killers in the lobby of her apartment in Bengaluru.

12. M K Sanu honoured with Mathrubhumi Literary Award 2016

Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 was honoured to veteran malyalam biographer and orator M K Sanu for his immense contribution to the Malayalam literature. He was given prize money of Rs. 2 lakh, a citation and a statuette. Mathrubhumi Literary Award is established by Mathrubhumi Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.



The 89-year-old Sanu has been previously awarded for Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, Vayalar Award, Padmaprabha Award, Kendra Sahitya Adademi Award and Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award. Some of his best contributions are "Narayanaguru Swami", "Mruthyunjayam" "Kavyajeevitham" and "Prabhatha Darshanam".

13. The 2017 Blue Planet Prize honoured to Hans Joachim Schellnhuber

Environmental scientist and Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber was given environmental science award Blue Planet Prize for 2017 for establishing a new field of science, Earth System Analysis, and introducing most influential concepts including the notion of tipping elements in the climate system.



It is given to honour excellent thinkers who help to meet challenges of planetary dimensions. Hans Joachim was given 50 million yen as prize money. Other recipients were Gretchen Daily of Stanford University, USA for her outstanding research about biodiversity and natural capital.

14. ISKCON's Govardhan Eco Village honoured with the Green Platinum Award

Palghar district's Govardhan Eco Village was honoured with green platinum award by Indian Green Building Council. International Society for Krishna Consciousness has set up Govardhan Eco Village. The village is an independent farm community and retreat centre spread over an attractive landscape of 100 acres at Galtare in Wada taluka. Green Platinum award is given by the CII to enable sustainable built-environment for all.



Govardhan Eco Village is famous for its progressive work towards organic farming, cow protection, eco- friendly rural development, methods of using alternative energy and go green constructions.

15. Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan to Get Lata Mangeshkar Award

Playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan have been selected for the Madhya Pradesh government's prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award for their contribution in the field of music composition and singing.



Noted music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri and Anu Malik were also selected for the award. Each award winner will get a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh, shawl, shreephal (coconut) and a citation.

This award is given every year alternatively to music directors and playback singers.

16. Indian-Origin couple received top US Award for AIDS Research

Professors Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim were honoured for their exceptional contributions in the field of HIV/AIDS by Institute for Human Virology (IHV) in Baltimore in the US.



The South African Indian-origin researcher couples were presented the award by Robert Gallo, who discovered HIV as the cause of AIDS.

This professor couple was the first to demonstrate that Antiretrovirals could prevent sexual transmission of HIV in 2010.

17. L&T Technology Services conferred with the CII Industrial Innovation Award, 2017

L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTS) was conferred with the CII Industrial Innovation Award, 2017 that recognized it as one of the most innovative Indian companies in the services category at the CII Industrial Innovation Awards ceremony in New Delhi.



The Confederation of Indian Industry lauded LTTS' efforts to create a collaborative ecosystem comprising of global technology firms and internationally reputed institutes to make advances in R&D, creating best in class engineering solutions that can benefit the nation.

18. EDII honoured with the AICTE Award

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India was recognized for from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for supporting start-ups, at International Science Festival's Start-up Summit – 2017 held in Chennai. AICTE honours various outstanding achievement by academic and research institutes of India who promote active start-ups and entrepreneurs. Start-up contest winners were also announced at the summit.



The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India has a curriculum that encourages new businesses and students to start new business ventures. EDII also has started a business incubation centre for Advancing and Launching Enterprises.

19. Andhra Pradesh CM received the Golden Peacock Award in London

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been awarded with the 'Golden Peacock Award' under the category - Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation - at a convention in London for excelling in public services.



The Golden Peacock Award, instituted by the Institute of Directors (IOD), India in 1991, is regarded as a benchmark of corporate excellence worldwide.

Mr. Naidu's wife and Managing Director of the Heritage Foods, Nara Bhuvaneshwari also received the award under the category - Corporate Governance and Sustainability.

20. Sharmila Tagore honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award

Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry for her contribution in the field of cinema. She made her debut in Satyajit Ray's Bengali film "Apar Sansar" in 1959.

She went on to feature in classics such as "Aradhana", "Mausam", "Amar Prem", "Satyakam", among others. She received the National Award for Best Actress for the film "Mausam". She also received National Award for Best Supporting Actress for 2003 Bengali film, "Abar Aranye".



Books & Authors

1. Pranab Mukherjee launched the third book in series of political memoirs, "The Coalition Years: 1996 to 2012"

Former president Pranab Mukherjee released the third part of his memoir 'The Coalition Years: 1996-2012'. Mukherjee's memoir is the third in the series. The other two are – The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years and The Turbulent Years: 1980-1996.

A fourth book on the Presidential years is in the works. Pranab Mukherjee was the longest serving member of Congress working committee before he went on to become the 13th President of India.



2. US author George Saunders wins the 2017 Man Booker Prize

US author George Saunders has won the 2017 Man Booker Prize. He became only the second American writer to win Britain's renowned Prize, which was awarded for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo". The prize was announced at a ceremony in London.

Judges for the prestigious English-language literary award praised the book as utterly original that chronicles the death of Abraham Lincoln's 11-year-old son Willie using the accounts of hundreds of narrators.



3. Eminent Poet Prabha Varma selected for Padma Prabha Puraskaram

Eminent poet, lyricist and journalist Prabha Varma has been chosen for the prestigious Padma Prabha Puraskaram 2017 for his contribution to Malayalam literature. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 75,000, a plaque and a citation. It was instituted by the Padma Prabha Memorial Trust.

Varma is the winner of Kendriya Sahitya Academi, Kerala Sahitya Academi and Vayalar awards etc. His major works include 'Chandananaazhi', 'Kalaprayaaga', 'Avicharithram' and 'Manjinothu Veyil Enna Poleyum'.



4. 'Beyond the Dream Girl', a biography of Hema Malini launched

Deepika Padukone launched the biography of veteran actor Hema Malini. The biography is titled *Beyond the Dream Girl*. It has been written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee.

The biography's foreword has been written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Hema Malini made her debut in 1968 with Raj Kapoor's *Sapno Ka Saudagar*. She starred in films like *Seeta Aur Geeta*, *Sholay*, *Dream Girl* and *Satte Pe Satta*. She is also an accomplished classical dancer.

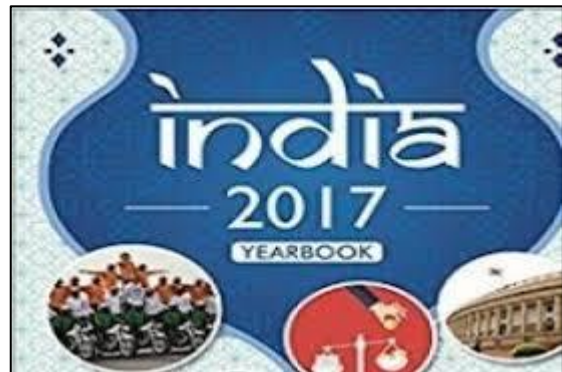


5. Rajiv Mehrishi's 'India 2017 Yearbook'

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje launched an e-book titled 'India 2017 Yearbook', compiled by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and former Union home secretary Rajiv Mehrishi.

The e-book includes a plethora of information on important dignitaries, state policy, public schemes and important data about demographics, trade, economy and many other topics.

This book will help civil services aspirants as well as bureaucrats, corporate, business or journalists.



Committees

1. TK Viswanathan Committee submitted report to deal with hate speech on internet

A committee was formed to propose new laws or amendments to deal with hate speech or cyber-crimes on the internet, under the leadership of former Lok Sabha Secretary General TK Viswanathan. Committee submitted report on section 66AA of IT Act, which states that Section 78 of the IT Act needs to be substituted and Section 153 and 505A of the Indian Penal Code need to be amended.

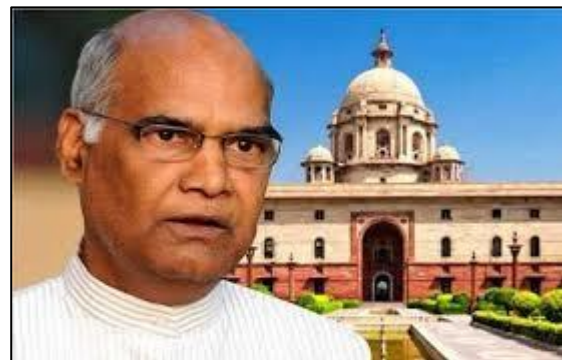
It has also suggested setup of State Cyber Crime Coordinator in each state and each district to have a District Cyber Crime Cell.



2. President appointed a Commission to Examine Sub Categorization of other Backward Classes

The President in exercise of the powers conferred by article 340 of the Constitution appointed a Commission to examine the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes. Sub categorization of the OBCs will ensure that the more backward among the OBC communities can also access the benefits of reservation for educational institutions and government jobs.

Commission will be headed by Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini. Other members are Dr. J.K. Bajaj, Ex-officio of Anthropological Survey of India, Ex-officio as Registrar General and Census



Commissioner, India and Secretary of Department of SJ&E.

3. Government constituted a High Level Committee for proper management of water resources

The Government has constituted a high-level committee for proper management of the water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER) under the Chairmanship of vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog. The Committee includes Secretaries from the Ministries of Development of NE Region, Department of Border Management, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and National Disaster Management Authority and Chief Secretaries of all the eight states in NER as Members.



The Committee would facilitate optimizing benefits of water management in the form of hydroelectric power, bio-diversity conservation and eco-tourism.

4. A 5-member Committee formed to select Candidate for Post of Editor-in-Chief of RSTV

The government has constituted a five-member committee to select the candidate for the post of editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV). The committee will be headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash with Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta, Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Additional Secretary (Personnel) in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat P P K Ramacharyulu and journalist Rahul Srivastava as the other members.



Gurdeep Singh Sappal, who was serving as the CEO and editor-in-chief of RSTV, had resigned from the post. Rajya Sabha TV is owned and operated by the Upper House of Parliament.

5. Government formed an expert group committee on AI policy

In order to invite expert group suggestions on artificial intelligence policy, government formed internal expert committee. The expert committee will suggest measures to the IT ministry on the most apt technologies to reduce cyber-attacks and frame policy on artificial intelligence.



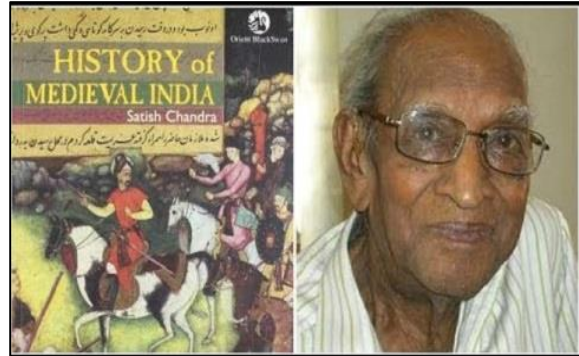
Government also took important step to form a seven-point strategy for using Artificial Intelligence. Strategy included human machine interactions, safety and security of AI systems, form a competitive workforce, research on AI technologies.

Deaths

1. Famous historian Satish Chandra dead

India's eminent historian of medieval India and noted educational administrator Satish Chandra passed away at age of 95. He has penned NCERT's medieval India textbook, two-volume book Medieval India, Parties and Politics at the Mughal Court, 1707-1740 and 'History of Medieval India'.

He founded JNU's Centre for Historical Studies. He has served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India during 1970s. He was famous for his detailed description on causes of the Mughal Empire's downfall.



2. Veteran British Actor Roy Dotrice passed away

Veteran British actor Roy Dotrice passed away at the age of 94 years. He was popular for his role as Leopold Mozart in the Oscar-winning film Amadeus and his many theater and TV roles.

Roy won Tony Award in 2000 for his role in the Broadway revival of A Moon for the Misbegotten. He also won a BAFTA best TV actor award in 1969 for his role in Misleading Cases. He began performing as a prisoner of war in Germany after his plane was shot down and he was prisoned from 1942 until 1945.



3. National Award winning Filmmaker I V Sasi passed away

Veteran Malayalam director I V Sasi passed away at the age of 69 years. He directed over 150 films in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. His debut directorial venture was Ulsavam, which released in 1975. His biggest successes was the 1978 film Avalude Ravukal.

Sasi won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration in the year 1982 for his movie Aaroodam.

Some of his best works include Aalkkoottathil Thaniye, Devasuram and Aavanazhi.



4. Padma Vibhushan Thumri Singer Girija Devi passed away

Eminent classical singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Girija Devi passed away at the age of 88 years. She is considered as the queen of thumri.

Girija Devi is a legendary singer of the Benaras gharana. She was awarded the Padma Shri in 1972, Padma Bhushan in 1989 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2016. She was fondly called Appa-ji. She was also honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1977) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (2010). She received Maha Sangeet Samman Award (2012). She was awarded the GiMA Award 2012 (Lifetime Achievement).



5. Noted Malayalam writer Punathil Kunjabdulla passed away

Noted Malayalam writer Punathil Kunjabdulla passed away at the age of 77 years. He was a doctor by profession.

He won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award in 1978 as well as Sahitya Akademi award in 1980 for his novel Smarakasilakal. He once again won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award for his other novel Malamukalile Abdulla (1980).

His other major works include Marunnu, Kanyavanangal, Kathi and Aligarh Kathakal.



Defence

1. Roll Out of ARPAN Version 3.0 for Defence Security Corps

Defence Security Corps personnel now have a software 'ARPAN', developed by Tech Mahindra, which shall ease personal documentation and all issues related to their progression.



The ARPAN software consisting of seven modules facilitates end to end human resource, financial management of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks with major functional advantages of timely processing of postings, promotions, release of salary, publication of personal occurrences and processing of pension has been rolled out by DCOAS (IS &T) for the Defence Security Corps. This software provides valuable data for decision and policy making for the Defence Security Corps Directorate.

2. DRDO transferred Technology for Bullet Proof Jacket

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has transferred the technology of Bullet Proof Jacket (BPJ) to M/S MKU Limited, Kanpur for manufacturing these for the Indian Army and Para-Military Forces personnel.



The Indian Army General Staff Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) No. - 1438 BPJ technology has been developed by Defence Materials & Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE), a Kanpur based premier laboratory of DRDO. This technology is challenging and one of the most significant matured personal protection systems developed by DRDO among the various GSQRs of Indian Army meeting NIJ III+ Standard.

3. Launch of Mobile Health App 'MedWatch' by the Indian Air Force

On its 85th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch'. 'MedWatch', available on the IAF's AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel. A Reminder Tool to enable timely immunization for the children of all Air Warriors is an important component of the App. This will directly enable 'Mission Indradhanush' of the Govt of India.



'MedWatch' is the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services.

4. The fifth JTE 'MITRA SHAKTI 2017' of India-Sri Lanka began in Pune

The fifth India – Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started with a grand Opening Ceremony conducted at Pune. The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same. The spectacular display of Unarmed Combat, Khukri Dance and Pipe Band was carried out by Indian Army and Udarata Narthanaya by Sri Lanka Army.



The India – Sri Lanka joint training exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 will send a strong signal to the world that both India and Sri Lanka understand the emerging threat of terrorism.

5. Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman commission's warship INS Kiltan in Indian Navy

Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman commissioned the indigenously built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan at the Eastern Naval Command.



INS Kiltan (P30) is an anti-submarine warfare corvette of the Indian Navy built under Project 28. It is the third of four Kamorta-class corvettes. The ship was built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata. It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material. INS Kiltan is also the first major warship to have undertaken sea trials of all major weapons and sensors as a pilot project.

6. Exercise INDRA - 2017: Indo-Russia Joint Exercise; First Ever International Tri Service Exercise

Exercise INDRA-2017, the first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces was conducted in the Eastern Military District of Russia from 19 to 29 Oct 2017. For the first time ever, this Exercise has been upgraded to involve all the three Services of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy & Air Force).



This exercise will be conducted at the 249th Combined Army Range Sergeevskiy and in the Sea of Japan near Vladivostok. The Indian contingent will comprise of 350 personnel from Army, 80 from Air Force, 2 IL 76 aircraft and 1 Frigate and Corvette each from the Navy.

7. Indian Navy Ships arrive at Jakarta for port visit

Indian Ships Tir, Sujata, Shardul, and ICGS Sarathi visited Jakarta, Indonesia from 18 to 22 Oct 17. The visit was aimed to expose the trainees to the conduct of IN warship in foreign waters, port familiarisation and foster bridges of friendship between the two countries. The visit of the ships coincided with the visit of Vice Admiral AR Karve, AVSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Southern Naval Command, which is the Training Command of the Indian Navy.



The ships belonged to the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy functioning under the Southern Naval Command, headquartered at Kochi.

8. A four-day conference of Navy commanders held in Delhi

A four-day Naval Commanders' Conference was held in New Delhi. The Conference served as a platform for institutionalized interaction between the Naval Commanders and senior government officials as also with the Chiefs of Indian Army and Indian Air Force.



The Chief of the Naval Staff, with the Commanders'-in-Chief, reviewed major Operational, Materiel, Human Resource, Training and Administrative activities undertaken in the last six months and deliberate the way-ahead on important activities and initiatives.

9. IAF Landing Operations on Agra-Lucknow Expressway

Indian Air Force carried out major landing operations on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway, about 60 km west of Lucknow. The series of landings took place close to Bangarmau in Unnao District of Uttar Pradesh, where a 3 km stretch was specially prepared for such operations.



Sixteen aircraft participated in the operation, which comprised IAF's frontline Air Superiority Fighters including the Sukhoi-30, Mirage-2000 and Jaguar fighter aircraft. These aircraft took off from Bareilly, Gwalior and Gorakhpur respectively.

10. INS Sukanya at Indonesia for Coordinated Patrol of IMBL

In pursuance with India's 'Act East Policy', Indian Naval Ship Sukanya arrived at Belawan Indonesia to participate in the 30th edition of CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and third bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy. The exercise is aimed to foster closer maritime ties with countries located on the rim of the Indian Ocean.



The upcoming bi-lateral exercise CORPAT is scheduled from 24 Oct – 05 Nov 17. The aim of the CORPAT is to enhance mutual understanding and inter-operability between the navies and prosecute vessels involved in unlawful activities.

11. Indian Navy approves new mission-based deployment plan

The Indian navy has approved a new Mission-based Deployment Plan that involves deploying mission-ready ships and aircraft along critical sea-lanes of communications.



Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba approved the plan on the second day of the four-day naval commanders' conference in New Delhi. A total of 14-15 ships will be deployed year-round in the region. These vessels are being used to monitor increased Chinese presence in these areas.

12. L&T handed over India's first private OPV

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) handed over India's first private offshore patrol vessel (OPV) 'Vikram' to Indian Coast Guard. L&T was given the contract in March 2017 to build seven offshore vessel patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard by the Union Ministry of Defense for an amount of Rs 1,432-crore.



OPV 'Vikram' is the first-ever defence craft to be built in a private shipyard. It has a range of 5000 nautical miles and can reach speed of up to 26 knots. It is fitted with one 30 mm automatic gun and two 12.7 mm gun with fire control systems.

Economic

1. Aeris Communications in union with BSNL to bring IoT solutions

The leading telecom services provider of India, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has entered into an agreement with leading Internet of Things (IoT) solutions provider Aeris to jointly-tap the IoT market in India. Together the companies will offer packaged IoT solutions and services to enterprises, small and medium businesses and public sector undertakings among other segments in India.

The Aeris IoT Services platform, a comprehensive, patented and end-to-end IoT enabler for enterprise will serve as a strong and robust foundation for projects involving IoT. This partnership will open doors for wider propagation of IoT projects across the country as part of India's digital transformation drive.



2. First US crude oil shipment arrived in Paradip

The first US crude oil cargo of 1.6 million barrels bought by Indian Oil Corporation from the US reached Paradip Port. Indian Oil will process the crude at its East-Coast base refineries, located at Paradip, Haldia, Barauni and Bongaigaon.

Indian Oil, which became the first Indian public sector refiner to source US Crude Oil, has placed a cumulative order 3.9 million barrels from the US. New arrangement would provide price stability and energy security for India. Bharat Petroleum has also placed orders from the US for about 2.95 million barrels and Hindustan Petroleum 1 million barrels for their Kochi and Vizag refineries.



3. Airtel Ghana received nod for Tigo Merger

The merger between Bharti Ghana (Airtel) and Millicom Ghana (Tigo) was pending for approval from Ghana's National Communications Authority. Ghana's National Communications Authority has provided approval for merger under certain conditions such as merged entities will have to present a network integration plan to the authority, over a period not exceeding 18 months, which will indicate how they intend to part with portions of their total spectrum allocation.



The merger approval is also subject to an option for government participation. Merger will empower entities to become the second largest mobile network operations in Ghana.

4. IMF reduced India's growth forecast for FY 2017-18 to 6.7%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered its growth forecast for the Indian economy by half a percentage point to 6.7% for FY 2017-18 because of disruptions caused by demonetization and roll out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

IMF expects the Indian economy to recover sharply in 2018 to grow at 7.4%.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF has raised global growth forecast for 2017 to 3.6%.



5. Growth Forecast of Indian Economy

In its South Asia Economic Focus (Fall 2017) released by the World Bank, India's GDP growth forecast was reduced to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier, blaming disruptions caused by demonetization and GST implementation. The World Bank has projected the Indian economy to improve and grow at 7.4% by 2019-20.

Both the Asian Development Bank as well as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have also cut their growth projections for India to 7% and 6.7%, respectively, for fiscal 2017-18.



6. Digital Payments to Grow at 26% CAGR during 2016-20

According to the World Payment Report, 2017 jointly commissioned by Capgemini and BNP Paribas, the non-cash transactions in India could grow at a CAGR of 26.2% during 2016-2020 as a result of various initiatives of the government and the National Payments Council of India (NPCI).

At that rate, India could potentially break into the global top 10 markets in terms of non-cash transaction volumes. It is expected that the digital transactions in India might reach close to 25 billion transactions during 2017-18, up from 4 billion in 2015-16.



7. Amazon and Microsoft in union to launch Deep Learning Platform

Amazon Web Services Inc., an Amazon company and Microsoft Corp. announced a new deep learning library, called Gluon, which allows developers of all skill levels to prototype create advice and deploy sophisticated machine learning models for the cloud, devices at the edge and mobile apps. With the Gluon interface, developers can build machine-learning models using a simple Python API and a range of prebuilt, optimized neural network components.



AWS and Microsoft published Gluon's reference specification so other deep learning engines can be integrated with the interface.

8. Direct tax collections in first half of current financial year rose to 15.8 %

The Direct Tax Collections in the first half of the current fiscal shows growth of 15.8%. The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections up to September 2017 show that net collections are at 3.86 lakh crore rupees which is higher than the corresponding period of 2016-17 Net Direct Tax collections represent 39.4% of the total budget estimates of Direct Taxes for Financial year 2017-18.

An amount of 1.77 lakh crore rupees has been received as Advance Tax up to 30th of September 2017, reflecting a growth of 11.5% over the corresponding period of 2016-17.



9. HPCL first to sell lubricants in Myanmar

Public sector undertaking Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd became the first Indian Oil Company in initiating selling of lubricants in Myanmar as part of broader plans of Indian retailers. State-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd launched its lubricants products in Yangon and Mandalay. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is an Indian state-owned oil and natural gas company with its headquarters at Mumbai.



This deal has helped both the countries, as Myanmar needs more fuel as per its domestic requirement and Indian oil companies are looking for opportunity in supply of petroleum products, LPG, wax and petrochemicals.

10. NITI Aayog predicts GDP may grow at 7% in Financial Year 2017-18

Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar has said that the GDP is likely to grow 6.9 to 7% this fiscal and 7.5% in 2018-19.

The growth in FY 2016-17 was 7.1% while in the first quarter of the current fiscal had slipped to 5.7%. IMF has lowered India's growth forecast to 6.7%, World Bank has pegged it at 7%.

The Asian Development Bank has lowered India's current fiscal growth to 7% while RBI cut economic growth forecast to 6.7% from earlier projection of 7.3%.



11. Myntra tied up with Textile Ministry to promote handloom industry

Online fashion e-tailer, Myntra, has launched its CSR initiative in association with the Union Textile Ministry, to work directly with weavers and elevate their economic stature.

Myntra will work on bringing artisans and their products online to provide them with access to new customers and opportunities. These products will retail on Myntra via a dedicated online store, creating a one-stop shop for handloom products. Myntra will also launch a new handloom brand during its upcoming annual Brand Summit, The Tech Threads, on November 2 in Bengaluru.



12. Income Tax department launched 'Online Chat' to answer Taxpayers Queries

The Income Tax Department has launched an 'online chat' service for taxpayers where they can ask basic queries and doubts relating to direct tax issues and get answers.

A window has been hosted on the main page of the department's website — www.incometaxindia.gov.in/ — with a prominent icon stating 'Live Chat Online - ask your query.' A team of experts from the department and independent tax practitioners has been deputed to answer the general queries of a taxpayer.



13. GSTN launched excel-based offline tool to file initial GSTR-3B Returns

The Goods and Services Tax Network has launched an excel-based offline tool for businesses to file initial GSTR-3B returns. The taxpayers can download the offline utility from the GSTN portal and after filling in the data, the file can be uploaded on GST portal.

The taxpayer can download the offline utility from the GST Portal under the Download Section. Taxpayers can open the GSTR-3B offline utility in their computer system, fill data and then create json file for uploading the same on GST Portal.



14. Honda raced past Bajaj to acquire No 2 spot in domestic bike sales

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) has overtaken Bajaj Auto to become the second biggest bike seller in India during the first half of the current financial year.

According to the latest data from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), HMSI sold a total of 10,48,143 motorcycles in the domestic market registering a growth of 19.8% during April-September 2017. Bajaj Auto sold 10,10,559 units witnessing a decline of 10.45%. Hero MotoCorp lead the market with 33,44,292 units sold in the tenure with a growth of 10.2%.



15. Foreign Exchange earnings through Tourism in India in September 2017

FEEs during the month of September 2017 were Rs. 13, 867 crore as compared to Rs.11 642 crore in September 2016. The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms in September 2017 over September 2016 was 19.1%. FEEs in US\$ terms during the month of September 2017 were US\$ 2.153 billion as compared to FEEs of US\$ 1.744 billion during the month of September 2016.



The growth rate in FEEs in US\$ terms in September 2017 over September 2016 was 23.5%. FEEs are estimated on basis of per capita FEEs, FTAs and inflation factor.

16. MCX launched India's first commodity options in Gold

MCX launched India's first commodity options in Gold. The product is a unique and first of its kind, yet is the most familiar one to Indian market participants. It is the country's first listed, national-level, electronic, commodity futures exchange with permanent recognition from the Government of India.



MCX offers the benefits of fair price discovery and price risk management to the Indian commodity market ecosystem. Various commodities across segments are traded on the Exchange platform. These include bullion, energy, metals and Agri commodities.

17. ONGC plans to raise oil output by four MT by 2020

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has drawn a blueprint to raise crude oil production by four metric tonne (MT) and almost double natural gas output by 2020.



The state-owned firm will raise crude oil production from 22.6 MT in 2017-18 to 26.42 MT in 2021-22. The nation's biggest oil and gas producer has prepared the 'Roadmap for Import Reduction' two years after PM Modi set the target for reducing oil import dependence by 10%, from 77% in 2013-14. India spend almost 1 trillion dollar on crude imports from financial year 2005-06 to 2015-16.

18. WPI inflation eases to 2.6% in September

Wholesale inflation fell to 2.60% in September as prices of food articles, led by vegetables, softened. Inflation, based on the wholesale price index, WPI, had soared to a four-month high of 3.24% in August 2017. It was 1.36% in September 2017.

The government data showed that inflation in food articles reduced to 2.04% in September, as against 5.75% in August on a yearly basis. Inflation in vegetable prices cooled to 15.48% in September, as against a high of 44.91% in the previous month.



19. Maruti Becomes Largest Exporter of Passenger Cars from India

According to the latest data by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Maruti Suzuki India has become the largest passenger cars exporter from India in the first half of the current financial year. Volkswagen, General Motors and Hyundai Motor India Ltd were the others in the top four respectively.

During April-September 2017, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) exported 57,300 units of passenger cars. Volkswagen India exported 50,410 units while GM exported 45,222 units. HMIL shipped 44,585 units.



20. EPFO launched a new facility to link UAN with Aadhaar

EPFO has launched a facility for its subscribers to link their Aadhaar with their UAN online. Steps to link Aadhaar with UAN online:

1. Log on to the website - epfindia.gov.in.
2. Select the "e-KYC Portal" option under the "Online Services" section on the EPFO website to initiate the linking.
3. In the "Online Services" section, click on the "Link UAN Aadhaar" link.
4. Provide your EPFO UAN to proceed. This will generate an OTP that will be sent to his/her mobile linked with UAN.



21. GST Revenue Collection Figures stand at Rs.92, 150 crores

The total revenue of GST paid under different heads (up to 23 October 2017) for the month of September 2017 is Rs. 92,150/- crores. The total CGST revenue is Rs. 14,042 crore, SGST revenue is Rs. 21,172 crore, IGST revenue is Rs. 48,948 crore (of which IGST from imports in September 2017 is Rs. 23,951 crore) and Compensation Cess is Rs. 7,988/- crore (of which Rs. 722 crore is Compensation Cess from imports in September 2017).



The total number of GSTR 3B returns filed for the month of September 2017 is 42.91 lakhs (as on 23.10.2017).

22. Government increased the Wheat MSP by Rs. 110 per quintal, pulses by Rs. 200 a quintal

The government increased the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat by Rs. 110 to Rs. 1,735 a quintal and of gram and Masoor by Rs. 200 per quintal each to Rs. 4,200 and Rs. 4,150 respectively to help boost the output of these crops and check prices.



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the MSPs of all Rabi (winter-sown) crops for 2017-18. MSP is the rate at which government buys grain from farmers. The support prices are in line with the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

23. Government expected to raise Rs. 750 Crore through OFS of 5% shares of NLC India Limited

The Government of India is likely to raise Rs. 750 crores through disinvestment of 5% of paid-up equity shares of NLC India Limited (NLCIL) through Offer for Sale (OFS) mechanism. Post-disinvestment, the Government of India's shareholding in NLC will come down to 84.32%.



Government approved disinvestment of 3% equity shares of NLCIL as base offer, with an option to retain oversubscription up-to additional 2% equity shares. Retail investors are offered discount of 3.5% over cut-off price for non-retail category.

24. GPF to earn interest at the rate of 7.8%

The Government of India has announced that during the Financial Year 2017-18, accumulations at the credit of subscribers to the General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds shall carry interest at the rate of 7.8% with effect from 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.

This rate will be in force w.e.f. 1 October 2017. The rate is in line with that for Public Provident Fund. In July-September quarter too, the interest rate was 7.8%. This would apply on Provident Funds of central government employees, railways and defence forces.



25. India levies anti-dumping duty on steel from EU, China and Korea

India has slapped anti-dumping duty on certain stainless steel products from China, Taiwan, South Korea, South Africa, Thailand, the United States and the European Union, to protect the domestic industry from cheap imports. The duty has been imposed by the Revenue department following recommendation by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD).



The levy ranges between 4.58% and 57.39% of the landed value of cold-rolled flat products of stainless steel. The duty will be in effect until December 10, 2020, while certain grades of stainless steel have been exempted from the levy.

26. Joint Initiative of Oil & Gas Sector PSUs for Funding Start-Ups Takes Off

A joint 'Start-up Sangam' program by 10 oil & gas sector PSUs to fund innovative start-ups from across the country took off.

CEOs of major oil & gas sector PSUs exchanged MoU documents with representatives of about 30 start-up companies for funding their innovative ventures.

The 10 PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, that is, IOCL, ONGC, EIL, OIL, NRL, BPCL, HPCL, GAIL, Balmer Lawrie and MRPL, have created a corpus of Rs. 320 crore for a period of 3 years.



27. RCom-Sistema merger gets telecom department's approval

Reliance Communication Limited (RCOM) has received the Department of Telecommunication's (DoT) approval for the demerger of the wireless business of Sistema Shyam Teleservices Limited (SSTL) into RCOM. RCom spectrum portfolio will be enhanced by 30 MHz, valued at Rs 7,400 crore as per latest auction prices.



RCOM will acquire 30 MHz of the 800/850 MHz band spectrum, ideally suited for 4G LTE services. RCom will acquire approximately 2 million customers and additional annual revenues of around Rs. 700 crores.

28. RIL becomes the first Indian company to cross Rs. 6 Trillion market-cap

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs. 6 Trillion market capitalization. The shares of the company surged over 75% so far this year and hit a fresh lifetime high of Rs 947.25 on BSE as on 27 October. Currently, its market cap is at Rs. 6.02 Trillion.



The stock added nearly ₹3 Trillion market-cap since April after its telecom arm Reliance Jio started charging its customers. The telecom unit reported revenue of ₹6,147 crore and EBIT of ₹260 crore.

29. India overtakes US to become the second largest smartphone market

According to independent tech analyst, Canalys, India has overtaken the US to become the world's second-largest smartphone market behind China.

India's movement up the ladder was helped by cheap handsets and the proliferation of fourth generation, or 4G, services.

India received just over 40 million smartphone shipments in Q3 2017. Xiaomi shipped 9.2 million units while Samsung shipped 9.4 million in India.



Environment

1. Environment Ministry inaugurated the Global Wildlife Program

Environment Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Global Wildlife Program on Gandhi Jayanti. The theme of the Conference was - "Peoples' participation in wildlife conservation". India hosted the program jointly with World Bank and United Nations Development Program to address illegal wildlife trade across 19 Asian and African countries. 15-year National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-31), with a special focus on peoples' participation was launched.



The GWP held discussions on management of wildlife habitat, securing sustainable community livelihood, enhancing enforcement, monitoring, cooperation to reduce wildlife crimes such as poaching and related threats.

2. India and Nepal to conduct first joint tiger count

It has been for the first time that India and Nepal will unanimously conduct tiger census in various national parks, forests and sanctuaries in Nepal and those in India adjoining Nepal using the globally recognized method and same camera tapping method. Nepalese and Indian conservation officials and experts would capture tiger movements in tiger habitats as well as their roaming areas.



This practice will help in avoiding re-counting of same tigers. Tiger is categorized as an Endangered Animal, and the same was declared in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

3. Turtle Sanctuary to be set up in Allahabad

In order to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures, development of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad along with a River Biodiversity Park at Sangam have been approved under Namami Gange program.



The project at an estimated cost of Rs 1.34 crore would include development of River Biodiversity Park at Sangam, establishment of a Turtle Rearing and awareness about the importance of river Ganga. This project will provide much-needed platform to make the visitors aware of their place in the ecosystem, their roles and responsibilities.

4. Hemidactylus Kangerensis new gecko species discovered in Eastern Ghats

Scientists discovered new species of house lizards. It is named as Hemidactylus kangerensis, found in Chhattisgarh's Kanger valley rock. It is named after Chhattisgarh's Kanger Ghati National Park. According to the researchers, Hemidactylus was found in abandoned houses in the national park and juveniles on termite mounds and tree trunks.

Hemidactylus kangerensis has distinct features such as specific scales on its thighs (which are visible only on closer inspection) and black-bordered beige bands.



5. Ichthyosaur fossil discovered for first time in India

A team of scientists in India led by Prof Guntupalli VR Prasad has discovered a 152 million-year-old fossil of an ichthyosaur, which is said to be an extinct marine reptile in the western state of Gujarat.

It is for the first time an ichthyosaur fossil has been discovered in India. It was found inside rocks from the Mesozoic Era, which ran between 252 and 66 million years ago, in the Kutch desert. Only parts of the skull and tailbones were found to be missing. The name means fish-lizard, although the creature has been classified as a reptile since the mid-19th Century.



1. US fined \$175 Million on HSBC bank

HSBC Holdings PLC was fined \$175 million by U.S. Federal Reserve on basis of unsafe, negligent and unsound practices with respect to foreign exchange trading business.

HSBC dealers oversee foreign exchange traders who swapped confidential information about investment positions to boost their own profits and conspired with traders at competing banks.

HSBC is asked to improve its controls and compliance risk management, as a part of enforcement action by US Federal Reserve.



2. GDP to hit \$6 trillion by 2027 on digital leap: Morgan Stanley report

Morgan Stanley reported, India to be the world's fastest-growing large economy in the next 10 years, driven by digitization, favorable demographics, globalization and reforms. Morgan Stanley reported digitization to provide an enhancement of 50-75 bps to GDP growth and forecast that India will grow to a 6-trillion-dollar economy and achieve upper-middle income status by 2026-27.

Morgan Stanley reported that India's real GDP growth to compound annually at 7.1% and nominal GDP growth to compound at 11.2%, over the coming decade.



3. Government takes note of the decision of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee rates unchanged

The Government has taken note of the decision of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee to keep the policy rates unchanged.

The Ministry of Finance noted that this decision has been made by the MPC in light of the underlying analysis. This implies the following points – (i) a downward revision of the real GVA growth forecast for 2017-18 from 7.3% to 6.7%. This leads to a widening of the output gap and (ii) a marginally upward revision of the CPI inflation forecast for the second half of the year. This means that an average inflation for the year 2017-18 as a whole of less than 4%.



4. Government of India received first installment of data from 13 banks

Government of India received first installment of data from 13 banks regarding the bank account operations and post-demonetization transactions of some of the 2,09,032 suspicious companies that had been struck off the Register of Companies in earlier 2017. However operation of the bank accounts of these 2,09,032 suspicious companies were restricted for discharge of their liabilities only.



These 13 banks have submitted their First Installment of data. The data received from them pertains to merely about 5,800 companies involving 13,140 accounts. The data is only about 2.5% of suspected companies that have been struck off by the Government.

5. Fourth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy rates released by RBI

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 per cent.



The decision of the MPC is consistent with a neutral stance of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent.

6. Vijaya Bank united with HPCL for digital payments

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Vijaya Bank entered into an agreement for ease of digital payments. This will allow all HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UPI merchant solutions. Therefore, all petrol pump attendants and LPG delivery personnel will be able to accept digital payments. Customers can make payments by scanning QR code through BHIM Vijaya or any BHIM app.



Vijaya bank has thus participated in the rollout with HPCL for BHIM/ UPI payments. There will pilot launch at five outlets to enable UPI acceptance in all HPCL outlets throughout Karnataka.

7. World Bank reported India to retain its position in top Global Remittances Chart 2017

World Bank released estimated that India would retain its position in top remittances receiving country in 2017 with USD 65 Billion received by India in 2017. India received remittances amounting to USD 62.7 billion in 2016. According to World Bank report, remittances that include flows to high-income countries are expected to grow by 3.9% to USD 596 Billion.



Other countries that are expected to be in top five list are China (USD 61 billion), the Philippines (USD 33 billion), Mexico (USD 31 billion), and Nigeria (USD 22 billion).

8. NABARD buys additional 7% stake in SIDBI from IDBI Bank for Rs. 900 crore

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development's (NABARD) has bought an additional 7% stake in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for Rs 900 crore from IDBI Bank Ltd. NABARD's total shareholding in SIDBI has gone up to 10%.



IDBI had put its entire 16.25% stake in SIDBI on sale in August 2017. SIDBI is the principal financial Institution for the promotion, financing and development of the micro, small and medium enterprise sector.

9. Axis Bank appointed Sangram Singh as the CEO of Freecharge

Axis Bank Ltd, after successfully acquiring mobile wallet firm Freecharge, has appointed Sangram Singh as the CEO of Freecharge Payment Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The bank had acquired Freecharge for a cash consideration of Rs373.27 crore, on a cash free, debt free basis.



Freecharge presently has a revenue of about Rs. 80 crores. Snapdeal had bought Freecharge in April 2015 for an estimated \$400 million. The acquisition will help Axis Bank get access to about 52 million mobile wallet holders of Freecharge.

10. SBI launched SME Assist for MSME Clients

The State Bank of India launched a new product to provide a short-term working capital demand loan to its MSME clients. The new initiative, called SME Assist, would offer loans to MSME customers based on their input credit claims under GST. The loans will be offered at a concessional rate of interest. It will also help stabilize the SMEs to run their operations without any hurdle.



This product will help them to manage their working capital requirement until the time they get input credit. The loan-processing fee under the scheme is Rs. 2,000.

11. Pune to have MasterCard's first Innovation Centre

In order to strengthen its share in the Indian Fintech or digital payment space and focus on solving "India-specific" problems in the areas of technology and financial enablement, MasterCard launched its first Indian innovation centre in Pune, India. This innovation centre will be considered as second MasterCard Labs in Asia-Pacific and ninth in the world.



MasterCard Labs experiment new consumer based technology in sectors such as digital payments, data solutions, financial inclusion, alternative payments, safety and security. MasterCard recently signed a MoU with Andhra Pradesh Government for safe and secure digital solutions adoption at the state level in support of Digital India.

12. Yes Bank collaborates with Abu Dhabi Global Markets for advance Fintech opportunities

Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), the International Financial Centre in Abu Dhabi and YES BANK have signed an MOU to further foster cross-border exchange between the FinTech ecosystems of the UAE and India.



The collaboration will enable FinTech innovators from the Middle East region and India to apply into YES FinTech programs and the ADGM's Regulatory Laboratory (RegLab)* and have the opportunity to expand into each other's markets.

13. IBM Announced Major Blockchain Solution to Speed Global Payments

IBM announced a new Blockchain banking solution that will help financial institutions address the processes of universal cross-border payments, designed to reduce the settlement time and lower the cost of completing global payments for businesses and consumers.



Using IBM Blockchain, and in collaboration with technology partners Stellar.org and KlickEx Group, the solution is intended to improve the speed in which banks both clear and settle payment transactions on a single network in near real time.

14. Yes Bank to give Rs. 156 crores for Namami Gange Project

Yes Bank has committed to provide Rs. 156 crores to fund first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to be constructed at Varanasi under Hybrid Annuity-PPP Model. The bank has signed a deal with Essel Infraprojects.



Essel Infraproject marks India's first STP project under PPP Model to treat sewage-entering river Ganga. The agreement for the project was signed between Essel Infraprojects and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on October 11 in Delhi.

15. Moody's Affirms Rating on SBI's Bond Programs

Moody's Investors Service has affirmed State Bank of India's (SBI) local and foreign currency deposit ratings of Baa3/P-3. At the same time, Moody's has affirmed the Baa3 rating on the bank's senior unsecured debt (issued via its London branch) and (P)Baa3 rating on its senior unsecured medium term note (MTN) program.



Moody's has also affirmed SBI's baseline credit assessment (BCA) of ba1 and its adjusted BCA of ba1.

16. Banks to provide funds at 7% to women SHGs under DAY-NRLM

The Reserve Bank of India has said that banks will provide funds to women SHGs (Self-Help groups) in rural areas at 7% under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in the current financial year.

All women SHGs will be eligible for interest subvention on credit up to ₹ 3 lakhs, which will be at 7% per annum. Further, the SHGs will be provided with an additional 3% subvention on the prompt repayment of loans.



17. Cabinet approved bank capitalization plan of Rs. 2.11 lakh crores

The Cabinet has approved a capitalization plan of Rs. 2.11 lakh crore rupees for public sector banks over the next two years, in a bid to clean banks' books and revive investment in a slowing economy.

Out of Rs. 2.11 lakh crore, recapitalization bonds will account for Rs. 1.35 lakh crore, while Rs. 76,000 crore will come from budgetary support and equity issuance. Fitch Ratings estimates Indian banks will need \$65 billion of additional capital by March 2019 to meet Basel III global banking rules.



18. RBI sets up Task Force on 'Public Credit Registry'

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) formed a high-level task force on public credit registry (PCR) for India. The panel will review the current availability of information on credit in India. It will be headed by Y M Deosthalee, who is the former CMD of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. It will have nine other members.

The PCR is an extensive database to enhance the efficiency of credit market in India and help control delinquencies. The task force will submit its report by 4 April 2018.



19. EEPC India signed agreement with Punjab National Bank

The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India has inked a memorandum of understanding with Punjab National Bank to provide easy access to finance for SMEs and merchant exporters of the council. PNB will provide loans up to Rs. 10 crore within six to seven weeks of application at competitive rates.

PNB would also extend foreign currency loan facilities as a part of the agreement.

Engineering exporters would be given a 'Gold card' under which additional benefits like quicker sanction and disbursement of loan will be extended.



20. SBI inked MoU with Escorts for Tractor Financing

The State Bank of India (SBI) has inked a memorandum of understanding with Escorts Ltd., to finance farmers for purchase of Escorts tractors.

The tie-up with Escorts is to promote market and make accessible, organized finance facility, with superior features, at competitive interest rates to farmers across the country, who wish purchase Powertrac and Farmtrac tractors manufactured by Escorts. Escorts is a leading tractor and construction equipment manufacturer at Faridabad in Haryana.



21. IndusInd Bank launched Co-brand App with Mobikwik

IndusInd Bank, in association with Mobikwik, India's largest issuer-independent digital financial services platform, launched a co-branded wallet 'IndusInd Mobikwik' that allows IndusInd Bank customers to pay at the 2 million strong Mobikwik merchant network using their accounts, with a "Direct Debit Feature".

The unique 'Direct Debit Feature' will allow IndusInd Bank Account holders to link their accounts just once and pay using the cobrand App as and when required, thereby eliminating the need to load the Mobikwik prepaid wallet separately.



22. SBI to set up India's largest Innovation Centre at Mumbai

State Bank of India is creating the largest innovation centre by any financial services company in the country. This centre will be located at its Global IT Centre in Belapur in Navi Mumbai. The 15,000-sqft innovation centre is being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crores.

The centre will have 40 dedicated zones for each technology like blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning, among others. SBI has decided to allocate about 5% of its IT budget for innovation.



23. HSBC launched Trade Transactions Tracker App

HSBC has launched Trade Transaction Tracker, a mobile application (app) which will enable the bank's corporate customers to track their trade transactions on a real-time basis. This feature has been built into the existing HSBCnet Mobile Application and has been launched in select countries in which HSBC operates, including India.

The Trade Transaction Tracker is a simple, easy-to-use tool. It will provide a global view of import and export documentary credit and collections transactions, across markets in one single app.



24. RBI to make LEI mandatory for companies with over Rs 5 Crore Exposure

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to make Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory for companies having aggregate fund-based and non-fund based exposure over Rs. 5 crore. LEI is a unique 20 digit alphanumeric code that will be assigned to corporate borrowers. Banks will be required to capture this number in the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) database that captures details of loan above Rs. 5 crore.

RBI had made LEI compulsory for transactions in interest rate, forex and credit derivative market. Firms can obtain their LEI code from Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd (LEIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Clearing Corporation India Ltd.



25. IDFC Bank imposed with Rs. 2 crore penalty by RBI

The Reserve Bank of India has slapped a monetary penalty of ₹2 crore on IDFC Bank for contravention of regulatory restrictions pertaining to loans and advances.

The regulator also slapped a Rs. 6 crore penalty on Yes Bank Ltd for breaching its rules on classifying non-performing assets and failing to report a security incident involving its ATMs on time. The Yes Bank Ltd., violated the Income Recognition Asset Classification (IRAC) norms on dealing with assessment of bad loans as of March-end 2016.



26. Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed \$65.5 Million

The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a \$65.5 million loan agreement to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on the Western Coast in Karnataka.

The loan is the Second Tranche of a \$250 million financing facility under the Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program. The financing will be used for strengthening institutional capacity of Karnataka's Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department. The project will consist of eight coastal protection subprojects to address the issues of medium to severe coastal erosion resulting in protection of about 54 km of coastline in Karnataka.



27. Finance Minister launched use of Public Finance Management System for all Central Sector Schemes

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley launched the mandatory use of Public Finance Management System (PFMS) for all the Central Sector Schemes of the Government of India would help in tracking and monitoring the flow of funds to the implementing agencies.

The monitoring of funds through PFMS can reveal the actual status of utilization of funds by the multiple implementing agencies of the Central and the State Governments. These Central Sector Schemes covers over 31% of the total Central Government expenditure during the current financial year 2017-18.



28. Foreign investors infuse \$3 Billion into Indian Capital Markets in October

Foreign investors have pumped in close to 3 billion dollars in the Indian capital markets in October 2017 due to high nominal and real yields and stable macroeconomic conditions.

According to the latest depository data, FIIs invested a net sum of Rs. 2,806 crore in the stock markets and another Rs. 15,132 crore in debt, taking the total to Rs. 17,938 crore during October 3-27. This follows a net outflow of over Rs. 10,000 crore from the capital markets in Sep 2017. Prior to that, they had pumped in Rs. 1.78 lakh crore in the preceding six months (February-August).



Important Days

1. The 27th Raising Day of Rashtriya Rifles was observed on October 1

Rashtriya Rifles the premier fighting force of Indian Army was raised on 01 October 1990 by then Chief of Army Staff General VN Sharma. The force that is engaged in constant counter terrorism operations, celebrated 27 years of being deployed against insurgents in the country on 01 October 2017. Rashtriya Rifles stands as strong response to the Nation's challenges.

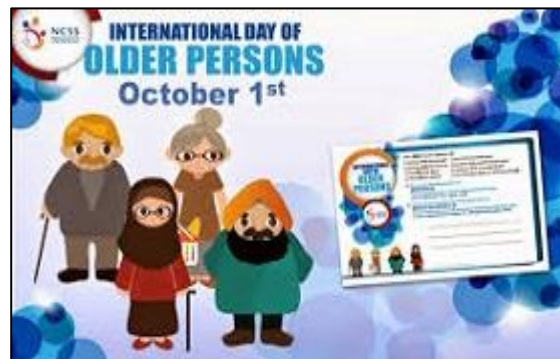
The units of Rashtriya Rifles have repeatedly proved their mettle and have earned 7 Ashok Chakras, 34 Kirti Chakras, 238 Shaurya Chakras, 1637 Sena Medals and 67 Chief of Army Staff Unit Citations.



2. International Day of Older Persons 2017 observed on October 1

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on October 1. The International Day of Older Persons is an opportunity to highlight the important contributions that older people make to society and raise awareness of the issues and challenges of ageing in today's world.

The theme for this year was "Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society" – the link between tapping the talents and contributions of older persons and achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



3. World Habitat Day observed on October 2

The United Nations' (UN) World Habitat Day is annually celebrated on the first Monday of October. This year it was celebrated on 2 October. The purpose of the day is to reflect on the state of our cities and towns and the basic human right to adequate shelter. It also aims to remind the world of its collective social responsibility towards the habitat for all forms of life.

The theme for this year was based on 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes', so as to ensure adequate shelter, safe and healthy living environment for all.



4. International Day of Non-Violence observed across the world

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed annually on October 2 to promote non-violence through education and public awareness. The day coincides with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.



The UN General Assembly came up with a resolution in 2007 to establish the International Day of Non-Violence. The first International Day of Non-Violence was observed on 2 October 2007.

5. World Teachers' Day 2017 observed on 5 October

The World Teachers' Day is observed globally on October 5 annually to commemorate teacher organizations worldwide. The theme of 2017 World Teachers' Day was "Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers". The day celebrates the importance of teachers in providing quality education at all levels.



UNESCO organized a global event on 5 October and an international conference that took place at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. The conference highlighted the contribution of teachers in the development of our future citizens and discussed the issue of quality in higher education.

6. World Space Week observed across the world

World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition observed each year from October 4-10. The theme of the year 2017 was 'Exploring New Worlds in Space', highlighting the advancement of space technology and exploration.



The World Space Week consists of space education and outreach events held by space agencies, aerospace companies, schools, planetarium, museums, and astronomy clubs around the world.

7. International Day of the Girl Child

International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on October 11 since 2012. The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. It is also called the Day of the Girl and the International Day of the Girl.

This year, International Day of the Girl (11 October) will focus on the theme, "EmPOWER girls: Before, during and after conflict". The theme marks the beginning of a yearlong effort to spur global attention and action to the challenges and opportunities girls face before, during, and after crises.



8. International Day for Disaster Reduction: 13 October

The International Day for Disaster Reduction is held every year on 13 October to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. That includes disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. The campaign seeks to create a wave of awareness about actions taken to reduce mortality around the world.

The theme for 2017 was 'Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement'.

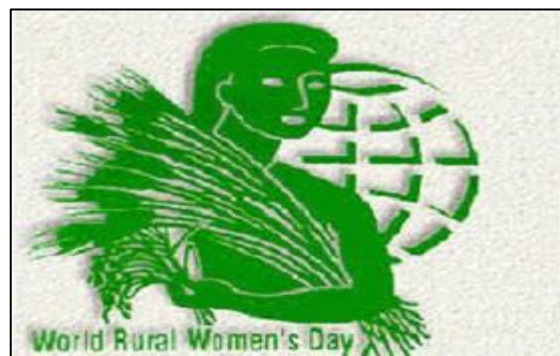
The 2017 edition continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework.



9. October 15 observed as the International Day of Rural Women

The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008. This new international day, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 of 18 December 2007, recognizes "the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty."

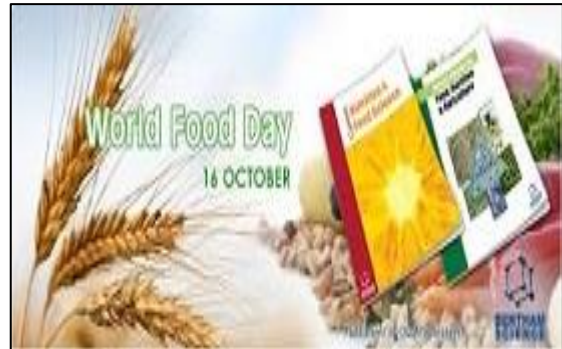
The theme of 2017 was "Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls". It highlights the fact that Climate change limits women farmers' access to agricultural services, which should be resolved through climate-resilient agriculture approaches.



10. 16th October observed as World Food Day

The World Food Day was celebrated on 16 October. This day is observed every year. It marks the foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 1945.

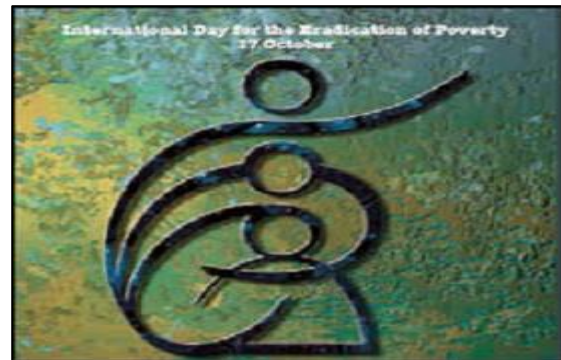
The global theme of World Food Day 2017 was 'Change the future of migration, invest in food security and rural development'. By investing in rural development, the international community can also harness migration's potential to support development and build the resilience of displaced and host communities, thereby laying the ground for long-term recovery and inclusive and sustainable growth.



11. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on October 17. The day promotes people's awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

The theme for the year 2017 is - "Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies". The theme reminds the importance of the values of dignity, solidarity and voice underscored in the Call to Action to fight to end poverty everywhere.



12. The second Ayurveda Day celebrated on 17 October

The second Ayurveda Day was celebrated on the 17 October at New Delhi. This day emphasizes the benefits of the Indian system of medicine.

PM Modi was the Chief Guest and had inaugurated the country's first All India Institute of Ayurveda, which is located in Sarita Vihar, New Delhi. The All India Institute of Ayurveda, set up on a total area of 10.015 acres on a budget of Rs. 157 crores, is the first medical institute under the AYUSH ministry to hold the coveted National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) accreditation.



13. Mahindra launched Prerna

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. celebrated the 'Mahila Kisan Diwas' with the launch of Prerna - an initiative aimed at supporting and empowering Indian women in agriculture. The first project under Prerna is a collaboration between Mahindra & Mahindra, the Central Institution for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), a department of the Government of India's Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the NGO Pradan (Professional Assistance for Development Action).



The project will be initially launched in the state of Odisha, with the intention to affect the lives of over 1,500 families across 30 plus villages.

14. The National Police Commemoration Day

The Police Commemoration Day is observed annually on October 21. The day commemorates the sacrifices of ten police officers while defending our borders with China in 1959. Indian Police personnel were responsible for operating the 2,500-mile long border of India with Tibet until the autumn of 1959.



So far, since Independence, 34,418 Police personnel have sacrificed their lives for safeguarding the integrity of the nation and providing security to people of this country. During the last one year, from September 2016 to August 2017, 383 Police personnel have laid down their lives.

15. United Nations Day

The United Nations Day is celebrated every year on October 24 to mark the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.



United Nations Day is part of United Nations Week, which runs from 20 to 26 October.

16. The 56th raising day of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police, one of the five central armed police forces of India, celebrated its 56th Raising Day on 24 October.

Raised in 1962, the ITBP guards 3488 KMs long borders in the Himalayas on the BOPs at altitudes ranging from 9K to 18.7 K ft. Apart from border guarding, the Force is also deployed for Anti-Naxal Operations and other Internal Security duties.



Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Culture Mahesh Sharma, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Rawat and others have also greeted ITBP on the occasion.

17. World Development Information Day

The United Nations' (UN) World Development Information Day is annually held on October 24.

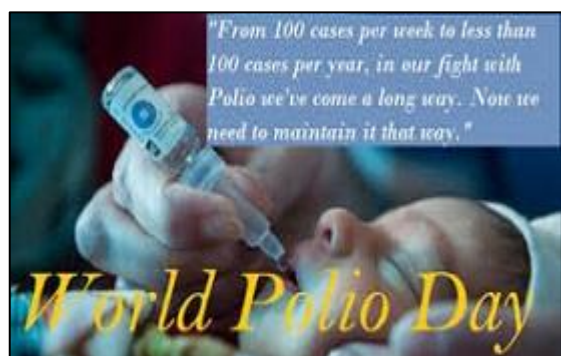
The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems and the need to strengthen international cooperation to solve them. The Assembly decided that the date for the Day should coincide with United Nations Day, 24 October. The day leads to greater awareness of the problems of development, thus, promoting efforts in the sphere of international cooperation for development.



18. World Polio Day

The World Polio Day is celebrated annually on 24 October. The Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis.

The day marks an event that seeks to raise awareness and funds to end polio. Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children below age of five. Russia vetoes UN Resolution to extend inspection of chemical attacks in Syria.



19. Vigilance Awareness Week observed

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) announced the Vigilance Awareness Week would to be observed from 30 October to 4 November 2017. The theme of the week was "My Vision-Corruption Free India" ("मेरा लक्ष्य - भ्रष्टाचारमुक्त भारत").

The observance of the Vigilance Awareness Week commenced with the Integrity Pledge by public servants in the Ministries/Departments/Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)/Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and all other Organizations on 30 October 2017 at 11.00 a.m.



20. 71st Infantry Day celebrated across India

The 71st 'Infantry Day' was celebrated on 27 October. Infantry celebrates 27 October each year as the Infantry Day to commemorate the first Infantry action post-independence. In response to the threat posed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, on this day in 1947, the leading elements of the Indian Army from 1st Battalion of the SIKH Regiment, air landed at Srinagar.

This bold action by the Indian Army and resolve displayed by the Infantrymen reversed the tide of events and thwarted the nefarious designs of Pakistani Raiders aided by the Pakistan Army.



21. 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' observed on 31st October

The Government of India observed 31 October all over the country to foster and reinforce the Government's dedication to preserve and strengthen unity, integrity and security of our nation, by celebrating it as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, one of the founding fathers of the Republic of India.

Celebrations included offering Floral Tribute to Sardar Patel at Patel Chowk by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, followed by administering Pledge and flagging off the Run for Unity.



22. World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2017 observed globally

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is annually observed on October 27. This year the theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is "Discover, Remember and Share".

The General Conference of UNESCO approved the commemoration of a World Day for Audiovisual Heritage in 2005. This was done as a mechanism to raise general awareness of the need to preserve and safeguard important audiovisual material for future generations. In addition, for urgent measures to be taken to conserve this heritage and ensure it remains accessible to the public now, and to future generations.



International

1. India opened two immigration check posts with Myanmar and Bangladesh

India authorized two immigration check posts for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all passengers to or from Myanmar and Bangladesh. One of such check post is Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram for entry into Myanmar. Other check post is Kawrpuichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram for entry into Bangladesh.

India shares a 1,643-km border with Myanmar and 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh. It was a part of a MoU on Zorinpui during the visit of the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Myanmar in May 2012.



2. Burqa Ban implemented in Austria

Austria's new law 'Burqa Ban' came into effect from October 1. According to the Burqa ban law, a person covering their faces in public with any mask or burqa will be fined of USD 180. Police are authorized to force if people resist showing their faces for possible violations.

According to the Austrian Government, law has come into effect due to acceptance and respect of Austrian values, which are basic conditions for successful conjugal relationship between the majority Austrian population and people from third countries living in Austria. Exceptions include medical masks and scarves in cold weather.



3. China celebrated its 68th National Day on 1 October 2017

China celebrated its 68th National Day on 1 October 2017 by raising of the National Flag at the Tian'anmen Square in Beijing. Around 115,000 people gathered at the Tian'anmen Square. Some 10,000 Peace Doves were released into the sky, depicting China, a thriving and prosperous country. China celebrates its National Day with a weeklong holiday, as Chinese traditional Mid-Autumn Festival or Moon Cake Festival is celebrated across China on 4 October.

Some famous parks of Beijing were embellished with around 1.6 million potted flowers of 150 different species.



4. UN chief Guterres warned against more cuts to DR Congo mission

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned against further cuts to the UN peacekeeping mission in Democratic Republic of Congo because dangerous political standoff over elections is still unresolved in that country.

More cost cutting could hamstring the 18,000-strong MONUSCO force in its efforts to prevent a collapse of the vast, mineral-rich African country. According to UN Chief, in a 27-page strategic review of MONUSCO, the force was streamlining operations after the peacekeeping budget was cut.



5. Sri Lanka observed their 70th Anniversary of the first Parliament of Democracy in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka held a special parliamentary session to commemorate its 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Parliament. Speakers from Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Deputy Speaker of Afghanistan participated in the special session.

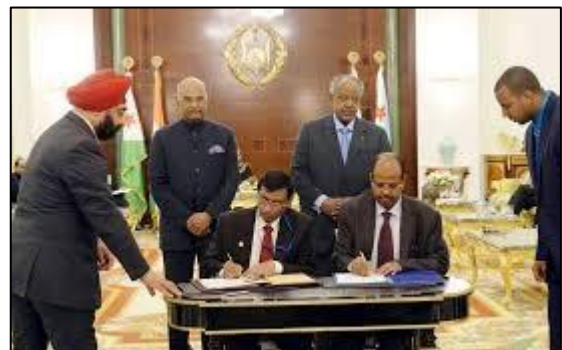
Sri Lankan parliament held distinction for being the oldest parliament in the Asian region with an unbroken record of democratic governance. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe wished the Parliament and the Sri Lankan people for success and prosperity while further strengthening the democratic traditions, policies and rule of law.



6. President of India signed a MoU with President of Djibouti

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Presidential Palace in Djibouti where he led delegation level talks with his counterpart. An agreement was signed in the presence of the two Presidents. President Kovind is the first Indian President to visit Ethiopia in 45 years and the third overall.

A MoU was signed regarding terrorism; renewable energy and particularly Djibouti's support for membership of the International Solar Alliance; maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region; and technical and capacity building assistance by India to enhance employment opportunities for Djibouti's young people.



7. World's biggest Nuclear Icebreaker 'Sibir' launched by Russia

Russia emerged as world's largest nuclear-powered icebreaker ship as the country moves to expand its leadership in the Arctic. A Ship is named as "Sibir" (Siberia) was commissioned at the Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg, Russia. Sibir is Russia's biggest military push under project 22220.



The nuclear-powered Sibir will be capable of breaking ice fields up to three meters thick, developed for transporting cargo via the Northern Sea Route and making way for Russian ships delivering gas to Asia. Sibir is a double-draft design with a displacement of 33,500 tonnes and can carry out rescue work in ice conditions and ice-free waters.

8. World Government Summit 2018 to have India as guest country

The Annual Gathering of World Government Summit to be held in February 2018 has picked up country India as its honorary guest country. As a guest country, India will have opportunity to speak on India's emerging economic growth and India's unique culture, thereby joining the notable list of speakers synonymous with the World Government Summit.



According to UAE Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, and Chairman of the World Government Summit, Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, it is done with an aim to boost its partnerships with countries that is emerging as strongest economy in world.

9. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh selected as new the Mongolian Prime Minister

People's Party of Mongolia's Ukhnaa Khurelsukh was selected as Mongolia's new Prime Minister. The confirmation of his selection came after former Prime Minister Jargaltulga Erdenebat was accused and voted out of office over allegations of corruption, violating parliamentary procedures and incompetence.



New Mongolian prime minister is expected to tackle Mongolia's internal and external debt, which is now almost 73.8% of its GDP. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has served as a political specialist at the central committee of the Mongolian People's Party, as minister for emergencies from 2004 to 2006 and as party general secretary from 2008 to 2012.

10. The WHO released guidelines to address overweight and obesity in children

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released new guidelines on how trained professionals can better identify and help children who are overweight or obese. In 2016 an estimated 41 million children under five were affected by overweight or obesity.

The guidelines include counselling, dieting and assessment of eating habits along with the usual weight and height measurements.

India has the second highest number of obese children in the world after China.



11. The 4-day-long BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2017 concluded

The first Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, Disaster Management Exercise (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) concluded in Delhi. Members of the BIMSTEC i.e. Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal participated in the four-day exercise, conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the nodal agency in Delhi.

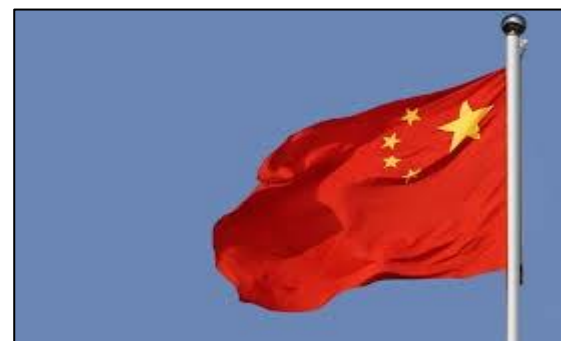
During the exercise, various important suggestions/actions viz, Participation of women in Disaster Response Mechanism, Utility of Civil Military Coordination Centre, Religious aid to motivate the affected people and Importance of maintaining Law & Order to avoid human trafficking were shared by the participants.



12. China developed a laser gun for counter-terrorism operations

China has developed a new laser gun capable of hitting the targets within 200 meters in one second for counter-terrorism operations. The gun contains a handset for aiming and a backpack containing the power supply with a remote control and laser emitter.

One of the engineers who developed the gun, Yan Azhe admits that the gun makes no sound or light when fired. It is also easy to operate because it does not recoil, and inexpensive to maintain.



13. US and Israel withdrawn from UNESCO

Trump administration withdrew from the United Nations cultural organization and world heritage body UNESCO, stating it as biased against Israel. Soon after the US formally notified their decision, Israel too made the announcement to quit the financially struggling cultural and educational agency UNESCO.



The withdrawal will take effect on 31 December 2018. Prior to this, US had cancelled its budget contribution to UNESCO in fight against the acceptance of Palestine as a full member in 2011.

14. Pakistan and Iran sign MoU to improve border security management

Pakistan and Iran have agreed not to let their territories be used for terrorism against each other as the two neighboring countries signed a MoU to improve border security management.



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed during the 21st two-day meeting of Pakistan-Iran Joint Border Commission in the port city of Gwadar in Baluchistan province. Pakistan shares a 900-kilometre-long border with Iran, which in the recent months has expressed concern over militants operating along the Pakistani border.

operating along the Pakistani border.

15. India, Brazil, South Africa signed IBSA Trust Fund agreement

In order to tackle poverty in developing countries, India, Brazil and South Africa signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement. According to fund agreement, all three countries will have to contribute USD 1 million fund annually for the alleviation of hungry and poverty. Fund is managed by the UN Development Program's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.



The IBSA Fund was conferred the South-South Partnership Award at the 2006 UN Day event held in New York in December 2006. The IBSA Fund for the Alleviation of Poverty and Hunger was set up in 2004.

16. Southeast Asian Defence Ministers' meet in Philippines

The Southeast Asian defence ministers' meeting was held in Philippines. Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the meeting, which was also her first foreign visit as defence minister.



The ADMM (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting)-Plus meeting on 23 and 24 October discussed extensively on the situation in Afghanistan and Syria besides China's growing military presence in the disputed South China Sea. The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.

17. Bangladesh inked Gas Oil import deal with India

Bangladesh has signed a long-term sales and purchase agreement with India to import gasoil to meet the country's energy demand. The deal was signed between Bangladesh Petroleum Corp (BPC) and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL).



As a part of the deal, BPC will take up to 250,000 tonnes of gasoil each year from NRL for the first three years of the deal to the BPC's northern fuel depot via a 131-km (79 mile) pipeline, which will be built by India.

18. Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissions OPV SURAKSHA gifted by India

The Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) provided by the Indian Coast Guard to the Sri Lanka Navy was commissioned as Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship Suraksha at the Colombo Harbor.



The newly commissioned ship will be used by the Sri Lanka Coast Guard for patrolling and surveillance in Sri Lanka waters, humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations, prevention of maritime pollution. Earlier in September 2017, Varuna, formerly an Indian Coast Guard Ship was formally handed over to Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Kochi.

19. Peru votes to legalize medicinal use of marijuana

Peru has become the latest country to legalize marijuana for medicinal use. The law makes production, import and commercial sale of cannabis oil legal.

Peru is now the sixth country in Latin America to legalize cannabis. Uruguay, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Chile are the other five nations to legalize marijuana. Cannabis is normally prescribed for conditions like muscle spasms, chronic pain, PTSD, epilepsy and cancer. Peru is the second-largest cocaine producer in the world.



20. 2nd World Congress on Marxism to be held in Beijing

The second World Congress on Marxism is to be held in the Peking University in Beijing in May 2018 to discuss Marxism in the 21st century and its developments in China.

The conference, with the theme of "Marxism and the current world and China", will have 17 sub-forums covering topics like Chinese solution and modernization approach by the developing countries. It is expected to attract more than 300 Marxism researchers to discuss Marxism in the 21st century and its developments in China.



21. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived in New Delhi

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit to India. US Defence Secretary James Mattis visited India in September 2017.

During his stay, Mr. Tillerson met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and discussed issues of mutual interest like defence, counter terrorism, security, energy and trade.

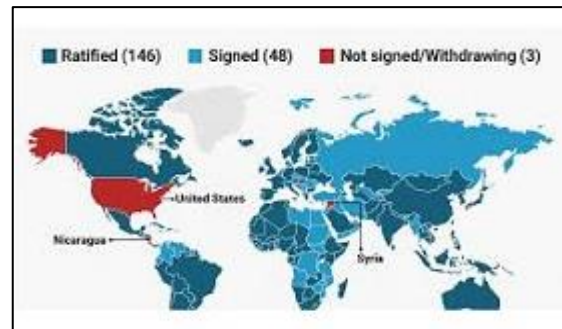
Mr. Tillerson began his Asia tour from Afghanistan and then went to Pakistan before coming to India.



22. Nicaragua signed the Paris Climate Agreement

Nicaragua has signed the Paris climate agreement, leaving the United States and Syria as the only two holdouts on the global climate pact. Nicaragua was the only country to reject the agreement in 2015. They has argued for a far more drastic action to limit rising temperatures.

The 2015 agreement set measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent temperatures rising by more than two degrees. US President Donald Trump in June announced the start of a three-year process to pull out of the agreement, signed by 195 countries.



23. BIMSTEC Task Force Traditional Medicine

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India hosted First Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine on 24-25 October 2017 at Parvasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi. The Meeting discussed the implementation of Strategies of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicines (BITFM).



The delegations from the different countries made Country Presentations on the status and best practices of Traditional Medicine in their respective country. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an International Organisation involving a group of countries in the South Asia and South East Asia namely, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

24. World's oldest maritime navigation tool found

Britain-based shipwreck hunter has found maritime astrolabe, a navigation tool that guided Portuguese explorers to India in the 16th century. It has been confirmed as the world's oldest astrolabe.

The astrolabe dates to between 1496 and 1500 — around 30 years earlier than the previous oldest known astrolabe. Astrolabes have been in use since ancient times and the mariners' version was developed by Portuguese explorers using the altitudes of the sun or stars to determine the latitude of a ship at sea.



25. Catalan Parliament voted to declare independence from Spain

The Catalan regional parliament voted to declare independence from Spain, just as the Spanish government appears set to impose direct rule. The move was backed 70-10 in a ballot boycotted by opposition MPs. The crisis began when Catalans backed independence in a disputed vote.



In all, the motion declaring independence was approved with 70 in favour in the 135-seat chamber. Spain's Senate is still to vote on whether for the first time to enact Article 155 of the Spanish constitution, which empowers the government to take "all measures necessary to compel" a region in case of a crisis.

26. US Senate Committee announced Ken Juster's nomination as US envoy to India

Senate Committee confirmed the nomination of Ken Juster, who played a key role in the landmark Indo-US civil nuclear deal, as the next American envoy to India. Juster's nomination was agreed by the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee by a voice vote.



The nomination of 62-year-old Juster now moves to the full Senate before he can be sworn in as America's new Ambassador to India. He would replace Richard Verma as the top American diplomat to India, if confirmed. The position has been lying vacant since January 20 after Verma resigned from the post.

27. The 14th SAARCLAW Conference held in Colombo

The 14th South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law (SAARCLAW) conference along with the 11th SAARC Chief Justices Conference held in Colombo. The conference provided a platform for legal professionals to meet and discuss issues of mutual interests and emerging legal trends in the South Asian countries.



The conference felicitated Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal for his lifetime contribution to the legal field. An encyclopedia containing the major treaties, charters and legal documents in SAARC region written by legal expert Hemant Batra was also unveiled at the inaugural function.

28. The Lonely Planet Company unveiled 'Chile' as the best country to visit in 2018

Travel Guide Company 'Lonely planet' unveiled world's hottest destinations that should feature on every traveler's wish list for the year 2018. Chile takes the top spot of the best country for travelers in 2018, while Seville receives the accolade of number one city in the world to visit in 2018. Tallinn, Estonia has been crowned Lonely Planet's best value destination of 2018.



The Top three countries to visit in the list are Chile, South Korea and Portugal. Lonely Planet is a leading travel media company and the world's number one travel guidebook brand, providing both inspiring and trustworthy information.

29. Qatar welcomed 'minimum wage' for first time

Qatar's Labour and social affairs minister Issa Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi declared a range of labour law reforms, including the introduction of a minimum wage for the first time. It was announced after Qatar was warned by International Labour Organisation (ILO) to end abuse of migrant workers. Various reforms such as end of Kafala system, introduced minimum wage for all workers, identification documents will be issued by the state, establishment of employee's committees in workplace etc.



UN's International Labour Organisation gave Qatar a deadline of November to evince progress on migrant workers' rights, and could open a rare formal enquiry.

30. Saudi Arabia became the first country to give citizenship to a Robot

Hanson Robotics's creation 'Sophia', a robot, was granted Saudi citizenship. With this, Saudi Arabia became first country to give a robot citizenship. Announcement was made at a business event named Future Investment Initiative. Citizenship has been granted to promote artificial intelligence.



Hanson Robotics, a firm based in Hong Kong, created robot. Sophia's creator Dr. David Hanson admitted that Sophia is designed to look like Audrey Hepburn. Audrey Hepburn was a British actor, model, dancer and humanitarian. She is designed to solve world problems too complex for humans to solve themselves.

31. India to host UN Wildlife summit CMS COP13 in 2020

India will host the next United Nations (UN) global wildlife conference (CMS COP13) in 2020. It was officially announced on the last day of the six-day 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, or CMS COP12, in Manila.

CMS COP is a triennial summit that brings together States through which migratory animals pass and lays the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures.



32. Jacinda Ardern sworn in as New Zealand PM

Jacinda Ardern has officially been sworn in as the new prime minister of New Zealand. At 37, Ardern is the youngest New Zealand PM in 150 years, and the country's third woman leader.

Ardern is a strong supporter of women's rights and LGBTQ issues. Ardern began her career as a researcher for former PM Helen Clark.

She later worked in the UK as a policy adviser to Tony Blair, while he was PM. She became party leader in August.



33. Xi ally Li Qiang named Shanghai party head

Li Qiang, an ally of Chinese President Xi Jinping, has been named the top Communist Party official in Shanghai, replacing Han Zheng who has joined the elite Politburo Standing Committee.

According to a decision of the Central Committee, Li would take up the party secretary post in Shanghai.

This move puts Xi allies in China's four major municipalities - Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing - power centers on par administratively with provinces.



34. India Sri Lanka sign MoU for housing project in Hambantota

Sri Lanka has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India to build 1,200 houses in Hambantota. Under this, Government of India granted a financial aid of Rs. 600 M to construct the 1200 new houses in Sri Lanka. Of the 1,200 houses to be built, 600 will be constructed in the Southern Province, while the remaining would be built across Sri Lanka.



Earlier, there was an agitation outside the Indian consulate in Hambantota because of media reports about India's interest in running the nearby Mattala airport.

35. China Develops World's First Hydrogen-Powered Tram

China has developed the world's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells marking a big step in the application of green energy in public transport.



The vehicle was developed by Sifang, a subsidiary of China South Rail Corporation. It is the world's first hybrid electric tram, with hydrogen being the main power source. The tram was put into commercial operation for the first time in Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province. The tram emits no pollutants, as water is its only emission.

Miscellaneous

- The government of India has appointed Mahesh Kumar Gupta and D K Gayen as the two new members in the Railway Board.
- The Rajasthan government has implemented the recommendations of the seventh pay commission, a decision that will benefit over 12 lakh employees and pensioners of the state.
- The Government has made it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to check the original identification documents of individuals dealing in cash above the prescribed threshold, to weed out the use of forged or fake copies.
- The FIFA U-17 World Cup semi-final encounter between Brazil and England was rescheduled from Guwahati's Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium to Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan.
- In Rajasthan, amid protest by opposition in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, the state government sent the controversial criminal amendment bill, 2017 to select committee for review and reference until next session of the House.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, the helicopter service between Doda District to Jammu and vice-versa commenced.
- State Bank of India has launched the second edition of its Hackathon – Digitize For Bank (#D4B2017).
- The Madras High Court has banned the use of "photographs or pictures" of living persons on "banners, flex boards, signboards" across the state.
- Afghan President Ashraf Ghani was on a one-day national visit to India.
- The State Bank of India has slashed Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) charges up to 80%
- India and the United States have agreed to implement the program for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC) in order to strengthen the maritime security.
- Burundi has become the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court.
- India's Amanpreet Singh clinched a bronze medal in his maiden appearance in an ISSF World Cup Final, in New Delhi.
- Tech major SAP announced the launch of Asia Pacific Japan (APJ) region's first SAP Leonardo Center in Bengaluru.
- Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentiloni arrived in New Delhi on a two-day visit to India.
- According to a circular issued by aviation security agency, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Mobile Aadhaar can be used as an identity proof to enter airports.
- French Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly visited Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and the Western Naval Command in Mumbai.

- The Spanish government has said it would welcome the participation of sacked Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont in new elections.
- Sangram Dahiya won a silver in the ISSF World Cup Final, in New Delhi.
- Joint Naval exercise named VARUNA is scheduled in early 2018 between India and France.
- N. J. Gangte has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Zambia. He is presently the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Gokul Natesan is the 97th pick in the NBA draft to become only the second Indian-origin player to be signed by an NBA G-League side.
- The Oxford English Dictionary has added 70 new Indian words from Telugu, Urdu, Tamil, Hindi and Gujarati languages. The OED publishes four updates a year in March, June, September and December respectively.
- India held its first Joint Steering Committee meeting with this nation on 6 October 2017.
- The United States has lifted its 20-year-old trade embargo against Sudan.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has suspended Brazil's National Olympic Committee following corruption allegations.
- Veteran director, best known for the dark comedy "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro", Kundan Shah, passed away at the age of 69 years.
- Indian-origin Sikh lawyer, Jagmeet Singh, has become the leader of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP).
- PV Sindhu has been appointed as the brand ambassador of 'Swachh Andhra Mission'.
- Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as the new Chairman of SBI.
- India signed agreements on trade, communication and media with Ethiopia.
- Amarjit Singh Kiyam is the captain of the Indian U-17 football side, which has become first-ever Indian team to participate in a FIFA tournament.
- Hollywood actor, George Clooney, will be honoured with the AFI Life Achievement Award.
- Punjab has sought Rs. 2000 Crores from the centre to stop paddy straw burning.
- Dungarpur has become the first open defecation free tribe district of Rajasthan.
- Jan Raksha yatra has been launched in Kerala.
- The army, CRPF and Special Operations Group (SOG) have launched a massive cordon and search operation (CASO) in Jammu and Kashmir.
- China has diverted 10 billion cubic meters of water to arid north region in a massive project.

- The United States of America has expelled 15 diplomats belonging to Cuba in protest of the country's failure in protecting staff at the US embassy there.
- Bharti Airtel announced acquiring mobile business of Tata Group.
- Caroline Garcia won the women's singles event at China Open 2017.
- The Indian air force celebrated the 85th Air Force Day on 8 October 2017.
- This PepsiCo India Chairman and CEO, D Shivakumar, has resigned.
- Ahmed El Sheikh will succeed D Shivakumar as new CEO of PepsiCo India.
- Maharashtra cabinet has approved a Climate Change Adaptation Policy.
- India's rank in the world's most valuable nation brands, as per Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017 report is 8th.
- 5th edition of India Water Week (IWW-2017) was launched in- New Delhi
- Theme of the 2017 International Conference on Yoga is "Yoga for wellness"
- Robert Menasse won the German Book Prize 2017 for his novel 'Die Hauptstadt'.
- The bench of Justices of Supreme Court that gave the ruling-'Sex with minor wife amounts to rape' comprise of Justice Deepak Gupta and Madan B. Lokur.
- Telangana unveiled a new policy regarding Internet of Things and e-waste.
- Indian-American, Ajay Raju, won the 2017 American Bazaar Philanthropy award.
- AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017 began in Panaji.

National

1. India registered significant decline in Infant Mortality Rate

India has registered decline in Infant Mortality Rate. According to the SRS bulletin, IMR of India has declined by three points, from 37 per 1000 live births in 2015 to 34 per 1000 live births in 2016. India also recorded a major drop in birth cohort, which has for the first time, come down to below 25 million. The total number of estimated infant deaths have come down to 840000 (8.4 lakhs) in 2016.



The gender gap in India for child survival is reducing steadily. The gender difference between female and male IMR has now reduced to <10%.

2. EESL procured 10,000 electric vehicles from Tata Motors

Energy Efficiency Services Limited procured 10,000 electric vehicles from Tata Motors. The vehicles will be procured in two phases. The first 500 cars will be on road in first phase. These cars will be used to replace the petrol and diesel cars used by government and its agencies over a 3 to 4 year period.



It can cut energy demand by 64% and carbon emissions by 37% in 2030. Electric vehicles will reduce dependence on oil imports, promote power capacity and lessen greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Government notified Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017

Centre notified new set of rules regarding conservation and management of Wetland. Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 was replaced by Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This is done in order to benefit the State government's Haritha Keralam Mission to conserve and protect wetlands.



Rules forbid solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages, and other human settlements into wetlands. One rule that was highlighted is that encroachments on wetlands stand banned.

4. Over 80 lakh people took part in Swacchat Hi Sewa campaign

Central Public Works Department organized 'Swacchata Hi Sewa' campaign at India Gate in New Delhi and over 80 lakh people took part in campaign. The on the spot painting competition on the theme of Swacchata organized by CPWD witnessed enthusiastic participation with over 200 students from 15 schools. Students of Gyan Bharti School, Saket won the first prize.



The Ministry stressed the need for mechanized cleaning of sewers. Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 300 crores to spend on procuring mechanized sewer cleaners. Ministry appreciated CPWD for building 1,200 toilet for Mahanadi Coalfields at a cost of about Rs. 20 crores.

5. NHAI organized 50 Free Eye Check-up camps on NHs

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways launched the countrywide Free Eye Check-up Campaign and distribution of spectacles for truck drivers, cleaners and helpers on 2 October 2017 at Nagpur, Maharashtra. The objective of this initiative was to ensure clearer vision and safe travel for truck drivers who are the most frequent users of national highways.



This initiative is expected to reduce the number of accidents involving trucks. Around 50 free eye check-up camps will be set up on national highways. Any other defect like cataract was identified and medicines were prescribed.

6. The third edition of 'Women of India Organic Festival' at Dilli Haat inaugurated

The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated the third annual 'Women of India Organic Festival' at Dilli Haat, Delhi. The festival displayed India's most varied offerings of organic products ranging from food, wellness, personal care, home improvement, kitchen composters and solar products by nearly 530 participants.

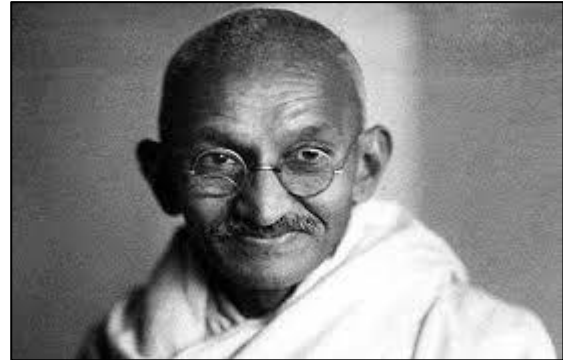


With the theme 'Good for Women; Good for India; Good for you', the Ministry intended to highlight the health and environmental advantages of organic goods, provide a platform for women engaged in it and boost easily accessible sales outlets for women producers from the remotest corners of India.

7. India paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 148th Birth Anniversary

India paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 148th birth anniversary on 2 October 2017. He was leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

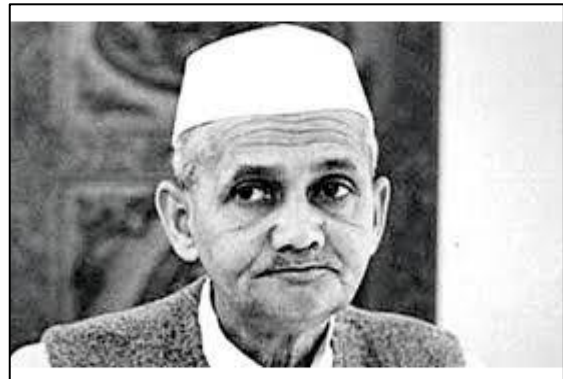
Vice-President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu unveiled a 1.80 meter tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of the 148 Birth Anniversary at Rajghat, the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation in Delhi. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi gave away the Swachh Bharat National Awards at a ceremony in New Delhi.



8. India paid tribute to former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to India's second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 113th Birth Anniversary. President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute on his Samadhi at Vijay Ghat.

Lal Bahadur Shastri was a famous freedom fighter who led the country during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War and gave the slogan – Jai Jawan Jai Kisan, which is recalled even today in his memory. He was a freedom fighter who joined the Indian independence movement in the 1920s.



9. Indian Prime Minister laid foundation stone for AIIMS at Himachal Pradesh

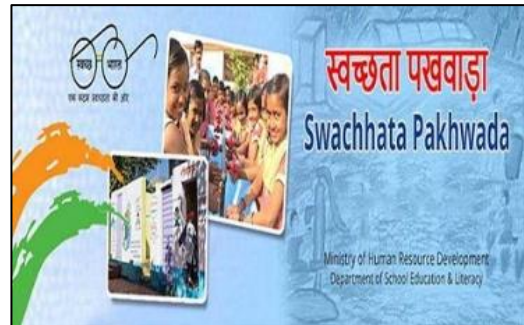
The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, at Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. This 750 bed hospital will be built at a cost of approximately Rs. 1350 crore. It will also provide medical education at the under-graduate and post-graduate level, besides nursing. The Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque to mark the launch of Digital Nerve Centre's for primary healthcare.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), at Una and inaugurated a Steel Processing Unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), at Kandrori, Kangra.



10. 'Swachhta Pakhwada' observed successfully by Ministry of Culture

Ministry of Culture and its 43 organizations observed Swachhta Pakhwada and Swachhta hi Seva Abhiyaan. During this campaign close to 400 activities were organized by the Ministry and its organizations by dedicating more than 500 effort hours for cleanliness and awareness during Swachhata Pakhwada.



Indira Gandhi Sanghralaya organized a marathon as part of awareness program for 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan'. A Free Residential Home - Premasree - for Blind and Visually Impaired Children participated in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan organized by Central Reference Library, Kolkata. An exhibition of posters on cleanliness was displayed in Rampur Raza Library.

11. One million children saved, says a new study published in the Lancet

India has avoided about 1 million deaths of children under age five since 2005, owing to the significant reductions in mortality from pneumonia, Diarrhoea, neonatal infections and birth asphyxia/trauma, measles and tetanus, according to study published in the latest issue of The Lancet. The study states that mortality rate (per 1000 live births) fell in neonates from 45 in 2000 to 27 in 2015 (3.3% annual decline) and 1-59 month mortality rate fell from 45.2 in 2000 to 19.6 in 2015 (5.4% annual decline).



The 'India's Million Death Study' is implemented by the Registrar General of India.

12. Union HRD Minister launched Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed)

A quality program of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for in-service untrained teachers training Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) was launched by Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. The Teacher Training Program is designed for all Untrained Govt. /Govt. aided /Private unaided recognized in-service untrained teachers of Elementary Schools & 15 lakh (approx) teachers have been enrolled so far.



It is an initiative in Online and Distance Learning (ODL) mode of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for upgrading the professional competence and Information and Communication based capacity building for teachers. All untrained teachers are to be trained by March 2019.

13. The Chairman of NHAI launched new website and PMIS Mobile App

The Chairman of National Highways Authority of India launched a world class, new multilingual website of the organization. PMIS Mobile App that will facilitate close, in-house monitoring of NHAI projects on a mobile phone. To ensure timely delivery of its projects, the NHAI is now digitally monitoring them through a state-of-the-art Project Monitoring Information System.



The PMIS has enabled significant progress, with a 32% increase in construction in 2016-17. To facilitate access to the PMIS, which was so far available as a desktop version, NHAI has now launched a PMIS App in coordination with the Boston Consulting Group.

14. Vice President launched various National Highways projects

Vice-President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stones for several National Highways projects and a project for development of Muktyala to Vijayawada stretch of Krishna River. Seven NH projects were dedicated to the nation and foundation stones were laid for six NH projects in Andhra Pradesh, the total cost of all the projects being Rs. 4,193 crores.



Foundation stone for the Phase-I for development of National Waterway -4 was also laid. In the first phase of the project, the stretch between Muktayala to Vijayawada will be developed for transportation. The total project cost is Rs. 7,015 crores.

15. Cabinet approved the Extradition Treaty between India and Lithuania

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for the signing and ratification of the Extradition Treaty between India and Lithuania. The Treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to Lithuania.



The Treaty would help in extradition of fugitive criminals including terrorists for criminal prosecutions from Lithuania who may have committed crimes against India. It will bring the criminals to justice, with a view to ensure peace and tranquility to public at large.

16. Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Switzerland for Rail Sector

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways, Government of India and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Swiss Confederation on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector.

The MoU will enable technical cooperation in the following areas:

- Traction Rolling stock
- EMU and train sets
- Traction Propulsion Equipments
- Freight and Passenger Cars
- Tilting Trains
- Railway Electrification Equipments
- Train scheduling and operation improvement
- Railway Station modernization
- Multimodal transport
- Tunneling technology



17. Cabinet approved MoU on upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar on upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.

The MoU covered upgradation of the Yamethin Women's Police Training Centre to augment the capabilities of the Myanmar Government to build capacities of its police force with technical and financial assistance from Government of India.



18. Cabinet approved renaming of Kandla Port as Deendayal Port

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the renaming of Kandla Port as Deendayal Port. By renaming Kandla Port as "Deendayal Port, Kandla", a grateful nation would be remembering the invaluable contributions made by one of the greatest sons of India, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.



Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was a prominent leader, who pledged his life to the service of the nation. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay dedicated his entire life for public service and was the epitome of simplicity, honesty and selfless service for the poor.

19. IBBI notified the IBBI (Information Utilities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2017

IBBI had notified the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017. These regulations provided that a person should not hold more than 10% of paid up equity share capital or voting power of an information utility, while allowing certain specified persons to hold up to 25%. These further provided that if a person may hold up to 51% of paid-up equity share capital or total voting power of an information utility till the expiry of three years from its registration.



The amendment requires that more than half of the directors of an information utility shall be Indian nationals and residents in India.

20. India signed €300 million contract with European Investment Bank for Bangalore Metro Rail

Government of India and European Investment Bank (EIB) signed the Finance Contract for lending of € 300 million for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6. Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II is to be jointly financed by the European Investment Bank (€500 million) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (€300 million).



The objective of this project is to bring in a quantum improvement in the transportation sector in the city. This will be in tandem with the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and other modes of urban transport. The project aims to ensure modern transport facility for the commuters.

21. Labour Ministry reviewed meeting with State Labour Ministers in Imphal

The Review Meeting was attended by Labour Ministers and Labour Secretaries for North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura and Shri N Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, inaugurated the meeting.

The review meeting discussed issues like implementation of the Schemes on Child Labour, Plantation Workers, ESIC Works, Social Security Schemes, BOC Workers Cess Fund, Mines Safety, etc., and for further betterment. The Chief Minister, Shri N Biren Singh stated the statistics about various measures taken up by his Government in the field of improving the worker's conditions of his State.



22. Union Minority Affairs Minister addressed “Pradhanmantri Mudra Yojna” promotion camp

Union Minority Affairs Minister Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi addressed “Pradhanmantri Mudra Yojna” promotion camp in Hyderabad where he stated figures of Mudra Yojna. He stated that there are about 76% women in these beneficiaries of “Mudra Yojna” where more than 55% of the beneficiaries are SC/ST/OBCs and Minorities.

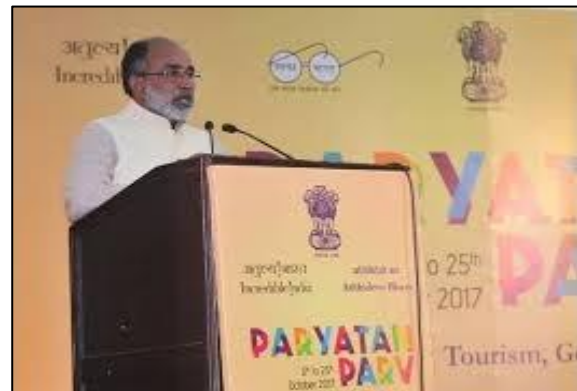
Under the “Mudra” scheme, loan is being given in various category- Up to Rs 50,000 in “Shishu Category” from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh under “Kishor Category” and from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh under “Tarun Category”.



23. Paryatan Parv of M/O Tourism inaugurated at Humayun’s Tomb

Minister of State for Culture inaugurated the ‘Paryatan Parv celebrations’ at Humayun’s Tomb, New Delhi. ‘Paryatan Parv’ activities began with the flagging of the cycle rally from India Gate, New Delhi to Qutab Minar. Approximately 80 cyclists from across Delhi including members of tourism Industry Stakeholders, officials from central Ministries, doctors, teachers and students participated this rally.

The other activities in the capital included a guided Heritage walk at Humayun’s Tomb & painting competition for children etc. The celebrations will run from October 5-25 2017 across several cities and iconic tourism destinations in India.



24. List of Agreements signed during 14th India-EU Summit and India

Following are the agreements signed during 14th India-EU Summit and India

- Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) for Indian Researchers hosted by the European Research Council grantees in Europe
- Finance Contract of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2-Line R6 for Euro 300 million out of total loan of Euro 500 million
- Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance and the European Investment Bank



25. India – EU Joint Statement during 14th India-EU Summit, New Delhi

The 14th annual Summit between India and the European Union was held in New Delhi. The Republic of India was represented by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The EU was represented by Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and Mr. Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission.

The leaders reviewed the wide-ranging cooperation under the India-EU Strategic Partnership. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen and strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership based on shared principles and values of democracy, freedom, rule of law and respect for human rights and territorial integrity of States.



26. Recommendations made by the GST Council in its 22nd Meeting

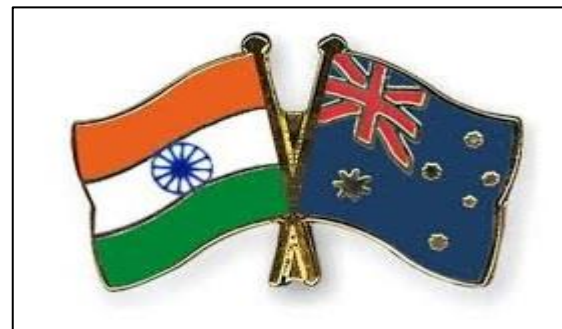
The GST Council, in its 22nd Meeting, held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley, recommended some changes on small and medium businesses such as:



- To exempt those service providers whose annual aggregate turnover is less than Rs. 20 lacs from obtaining GST registration
- Taxpayers having annual aggregate turnover up to Rs. 1.5 crores shall not be required to pay GST at the time of receipt of advances.
- Services provided by a Goods Transport Agencies to an unregistered person shall be exempted from GST.

27. First meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee held

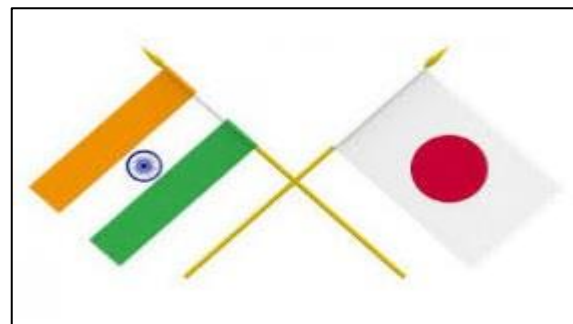
The First Meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee was held in New Delhi. During the Joint Steering Committee meeting, the two sides discussed scope for cooperation in counter-terrorism and checking extremism and radicalization besides steps to check illegal financial transactions and counterfeiting and cybercrimes.



Issues related to human trafficking and people smuggling, combating illegal drug trafficking and sharing information between law enforcement agencies were also discussed.

28. Cabinet approved MoC between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)"

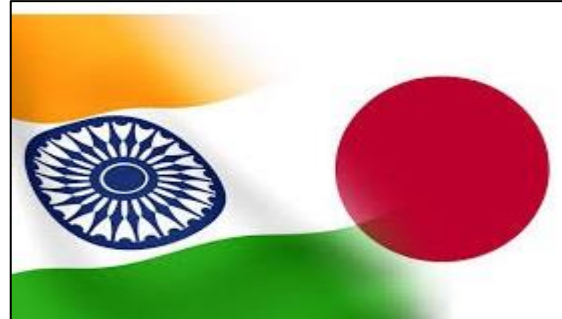
The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)" between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)".



The Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) is an ambitious program to send Indian technical interns to Japan for on the job training for a period of three to five years. It is expected that the MoC will pave the way for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development.

29. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Japan on establishing a Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on establishing a liquid, flexible and global LNG Market.



The MoC will promote bilateral relationship between India and Japan in the energy sector. It will contribute to the diversification of gas supplies for India. This will strengthen our energy security and lead to prices that are more competitive for consumers. The MoC provides a framework to cooperate in facilitating flexibility in LNG contracts and abolition of Destination Restriction Clause.

30. Cabinet approved MoU between SEBI and FSC

The Union Cabinet approved MoU between Securities and Exchange Board of India and Financial Services Commission (FSC), Gibraltar for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.



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

31. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Belarus for Cooperation in the field of Vocational Education and Training

The Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and Belarus for cooperation in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET). This is for the first time MoU for cooperation in area of vocational education, training and skill development has been signed with Eurasian country.



This MoU would pave the way for systematic transfer of their expertise and knowhow in skilling the work force especially in the manufacturing sector. The Belarusian side shall provide comprehensive transfer of know-how of emerging technologies, training and evaluation methodologies, content development of master trainers in area of network building & industry linkage.

32. Cabinet approved MoU between SEBI and Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Kuwait

The Union Cabinet approved for signing of MoU by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) with Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Kuwait for mutual co-operation and technical assistance. The MoU is likely to promote further development of economic links and cooperation between the two regulators, and aims at creating conditions for an effective development of securities markets in the two countries.



It would also contribute towards strengthening the information-sharing framework between the two. It is expected to add value to overseas cooperation and regulation activities of SEBI and CMA, Kuwait.

33. Cabinet approved IALA to change its status from NGO to Inter-Governmental Organization

The Union Cabinet approved International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to change its status from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). The move will facilitate "to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels". It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).



The IALA, having headquarters at St. Germainen Laye (France) was established in 1957 under French law. It is governed by a General Assembly having 83 National members, with its Council as the executive body.

34. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Morocco on cooperation in the field of water resources

The Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and Morocco on cooperation in the field of water resources. The MoU intends to enhance cooperation in the field of water resources development and management within the framework of their expertise and their respective legislations.

MoU includes –

- Conception, realisation and maintenance of the hydraulic infrastructure, notably big dams and water transfer projects.
- Flood and drought management.
- Harvesting and valuation of rainfall water and resilience and adaptation to climate.
- Setting up of a Joint Working Group (JWG) to monitor the activities to be carried out in fulfilment of the MoU.



35. Cabinet approved SANKALP & STRIVE schemes to boost Skill India Mission

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore - Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).

SANKALP is Rs. 4,455 crore Centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank whereas STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore - central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance. SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.



36. Petroleum Ministry launched IGL prepaid smart card for CNG consumers

Petroleum Ministry launched IGL prepaid smart card for CNG consumers, which will be easily available and benefit common person in saving time in transactions at the CNG stations. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan distributed smart cards to some of the fleet as well as retail customers of IGL. He also witnessed demonstration of smart cards transaction after fuel dispensing at the CNG station.



Petroleum Ministry appreciated government's efforts in providing clean CNG and PNG for cooking and transport at customer's convenience to promote Gas Based Economy.

37. Petroleum Ministry announced reward for winners at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017

In a move to motivate the competitors representing India at the world stage, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan announced, the reward for the winners of the competition on their return from WorldSkills International Abu Dhabi 2017, scheduled from 14 to 19 October 2017.



"Gold and Silver medalists will get Rs 10 lakh and Rs. eight lakh respectively, while Rs. six lakh for Bronze and others will receive Rs. two lakh. The experts, who are accompanying them, will be rewarded with Rs. four lakh, Rs. three lakh, Rs. two lakh and Rs. one lakh respectively," Pradhan told the media here.

38. India's first Sewage Treatment Plant under Hybrid Annuity Mode to come up in Haridwar and Varanasi

The Union Government has signed a tripartite agreement between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the state level executing agencies Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam and Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam for setting up of India's first Sewage Treatment Plants under Hybrid Annuity mode, at Haridwar and Varanasi.



The 50 MLD STP in Varanasi was awarded to a consortium led by Essel Infra Projects Limited at an estimated cost of Rs. 153.16 crores. In Haridwar, HNB Engineers Private Ltd. won the contract for a total sewage treatment capacity of 82 MLD at an estimated cost of Rs. 171.53 crores. The awarded projects would ensure that untreated sewage does not flow into river Ganga.

39. Union Ministry launched interactive website on National Mission for Clean Ganga

The Minister also launched an interactive website on National Mission for clean Ganga (NMCG) to enable the corporates to undertake CSR activities for Ganga Rejuvenation. This webpage, which will be available on NMCG website at www.nmcg.nic.in, gives the details of projects and activities, which can be taken up under CSR funds, and will enable applying for the same online.



The Ministry has called upon the religious institutions and NGOs to adopt villages along the river Ganga and develop them as Aadarsh Ganga Gram.

40. Union Textiles Minister inaugurated IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017

The Union Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017, world's largest handicrafts and gifts fair. The fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, during October 12 - 16, 2017.



IHGF stands for Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair. It is organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). It is a purely business oriented fair open only to business visitors. No Retail or Local order booking is made at this fair. Largely only volume foreign buyers visit this fair to source their requirement.

41. Union Government approved Rs. 2,000 crore to set up Aadhaar Units in Post Offices

The Union Cabinet has approved Rs. 2,000 crore specifically for setting up Aadhaar center's in post offices with an aim to phase out private contractors from the data collection process.



Aadhaar enrolment and updation facilities will be available in around 15,000 post offices by March 31 next year.

Around 5,000 post offices will have the facility by December 2017. Close to 15,200 bank branches will have centers with Aadhaar facilities.

42. JDI signed between Indian Railways and Germany

German Railways will assist Indian Railways to make country's existing rail corridors semi-high speed. The semi high-speed trains will run at 200 km per hour. This was signed by Ambassador Mukta Dutta Tomar and Germany's Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Dr. Norbert Barthle.

A Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) was signed regarding carrying out of feasibility study on existing 643 km Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways by German Railways for increasing the speed of passenger trains to 200 kmph on 50.50 percent cost-sharing basis.



43. The 48th Conference of Governors concluded at Rashtrapati Bhavan

The two-day 48th Conference of Governors concluded at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The first Conference of Governors was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in 1949, which was presided over by Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor General of India. Since then, 48 such Conferences have been organized in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The President iterated that India would emerge as a developed nation only when every State develops. He expressed confidence that Governors and Lt. Governors would continue to make important contributions in giving a new direction to development in their respective States. The President discussed issues pertaining to the environment and conservation of energy.



44. Ministry of Culture inaugurated 'Deep Dharohar

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of Culture inaugurated "Deep Dharohar". The festival was inaugurated by the lighting of 1000 diyas by the participating artists and artisans and children from organizations like the CCRT, SAPNA Prayas and Kailash Satyarthi's foundation, to the beat of pakhawajs, nagadas, dhols, etc. The diyas and other traditional Deepawali-linked products created by them were sold at the venue.



The Minister released a book entitled 'Living Traditions, Tribal and Folk Paintings of India' published under the matrix of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' by the Cultural Mapping team of M/o Culture and Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT).

45. Fourth Edition of Dilli Seminar concluded at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala

The fourth edition of the Dilli Seminar on "India and Southeast Asia – Maritime Trade, Expedition and Civilization Linkages" concluded at the Indian Naval Academy. Ten papers were presented during the seminar, covering various topics like 'India and Southeast Asia: Echoes of Memories', 'Indian Shipping and maritime trade in the 16th and 17th century Southeast Asia' and 'Tectonic shifts in Geopolitics of Asia-Pacific' and 'The economic background to India's early maritime trade'.



The two-day seminar was attended by large delegation of serving senior Naval and Coast Guard officers, eminent academicians from the field of Maritime History.

46. Mini-Marathon flagged off as Part of 'Clean Air' Campaign

Union Minister for Environment flagged off a Mini Marathon, as part of the Clean Air campaign. The campaign is being launched to create a mass movement for reducing air pollution. The idea behind the campaign was to entrust a sense of responsibility among people to consider clean air as a collective responsibility.



In order to achieve the objective of Clean India in a true sense, clean and pollution-free air needs to be a priority. The theme was 'Clean Air' - "Swachh Hawa for Swachh and Swasth Bharat".

47. Finance Ministry held bilateral meetings with US

On the sidelines of the World Bank and IMF Meetings, the Union Minister for Finance Shri Arun Jaitley held bilateral meetings with the US Treasury Secretary and the US Commerce Secretary in Washington D.C., and discussed the Indo-US Economic Cooperation about how bilateral trade and investment can be improved between the two countries.



The Finance Minister highlighted the structural reforms India has undertaken through a series of bold measures, including the Goods and Service Tax, Financial Inclusion and action against the shadow economy. He highlighted the contribution skilled Indian professionals have made to the US economy.

48. Finance Ministry participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Washington D.C

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C. The discussion focused on the agenda items pertaining to Global Economy and Framework for Growth, Compact with Africa and International Financial Architecture.



As co-chairs of G20 Framework Working Group (FWG), India made the lead intervention during the Second Round of the Session on 'Global Economy and Framework for Growth', which discussed the IMF's G-20 Report on 'Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth(SSBG)'.

49. Ministry of Railways introduced tri- weekly new Special Rajdhani between Delhi – Mumbai

To fulfill the long overdue demand of passengers & to provide faster and convenient connectivity to passengers between two metros Delhi and Mumbai, Ministry of Railways introduced a new Special Rajdhani Express between Delhi & Mumbai.



With the introduction of new Rajdhani Express, the travel time will be reduced thus saving 2 hours in journey time. The new service will commence as a tri-weekly special service with only one rake. The catering services will be optional as per the existing menu and tariff of Rajdhani trains.

50. PM laid foundation stone for infrastructure projects in Bihar

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for four sewerage projects under the Namami Gange program; and four National Highway projects, at Mokama in Bihar. The total outlay of these projects is over Rs. 3700 crore. The four National Highway projects include 4-laning of Aunta-Simariya section of NH-31 and Bakhtiyarpur-Mokama section. 2-lane construction of Maheshkhunt-Saharsa-Purnea and Biharsharif-Barbigha-Mokama section of NH-82.



The four sewerage projects include Sewage Treatment Plant at Beur, Sewerage System with Sewer Network at Beur, Sewage Treatment Plant at Karmalichak and STP and Sewer Network at Saidpur.

51. Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 brought into force with effect from 12 October 2017

A new Bureau of Indian standard (BIS) Act 2016, which was notified on 22 March 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12 October 2017. The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.



The Act has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under compulsory certification regime any goods or article of any scheduled industry, process, system or service which it considers necessary in the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices.

52. Finance Ministry attended World Bank Development Committee Session

The Union Finance Minister Shri Jaitley attended the World Bank Development Committee (DC) Lunch Session in Washington D.C. The Session focused on the Capital Adequacy question.



Finance Minister Shri Jaitley stressed that the World Bank and the IFC are at the crossroads on account of their deficient capital position which is also threatening to make them lose its much-valued role of being the agent of global development. He strongly urged that the major shareholders must commit to a decision on the issues of voice realignment and capital infusion into the IBRD and IFC by spring 2018.

53. IMFC sessions and Development Committee Plenary of the World Bank attended by Finance Ministry

The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley participated in the IMFC Restricted session in Washington D.C. The discussion sessions focused on the Dialogue on Policy Challenges. Finance Minister highlighted three policy challenges. The first was the risks posed to emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) by the US Federal Reserve's bold steps towards restoring normal monetary conditions. The second was the global slowdown in Investments and the third was employment.



He also attended the IMFC Plenary Session focusing on the institutional issues where he highlighted initiatives taken by India such as GST, Demonetization and Insolvency and Bankruptcy code.

54. The 96th Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary of the World Bank attended by Finance Ministry

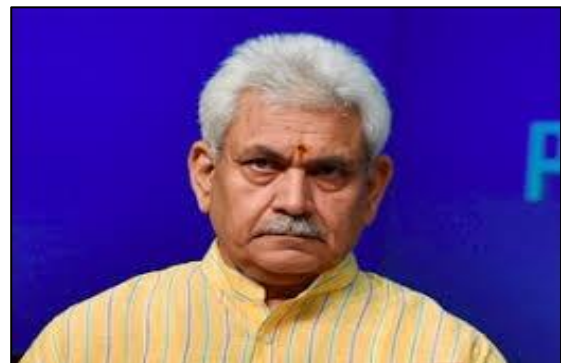
The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley attended the 96th Meeting of the Development Committee Plenary of the World Bank. The items on the agenda included the World Development Report 2018, Maximizing Finance for Development, Progress Report to Governors on Shareholding and Forward Look Implementation Update.



The Finance Minister strongly urged for bringing finality to the Shareholding Review by the spring meeting 2018 in a spirit of consultation and co-operation. Shri Jaitley also expressed that resources required for achieving the twin goals, Climate targets and SDGs by 2030.

55. Union Minister launched Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana

Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana was launched by Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha for the benefit of affordable life insurance services to people of rural areas. Under this scheme, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country and all households will be provided coverage of Postal Life Insurance.



The main aim of the scheme is to cover all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village. Previously, Postal Life Insurance was confined to only government employees.

56. IIT Madras to have world's largest combustion research centre

World's largest combustion research center named as 'National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD)' was inaugurated by NITI Aayog member VK Saraswat at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) in Tamil Nadu. It is built at the cost of Rs. 90 crore. It is considered as world's largest combustion research centre because it involves largest grouping of academic combustion researchers globally and the infrastructure facilities are the largest for any combustion research centre.



It is done with an aim to provide a momentum to research in 'Alternative Energy and Environmental Protection' by emphasizing on thermo-chemical energy conversion.

57. Footwear Design & Development Institute Act 2017 comes into force

Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) has been declared an 'Institute of National Importance' under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The FDDI bill was passed by the Parliament in July 2017. The Provisions of FDDI Act 2017 have come into force from 16 October 2017. FDDI is a premier Institute, serving as a 'One stop solutions provider' in footwear, leather and allied industry.



FDDI has been functioning as an interface between the untapped talent and industry and its global counterparts, by fulfilling the demand of skilled work force with its specific curriculum.

58. First Investment Agreement signed between NIIF and a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and the Government of United Arab Emirates (UAE) to mobilize long-term investment into National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), the first investment agreement between NIIF Master Fund and a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) was signed.



The investment from ADIA Group would be 1 billion USD.

59. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey released FSSAI report on Food Fortification

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare released a comprehensive report on "Large Scale Food Fortification in India – The Journey So Far and Road Ahead" at the national 'Conclave on Nutrition Security: Partnership & Convergence' organized by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on the occasion of World Food Day.



Food Safety and Standards Authority of India introduced its new initiative 'Indian Food Recovery Alliance (IFRA)' – A coalition of food recovery partners in country to fight the issue of hunger and prevent food loss and food wastage in India.

60. Government makes Revised Quality Standards for Caustic Soda mandatory

Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar announced that Government would make revised quality standards for Caustic Soda mandatory for both domestic manufacturers as well as for imports. This step has been taken to give a boost to the domestic industry, under Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India'.



The revised quality standards, compliant with Bureau of India Standards (BIS) specifications, would necessitate the industry to produce caustic soda using the modern and more energy efficient membrane based technology.

61. Union Home Minister inaugurates the new Viewers' Gallery-cum-Museum at Punjab

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation the new Viewers' Gallery-cum-Museum at the Joint Check-Post (JCP) Hussainiwala border in Ferozepur district of Punjab. Union Home Minister paid rich tributes to martyrs Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Rajguru and Shaheed Sukhdev at the Samadhi Sthal, also known as the Hussainiwala Memorial.



Union Home Minister addressed gathering of BSF officers and jawans, at JCP Hussainiwala. Punjab Chief Minister lauded the role of BSF for effectively safeguarding the Punjab component of the Indo-Pakistan border and assured all help of State Administration to the BSF.

62. Ministry WCD launched campaign on 'women for women': #IamThatWoman

In an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking an online campaign #IamThatWoman. Through the campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing 'by' and 'for' women. Ministry of WCD has urged people to shun stereotypes associated with women harming other women.



Twitter and Facebook users have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with a photograph and post online with the hashtag #IamThatWoman.

63. India signed MoC on Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) with Japan

India and Japan have signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) that paves the way for sending Indian technical interns to Japan for on-the-job training for a period of three to five years.



India is the third country with which Japan has signed this cooperation. As per Japan's data for end-2016, about 2,30,000 technical intern trainees from multiple countries are on training in Japan. The MoC between the two countries on TITP will help boost skill development in both countries.

64. Varanasi to get two new STPs before March

Varanasi will get two sewage treatment plants as part of the government's bid to curb Ganga water pollution. A 140 MLD STP at Dinapur and a 120 MLD STP at Goitha will be commissioned before March 2018.



Varanasi will have a total sewage treatment capacity of 412 MLD. The STPs, when completed, will meet the sewage treatment needs of the city until 2035. The STPs are being constructed under Japan International co-operation Agency-assisted project and JNNURM scheme respectively.

65. New Airport Project in Rajkot gets Green Clearance

The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF) has accorded environmental clearance (EC) to the new Greenfield airport project in Rajkot, Gujarat. The foundation stone of the airport at Hirasar village was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1,405 crores. It would be a single runway airport for operating 'C' category aircraft. The airport is expected to become operational by 2021. The present domestic airport in Rajkot has no room for expansion.

66. PM Modi launched the first phase of Ghogha-Dahej RORO ferry service in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the phase-I (passenger movement) of the 'RO-RO' ferry service between Ghogha and Dahej, in Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

The ₹615 crore 'roll-on-roll-off' (Ro-Ro) ferry service is the first of its kind project not only in India but also in South-East Asia. In the second phase, which will be ready in two months, cars can also be carried between the two towns. The 31-km ferry service will cut travel time from nearly eight hours to one while the on-road distance between the two towns will be down from 310 km to 30 km.



67. The 14th Day of Paryatan Parv celebrated across India

The day fourteen started with a cycle rally organized at Amritsar by State Government of Punjab in association with India Tourism Delhi. Other events organized in Amritsar were a guided heritage walk, crafts mela and a cultural evening at Govindgarh fort. India Tourism Offices in association with IHMs has organized various activities like Sensitization programs, Nukkad Natak, Heritage walks, Workshops for local public and stakeholders at locations across India.



An event to mark Return of Sri Ram to Ayodhya and Deepawali was organized by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

68. Minister for Petroleum launched Piped Natural Gas supply in Bhubaneswar

Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for the residents of Bhubaneswar. With this, GAIL started supply of environment-friendly PNG to 255 houses.

The commencement of supply of natural gas will pass through five states, i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. The longest stretch of the project – 769 kms – will be built in Odisha. This pipeline will lead to industrial development of eastern India.



69. India's First Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra for Skilling in Smart Cities

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in Smart Cities, in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). The ministers also laid the foundation for a Skill Development Centre at Moti Bagh and a Centre of Excellence at Dharam Marg, New Delhi.



The newly inaugurated Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra leverages NDMC infrastructure for skilling initiatives. It has a capacity of skilling 4,000 youth annually.

70. Sushma Swaraj opened India's new chancery complex in Dhaka

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj opened the new chancery complex of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka during her Bangladesh visit. The High Commission was previously operating from a house in Gulshan area of the city. She also inaugurated 15 development projects of Bangladesh being funded by India.



The 15 projects covering priority infrastructure in health, education, water and social welfare with an outlay of 71.64 crore takas will be completed within a period of one month.

71. Government has opened more than 9000 PMKK

According to Home Minister Rajnath Singh, the government has so far opened more than 9000 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra to impart skill training to youth.



The government has earmarked Rs 1200 crore so that youth belonging to economically weaker section could be trained in skill training. The centre has set a target of generating one crore employment opportunities for youth by 2020. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development to enable a large number of youth to take up industry - relevant skill training to make them employable.

72. Jaipur and Srinagar Airports rated Best Airports in the World in 2-5 million Passenger category

The Jaipur and Srinagar Airport got the First and the second rank respectively in the category of two to five million passengers in the ACI-ASQ Survey.

Jaipur was ranked as the Best Airport in the World catering to a traffic volume of two to five million passengers per year in 2016 also.

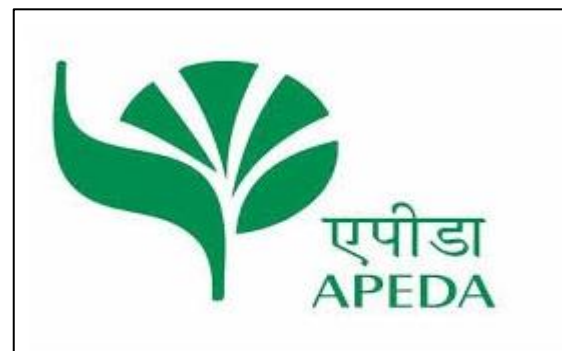
The awards recognize the airports, which have achieved the highest passenger satisfaction ratings in the ASQ Survey - the world's benchmark measure of airport excellence.



73. APEDA to promote NE products in Bangladesh and Myanmar

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will promote northeastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar. The export of APEDA scheduled products to Bangladesh during 2016-17 was of 396.44 million USD while to Myanmar was 24.15 million USD.

The promotional event in Myanmar is proposed to be held in November and that in Bangladesh in December. The export of APEDA scheduled products to Bangladesh during 2016-17 was of 396.44 million USD. The major products exported to Myanmar include rice, maize, cereal preparations, fruits as well as vegetable seeds.



74. PM dedicates first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda to nation

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the All India Institute of Ayurveda, in New Delhi, to the Nation. The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is set up along the lines of AIIMS. As an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, the AIIA will bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has been set up with a budget of Rs.157 Crore. The indoor patient department has provision for 200 beds.



75. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu launched CIPAM's Website

The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu launched the official website for the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). CIPAM has been set up under the aegis of DIPP with a mandate to effectively implement the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy.



The website is interactive providing regular updates on all upcoming events including awareness and sensitization programs being conducted, as also information on all Intellectual Property Rights.

76. India signed \$300 million loan with ADB to promote further Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal

The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a \$300 million loan to continue a series of fiscal reforms in the State of West Bengal to improve the quality of public service delivery.



The Program will build on earlier intervention under Phase I of the project through the \$400 million Program that targeted a comprehensive fiscal consolidation program in the state. It aims to deepen the reforms with focus on expenditure rationalization, improvement in revenue administration, and facilitation of more private investment in the state.

77. Ministries of Power & Textiles join hands under new initiative SAATHI

Ministries of Power and Textiles have joined hands under a new initiative SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to help small Industries). Under this initiative, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) would procure energy efficient Power looms, motors and Rapier kits in bulk and provide them to the small and medium Power looms units at no upfront cost.



The SAATHI initiative of the Government will be jointly implemented by EESL and the office of the Textile Commissioner on a pan-India basis. The unit owner would repay in instalments to EESL over a 4 to 5 year period.

78. Government considering temperature-controlled posts for ITBP

The government is looking into a proposal for 50 temperature-controlled posts along the India-China border. These will be for the ITBP jawans who guard the Himalayan heights in sub-zero temperatures.

The government is considering using technology to maintain a temperature of 20 degrees Celsius in the proposed new posts.

A model Border out Posts is being made at Ladakh with the purpose to maintain a uniform 20 degree Celsius temperature.



79. NRDC signed agreement for IP Management

National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has signed a memorandum of understanding each with European Business Technology Centre (EBTC) for capacity building in intellectual property management by organizing training programs in IP management and patent research and analysis and commercialization of IPRs.

NRDC also signed a MoU with Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar. This MOU is to license and commercialize the patented technologies developed by the University. NRDC will also support the university in filing and commercializing its IPRs.



80. Centre approved highway projects worth Rs. 7-lakh crore

The Union Cabinet has approved a plan to build 83,677 km of roads, highways, green-field expressways and bridges in phases over the next five years' worth Rs. 7 lakh crore with an aim to push the economy.

Under the first phase to be completed by 2022, 34,800 km of highways will be built. This will include 24,800 km of the ambitious Bharat Mala program, at a cost Rs 5.35-lakh crore. 1,837 km of Greenfield expressways will also be developed under the program.



81. 'Paika Bidroha' to be named as first War of Independence

The 'Paika Bidroha' (Paika rebellion) of 1817 will be named as the 'First War of Independence' from the next academic session. The centre has allocated Rs. 200 crore for commemorating the bicentenary of the Paika rebellion.

The 1817 Paika rebellion took place four decades prior to the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny. Paikas were peasant militia under the Gajapati rulers of Odisha. They rebelled against the British rule under the leadership of Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara in 1817.



82. Prime minister inaugurated International Conference on Consumer Protection for East, South and South-East Asian Countries

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated International Conference on Consumer Protection for East, South and South-East Asian Countries with the theme of "Empowering Consumers in New Markets". The conference was organized by Department of Consumer Affairs, GoI and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Conference had six working sessions on the subjects of the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection and Implementation.



83. Seven shortlisted companies given LoI under 'Adopt a Heritage Scheme'

Seven shortlisted companies were given 'Letters of Intent' for fourteen monuments under 'Adopt a Heritage Scheme' of Ministry of Tourism. These companies will be the future 'Monument Mitras' who would associate pride with their CSR activities.

The firms include - SBI Foundation, TK International Limited, Yatra Online Pvt. Ltd, Travel Corporation of India Ltd, Adventure Tour Operator Association of India, Special Holidays Travel Private Ltd. (With) Rotary Club of Delhi, NBCC are the seven companies which were shortlisted after going through detailed scrutiny. 'Adopt a Heritage' Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), was launched by President Ram Nath Kovind on the World Tourism Day.



84. NMR initiated steps to set up heritage railway museum in Udhagamandalam

The Nilgiris Mountain Railway (NMR) has initiated steps to set up a heritage railway museum in Udhagamandalam, formerly Ooty, in Tamilnadu.

The 1918 Swiss made steam engine, used to haul the first train on the turning and twisting hill railway, which is still extremely popular among tourists, has been brought to Udhagamandalam to be the centerpiece of the museum.

NMR has also planned to convert one of the old carriages of the NMR into a heritage Coffee shop.



85. The third Global Investors' India Forum

The third Global Investors' India Forum was held in New Delhi. The theme of the event was 'Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India' and it was attended by global industry stalwarts.

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh addressed the forum.

The event was organized by the ASSOCHAM. In the forum, major focus was given on generation of electricity and its distribution across the country.



86. MoEF issued stage-1 forest clearance for Kaleswaram project construction

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has given its in-principle stage-I forest clearance for the Kaleswaram project for construction of canals, tunnels, lift systems, surge pool, delivery cisterns and reservoirs in different districts of the State.

The ministry has diverted 3,168 hectares of the forestland in eight different forest divisions to the project - Mahadevpur, Karimnagar, Sircilla, Siddipet, Yadadri, Medak, Nizamabad, Banswada and Nirmal divisions.



87. Indian Railways launched its first set of solar plant of five MW capacity

Indian Railways launched its first set of solar plants with a total capacity of 5-megawatt peak (MWp) with an aim to reduce its carbon footprint.

The project is part of the government's National Solar Mission in which Indian Railways plans to commission 1,000 MWp solar plants across its network.

Through the project, the railways will save Rs 421.4 lakh annually and will reduce 6,082 tonnes of CO2 emissions. The cost of the project is Rs. 37.45 crores.



88. Phase 1 of Bharat Net project to be completed by December 2017

The first phase of the national optic fiber network, christened Bharat Net project, which aims to deploy high-speed optical fiber cables across rural areas — will be completed by December 2017. The project aims to provide Internet access to 100,000-gram panchayats.

Bharat Net has now reached 83,000-gram panchayats. The National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) aims to connect all the 250,000-Gram panchayats in the country and provide 100 Mbps connectivity to all gram panchayats (GPs).



89. The first shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan flagged off

India flagged off the first shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan to be transhipped through the Chabahar port in Iran. The shipment is part of India's commitment to supply 1.1 million tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan on grant basis.

This is the first shipment that would be going to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port after Trilateral Agreement on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor. Six more wheat shipments will be sent to Afghanistan over the next few months.



90. Cabinet approves Rs. 7,000 crore for construction of six IIT campuses

The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 7,002 crore for construction of permanent campuses of six new Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) across the country.

Each of the permanent campuses to be established at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwad (Karnataka), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) and Goa will have a facility for housing 1,200 students from the academic year 2020-2021. According to the Detailed Project Report (DPR), about Rs. 20,304 crore was required for the construction of the permanent campuses over a period of seven years.



Persons in News

1. Brenda Hale became first female President of UK's Supreme Court

In the opening of legal year of UK's Supreme Court, Brenda Hale and Sir Ian Burnett have been sworn in as President and Lord Chief justice of UK's Supreme Court. With this, Brenda Hale became first female president of the Supreme Court and Sir Ian Burnett became the youngest lord chief justice. Hale replaced David Neuberger as the President of Supreme Court.



Lady Hale became the first female Supreme Court justice in 2009. Burnett will be responsible for representing the views of the judiciary to parliament and the government.

2. Yuvraj Singh became first Laureus' Indian Ambassador

Famous Indian batsman Yuvraj Singh has been included in Laureus family and has become Laureus' first Indian ambassador. With this, he has joined Indian Academy members Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Kapil Dev. Yuvraj will have responsibility to help young people overcome violence, discrimination and improve the lives of young people through sport.



The vision of Laureus foundation is to end violence using the power of sport. They support 100 sports-based community programs in 35 countries.

3. Varun Dhawan becomes the youngest Indian actor to get a Statue at Tussauds

Varun Dhawan has become the youngest Indian actor to have his statue at Madame Tussauds. Dhawan's first ever wax figure will be the fourth from India to join Madame Tussauds Hong Kong with those of Mahatma Gandhi, Narendra Modi and Amitabh Bachchan currently on display.



Amitabh Bachchan is the first living Asian and Bollywood star to be immortalized at London's Madame Tussauds wax museum in 2000. Varun took to his Twitter account to share the pictures of himself being measured for his wax statue.

4. HC restored life ban imposed on Sreesanth by BCCI

A division bench of the Kerala High Court has restored the life ban imposed on cricketer S Sreesanth by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the wake of the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal.

The bench, comprising Chief Justice Navaniti Prasad Singh and Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan, gave the verdict on a petition filed by the BCCI against a single-judge bench's order, lifting the life ban imposed on the 34-year-old pacer. All the 36 accused in the spot-fixing case, including Sreesanth, Ankeet Chavan and Ajit Chandila, were let off by a Patiala House court in July, 2015.



5. Centre appointed Shri Dineshwar Sharma as its Representative in J&K

The Union Government has appointed Shri Dineshwar Sharma, former Director of Intelligence Bureau, as the Representative of Government of India to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Dineshwar Sharma is a Retired IPS officer from 1979 Batch of Kerala Cadre.



Shri Sharma will initiate a sustained interaction and dialogue to understand the legitimate aspirations of the wide cross sections of society, particularly the youth in Jammu and Kashmir and communicate them to the State Government and the Centre.

6. Amjyot Singh became third Indian in NBA

Amjyot Singh became the third Indian to walk into the National Basketball Association (NBA) league. He made it to the NBA's minor league, which is also called as the G-League. He was later picked by the Oklahoma City Blue. He was the 103rd pick in the fourth round of the NBA G-League draft. He is primarily a forward and competes with India on the international stage.



The other two Indians to have been selected in the NBA are Satnam Singh and Palpreet Singh Brar.

7. Gitanjali Rao named America's Top Young Scientist

An 11-year-old student from America, Gitanjali Rao, has been granted the accolade of "America's Top Young Scientist" for inventing a cheap device that rapidly tests water for lead contamination. She won a cash prize of \$25,000. The device, which Rao named Tethys after the Greek goddess for water, uses carbon nanotubes to detect the presence of lead.



The competition, Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge, is organized annually where kids have to explain in a short video a new scientific idea or invention – one that solves an everyday problem.

8. Indian Origin Gina Miller named UK's Most Influential Black Person of the Year

Indian-origin anti-Brexit campaigner Gina Miller has been named the UK's most influential black person.



She topped the 2018 Power list of 100 people, which recognizes people in the UK of African and African Caribbean heritage who are rated on their "ability to change lives and alter events".

Gina Miller won a legal challenge that prevented British Prime Minister Theresa May from triggering Brexit without Parliament's approval.

9. Jeff Bezos replaces Bill Gates as World's Richest Person

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has displaced Bill Gates from the Number 1 position to become the world's richest man, with a fortune worth over \$90 billion. Now, Bezos has a net worth of \$90.6 billion while Gates has a net worth of \$90.1 billion.



A rise in Amazon stocks pushed Bezos above the \$90 billion mark. Gates has held the top spot since May 2013.

Bezos had originally entered the billionaire list around 20 years ago. He also owns The Washington Post and rocket company Blue Origin.

Places in News

1. Rajghat gets Mahatma Statue, for the first time

The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu unveiled a 1.80-meter tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the 148th Birth Anniversary at Rajghat, the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation in Delhi. The statue, sculpted by the renowned Shri Ram Sutar is installed at a cost of Rs.8.73 lakhs with a message "Be the Change You Wish to see" inscribed on the front side of the pedestal.



Shri Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated an Interpretation Centre of the complex. Over 10,000 visitors and foreign dignitaries pay homage to the Father of the Nation daily.

2. "WALKATHON" for Older Persons held at India Gate to mark 'International Day of Older Persons'

To mark the 'International day of Older Persons' on 2nd October, 14th Walkathon was organized on 2nd October in Delhi where more than 5000 participants gathered for a noble cause to spread the message of caring and giving respect to older persons and senior citizens. The theme for this year was "Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society."



On the International Day of Older Persons, every year since 2005 the mass awareness event "Walkathon" is being held at India Gate.

3. Hyderabad to host Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017

A high-level delegation from the Government of India and the United States planned 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit, to be held November 28-30 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, India. GES 2017 will create an environment that empowers innovators, particularly women, to take their ideas to the next level.



The theme for this year is "Women First, Prosperity for All" to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit in all its strengths and diversity. GES 2017 agenda consists of breakout sessions, master classes, and workshops.

4. Madurai's Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple named as cleanest iconic place

Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Madurai's famous temple Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple was identified as 'Swachh Iconic Place' (cleanest place) in India. It was selected among top 10 iconic places selected under the Swachh Bharath Mission. A special award from the Centre as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was presented to Madurai City Corporation.



Tamil Nadu's Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple has 25 e-toilets (one toilet after every 50 meters), 15 water ATMs, two road sweepers and battery-operated vehicles to clean this stretch. The officials are planning to install a sewage treatment plant as well for recycling of wastewater.

5. New Delhi hosted the first ASEAN-India Music Festival

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Seher celebrated the first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival in Delhi, to mark the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The theme for 2017 "Shared Values, Common Destiny" and Music Festival, both are aimed to boost cultural influences among the peoples of the ASEAN member states and India.



The three-day festival witnessed eclectic performances by musicians of 10 enigmatic bands from member states of ASEAN and 5 prominent Indian bands.

6. A 2-day International Conference on 'Yoga for Wellness' concluded in Delhi

The two-day International Conference on 'Yoga for Wellness' concluded in Delhi. The two-day conference consisted of seven technical sessions and a panel discussion on different aspects of Yoga and Wellness including recent research trends, integrated medicine, non-communicable diseases, mental health, women health, cancer, pain management and policymaking.



The purpose of the conference was to provide a common platform for the AYUSH and Allopathy Practitioners, Researchers, Academicians, Policy Makers and students and enable them to capture and understand various dimensions of the yoga for wellness.

7. 'Global Wizards set to Converge in New Delhi for the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space'

The Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017 is being improved. The fifth edition, being hosted by India is to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on November 23, 2017. It will see participation of ministers, officials, industry leaders and academia engaged in the global cyber ecosystem.



'Cyber4All' will be the main theme of this largest ever event of its kind with four sub-themes – Cyber4InclusiveGrowth, Cyber4DigitalInclusion, Cyber4Security and Cyber4Diplomacy. A unique initiative at the fifth GCCS is the Global Cyber Challenge called Peace-a-thon will take place.

8. S&T Ministers Conclave held at IISF 2017 Chennai

In order to address the needs of the people through the application of science technology and innovation, a Science and Technology Ministers Conclave was organized as a part of the 2017- India International Science Festival (IISF) at Chennai. Ministry of Science and Technology offered concrete programs.



For human capacity building in S&T, the 2018-India Science and Research Fellowship (ISRF) scheme will provide a fully paid fellowship to researchers, scientists and academicians from neighboring countries. One of the key aspects agreed was a mechanism for knowledge transfer and adoption for societal development.

9. New Guinness Record at IISF Chennai 2017

Day two of the India International Science Festival (IISF) in Anna University campus at Chennai saw the making of a new Guinness World Record for the Largest Biology Lesson. One thousand forty nine (1049) students participated in the record-breaking session. Students from 20 local schools participated in the event.



The biology lesson was delivered by Ms. Lakshmi Prabhu from Shri Shankar senior Secondary School. A live demonstration on the process of isolation of DNA from Papaya fruit was also part of the program. Dr. Harsh Vardhan congratulated the students in creating New Guinness World Record.

10. India water week 2017 concluded in Delhi

The five-day India water week (IWW) - 2017 concluded in New Delhi with a call for efficient management of available water resources in the country by Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister.

The theme of IWW - 2017 was "Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth". The event had detailed discussions on Water, Food and Energy Security - Essential requirement for sustainable development, Water for inclusive Growth, Sustainable energy development - Key for all round economic growth and Water and Society.



11. Women of India Organic Festival 2017 concluded

The Women of India Organic Festival organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development came to a successful close on 15 October 2017. The festival was organized at Dilli Haaat, New Delhi as the largest festival of organic products by women farmers and producers.

The total sales by the women farmers and entrepreneurs who came from 25 States was Rs.1.84 Crores in 2017 women of India Organic Festival. The festival saw footfall of around 2.35 lakhs visitors. The main aim of the Festival was to support and encourage women and women-led groups that promote organic farming.



12. President of India launched Technocity project in Thiruvananthapuram

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, launched the Technocity project in Thiruvananthapuram and laid the foundation stone for the first government building in Technocity. The development of Technocity will provide new opportunities for the young people of Kerala.

Kerala has advantages in three areas. The first is Information Technology. The others are tourism and health-care. These are the areas where jobs and employment opportunities lie for our youth, especially for the talented young men and women of Kerala.



13. Vrindavan and Barsana declared as sacred sites

The Uttar Pradesh state government has notified Vrindavan and Barsana towns in Mathura district as "pavitra teerth sthals (sacred pilgrimage sites)". Henceforth, no meat and liquor shops will be allowed in these towns.

The move is aimed to honour the sentiments of devotees and will help in restoring the age-old traditions of these places. The two cities are the first two places to be notified as teerth sthal in government records. Barsana is a nagar panchayat.



Regional

1. Gujarat to use Electronic Voting Machines in Assembly elections

Gujarat is all ready to become the second state after Goa to use the VVPAT system for assembly elections. It is for the first time that a big state will be using Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in Assembly elections. This is the first time an entire assembly poll will be conducted using the EVMs.

VVPAT machines help in maintaining transparency as it is attached to the EVMs that allow voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate. Several awareness drives and demonstrations in public will be conducted to educate voters using VVPAT.



2. Union Home Minister concluded a four-day visit to Uttarakhand

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh concluded his four-day visit to the state of Uttarakhand. Shri Rajnath Singh visited ITBP camp at Gauchar and participated in 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign.

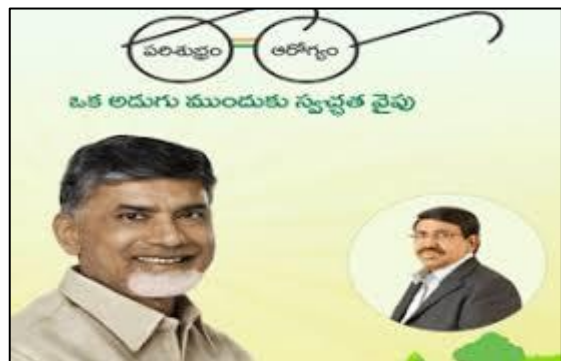
During his four-day visit, Shri Rajnath Singh visited Lapthal and Rimkhim Border out Posts (BOPs) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and inaugurated the Civic Action Program and Blood Donation Camp at Joshimath. He also addressed Officers Trainees of 92nd Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie in Uttarakhand.



3. Andhra Pradesh launched 'Swachh Andhra Mission'

The Andhra Pradesh State Government launched Swachh Andhra Mission, a statewide cleanliness drive on Gandhi Jayanti. 'Swachh Andhra Mission' is aimed at plantation of plants, providing toilets and making state Open Defecation Free by March 2018. Olympic shuttler PV Sindhu has been chosen as the brand ambassador of Swachh Andhra.

According to recent reports, Andhra Pradesh has reported increase in construction of toilets from 30% to 60%. State government is all set to construct 22 lakh more toilets by March 2018.



4. Madhya Pradesh launched Mukhya Mantri Kaushal Samvardhan and Kaushalya Yojana

Madhya Pradesh state government launched Chief Minister's Skill Promotion and Skills Scheme to create job opportunities and training of youth. Schemes are named as Mukhya Mantri Kaushal Samvardhan and Kaushalya Yojana. It involves costing of 30 crores for schemes to be in operation from 2017-18 to 2019-20.



Under Kaushal Samvardhan, Tribal Affairs Department of MP government will train Scheduled Tribe category educated youths and Self-help groups. Successful trainees will be offered placements. Under the Mukhya Mantri Kaushalya Yojana, women will be trained for entrepreneurship. Domestic worker and food processing sector will be provided free of cost training.

5. Odisha Government is in the process of creating a land bank

In order to bring all industrial land under one umbrella for the industrial sector. Odisha government has created a huge land bank and has identified areas across the state. Odisha has created 1.2-lakh acre land bank across the state for allocation to the industrial sector to avoid a repeat of the Posco fiasco.



Government has come up with a model where basic amenities like water, power are in place and companies need to make the payment of base premium upfront for the land and the annual rent for rest of the 90 years (their lease).

6. J&K Government launched special campaign under Mission Indradanush

The Jammu and Kashmir Government launched a special campaign under Mission Indradanush to achieve full immunization in the state. The focus of this campaign is to accelerate and ensure full immunization coverage in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in areas where immunization coverage has been low.



The Health Minister Bali Bhagat along with Minister of State for Health Asiea Naqash launched the campaign at the Kote Bhalwal sub-district hospital. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has devised an aggressive action plan under the Mission to achieve full immunization by 2018.

7. Karnataka introduced mid-day meals scheme for Pregnant Women

State government of Karnataka has come up with 'Matrupurna', a midday meal scheme for pregnant women and lactating women of particularly rural areas. Scheme is at aim to reduce malnutrition in children by ensuring pregnant women receive nutritious food and deliver healthy babies. Scheme is aimed to provide food, calcium and iron tablets to 53,812 women in the district level at their Anganwadi centers. There are overall 2,313 such centers across the district.



Scheme ensures to provide meals for atleast 300 days. Spending on each women under Matrupurna scheme is ₹21.

8. Himachal Pradesh implements Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme

The Himachal Pradesh state Government has implemented the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS). The scheme will provide top-up coverage of Rs. 30,000 per senior citizen to all existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna smart card holders in addition to basic coverage of Rs.30, 000 in Trust/Society mode.



The scheme aims to provide access to curative geriatric health care services by way of additional insurance cover. If there are two senior citizens in a family then cover of Rs. 60,000 would be accessible on a floater basis to each the senior citizen.

9. Andhra Pradesh tied up with VISA for Digital Dhan Sankalp Project

The Andhra Pradesh government has tied up with VISA for Digital Dhan Sankalp project. It is an initiative to develop Visakhapatnam into India's first 'less cash' city.

The digital payment-enabled services include property and water tax at Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, bus services run by APSRTC, iconic tourist locations under VUDA and utility services of EPDCL. The services will be extended all over Andhra Pradesh.



10. Bihar Cabinet approved reservation for 'Divyangs' in government jobs

The Bihar state government approved reservations for differently abled persons in government jobs and educational institutions. The provision has been brought in accordance with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

The cabinet also approved establishment of a state advisory board for the empowerment of 'Divyangjan' as envisaged in the Act. Secretaries of various departments will serve as members of the board. Two members from the state legislative assembly and one from the state legislative council will also be members of the board.



11. Gujarat Government announced Garments & Apparel Policy 2017

In order to make full use of cotton grown in the state, Gujarat state government launched Garments and Apparel Policy-2017. The policy will not only bring employment opportunities for women through the apparel industry but also make Gujarat topmost in textile sector, which produces more of cotton.



Under the Garment and Apparel Policy, state government will pay Rs. 4,000/month to female workers working in the factories, Rs. 3200/month to the male workers and subsidy of Rs.1 per unit in the electricity bill of the industrial unit for 5 years.

12. Madhya Pradesh government reduced VAT on petrol and diesel

Madhya Pradesh Government reduced Value Added Tax, VAT on petrol and diesel. VAT on diesel has been reduced by 5% and on petrol by 3%. The Government has also eradicated surcharge on diesel, making it further cheaper by 1.5 Rupees per liter.



This step was taken to ease the burden of common person and farmers. VAT and Surcharge surge will put two thousand crore rupees extra burden on the State. Decision was taken by committee under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

13. Rajasthan Assembly became the first to call motions online

In order to support 'Digital India' initiatives by Central government, Rajasthan assembly introduced attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government. This will save time, labour and enhance paperless activity in the functioning of the assembly.

With this initiative, Rajasthan assembly became the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online. This will help in bringing attention to urgent public issues, exchange or share information or reports among respective departments through digital mode.



14. Chhattisgarh government reduced interest on loan under Saksham Yojna

Chhattisgarh government has reduced the rate of interest on loan given to women and their self-help groups- under Saksham Yojna from 6.5% to 5%.

The initiative will allow the women and SHGs to easily avail the loan facility for self-employment and thereby become self-dependent.

The Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh is operated by state's women and child development department to disburse easy term loans to women and SHGs.



15. Odisha government hiked monthly remuneration of Anganwadi workers

The Odisha government has enhanced monthly remuneration of Anganwadi workers by 50%. The anganwadi workers will receive 6,000 rupees per month against 4,000 at present. Similarly, monthly remuneration of mini-anganwadi workers has been increased to 4,125 rupees against the existing amount of 2,750 rupees.

The Anganwadi workers will also be covered under the Chief Minister's Relief fund for treatment of critical diseases. The government also directed to constitute a Grievance Redressal forum for Anganwadi workers and to strengthen the infrastructures in 72,000 Anganwadi centers.



16. Gujarat signed three MOUs under Make in Gujarat

Gujarat Government has signed three MOUs under Make in Gujarat with investment up to Rs. 10,400 crores. It will provide employment to more than 21,000 youths of Gujarat. The major chemical company Ms. United Phosphorous Ltd. signed MOU of investment of Rs. 6000 Crores for a project near Dahej Chemical Port.

The Industries and Mines Department of Gujarat state has also signed MoU of Rs. 4100 crores with Grasim Industries Ltd who are producers of manmade fiber. Arvind Limited shall start a garment-manufacturing unit at Dehgam by investing Rs. 300 crores.



17. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister launched 'Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana'

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna' at the Krishi Upaj Mandi in Khurai, Sagar district of the state.

The scheme is a Price Deficit Financing Scheme to hedge price risks in agriculture wherein farmers will be compensated for distress sales at prices below Union government-announced minimum support prices (MSP).

Currently, compensation under this scheme will be provided for 8 crops including oilseed and pulses.



18. Maharashtra government released Rs. 4000 crore in phase 1 of Loan Waiver Scheme

The Maharashtra state government has released a sum of Rs 4,000 crore under the first phase of the over Rs 34,000 crore farm loan waiver scheme that will cover more than 8 lakh farmers.

Out of Rs. 4000 crore, Rs. 3,200 crore will be for writing off the loans of 4.62 lakh farmers. The remaining Rs. 800 crore will be in the form of incentive for 3.78 lakh farmers, who are paying their loans on time. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 34,000 crore.



19. Kerala government to provide sabbatical leave to faculty members to begin Startups

Kerala state government has given thumbs up to a proposal of the state Startup Mission (KSUM) to provide sabbatical leave to the faculty members of all colleges who intend to establish startups. An expert panel, headed by KSUM CEO Saji Gopinath, will select 10 faculty members on a pilot basis for the implementation of the project.



The new initiative would help members of the academic community in the state to become part of entrepreneurship. According to the proposal, teachers can start their own startups, form their groups or join as founders/co-founders along with students.

20. Bengal Government to set up centers of National Institute of Virology

The West Bengal Government is going to set up centers for testing of viruses in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology, Pune. The decision was taken after it was found that cases of acute encephalitis went down due to effective testing of the blood samples sent to national institutes like National Institute of Virology, Pune, but reports from which places take three to four days to reach hospitals in the state.



With the setting up of the centers here, the State Government will get reports of blood samples of affected persons within 24 hours.

21. Rajasthan Government introduces bill-prohibiting probes against judges, officers without sanction

Rajasthan Government has introduced The Code of Criminal Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the state assembly.



The Bill prohibits investigation without prior sanction against "a Judge or a Magistrate or a public servant" for any "act done by them while acting or purporting to act in the discharge of their official duties". It replaces Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 promulgated in this regard. The media too cannot report on the accusation against such a person until the prosecution gets permission to proceed from the sanctioning authority.

22. Meghalaya Election department enters Limca Book of Records

The Meghalaya Election department has entered the Limca Book of Records for the formation of a human logo by newly enrolled young voters of Meghalaya on 1 July 2017. It will feature in the forthcoming edition of the Book.

Around 2870 students from 113 schools, 3 colleges in the age group of 18 and 19 enrolled as new voters and formed a 75 feet by 120 feet size human logo named – You 'N' I. The logo formation was part of the launching of the statewide special drive to enroll left-out voters with a special focus on first-time electors.



23. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid foundation stone for Rs. 198 cr Aerospace Park

Tamil Nadu government laid the foundation stone for an aerospace park in neighboring Kancheepuram district, a facility that was expected to draw Rs 1,000 crore as investment in five years and create over 30,000 jobs.

The facility would come up over 245 acres of land at an estimated cost of Rs. 198 crore and was being implemented by State Industries Promotion Corporation Ltd (SIPCOT) and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO).



24. Madhya Pradesh topped in terms of Digital Initiatives

According to a report by Coeus Age Consulting, Madhya Pradesh has been ranked at the top in terms of digital initiatives undertaken, with a maximum score of 100.1 on performance index, followed by Maharashtra at 99.9 and Andhra Pradesh at 99.8.

Chhattisgarh (97.4) and Karnataka (95.3) occupied the fourth and fifth positions in the list, respectively. The report is based on a comparative assessment of digital initiatives by 36 states and Union Territories.



25. J&K governor promulgates "The Jammu & Kashmir Public Property (Prevention and Damage) (Amendment) Ordinance 2017"

The Jammu & Kashmir Governor Mr. N N Vohra promulgated "The Jammu & Kashmir Public Property (Prevention and Damage) (Amendment) Ordinance 2017", which amends the existing law relating to prevent the deleterious activities of individuals which result in damage to public and private properties.



The Ordinance states that whoever announces direct action in the form of strikes, demonstrations or other public forms of protests, which result in damage to public as well as private property can be punished with imprisonment for a period of 2 to 5 years with a fine equivalent to the market value of the property damaged.

26. Karnataka cabinet cleared State Policy for Transgenders

Karnataka cabinet cleared the State Policy for Transgenders, 2017 with an aim of bringing the community into the mainstream and safeguarding them from exploitation. The policy had been drafted in compliance with a landmark judgment by the Supreme Court on transgenders in 2014. In the policy approved, the term third gender will be used in all documents and communications.



A special cell for transgender will be set up for initiating welfare programs. Counseling centers will be established to address stigma, violence, identification and certification besides legal support.

27. Rajasthan Assembly passed bill increasing OBC quota to 26%

The Rajasthan Backward Classes Bill 2017 was passed by the State Assembly increasing the reservation of other backward classes from 21% to 26%. The total reservation in the state now stands at 54% from 50%.



According to the recommendation of the four commissions, the bill has been brought to the House and it will provide the benefit of reservations to five castes including Gujjars. The government had earlier given reservation to five castes including Gujjars under SBC, but the High Court has dismissed the SBC reservation twice.

28. Uttar Pradesh introduced E-Office system in 22 departments at state secretariat

In Uttar Pradesh, E-Office system has been introduced in 22 departments at the state secretariat. Under the e-office system, physical files would be replaced with digital files, which would facilitate expeditious disposal of files.

Offices of the chief Secretary, Irrigation, Culture, Election, Sports, Youth Affairs, Milk Development, Khadi and Village Industry, Information, Mining, Minor Irrigation, Small and Medium Industry, Estate departments have also been connected with the E-office system. E Office system will be implemented at all departments at Lucknow by end of 2017 and all district headquarter by March 31 2018.



29. Guwahati International Film Festival in Assam

The first international film festival in Assam, Guwahati International Film Festival 2017 (GIFF), began on 28 October. It will end on 2 November. Iranian movie The Salesman will be the inaugural movie. The festival is being organized by Jyoti Chitraban society, Assam government and Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute.

Around 75 movies from 35 countries will be screened. The festival has sections like World Cinema, Indian Panorama and Cinema of Assam among others.



30. Odisha Government to use Drones to survey slum

The Government of Odisha will use drones to conduct survey of slums in the state to know the exact areas and boundaries of the slums. During the first phase, slums in Konark of Puri district will be covered.

The State government had recently passed the "Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Ordinance, 2017" aiming to provide land and property rights to the economic weaker sections in towns and cities across the state.



31. Karnataka inks MoU with Microsoft to use AI for digital agriculture

The Government of Karnataka has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft Corporation India Private Limited.

The MoU will experiment with the Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission (KAPC), Department of Agriculture to help improve price-forecasting practices to benefit farmers.

The MoU is also aimed at using digital tools that have the potential to deliver innovative innovations and artificial intelligence to help farmers get higher crop yields in the state.



1. Gujarat's IFSC placed at 10th spot in Global Financial Centers Index

Ambitious project on International Financial Services Centre of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) is ranked at 10th place among top 15 Global Financial Centers Index), London. According to GFCI report, such 15 centers are likely to become more important in the next few years.

Index is based on calculating the attractiveness of financial centers. Some of other such centers who topped the list were from New York, London, Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo. GIFT city is India's first International Financial Services Centre with conducive multi-service SEZ, the next-in-class infrastructure, connectivity and legal framework.



2. Forbes India Rich List 2017 topped by billionaire Mukesh Ambani

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani bagged the topmost position once again in Forbes's annual list of India's 100 richest businesspersons with a net worth of \$38 billion. Despite the country's economic hiccups, the combined net worth of India's 100 wealthiest witnessed a wealth soar of 26% from \$374 billion in 2016.

Mukesh Ambani was followed by Wipro's Azim Premji at second position. Some other billionaires who were among the top ten list were Hinduja brothers of Ashok Leyland, Lakshmi Mittal, Godrej family, Shiv Nadar of HCL Technologies and Kumar Birla of Aditya Birla Group.



3. World most followed leader list on Twitter topped by Donald Trump

US President Donald Trump topped the world's most followed leader on Twitter. List was unveiled by Twiplomacy, a Burson Marsteller research project that tracks the use of Twitter by governments and international organizations.

This list was followed by Pope Francis at the second position and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 3rd position while the official @PMOIndia account is at the fourth position. The @POTUS and @WhiteHouse accounts secured the fifth and the sixth position respectively.



4. India is Second Largest Market for Pharma

According to a report, "The Indian Pharma and Biotech Industry", published by professional networking giant LinkedIn, India has emerged as the second largest market for the industry. Talent coming to India include professionals hailing from sales followed by quality assurance and research.



According to the report, almost 48% of talent from USA in the the pharma and biotech industry are migrating to India while 36% from India are moving to the USA. In addition, New Delhi, Kolkata and Chandigarh are the key cities to attract the talents.

5. Global Hunger Index placed India at 100th position

The 2017 Global Hunger Index placed India at 100th position than 97th position from 2016 rankings, among 119 countries. Rankings were released by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). It was based on undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting and child stunting.



Overall rankings state that Central African Republic is the only country having alarming hunger levels of 58%. IFPRI urged all countries to meet Sustainable Development Goal 2 of Zero Hunger for everyone by 2030. The Global Hunger Index is an index that depicts the hunger situation in various countries.

6. World Safe Cities Index 2017 released

The Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index 2017 placed 60 cities on basis of 49 indicators such as personal, digital health and security. Index was topped by Tokyo, called as safest place to live in. Cities in bottom list were Manila, Ho Chi Minh City, Cairo, Tehran, Dhaka, Karachi and Jakarta.



Cities in the top 10 list were as follows – Madrid, Singapore, Osaka, Toronto, Amsterdam, Melbourne, Sydney, Hong Kong and Zurich. Indian cities Delhi and Mumbai were placed at 43rd and 45th place respectively.

7. Google most authentic brand in India, Amazon globally

According to the global authenticity index reported in "Authentic Brands Study 2017" and revealed by Cohn & Wolfe, Indian consumers regard Google as the most authentic brand. Amazon tops the list globally.

In India, Google is followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki, and Apple. Globally, Apple takes the second spot followed by Microsoft, Google and PayPal at third, fourth and fifth places respectively. The study is based on surveys on more than 1,400 brands.



8. Most Pollution-linked Deaths Occur in India

According to a major study released in The Lancet medical journal, India has been ranked No. 1 in pollution related deaths. India recorded 2.51 million pollution-linked deaths in 2015 while China recorded the second highest number of such deaths (1.8 million).

Air pollution caused 6.5 million premature deaths globally in 2015. Nearly 25% of all deaths in India in 2015 were caused by pollution. The financial cost from pollution-related death, sickness and welfare is costing some \$4.6 trillion in annual losses — or about 6.2% of the global economy.



9. Times Higher Education Rankings placed IISc & IIT Bombay among world's top 200

According to Times Higher Education subject wise rankings, India's Indian Institute of Science and IIT Bombay were placed among the world's top 200 institutions for engineering and computer science. Indian Institute of Science was placed at 89th place and IIT Bombay was pegged in the 126- 150 category.

Rankings were among the 500 institutions worldwide, based on parameters such as industry income, international outlook, teaching and research. Times Higher Education subject wise rankings was topped by Stanford University followed by California institute of Technology, Oxford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Cambridge University.



10. Cristiano Ronaldo retained the top spot in the Forbes' wealthiest athletes list

According to the Forbes' annual list of the world's wealthiest athletes, Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo is the highest-paid sportsperson. The Portugal captain had topped the list previous year also. Ronaldo earned \$93m (£72.05m) from salary, bonuses and endorsements last year.

The Top 10 athletes are –

- Cristiano Ronaldo - football (\$93m/£72.05m)
- LeBron James - basketball (\$86.2m/£66.79m)
- Lionel Messi - football (\$80m/£61.98m)
- Roger Federer - tennis (\$64m/£49.58m)
- Kevin Durant - basketball (\$60.6m/£46.95m)
- Andrew Luck - American football (\$50m/£38.74m)
- Rory McIlroy - golfer (\$50m/£38.74m)
- Stephen Curry - basketball (\$47.3m/£36.64m)
- James Harden - basketball (\$46.6m/£36.10m)
- Lewis Hamilton - formula 1 (\$46m/£35.64m)



11. State of World Population 2017 Report Launched

According to the State of World Population 2017 report released by the United Nations Population Fund, entitled, "Worlds Apart: Reproductive Health and Rights in an Age of Inequality", suggested a 10-point actions to help nations to bridge the inequality gap between the poor and the rich in society.

As of 2017, half of 1.6 billion women of reproductive age living in developing regions want to avoid a pregnancy. Only about half of the world's women hold paid jobs. Globally, women earn 77 percent of what men get.



12. Singapore Passport ranked 'Most Powerful'

According to the 'Global Passport Power Rank 2017' by global financial advisory firm Arton Capital, Singapore has the world's "most powerful" passport. It was for the first time that as Asian country has topped the ranking.

India was ranked 75th, three notches better than its previous ranking. Germany is ranked second, followed by Sweden and South Korea in third place.

Afghanistan was last in the rank, places at 94, followed by Pakistan and Iraq at 93.



13. Forbes list of the world's most valuable athletes

According to the latest list of the world's most valuable athletes released by Forbes, India's Virat Kohli's brand value is higher than football legend Lionel Messi. Roger Federer tops the list.

The top 10 most valuable athletes –

- Roger Federer \$37.2m
- LeBron James \$33.4m
- Usain Bolt \$27m
- Cristiano Ronaldo \$21.5m
- Phil Mickelson \$19.6m
- Tiger Woods \$16.6m
- Virat Kohli \$14.5m
- Rory McIlroy \$13.6m
- Lionel Messi \$13.5m
- Steph Curry \$13.4m



14. India has third Highest Number of Family-Owned Businesses

According to the Credit Suisse Research Institute's (CSRI) latest "CS Family 1000" report, India has 108 publicly listed family-owned businesses, third highest in the world. In terms of market capitalization, India ranks 5th in Asia Pacific excluding Japan and 22nd globally, with m-cap of \$6.5 billion.

The list is topped by China with 167 such companies followed by the US, which has 121. The others in the top ten are France (4th place), Hong Kong (5th), Korea (6th), Malaysia (7th), Thailand (8th), Indonesia (9th), Mexico (10th).



Resignations & Retirements

1. Indian fast bowler Ashish Nehra announced retirement

Indian fast bowler Ashish Nehra has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket including IPL after playing in the opening match of the three-match Twenty20 series against New Zealand on November 1 at his home ground in Delhi.

Nehra made his debut in 1999. He has played 17 Tests, 120 ODIs and 26 T20 Internationals for the country so far. He has picked 44 Test wickets, besides 157 ODI and 34 T20 scalps.



2. Netherlands football ace Arjen Robben retired from International Football

Netherlands captain Arjen Robben announced his retirement after disappointment of Russia to qualify for the 2018 World Cup finals. Robben has scored 37 times in 96 appearances. Dutch based Arjen Robben made his debut in 2003 from Portugal. He plays for German club.

He was honoured as Dutch sportsperson of the year 2014, Footballer of the year in 2010, the kicker Man of the Year 2010 and UEFA Champions League Final Man of the Match in 2013. He was well known for his efforts in letting Netherlands as runner-up in FIFA World Cup 2010.



3. Samsung Electronics CEO Kwon Oh-hyun resigned

Samsung Electronics Co Ltd CEO and Vice Chairman Kwon Oh-hyun stepped down from position from Samsung Electronics. The 64-year-old Kwon was one of three co-chief executives of Samsung Electronics and a board director in Samsung. He was responsible for components business - including memory chips - and the display business as business head.

Samsung is recognized as world's biggest maker of memory chips, smartphones and TVs. Samsung is under process of entering in new business sectors like artificial intelligence and automobiles.



4. Robert Scheidt announced his retirement from Olympic Sailing

Brazilian sailing legend, Robert Scheidt, has announced his retirement from Olympic sailing. He is one of the most successful Olympic sailors in history. He won five medals, which include – two gold, two silver and one bronze.

Scheidt has won nine Laser World Championship titles over a span of 18 years. He has twice been awarded the title of ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Award. He is also the only sailor who has beaten Sir Ben Ainslie (GBR) at Olympic level winning gold in the Laser at Atlanta in 1996.



5. Ranjit Kumar resigned as Solicitor General of India

Solicitor-General of India Ranjit Kumar has resigned with immediate effect. Solicitor-General is the second highest-ranking law officer of the government.

Mr. Kumar's tenure of three years as Solicitor General had ended on June 6, 2017, but the government had extended the tenure on an ad hoc basis. He was appointed as the Solicitor General in June 2014. Kumar's resignation comes months after Mukul Rohatgi resigned as the Attorney General of India. Senior lawyer K K Venugopal was appointed as the new Attorney General.



6. Robert Mugabe removed as WHO goodwill ambassador

The World Health Organization has removed the Zimbabwean president, Robert Mugabe, as a goodwill ambassador following outrage among donors and rights groups at his appointment.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus named Mugabe as the goodwill ambassador. Mr. Mugabe and Zimbabwe have also been slapped with international sanctions over human rights abuses. Mugabe is blamed in the West for destroying Zimbabwe's economy and numerous human rights abuses.



7. Nepal Government accepted resignation of its Ambassador to India

The Nepal government has accepted the resignation of its Ambassador to India, Deep Kumar Upadhyay, to contest the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Upadhyaya had tendered his resignation on October 6. A Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba in Kathmandu accepted the resignation of Upadhyay, leaving the envoy's post vacant. Mr Upadhyay has filed his nomination for the upcoming parliamentary election from Kapilvastu district as the ruling Nepali Congress candidate.



1. Scientists reported 'Sawfish' more threatened than tigers

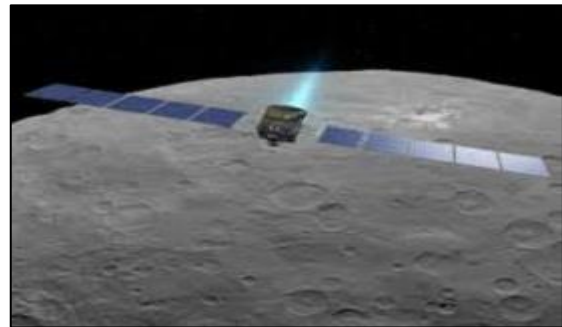
Marine Scientists claim that sawfish appear to be more threatened than tigers and elephants. Marine scientists observed 24 October as Sawfish Day. According to Marine Fisheries Research Institute, sawfish is reported to be the most endangered fish species in India. Scientists reported that sawfish that were commonly seen once upon a time are sighted off the Indian coast less than 10 times in over a decade.



International Union for Conservation of Nature Global Red List has placed 'sawfish' as either 'Endangered' or 'Critically Endangered' in the list.

2. Dawn Mission Extended at Ceres

NASA has authorized a second extension of the Dawn mission at Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. During this extension, the spacecraft will descend to lower altitudes than ever before at the dwarf planet, which it has been orbiting since March 2015.



Dawn is the only mission ever to orbit two extraterrestrial targets. It orbited giant asteroid Vesta for 14 months from 2011 to 2012, then continued on to Ceres, where it has been in orbit since March 2015.

3. India's space mission to moon "Chandrayaan-II" in 2018

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that India's Space Mission to Moon, "Chandrayaan-II", will take place in 2018, most likely in the first quarter of the year. He was addressing the inaugural session of the 5-day Asian Conference on Remote Sensing.



The 38th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS-2017) was held at New Delhi from 23 – 27 October 2017. The main theme of the conference was "Space Applications: Touching Human Lives".

4. NIIST team developed organic near-infrared filter

A team of scientists at the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) has successfully developed an organic filter that allows only near-infrared (NIR) light to pass through.

The new NIR filter can be used for night vision glasses, night photography, and will have applications in security and forensics. The researchers developed the filter by mixing the organogel with a transparent polymer (polydimethylsiloxane).



5. Scientists developed new tool to improve monsoon forecast

A team of scientists from Florida State University in the US developed a new tool for objectively defining the onset and demise of the Indian Summer Monsoon.

The new method uses rainfall rates to mark the span of the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) at any given location throughout the affected region. Current weather forecasting and monitoring protocols focus attention on monsoon onset at one location, specifically the State of Kerala and assume for the rest of the region.



6. New artificial intelligence system can predict earthquakes: Research

Researchers from University of Cambridge in the UK and Boston University in the US have claimed that they have developed an artificial intelligence system to predict earthquakes in advance. They studied the interactions among earthquakes, precursor quakes and faults to develop a method, which can help predict earthquakes well in time.

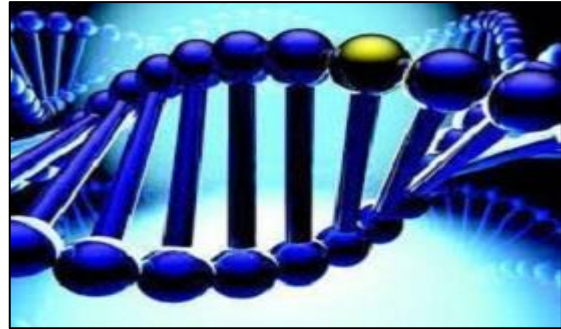
The researchers used machine-learning techniques to analyse acoustic signals, which comes from the fault and records the seismic signals and sounds that are emitted.



7. Scientists develop RNA editing tool to eradicate genetic disease

A team of scientists from The Broad Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US have created a new gene-editing tool that tweaks the individual RNA 'letters' in human cells without making changes to the entire genome, paving the way for therapies that can reverse disease-causing mutations.

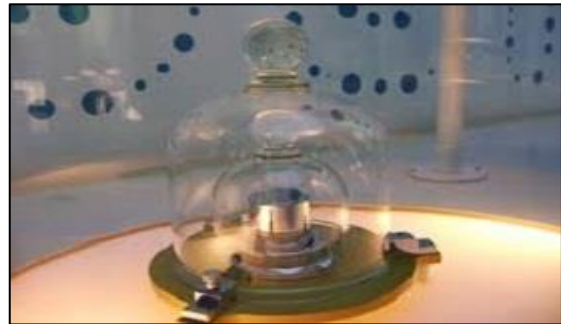
The new system, called REPAIR (RNA Editing for Programmable A to I Replacement) is based on the gene-editing tool CRISPR that can be used to modify DNA in cells. It has the ability to reverse disease-causing mutations at the RNA level.



8. Kilogram will get new measure set by value from 2019

The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) is working to revise the scientific units like the ampere, the kilogram, the kelvin, and the mole.

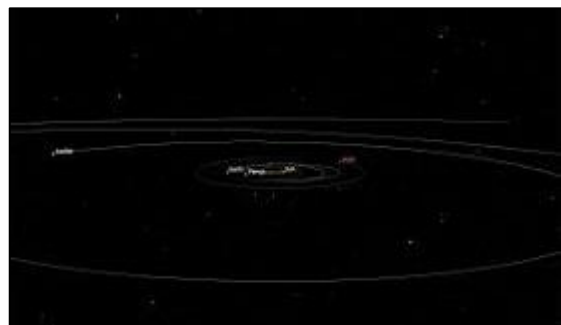
The kilogram is currently defined in terms of the mass of a platinum-iridium artifact stored in France. Scientists want to replace this physical artifact with a more reproducible definition for the kilogram that is based on fundamental constants of nature. The artefact is known to fluctuate in weight (due to surface contamination), making it tricky to define its exact mass.



9. NASA spots 'interstellar object' passing through solar system

In a first, NASA scientists have discovered an interstellar object - a small asteroid or comet that appears to have originated from outside the solar system, coming from somewhere else in our galaxy.

The object - designated A- 2017 U1 - is less than 400 metres in diameter and is moving remarkably fast. A- 2017 U1 was discovered by the University of Hawaii's Pan-STARRS 1 telescope during the course of its nightly search for near-Earth objects for NASA.



10. Scientists link new virus to kala-azar

A group of scientists from West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh has made a point that an unknown virus, called *Leptomonas seymouri*, may be responsible for the persistence of kala-azar or visceral leishmaniasis. Historically, the parasite *Leishmania donovani* is believed to be responsible for the disease.

The researchers found the *L. seymouri* and a virus called *Lepsey NLV1* within it in 20 of 22 biological samples of patients who had a residual *L. donovani* infection.



1. Viswanathan Anand finished second at Isle of Man Championship at Douglas

Five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand finished second at the Isle of Man Chess Championship at Douglas. He defeated the Chinese grandmaster Hou Yifan in the ninth and final round. He took 53 moves to overpower Yifan to finish with 7 points. Anand shares second position with America's Nakamura Hikaru.



World Champion Magnus Carlsen won the title with 7.5 points after a short draw against Nakamura. Vidit Santosh Gujrathi and Swapnil S Dhopade finished at the joint third position with 6.5 points after playing out draws against Hungarian Rapport Richard and Ukraine's Eljanov Pavel respectively.

2. ICC ODI rankings placed Rohit Sharma back in top five

Rohit moved up four places to reach fifth position after finishing as the leading scorer in the home series against Australia, which India won 4-1. Ajinkya Rahane has moved up four places to reach 24th while Australia's Aaron Finch and David Warner also moved up.



In the rankings for bowlers, South Africa leg-spinner Imran Tahir has regained the top spot after Australia pace bowler Josh Hazlewood missed the India series due to a side strain. In the list of all-rounders led by Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, England's Ben Stokes has moved into the top five at fifth.

3. TVS Racing's mascot Jagan Kumar bagged sixth Super Sport Indian title

MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship title in the premier Super Sport Indian (165cc) class was once gain bagged by TVS Racing's mascot Jagan Kumar. It is for the sixth time that Jagan Kumar has won this title. He scored a six-point lead over Honda Ten10 Racings Rajiv Sethu.



Other National Champions were Aravind Balakrishnan (Honda Ten10 Racing, Pro-Stock), Amarnath Menon (Gusto Racing, Super Sport Indian 300-400cc), Sai Rahil Pillarishetty (Sparks Racing, Novice 165cc), Aishwarya Pissay (Apex Racing, Girls 165cc).

4. Gurusaidutt bagged the Bulgarian International future series title

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist RMV Gurusaidutt clinched the men's singles title at the Bulgarian International Future Series tournament, which was held in Sofia, Bulgaria. Gurusaidutt, who has been out of action since the US Open in July 2016 due to an ankle injury, defeated Muhammed Ali Kurt 21- 17, 21-16 in a final match that lasted for only 35 minutes.



Muhammed Ali Kurt lost the match in straight sets itself. He will be playing Senior Nationals Championship scheduled in November 2017.

5. Samiya bagged gold at U-15 Asian Junior Championship

Indian shuttler Samiya Imad Farooqui clinched the gold medal at the Under-15 women's singles competition after defeating Indonesia's Widjaja Stephani at the Asian Junior Championship in Yangon, Myanmar. The third-seeded Indian, who had reached the finals at Pembangunan Jaya Raya International Junior Grand Prix U-19 in April, defeated Stephani 15-21, 21-17, 21-19 to lay claim to the coveted title.



P V Sindhu had won the gold in U-19 Asia Junior championship in 2012 at Gimcheon, South Korea.

6. American Morgan Hurd bagged all-around Gymnastics World championships title

American Morgan Hurd won the all-around title at the gymnastics world championships in Montreal. The 16-year-old won the United States' seventh straight Olympic or world all-around title by edging out Canada's Elisabeth Black 55.232 to 55.132. U.S. champion Ragan Smith withdrew minutes before the competition with an ankle injury.



Russia's Elena Eremina took third with 54.799 points. Japan's Mai Murakami was fourth, followed by Melanie de Jesus dos Santos of France. Hurd's triumph made her the youngest Olympic or world all-around champion since Aliya Mustafina in 2010.

7. India bagged its first ever gold in Wushu World Championship

India's Pooja Kadian created history by winning first-ever gold medal at the Wushu World Championship in Kazan, Russia. Pooja Kadain bagged gold medal in the 75 kg women's Sanda Category defeating Russia's Evgeniya Stepanova. Pooja has been winner of gold medal in 12th South Asian Games and silver medals in the World Games 2013, World Championship 2013 and World Championship 2015 respectively.



World Wushu Championships is organized in every 2 years and World Wushu Championships was its 14th edition. It was conducted for the first time in 1991.

8. Iceland becomes the smallest country to qualify for FIFA World Cup 2018

Iceland became the smallest country by population ever to qualify for the Football World Cup. With a population of just 335,000 people, the football team of the country defeated Kosovo 2-0 to reach the 2018 finals in Russia, setting a new record in the process.



The island nation has just 20,000 registered footballers, male and female, making the nation one of the smallest playing pools on the planet. The previous smallest country to have reached the finals was Trinidad & Tobago, in 2006, with 1.3 million people.

9. Indian pair wins Junior Recursive World Title

India picked up its first world title at the youth championships since Deepika Kumari's victories in 2009 and 2011 when Jemson Singh Ningthoujam and Ankita Bhakat won gold in the mixed team event in Rosario, Argentina.



The pair beat Russia in the final. The mixed team gold is India's fourth World Archery Champion title across all disciplines. India also took a bronze medal in the compound cadet women's event in Rosario.

10. FIFA Suspends the Pakistan Football Federation

FIFA has suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) with immediate effect in accordance with the decision of the Bureau of the FIFA Council because of undue third-party interference.

The Bureau took this decision as a result of the fact that the PFF offices and its accounts remain in control of a court-appointed administrator, which constitutes a violation of the PFF obligations to manage its affairs independently and without influence from any third parties in accordance with the FIFA Statutes. The suspension will be lifted when the body becomes independent.



11. National Award for Boxing Coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu

President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the National award (Vayoshreshtha Samman) for senior citizens to Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.

Gurbax Singh Sandhu was India's longest-serving national coach for men, for two decades. Sandhu was the chief coach when India won its maiden Olympic medal in boxing through Vijender Singh in 2008. Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak is the founder of Sulabh International.



12. India qualified for 2019 AFC Asian Cup

As India bagged a win over Macau by 4-1 at the Sree Kanteerava stadium in Bangalore, it qualified for 2019 Asian Cup, scheduled to take place in the United Arab Emirates. This is India's fourth qualification after 1964, 1984 and 2011.

Outstanding performances were given by players such as Balwant Singh and Sunil Chhetri. 4 goals were played by Rowlin Borges, Lam Seng, Jeje and Sunil Chhetri, whereas Macau's one goal was done by Nicolas Tarrao.

The 2019 AFC Asian Cup will be the 17th edition of the quadrennial international men's football championship of Asia organized by the Asian Football Confederation.



13. Federer defeated Nadal in straight sets to win Shanghai Masters

Roger Federer defeated Rafael Nadal in Shanghai Masters in straight sets 6-4, 6-3. Despite giving tough competition to the Swiss in the first set, Federer maintained his early lead to win the set 6-4. Nadal was initially going strong in the second set but Federer came back to break the serve and take the lead in the second set, ultimately winning it by 6-3.



It was a 94th title for the Swiss legend, drawing him level with the great Ivan Lendl. Federer is now close to world number one Nadal in terms of rankings points.

14. Mohun Bagan bagged Governors Gold Cup for 10th time

Mohun Bagan won the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament for the 10th time by defeating Partha Chakra by a narrow 1-0 margin. In the final match played at Paljor Stadium, at Gangtok Mohun Bagan's striker GA Kramah scored the lone goal in the seventh minute.



Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling attended the final and gave away trophies and cash prize to winners and the runner-up. Mohun Bagan Athletic Club is a football club based in Kolkata, India. Club participates in top-flight domestic league of Indian football.

15. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka jointly declared South Regional Cricket for Blind winners

Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka were declared as joint winners in the Southern Regional Cricket tournament for visually impaired.



The final match between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka scheduled to conduct at Thalassery Conorvayal Cricket Stadium was cancelled due to rain in the morning. Both teams would represent the South India to attend the National Cricket tournament for the blind at Mumbai. Blind cricket is a version of the sport of cricket adapted for blind and partially sighted players. It has been governed by the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC) since 1996.

16. Switzerland's Esther Staubli became first female referee at U-17 World Cup

Switzerland's Esther Staubli became first female referee to officiate a match at the FIFA U-17 World Cup. Her first match as a referee was between Japan and New Caledonia in the final round group E match. FIFA's Referees Committee took an initiative to further develop women's football and let women referees have an opportunity to gain more experience.



FIFA has appointed female referees for a men's tournament as a logical consequence of an education programme that FIFA's Refereeing Department began in 2016.

17. Shakib first from Bangladesh in MCC World Cricket Committee

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan became the first cricketer from the country to be inducted in the MCC World Cricket Committee.



In addition, former England and Middlesex captain Mike Gatting was appointed as the new Chairman of the committee, taking over from another former England captain, Mike Brearley. New Zealand Women's captain Suzie Bates, former West Indies bowler and renowned commentator Ian Bishop and umpire Kumar Dharmasena were also inducted as members.

18. Maria Sharapova won Tianjin Open

Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova won her first title since her 15-month doping ban after she defeated Aryna Sabalenka at the Tianjin Open.



It was her 36th tour title and first in more than two years since the 2015 Italian Open. Sharapova served a 15-month ban after she tested positive for the banned substance Meldonium. Roger Federer defeated Rafael Nadal in the final of the Shanghai Masters.

19. Selena Selvakumar of India won triple gold at Egypt Junior and Cadet TT

India's young paddler Selena Selvakumar won triple gold at the Egypt Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis championship. She won singles and doubles gold medal apart from the team championship gold.

Selena remained unbeaten all through this elite 2017 ITTF World Junior Circuit event. She defeated Mariam Alhodaby in the semifinal and then beat second seeded Marwa Alhodaby in the final to clinch the singles title. Selena paired up with Nigeria's Esther Oribamise in the doubles.



20. K Srikanth won Denmark Open Superseries trophy

Ace Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth has won the Denmark Open Superseries trophy at Odense. In the title clash, Srikanth, seeded 8th, defeated South Korea's Lee Hyun-il in straight games, 21-10, 21-5 to bag his third Super Series title of the year.

With the win in Denmark, Srikanth has now won five Super Series title – Denmark Open (2017), Australia Open (2017), Indonesia Open (2017), India Open (2015) and China Open (2014).



21. Gaganjeet Bhullar won Macao Open Golf Title 2017

Gaganjeet Bhullar has won his eighth Asian Tour title at the Macao Open. Ajeetesh Sandhu of India and Filipino Angelo Que shared second place at par-71 Macau Golf and Country Club, while Taiwan's Hung Chien-Yao was alone in fourth.

Bhullar took home a winner's prize purse of US\$90,000 and became only the third player after Australian Scott Hend (2013 and 2015) and Zhang Lian-wei of China (2001-2002) to win the storied event twice since the tournament was inaugurated in 1998.



22. India Beat Malaysia to lift their third Asia Cup Hockey Title

India beat Malaysia 2-1 in a thrilling finale to win the 2017 Asia Cup Hockey tournament held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This was India's third continental title.

Lalit Upadhyay won the goal of the match award while Akashdeep Singh was adjudged the Man of the match. India last won the title in 2007.

India are now tied with Pakistan as the second most successful team in the tournament, behind South Korea. The Koreans have won it four times.



23. Cristiano Ronaldo won FIFA player of the year award

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has won the Best FIFA Men's Player award for the second year in a row. He has beaten Lionel Messi and Neymar to win the award. He was presented the award at the Best FIFA Football Awards ceremony in London.

- Best FIFA Men's Coach: Zinedine Zidane
- Best FIFA Goalkeeper: Gianluigi Buffon
- FIFA Women's Player award: Netherlands' Lieke Martens
- Puskas Award for the year's best goal: Arsenal forward Olivier Giroud
- FIFA Fan Award: Celtic
- Fair Play Award: Slovakia's Francis Kone



24. Former India basketball coach Scott Flemming takes up NBA role in India

Former India coach Scott Flemming has joined NBA India as head of basketball operations. He will oversee the league's youth and elite basketball development initiatives in India, including the Reliance Foundation Jr. NBA program, The NBA Academy India and NBA Basketball School, and will work with key stakeholders across the country.

Flemming has 25 years of collegiate coaching experience. He has won two national coach of the year awards and a Christian College National Championship.



25. Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu Strike Gold in ISSF World Cup

India won its first gold medal of the ISSF World Cup final in the 10m air pistol mixed team event when ace pistol shooter Heena Sidhu and Jitu Rai shot 483.4 to win the title.

France's Goberville and Fouquet bagged the silver medal with 481.1, while the Chinese pairing of Cai and Yang managed to claim the bronze with a score of 418.2. The mixed team competitions were organised as test events in the World Cups held earlier this year and will be making their Olympic debut in the Tokyo 2020 Games.



26. Puducherry becomes an associate member of BCCI

The Committee of Administrators (COA) has cleared Cricket Association of Puducherry's (CAP) associate membership in the Indian cricket board (BCCI).

The BCCI, in its SGM earlier this month, had approved Puducherry's associate membership.

With this Puducherry will be allowed to play the Ranji Trophy next year. It can also now host both international matches and the Board's domestic games.



27. The 36th edition of National Games to held next year from November 4-17

The 36th edition of National Games will be held next year from November 4 to 17. Sports Authority of Goa has finalized dates of the Games to be held after many delays.

The Games were scheduled in November 2016, but the Goa administration requested a postponement at the Indian Olympic Association's Annual General Meeting due to assembly elections in the State. There was uncertainty over the dates of the 30-discipline event ever since the Games were awarded to the State in 2011.



28. Kidambi Srikanth won French Open Super Series Title of 2017

Kidambi Srikanth defeated Japanese Kenta Nishimoto 21-14, 21-13 to clinch the French Open Super Series Premier title of 2017.

This is Srikanth's fourth Super Series title of the year and sixth overall. He became only the fourth player in the history of the game to win four super series titles in one year after Lin Dan, Lee Chong Wei and Chen Long.

Having already completed a hat trick of Super Series titles, Srikanth won his fourth title of the season. He clinched titles at Indonesia, Australia and Denmark earlier this year.



29. David Miller smashed fastest T20I Century off just 35 balls

David Miller of South Africa scored the fastest century in the history of T20I cricket, while playing against Bangladesh. Miller scored the century in just 35 balls.

Miller surpassed the record of compatriot Richard Levi, who scored his century in 45 balls in Hamilton during their 2012 series against New Zealand. The quickest T20I centuries are as follows:

- 35 balls – David Miller
- 45 balls – Richard Levi
- 46 balls – Faf du Plessis/ KL Rahul
- 47 Balls – Aaron Finch/Chris Gayle



30. England beat Spain 5-2 to lift maiden Fifa U-17 World Cup title

England defeated Spain 5-2 to win its maiden Fifa U-17 World Cup title. The final was played at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. Sergio Gomez scored two goals for the La Rojas juniors while Phil Foden (69th and 88th), Rhian Brewster (44th), Morgan Gibbs White (58th) and Marc Guehi (84th) scored for the Three Lions colts.

English striker Rhian Brewster with eight goals in the tournament won the Golden Boot. Spain finished runners-up for the fourth time after 1991, 2003 and 2007. It was England's first appearance in the under-17 final. In addition, Brazil beat Mali 2-0 to finish third.



31. Patna Pirates won Pro Kabaddi League 2017

Patna Pirates defeated Gujarat Fortunegiants 55-38 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai to clinch the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) season 5 title. It was the third consecutive season win for the Patna Pirates.

Raider Pardeep Narwal of Patna Pirates won 19 points to win the title for the team single handedly. He was awarded the most Valuable Player of the season. He scored a total of 369 points, the highest in the tournament.



32. Virat Kohli became fastest batsman to score 9,000 runs in ODIs

Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to score 9,000 runs in ODIs beating A.B. de Villiers while batting against New Zealand in the third ODI in Kanpur. Kohli achieved the feat in his 194th ODI innings, which is 11 innings less than de Villiers took.

The other Indians to have scored more than 9000 runs are Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Azharuddin and Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Kohli also notched up his 32nd One-Day International (ODI). He is now placed second in the list for most ODI hundreds after Sachin Tendulkar.

