

Current Affairs:

PM Modi Inaugurates Second Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi:

Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **second edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi**. The conference has been organized by the Ministry of **External Affairs** and Delhi based prestigious **think tank Observer Research Foundation**.

The theme of the three day conference is **"The New Normal: Multilateralism in a Multipolar world"**.

58th India International Garment Fair Begins in New Delhi:

The **58th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF)** was inaugurated by the Union Textiles Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** in **New Delhi**. The three day long fair has been organized by **Apparel Export Promotion Council India**.

The Fair will witness a total of **312 participants** from **14 states** including Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka.

10th Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) Begins in Jaipur:

The **10th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF)** was inaugurated at the historic **Diggi Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

The theme of the 10th edition of JLF is **The Freedom to Dream: India at 70**. JLF is considered as the **'Greatest Literary Show on Earth'**.

Karnataka allows sale of white kerosene in open market:

Karnataka government lead by **Siddaramaiah**, has decided to allow **the sale of white kerosene** in open market. An official order was issued by State Food and Civil Supplies Minister **UT Khader**.

The dealers who have interest in selling white kerosene in open market can approach the office of the Food and Civil Supplies in their districts.

Entrepreneurship Development Scheme inaugurated in Mizoram:

The **Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS)** was launched under the **New Economic Development Policy (NEDP)** by **Lalmalsawma** in Mizoram.

The State government has allocated **Rs.2 Crore** for **New Economic Development Policy (NEDP)**

Indian Railways Unveils 'Mission 41K' to Save Energy Worth Rs 41,000 crore:

The Union Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** launched **'Mission 41K'** to **revamp the existing railway system**.

The mission aims to save the Indian Railways' expenditure of **Rs 41,000 crore on energy consumption over the next 10 years**.

Govt inks MoU to set up 1,000 'Janaushadhi Kendras':

The **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Yuva Cooperative Society** to set up **1,000 'Janaushadhi Kendras'** under the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** scheme. This was announced by **Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ananth Kumar**.

AIM: **To provide medicines at an affordable price**.

The central government has targeted to open 3,000 such centers across India by the end of this fiscal year. Nearly 750 Janaushadhi Kendras are opened still now.

Janaushadhi Kendras will be opened in **each block and Gram Panchayat**.

Govt gets 45 initial bids for more than 200 regional routes:

The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has received **45 initial proposals** coming in from 11 bidders covering more than **200 regional routes** under **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** said by Civil Aviation Minister **P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju**.

These proposals will cover 65 airports out of which 52 are unserved and 13 are underserved airports.

Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS):

The **Regional Connectivity Scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)** was launched on October, 2016 to enhance air passenger traffic in the country by stimulating demand on regional routes. It will be in operation for a **period of 10 years**.

CBDT Clarifies No TDS or Advance Tax Credit for Income under PMGKY:

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** cleared that income declared under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY)** would not be entitled to get any credit by way of **advance tax paid** or the **tax deducted at source (TDS)** or **tax collected at source (TCS)**

Under the scheme, a person declaring undisclosed income would need to pay a tax of

30%, in addition to a penalty of **10%** and a **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan cess of 33% on the tax**.

Lloyd's Gets Final Approval from IRDAI to Open First Branch in India:

London's insurance giant Lloyd has received the final approval from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)** to set up its **first branch in India**.

The specialist insurance and reinsurance company would open its first branch office in India before April 2017 and will be located at **Mumbai**.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA):

Headquarter: **Hyderabad, Telangana**

Chairman: **T.S. Vijayan**

PNB and IPPB team up for technology support:

New Delhi based Punjab National Bank signed a MoU with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to provide technology platform for pilot launch of IPPB on receipt of regulatory nod from the Reserve Bank of India.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB):

The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been recently incorporated as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts with **100% GOI equity**.

The total corpus of the payments bank is of **Rs 800 crore**.

World Bank Sanctions Rs 1,376 Cr for Tripura Power Upgradation:

Washington based World Bank has sanctioned **Rs 1,376 crore** for upgradations and improvement of the Tripura power system network. The Power Upgradation project is divided into **5 phases**. **SPML Infra Ltd** has got the contract of the first phase with the budget of **Rs 461 crore**.

World Bank:

CEO: **Dr. Jim Yong Kim**

Headquarters: **Washington, D.C., United States**

Motto: **Working for a World Free of Poverty**

Priyanka Chopra wins her 2nd People's Choice Award for TV Series Quantico:

The **Bollywood Actress Priyanka Chopra** won her **second People's Choice Award** for **Favourite Dramatic TV Actress** at the **Microsoft Theater** in Los Angeles, California.

Priyanka won for her role as CIA agent **Alex Parrish** in the ABC thriller TV series **Quantico**.

Birender Singh Yadav concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Sierra Leone:

Former IFS officer **Shri Birender Singh Yadav** was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of **Sierra Leone**, with residence in Accra (Ghana).

Currently **Yadav** is working as the **High Commissioner of India to Republic of Ghana**.

Sierra Leone:

Capital: **Freetown**

Currency: **Sierra Leonean leone**

President: **Ernest Bai Koroma**

Government Launches Web-Portal 'ShaGun' for Monitoring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

The Union Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javadekar** launched a dedicated web portal **'ShaGun'** for continuous monitoring of the elementary education scheme **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** and promote the development of education sector of India.

ShaGun has been coined from the words **'Shala'** meaning **schools** and **'Guvatta'** meaning **quality**.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a centrally sponsored scheme providing universal access to education to children in the age group of **six to fourteen years of age**.

ISRO Successfully Realigns Orbit of Mars Mission "Mangalyaan":

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully realigned the orbit of its **Mars Orbiter Mission 'Mangalyaan'**. since it could not withstand long duration eclipse.

It would help to keep the power supply strong during the eclipse caused by **shadow of Mars falling on it for 7-8 hours** so that **Mangalyaan** could continue to function longer. The spacecraft has 30kg fuel left as per the scientists and with realignment it is expected to work for a very long time to come.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Headquarters: **Bengaluru**

Director: **A. S. Kiran Kumar**

Mers, Lassa, Nipah Virus May Cause Next Global Health Emergency:

Scientists have discovered **three new lesser known diseases** namely **Mers, Lassa fever and Nipah virus** that could cause the next global health emergency.

To overcome this to happen, **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations**

(CEPI) has contributed a sum of **\$460 million** for the development of the vaccine against these would-be deadly disease. Besides, CEPI has also asked help of **\$500 million** from World Economic Forum Davos.

New Species of Moth Named after Donald Trump:

A Canadian Biologist named **Dr. Vazrick Nazari**, has discovered a **new species of moth** in a densely populated part of southern California and named it after US President-elect Donald Trump.

The researcher believes that naming the species after the 45th US President would create public awareness about its conservation. It is an endangered species and some of still contains some undiscovered species.

2016 hottest year on record: WMD

According to World Meteorological Organisation's, recent report 2016 was the hottest year with an **average temperature 1.1 degrees Centigrade** (2 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than in pre-industrial times.

World Meteorological Organisation:

Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**

Head: **Petteri Taalas**

Babar Azam Becomes Fastest Pakistani Player to Reach 1000 ODI runs:

Pakistani batsman Babar Azam became the **fastest player in Pakistan's One Day International (ODI)** history to **score 1,000 runs in 21 innings** during the 3rd ODI against Australia at WACA Ground in Perth, Australia.

Alibaba Becomes Worldwide Sponsor of Olympic Games through 2028:

The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** and Chinese e-commerce firm **Alibaba Group** entered into a long-term partnership through **2028** at the World Economic Forum in **Davos, Switzerland**. This makes **Alibaba the worldwide sponsor of Olympic Games** through **2028**. The partnership was agreed between **IOC President Thomas Bach**, Alibaba Group Founder and Executive Chairman **Jack Ma** and Alibaba Group Chief Executive Officer **Daniel Zhang**.

With this **Alibaba** has become the **first company in the world** to make a **long-term commitment** to the IOC through **2028** as well as first Chinese company to commit to the **Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022**.

By joining The Olympic Partner (TOP) worldwide sponsorship programme, Alibaba will become the official **"Cloud Services"** and **"E-Commerce Platform Services"** Partner, as well as a **Founding Partner** of the Olympic Channel.

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**

President: **Thomas Bach**

Shri Kalraj Mishra Inaugurates Workshop on MSME Cooperation among IORA:

Union Minister of **Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, **Shri Kalraj Mishra** inaugurated a Workshop on MSME Cooperation amongst **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** Member countries in New Delhi.

India has already signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with 18 countries for cooperation in MSME sector.

Over 3.81 lakh Winners of Rs 61 cr in NITI Aayog's Lucky Draw Scheme:

According to a statement by **NITI Aayog**, till date over **3.81 lakh consumers and 21,000 merchants** have been declared as the winner of the NITI Aayog's lucky draw schemes namely **Lucky Grahak Yojana (LGY)** for consumers and **Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana (DVY)** for merchants.

It also stated that daily as well as **weekly prize money worth Rs 60.90 crore** has been declared at **24 Digi-Dhan Melas** organized across the country. Besides, most of the winners were in the **age group of 21-30 years**.

The top 5 states that had most of the winners are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Civil Aviation Ministry Announces First Flight under UDAN Scheme to Take off in February 2017:

The Minister of State for Civil Aviation **Jayant Sinha** announced that the under **UDAN (Ude Desh Ke Aam Naagrik) Scheme** is likely to take off.

Presently there are **75 operational airports** in the country and after the implementation of **UDAN scheme 43 new airports** will be added. The fare for a one hour journey of approximately **500 km** on a fixed wing aircraft or for a 30 minute journey on a helicopter has been fixed at **Rs. 2500** under the scheme.

Government Constitutes Negotiation Committee on Mahanadi & its Tributaries:

The Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation led by **Uma Bharti** have formed a Negotiations Committee to determine the availability and utilization of waters of **the river Mahanadi** and its tributaries.

Himachal Pradesh Declares Dharamsala as the Second Capital of the State:

Dharamsala town in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh has been declared as the **second capital city of the state** by the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Virbhadra Singh**.

Dharamsala is located about **250 km** from the state capital Shimla and has a unique significance and history of its own.

President Mukherjee inaugurates 28th Dantan Gramin Mela in West Bengal:

28th Dantan Gramin Mela was inaugurated by President **Pranab Mukherjee** in **Midnapore** district in **West Bengal**.

The mela display the rural handicraft skills of the people of the region and the different goods ranging from textile to terracotta.

WEF, UCSB partner to protect world's \$2.5 trn ocean economy

Switzerland based **World Economic Forum** announced a partnership with the UCSB's Marine Science Institute to improve health of world's oceans and maritime resources.

Aim: To protect world's USD 2.5 trillion ocean economy.

RBI Set to Increase Focus on IT and Cyber Security Issues:

According to a notification published by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, It has planned to increase the focus on IT & Cyber Security in a move to combat the increasing threat of cyber-security issues arising after the governments Digital Payment initiative.

RBI with the help of its arm **Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Ltd (ReBIT)** will implement the IT & Cyber Security in the financial sector and assist in IT systems audit and assessment in entities such as banks, payments banks, wallets, among others.

RBI imposes Rs 75 lakh penalty on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs 75lakhs** on **Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank** for violations of norms related to **KYC and anti-money laundering**.

Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank:

The Mercantile Bank of Bombay was an Anglo-Indian bank with business focus in the Far East.

Headquarters: **London**

CCI Imposes Penalty of Rs 206 cr on 7 Cement Companies:

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** imposed a penalty of **Rs. 206 crore** on **seven major cement companies** for being involved in bid rigging and cartelisation to get tenders in **Haryana government orders**.

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

Headquarter: **New Delhi**

Chairman: **Dhanendra Kumar Sikri**

ISKCON's Govardhan eco village bags UN award:

ISKCON's Govardhan eco village in **Thane district** has been conferred with the **UNWTO Award** for Innovation in the category of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) at the annual United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Tourism at Madrid in Spain.

Govardhan eco village become the first village in India has recognized by UN in the NGO sector. The village received this honour for its initiative of eco tourism as a catalyst for rural development.

World Tourism Organisation:

Headquarters: **Madrid, Spain**

Head: **Taleb Rifai**

Delhi Police Commissioner Alok Kumar Verma Appointed the Director of CBI:

Delhi Police Commissioner **Alok Kumar Verma** was appointed as the new Director of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. **Alok Kumar Verma** will replace the interim director **Rakesh Asthana**.

Adama Barrow sworn in as Gambia's president:

Adama Barrow was sworn in as third official **President of Gambian** at the Gambian Embassy in Dakar, capital of Senegal. He replaced **Yahya Jammeh**.

Gambia:

Capital: **Banjul**

Currency: **Gambian dalasi**

Ashok Warriar concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Central African Republic:

Ashok Warriar was appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Central African Republic, with residence in Kinshasa.

Currently he is working as the Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of **Congo**.

Bishwadip Dey concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to Grenada:

Former IFS officer **Bishwadip Dey** was concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to **Grenada** with residence in Port of Spain.

Presently, Dey was working as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of **Trinidad and Tobago**.

Grenada:

Capital: **St. George's**

Currency: **East Caribbean dollar**

Israeli Air Force Receives First Anti-Missile Interceptors for Arrow 3 System:

The first anti-missile interceptors for **the Arrow 3 Missile** Defense System was inducted into the **Israel Defense Forces** by both Israel's Defense Ministry and the US Missile Defense Agency during a ceremony held on the **Palmachim Air Base**.

US launches Geo-3 satellite into Space to Detect & Defeat Missiles

The US military launched a **Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) GEO Flight 3** mission.

Under the mission, **Geo-3 satellite** has been send into the space mounted on Atlas V rocket from Florida where it will detect any possible missile attack to meet national security threats.

Punjab Royals Wins Pro Wrestling League Season 2:

The **NCR Punjab Royals** won the **Pro Wrestling League Season 2** defeating two-time finalists Haryana Hammers 5-4 in the finals at the **K D Jadhav Indoor Stadium, New Delhi**.

AYUSH, ASCI sign MoU to co-regulate advertisements in AYUSH sector:

Ministry of AYUSH has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to curtail malpractices in the advertisement of AYUSH drugs in New Delhi.

First Strategic Dialogue Between India UAE held in New Delhi:

India and UAE held the first meeting of their strategic dialogue in New Delhi in an attempt to finalise the cooperation agreement.

UAE:

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Bihar Government Launches 'Nasha Mukta' State Campaign:

The state Government of Bihar led by Nitish Kumar launched a 'Nasha Mukta' (Addiction-Free) State Campaign with the formation of world's largest human chain across the state. The move aims towards making the state free from intoxicating substance and tobacco products.

Govt. of Jharkhand Signs Joint Venture Agreement with the Ministry of Railways:

The Indian Railways signed a joint venture agreement with the state government of Jharkhand for the development of railway infrastructure in the State. Initially the Jharkhand government would take up 3 projects including Namkum-Kandra, Giridih-Parasnath-Madhuban, Tori-Chatra Rail Line covering a length of 222 km at a cost of Rs. 2150 Crore.

The Jharkhand government will hold 51% equity in the JV agreement. It is the 9th State to form a Joint Venture Company with the Ministry of Railways.

Indian Railways Set to Raise \$5 billion Railway Development Fund:

The Indian Railways has decided to set up a \$5 billion Railways of India Development Fund (RIDF) so as to support commercially viable projects in railway sector in India.

The World Bank would fund 80% RIDF while 20% fund would be raised by the Indian railways itself and managed independently by a non-government entity.

The national transporter hopes to set up this fund by the end of the first quarter of the 2018.

Union Cabinet approves Excluding States /Union Territories from Investments of National Small Savings Fund:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to exclude States/Union-Territories except Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh from National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) investments effective from April 1, 2016.

Besides, it also approved to provide a one-time loan of Rs. 45,000 crore to Food

Corporation of India (FCI) from NSSF to meet its food subsidy requirements.

Kerala Gramin Bank to propagate financial literacy among school children:

Kerala Gramin Bank has launched a novel programme called FI@School at Assisi Vidyanikethan Public School, Kakkannad to propagate financial literacy among school children.

Every branch of the bank has to tie up with nearest school to organise various programmes to literate school students. The bank has appointed magician Gopinath Muthukad as the brand ambassador for FI@School.

Kerala Gramin Bank:

Kerala Gramin Bank is India's largest Regional Rural Bank (RRB). The bank is jointly owned by Central and State Governments & sponsored by Canara Bank

Chairman: Shaji K.V

Headquarters: Malappuram, Kerala

GST Decides Tax Evasion Upto rs. 2 Cr Bailable Offence:

The Centre and State Government has in a meeting decided to reduce some of the penal provisions of the GST regime in order to make it less burdensome. The GST Council has decided that tax evasion of upto than Rs. 2 crore would be bailable offense to ensure that the trader gets immediate bail while the non-bailable offenses would be limited to 'forgery and non- deposit of collected taxes with the exchequer within the stipulated time frame.

Current tax evasion upto Rs 1 crore used to be bailable offense. Besides, under IPC 1860, forgery and cheating are non-bailable offense and bail can only be granted by the Court.

Cooperative Banks Barred From Accepting Deposits under PMGKDS:

The Cooperative banks have been barred by the Government from accepting deposits under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme (PMGKDS) to stop any misuse of the deposited amount.

The decision comes after the income tax department revealed that a large number of cooperative banks were manipulating and laundering undisclosed money after the government scrapped the old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 banknotes.

Flipkart Ranked Top E-Commerce Firm in Indian E-tailing Leadership Index:

The Electronic commerce company Flipkart has been ranked at the top position in the nationwide consumer study titled 'The Indian E-tailing Leadership Index' conducted by research firm Red Seer Consulting.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Flipkart has retained its position as the most trusted e-commerce brand.

About Flipkart

CEO: Binny Bansal

Founders: Sachin Bansal, Binny Bansal

Headquarters: Bengaluru

FreeCharge Launches Mutual Funds Platform in Partnership with Reliance:

Digital Payment Platform, FreeCharge has launched a Mutual Funds investment facility on its platform in partnership with Reliance Mutual Fund.

Under the facility users can invest in a "Money Market Mutual Fund" that seeks to provide higher returns than those available on savings bank accounts.

Investment in FreeCharge's Mutual Fund would entirely be paperless. The customer simply needs to register with his PAN or Adhaar card number.

Himachali film 'Saanjh' awarded at US film festival:

A film directed by Ajay Saklani in a Himachali dialect "Saanjh" has won the best feature film award at international Borrego Springs Film Festival held in California.

The award was received by film's co-producer Anil Chandel. The film also received award of merit at the Accolade Global Film Competition. Saanjh is the first Himachali film has gets international recognition in 100 years of the Indian cinema. The film focuses on an unforgettable Saanjh (evening) in which the characters are caught between light and darkness

AIFF president Praful Patel becomes a member of FIFA finance committee:

All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Praful Patel has been appointed a member of world governing body FIFA's finance committee. Patel was appointed as senior vice-president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

FIFA

President: Gianni Infantino

Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland

Microsoft acquires Simplygon to accelerate 3D innovation:

American multinational technology company Microsoft has acquired Sweden-based company Simplygon to accelerate innovation in enabling 3D for everyone.

INS Vikramaditya Becomes India's First Warship to Have ATM Onboard:

INS Vikramaditya, India's biggest aircraft carrier ship has become the country's first warship to have an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) onboard the vessel.

The ATM has been installed by the State Bank of India (SBI) and will become operational. It will be operated through satellite link.

Indian Footballer Jayesh Raimalani Joins Spanish Football Team:

Indian footballer Jayesh Raimalani has signed a deal through Indo-Spanish football venture called Spaindia to join the Spanish Football Team, Club Esportiu JUPITER (CE JUPITER) based in Barcelona.

The Rajasthan born footballer will join the Club's U-19 team that plays in the National League. Besides, Jayesh will also play in its B

Team that currently plays the Second Division of U-19 league system in Spain.

Russia's St. Petersburg unveils logo for 2020 Euro Cup:

The official emblem of St. Petersburg for the 2020 Euro Cup football tournament was unveiled in St. Petersburg. The semi-finals and the final of the 2020 Euro Cup will be held at the Wembley Stadium in London, England.

Himachal Pradesh Found Best State in Learning Outcomes by ASER:

According to the 2016 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), developed by a non-governmental organisation, Pratham, Himachal Pradesh was found to be best performing state in India on the education front as compared to the rest of the states.

Bihar Forms 11,292 km Human Chain to Eliminate Alcohol:

Bihar formed the world's largest human chain in the state by holding hands of each other in order to express unity and support towards liquor ban. The human chain was about 11,292 km comprising of two crore citizens.

Besides, BIHAR was written in dark black color in the middle of the map so that ISRO satellite, drones and helicopters could capture the clear picture of the event.

This human chain is considered to be the world's largest. The previous record is of 1050 km long human chain that was formed in Bangladesh in 2004.

Special Task Force for Women Safety in Delhi Reconstituted:

A special task force (STF) for women safety has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Bajjal to review the decisions taken by the Delhi Police and other departments regarding women's safety.

Three-Day Arogya Mitra Conference Begins in Silchar, Assam:

Assam State Governor Banwarilal Purohit inaugurated the Arogya Mitra conference at Silchar. The three day conference has been organised by the south Assam zone of the NGO, Keshab Smarak Sanskriti Surabhi at the campus of Veterinary College, Ghungoor.

Arogya Mitra Seva Kendra has been set up in 701 places to achieve the objective. The conference would see participation by over 1000 people from Barak Valley and adjoining areas.

Centre Forms Committee to Frame Rules for Implementation of RPD Act:

A committee has been constituted by the Centre to frame uniform rules for the states to avoid delay in proper implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPD) Act across the country.

The Committee will be headed by Secretary from Department of

Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD)

PM Modi attend the Combined Commanders Conference in Uttarakhand:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in **Dehradun** to inaugurate the Combined Commanders Conference. The Prime Minister reached the **Indian Military Academy (IMA)** campus from the Jolly Grant airport in a special **Indian Air Force (IAF)** chopper.

Russian Railways help India to increase the speed of train to 200km:

India's passenger train speed will be increased to **200 km per hour** with the help of Russian Railways and budget of the high speed train will be shared between the **two countries in the ratio 50:50**

Russian Railways is at present collaborating with Indian Railways on a 575-km stretch between Nagpur and Secunderabad. The fastest train in India is **Gatimaan Express** with the speed of 160 km per hour.

Apple Named as The Most Innovative Company In The World:

According to the annual **50 Most Innovative Companies** survey report published by the management consulting firm **BCG (Boston Consulting Group)**, Apple Inc. has been named as the World's Most Innovative Company in 2016.

Top 3 most Innovative Company:

- 1 Apple
- 2 Google
- 3 Tesla Motors

Over 3.5 lakh People Sing National Anthem to Create World Record in Gujarat:

Over **3.5 lakh people in Gujarat** created a world record by singing the **National Anthem** at an event of installation of **idol of goddess Khodiyar** at a newly-built **Khodal Dham temple in Kagvad** town in Rajkot district.

The temple has been built at the **cost of Rs. 60 crore**. Observers from **Guinness World Records** were present to monitor the event.

Earlier, similar record was made by **2,54,537 people** who sang the **national anthem in Bangladesh in 2014**.

Ex-BCCI president Anurag Thakur to head Himachal Olympic Association

Ex-BCCI president **Anurag Thakur** was today unanimously elected head of the Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association (HPOA) for a four-year term.

Nirwan Mukherjee was Observer from **Indian Olympic Association** for the polls.

Surat Singh Thakur was the Returning Officer to conduct the elections.

Virender Kanwar was elected Senior Vice-President, while **Rajesh Bhandari**, who is a Vice President of the Boxing Federation of India, was elected General Secretary.

CCI Approves Merging MakeMyTrip with ibibo Group:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed merger of online travel firm **MakeMyTrip's** Indian travel business with rival **Ibibo Group**. Under the deal, **MakeMyTrip** will own the business of **Ibibo Group** including **goibibo, redBus, Ryde and Rightstay**.

TeamIndus proposes nameplate on the Moon for Rs.500:

A **Bengaluru start-up TeamIndus** proposes nameplate on **the Moon for Rs.500**. Indians are being offered the opportunity to leave their name on the moon, for a price.

Space start-up **TeamIndus** will get the names of public 'donors' micro-engraved on a small-sized aluminium object, which will be placed on the lunar surface when its lander descends on the moon.

China Commissions its 31st Stealth Warship:

In a move to rapidly expand its naval fleet, China's People's Liberation Army Navy commissioned its **31st stealth warship**.

China has become **the world's largest fleet of modern corvettes**. The **CNS Ezhou** with a hull number of 513 was delivered to the East Sea Fleet in a naval base in East China's Fujian province.

Indian Scientists Deploys Plasma to Heal Human & Earth:

Indian scientists at the **Institute for Plasma Research (IPR)**, lying between **Sabarmati River in Gandhinagar and Amul Dairy** have taken steps to make use of plasma for healing not only humans but also the earth.

Plasma is a unique state of matter (**other than solid, liquid and gas**) in which charged ions are bound in gaseous form but since the whole mass is charged they behave uniquely unlike any other known form of matter.

Sunish wins ITF Juniors title:

Dhruv Sunish won ITF Juniors title at the **Dakshin Kalikata Sansad clay** courts.

The under-18 India number two, who had lost in the finals of the Chandigarh Grade 3 ITF Juniors in the first week of 2017 and 2 ITF Juniors in 2016, played flawlessly to drub the Kazakh 6-2 6-3

Saina Nehwal Lifts 2017 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold:

Indian badminton ace Saina Nehwal clinched the 2017 **Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold women's single title** in the summit clash in **Sibu, Malaysia**.

The top-seeded London Olympics bronze-medallist, defeated 18-year-old Thai **Pornpawee Chochuwong**, 22-20 22-20.

This was her first award of 2017 and 23rd title overall.

Urdu poet, lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri dies at 88:

Renowned **Urdu poet and lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri** died. He wrote lyrics in films like "**Chetna**", which was his first big break,

followed by "**Aahista Aahista**", "**Tumhare Liye**", "**Gharonda**" among others.

Jharkhand Annual Budget 2017-18:

The Chief Minister of Jharkhand **Raghubar Das** presented the state's annual budget for 2017-18 under the theme of "**Garib Kalyan Varsh**" The main focus of the budget is on agriculture, education and skill development, rural development and eliminating poverty.

The Minister has presented a budget worth **Rs 75,673.42 crore** out of which Rs 57,861.32 crore would be revenue expenditure and Rs 18,812.10 crore would be capital expenditure.

The total allocated state budget for 2017-18 is 19.7 percent more than the current year.

Stamp Cover on Sindhu, Sakshi and Dipa Released by Postal Department:

The Indian postal department released a **special stamp cover titled "Golden girls of India – Pride of Nation"** during a district-level philatelic exhibition in **Agartala** to honor the sporting personalities in the country.

The special covers feature the 2016 Olympic medalist gymnast **Dipa Karmakar**, **shuttler PV Sindu** and **wrestler Sakshi Malik**. They were also awarded the nation's highest sports award **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** in 2016.

Besides the three, the cover also depicted the image of **Dipa's coach Bishweshwar Nandi** who was awarded the 2016 **Dronacharya award**.

Goa First State to Send Postal Ballots Electronically to Service Voters:

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, **Syed Nasim Zaidi** informed that the state **government of Goa** has opted for an initiative involving electronic transmission of postal ballot to service voters in the upcoming assembly polls

Goa has 822 service voters who are either in the defense, para-military forces or on diplomatic missions. Goa would also be the first state where all assembly constituencies will be covered by **(VVPAT) Voter- Verified Paper Audit Trail machines**.

N.K. Singh Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Presents its Report to the Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley:

The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM)** Committee under the chairmanship of **Shri N.K. Singh** Member of Parliament presented its Report to the Union Finance Minister **Shri Arun Jaitley** in New Delhi.

The Committee was constituted by the Union Cabinet in May 2016 to review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

Nepal Launches 10-year-plan to Reduce Depending on India for Vegetable Imports:

In a move to decrease dependence on vegetable imports from India, the Nepal

Government has launched a **10-year plan** to boost domestic production. The **10-year scheme** aims to adopt modern farm techniques to boost vegetable productivity in the country and make the country self-reliant in food.

Turkish Parliament Approves Presidential Rule Paving Way for Referendum:

The **parliament of Turkey** approved a constitutional reform to strengthen the powers of the presidency by **introducing presidential rule in the country** and has led the way for a referendum on the issue by the public.

If the bill will be passed then **the President Tayyip Erdogan** would serve the office until **2029**. The plan also envisages that presidential and general elections be held together in 2019 and president be eligible to serve a **maximum two five-year terms**.

Turkey:

Capital: Ankara
President: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Currencies: Turkish lira

Utkarsh Micro Finance Launches its Small Finance Bank:

Varanasi-based Utkarsh Micro Finance started operating its banking business as **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank** to cater to the needs of the poor mainly in the northern belt. UK's Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) has infused **Rs. 150 crore** in the tier II capital in the company.

Rescheduled Education Loan will not be considered for Computing NPAs: RBI

In a bid to encourage banks to provide loans for education, the Reserve Bank of India has declared that rescheduling the period of payment of education loans due to the inability of the borrower because of unemployment will not be treated as restructured accounts for computing NPAs.

Banks can allow three rounds of extension periods, **each not more than 6 months**, during the entire lifecycle of the education loan, to be applicable only on unemployment/underemployment borrowers.

However, banks are required to maintain a higher provisioning of **5 percent** during the additional moratorium period and one year thereafter to cover risk.

IRDAI okays Swiss Re move to open Mumbai branch:

Wholesale reinsurance provider Swiss Re has received approval from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** to open a branch in the city.

IRDAI:

Head Quarters: **Hyderabad**
Chairman: **T.S.Vijayan**

Vodafone India signs MoU with West Bengal, to invest Rs 3,000 crore in West Bengal:

UK-headquartered **Vodafone India** signed an MoU with the **West Bengal government** to invest **Rs 3,000 crore** for capacity augmentation and new business initiatives over next three years.

The MoU signed on the sidelines of Bengal Global Business Summit 2017.

New Universal Rail Mill Worth Rs. 1200 crore Inaugurated in Bhilai Steel Plant:

Moving towards the Make in India initiative, the Steel Minister **Chaudhary Birender Singh** inaugurated the new Universal Rail Mill at **Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)** of **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** and flagged off the mills first and **world's longest single rail of 130 meters** from the new Universal Rail Mill (URM).

URM established at a cost of about **Rs 1200 crore**. It will take BSP's total capacity to produce rails at **2.0 million tons per annum (MTPA)**. This will be the **largest rail production** capacity in any single location for a plant world over.

PM Modi Confers National Bravery Awards to 25 Young Recipients:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the **National Bravery Awards 2016** in New Delhi and distributed bravery awards to 25 young recipients.

Among the **25 children, 12 were girls and 13 boys** out of which 4 awards were given posthumously.

Delhi Airport Bags Golden Peacock Award for CSR in Aviation Sector:

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has bagged the prestigious **Golden Peacock Award** for Corporate Social Responsibility in the transportation sector under the aviation category for the year 2016.

The award was declared at a special presentation ceremony during the **11th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility** held in **Bengaluru Theme: Embedding CSR in Corporate Strategy for Responsible Growth**.

Ola appoints former PepsiCo executive Vishal Kaul as COO:

Transportation app Ola has appointed former PepsiCo executive **Vishal Kaul** as its **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**.

He succeeds **Pranay Jivrajka**, Ola's first employee. **Jivrajka** has now been appointed as Founding Partner and will continue to work closely with **Bhavish Aggarwal**, Ola co-founder and CEO.

Uber To Bring Food Delivery App 'UberEATS' In India:

Transportation app Uber will soon launch its on-demand food delivery app **'UberEATS'** in the Indian market.

UberEATS is currently available in 58 cities globally, including Bangkok, Singapore, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Taipei. The new app will give consumers, restaurant partners, and delivery partners more options across India.

Bengal Clinches U-19 Cooch Behar Cricket Trophy for 2016-17 seasons:

Bengal won the **Under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy 2016-17** seasons against Delhi in the final at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi.

Bengal was declared winner in the drawn finals on the basis of a first innings lead with 79-run.

Virat Becomes Fastest Batsman to Score 1000 Runs as ODI Captain:

Virat Kohli became the **fastest batsman in the world to score 1,000 runs as captain** in One-Day Internationals (ODIs) in the third ODI against England at the Eden Gardens.

The 28-year-old batsman took **17 innings** to reach the landmark, breaking the earlier record set by South Africa's AB deVilliers which was achieved in **18 innings**.

Nation pays homage to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his 120th birth anniversary:

Nation pays homage to **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose** on his **120th birth anniversary** on 23 January 2017. It was on this day in 1897, Netaji was born in **Cuttack, Odisha**. The files relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose are available on **netajipapers.gov.in**

Cabinet Approvals

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** approved the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017** that aims to declare IIMs as Institutions of National Importance.

Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval on for **interest waiver for the two months** of November and December, 2016 for farmers accessing short term crop loans from Cooperative Banks.

As a part of government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security the Union Cabinet has given its post-facto approval to launch **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017(VPBY)**.

SC Directs Providing Daily Drug Dosage Regimen for TB Patients:

The Supreme Court directed the government to replace the current practice of giving three-times-a-week dosage norm of **tuberculosis (TB) drugs** with a daily dosage norm within a period of **nine months** to curb relapse and deaths during treatment.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India **J.S. Khehar** directed the government to ensure that every TB patients across the country are administered the new dosage regimen recently approved by the **World Health Organisation**.

Ministry of Steel proposes Draft National Steel Policy 2017 at an Investment of Rs.10 lakh crore:

The Union Ministry of Steel, headed by **Chaudhary Birender Singh** has come out with a Draft National Steel Policy 2017 to increase the supply of domestic coking coal and cut the dependence on imports.

Under the policy, the ministry has set an ambitious production target of building a capacity of **300 million tonnes (MT) per annum** by **2030-31** which is more than double

from 2015-16. The total capacity of India in 2015-16 was 122 MT.

China Develops World's Biggest Solar Park:

In an effort to become the super powerful occupier of green energy, China has built the **world's biggest solar park, Longyangxia Dam Solar Park**, in the western province of **Qinghai**. The park spans over 27 square km of area and can produce **850 MW of power** which is enough to supply up to 200,000 households.

BCSBI Launches 'Know Your Rights' Programme:

The **Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI)** has announced an initiative as per which it would organise **"Know Your Rights"** programme in select urban and rural areas of the country to enhance awareness on Banking Codes at the grassroot level among the people.

The CEO of BCSBI, **Anand Aras** informed that the first such programme was organized by **BCSBI in Kochi** in association with Kudumbashree for less privileged women in Kerala.

Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI):

Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
Chairman: **A C Mahajan**

T-Hub Collaborates with Esri India for GIS Innovation Hub:

Telangana based India's largest incubator for start-ups, **T-Hub** has launched a **'GIS Innovation Hub'** (GIH) in collaboration with Esri India for the start-ups belonging to the capital **Hyderabad**.

Esri India is country's leading Geographic Information System (GIS) software and solutions provider. The facility was inaugurated by **Jack Dangermond**, co-founder, president and CEO of **Esri Inc**.

Assam Launches 'Chief Minister's Award For Performing Districts in Cashless Transaction:

In a bid to promote digital transaction in Assam, the Chief Minister of Assam, **Sarbananda Sonowal** announced the launch of **'Chief Minister's Award'** while inaugurating the **Digi Dhan Mela** in the state.

The Chief Minister's Award would be given to the best performing district of the state that adopts digital payment methods and also educate larger section of the society about the cashless transaction.

The winning district's Deputy Commissioner would be presented a prize of **Rs 50,000** at the end of financial year 2016-2017 after March 31, 2017.

Vladimir Putin Awarded with the First Hugo Chavez Peace Prize by Venezuela:

Russia's President **Vladimir Putin** was awarded the **first ever Hugo Chavez Prize** for Peace and Sovereignty by the **Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro** at the Presidential Palace in Miraflores, Caracas, Venezuela.

US Senate committee approves Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State:

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 11-10 to approve longtime Exxon Mobil CEO **Rex Tillerson** for secretary of state.

US:

President – **Donald Trump**

Vice President – **Mike Pence**

Speaker of the House – **Paul Ryan**

Chief Justice – **John Roberts**

UN appoints Director of UNIC in New Delhi:

Derk Segaar has been appointed Director of the **New Delhi** based **United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)** covering India and the Kingdom of Bhutan by the **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**.

Virender Sehwal Named Kings XI Punjab Brand Ambassador:

Former Indian opener **Virender Sehwal**, the mentor of Kings XI Punjab, will also be the team's head of Cricket Operations and Strategy in the 10th edition of the Indian Premier League.

Siddhartha Murarka is now ICSI Chairman:

Siddhartha Murarka has been appointed as the Chairman of the Eastern India Regional Council of the **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**.

Murarka is also a **"regular faculty"** at ICAI and other professional bodies and chambers of commerce like the Merchant Chamber of Commerce and the BCCI.

Kansas Congressman Mike Pompeo Appointed CIA Director:

A conservative Republican from **Kansas, Mike Pompeo** was sworn in as the new director of **Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)** by the United States Vice President **Mike Pence**.

Pompeo won with a vote of 66-32. This makes him the third official cabinet member of US Senate. The previous **CIA director, John Brennan**, resigned when Trump was sworn in as president.

Guided Pinaka test fired successfully again:

The **Guided Pinaka** was successfully test fired from the Launch **Complex-III, ITR, Chandipur** for a further enhanced range. The **Pinaka Rocket Mark-II**, equipped with **Navigation, guidance and control kit**, was transformed into a guided Pinaka.

The conversion has facilitated to enhance the range and improve the accuracy of Pinaka.

India UK Join Hands to Launch Project to Tackle Delhi Air Pollution Risks:

Indian has partnered with the **British experts** over a project that aims to **study the air pollution level in Delhi** and health problems associated it.

The project **'ASAP-Delhi: An Integrated Study of Air Pollutant Sources in the Delhi National Capital Region'** would be led by

University of Birmingham and would also involve experts from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, the Indian National Physical Laboratory and the University of Surrey.

The project has been granted a support of 1.4 million pound from the **Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)** and the **Medical Research Council (MRC)** Air Pollution and Human Health programme.

Ronnie O'Sullivan beats Joe Perry to win record seventh Masters Title:

Ronnie O'Sullivan won a record **seventh snooker Masters title against Joe Perry 10-7** in the final at **London's Alexandra Palace**.

Perry, in his **first Triple Crown final** at the age of 42, led 4-1 but missed a straightforward red for a 5-1 lead.

O'Sullivan won seven frames in a row to move 8-4 ahead before Perry, helped by breaks of 117 and 92, fought back.

National Girl Child Day Celebrated on January 24, 2017:

The National Girl Child Day was celebrated on January 24, 2017 at a special function organized by the **Ministry of Women & Child Development in New Delhi** with focus on celebrating the achievements by nation's daughters during 2016.

The event was marked by release of National Plan of Action for Children 2016. Ten districts under the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' scheme were felicitated for their worthy efforts.

Kiren Rijju Lays Foundation stone of Integrated Check Post near Indo-Bangla border:

The Minister of State for Home **Kiren Rijju** laid the foundation stone for an **Integrated Check-Post (ICP)** at the **Indo-Bangladesh** border in **Meghalaya**.

The main aim of the ICP is to boost employment opportunity besides boosting bilateral ties with the neighboring countries.

The project worth Rs. 92.34 crore spans over an area of 22 acres. The ICP project includes a two-floor cargo terminal building of 2,456 square metres, two-floor passenger terminal building of 4,625 sq metres, warehouse 1,420 sq m and parking 60,000 sq metres.

Russia, Turkey and Iran to Jointly Monitor Syria Truce:

Russia, Turkey and Iran has agreed to jointly monitor the fragile cease-fire between the Syrian regime and rebels to find a political solution of ending the six-year conflict.

The accord was signed by **Moscow and Ankara and Tehran** in Kazakhstan on behalf of the Syrian government and armed rebel groups.

However the arrangements for monitoring the cease-fire and enforcing it would be decided at next meeting in **Geneva**.

India and France Signs Pact on Maritime Information Sharing in Indian Ocean Region:

India and France signed **White Shipping Agreement in New Delhi** to enable information sharing on maritime traffic and maritime domain awareness in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

The agreement was signed at the second dialogue on maritime cooperation for the Indian Ocean Region between India and France. The agreement aims to enhance the Indo-French maritime security cooperation in the region.

France:

Capital: Paris

President: François Hollande

Prime minister: Bernard Cazeneuve

Currencies: Euro, CFP franc

Cabinet Permits NABARD to Raise Rs. 20,000 crore for on-lending to Co-Op Banks:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** gave its post-facto approval on January 24, 2017 allowing **National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)** to raise approx. Rs. 20,000 crore from the market for on-lending to Cooperative Banks.

It permitted the bank to make the short term borrowing at the prevailing market rate and lend to **Co-op Banks at 4.5 Percent rate of interest**. The move will support the famers by providing them loans to boost agricultural production.

Government also announced to provide an additional capital of Rs. 2,000 crore to NABARD for this purpose through the Union Budget. Initially Rs. 500 crore may be released to NABARD during 2016-17.

NABARD will also coordinate the conversion of operative/live KCCs into RuPay/ATM-enabled **Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs)** by Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in a mission mode.

France Issues First 'Green Bonds' With Record Sale of 7 Billion Euro:

France issued its **first "Green Bonds"** with a record sale of worth **seven billion euro (USD 7.5 billion)** thus leading a significant way towards establishment of a genuine market in renewable energy bonds. The proceeds from the bonds will be used by France to finance projects to address climate change.

The 22-year bonds coupon has been set at 1.75 percent which is same as the interest rate on conventional borrowing for the same time frame. This will enable France to finance expenditure on green projects at the same price as traditional borrowing.

The initiative was first announced in April 2016 by **President Francois Hollande**.

Poland was the first country to enter **the green bond market** with a sale of 750 million euro in December. Previously such bonds were issued only by companies or finance institutions such as the World Bank.

Boeing India Engineering & Technology Centre Launched in Bengaluru:

American aerospace major Boeing Corporation launched the "**Boeing India**

Engineering & Technology Center" (BIETC) in **Bengaluru** in a bid to enhance its aerospace innovation in global emerging market like India.

BIETC will undertake high quality technology-driven work for the development of advanced environment friendly coatings, and data analytics for next generation Airplane Health Management tools.

Complete list of Padma Awards 2017:

The Government announced **Padma Awards in New Delhi** to citizens of the country in recognition of their distinguished contribution in various spheres.

This year the President of India has approved **Padma Awards to 89 persons**. Out of these **19 are women, 5 awardees** are from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs while 6 are posthumous awardees.

The Award includes **7 Padma Vibhushan, 7 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees**.

About Padma Awards:

Padma Awards is one of the highest civilian Awards of India instituted in the year 1954. It is given in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

Padma Vibhushan: is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.

Padma Bhushan: is awarded for distinguished service of a high order.

Padma Shri: is awarded for distinguished service in any field.

Nita Ambani's Philanthropic Work Honored by Metropolitan Museum of Art:

The Reliance Foundation Founder and **Chairperson Nita Ambani** has been honored by the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** (The Met) in **New York** for her philanthropic work in the areas of **education, sports, healthcare, rural transformation, urban renewal, disaster response, women empowerment** and promotion of the arts.

Nita Ambani has become the first South Asian to receive the honour for the impressive diversity and scale of the work carried out by Reliance Foundation.

Earlier Nita Ambani's work in developing sports in India was recognised by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**, which elected her as its first Indian woman member. She is currently the only member from India in the IOC.

Damodar Valley Corporation receives NTPC award 2015-16:

Damodar Valley Corporation received NTPC award 2015-16 from Union Power Minister, Piyush Goyal.

DVC chairman **Andrew WK Langstieh**, received the prize by Goyal amongst the power sectors under for implementation of Official Language.

Japan Launches First Military Communications Satellite, Kirameki-2

Japan successfully launched its **first military communications satellite** from **Tanegashima Space Centre, Japan** on an **H-**

2A rocket, to boost the broadband capacity of its Self Defence Forces.

The **Kirameki-2** is an **X-band communications satellite** with a 15-year lifespan built by DSN Corporation for the Japanese Ministry of Defense.

Pakistan Successfully Conducts First Flight Test of N- Capable Ababeel Missile:

Pakistan successfully conducted the first test flight of the **surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSM)**, 'Ababeel'. The radar-evading Ababeel has the capability of carrying a nuclear warhead up to **2,200 kms** and deliver multiple warheads using **Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology**.

The development of the **Ababeel weapon system** is a huge step from Pakistan to ensure survivability in the growing regional **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)** environment.

Scientists Unveils Sunspot with Centre Twice the Size of Earth:

The scientists from **European Southern Observatory (ESO)** have discovered a sunspot with dark and contorted centre which is about twice the diameter of the Earth.

The discovery leads to the expansion of the range of observations made till now and can be used to further investigate the physics of our nearest star. The sunspot was spotted using **Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre Array (ALMA)** antennas.

The team observed an enormous sunspot at **wavelengths of 1.25 mm and 3 mm** using two of ALMA's receiver bands. The images reveal differences in temperature between parts of the Sun's chromosphere.

AIFF Launches Professional League for Women Footballers:

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) launched its first ever **Indian Women's League (IWL)** in order to make football a professional sport for women in the country.

The first edition of the league will be played from January 28 to February 14 at the **Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi**. The match would be contested between 6 teams in a round robin format. The top 4 teams would enter the semi-finals.

Indian women's team is ranked 54 in the world which is higher than the men's ranking of 129.

ICC Inducts 4 Women Umpires in Panel for Women's WC Qualifier:

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** named four women to be inducted in the strong group of B to conduct the ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier 2017 in February 2017 in Colombo.

The four women umpires include, **Kathleen Cross of New Zealand** who would also be the head of the women umpires, **Sue Redfern of England, Claire Polosak of Australia and Jacqueline Williams of the West Indies**.

The ICC Women's World Cup 2017 will be held in England and Wales from 24 June to 23 July 2017.

National Voters Day – Jan 25:

Election Commission of India celebrates 7th National Voters' Day with theme "Empowering Young & Future Voters". National Voters Day Celebration started from January 25, 2011 to mark Election Commission's foundation day

The Chief Election Commissioner released the book "Unfolding Indian Elections- Journey of living democracy" and presented the first copy to the President

Madhya Pradesh Announces Total Ban on Polythene Bags from May 1, 2017:

During the Republic Day address on January 26, 2017 in the state, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced a complete **ban on polythene carry bags** from May 1, 2017 in **Madhya Pradesh**.

The decision **aims** to conserve environment, promote cleanliness and protect cows that generally dies of eating plastic bags. For the proper implementation of the ban, the CM has given **three months time** to the polythene manufacturers.

Head Post Offices to Offer Services of Passport Seva Kendras:

The Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Ananth Kumar** inaugurated India's **first Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSK)** at **Metagalli post office in Mysuru**. The **second POPSK** simultaneously opened in **Gujarat**.

Initially the pilot project has been inaugurated at the **Mysuru Head Post office in Karnataka** and at **Dahod in Gujarat**.

Once the pilot project starts operating successfully, the POPSK would be opened in rest of the states in phased manner. **In phase 1, 38 districts** would be covered. India Post has around **800 head post offices**.

Kerala CM Inaugurates e-Health Kerala scheme at Peroorkada Hospital:

The Chief Minister of Kerala, **Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the IT Project, **e-Health Kerala** which is named **Jeevan Rekha** at **Peroorkada Model Government Hospital**.

The pilot project would be launched in **Thiruvananthapuram**. After this the project will be launched in **two phases**. In the **first phase seven districts** would be covered including **Kollam, Malappuram, Kasargod, Alappuzha, Idukki, Kannur and Ernakulam**. The remaining districts would be covered in the second phase.

Arunachal launches 'Dulari Kanya' scheme to check infant mortality:

Arunachal Pradesh launched '**Dulari Kanya**', a special scheme to check infant mortality in the state.

Governor **V Shanmuganathan** launched the scheme, under which the government will deposit **Rs 20,000** in the bank

account of a girl child, born in any government hospital.

It would be paid along with the accrued interest after she attains **18 years of her age**.

RBI Prohibits FDI in Non-Cooperative Countries:

The Reserve Bank of India has prohibited the Indian entities from making direct overseas investments in any entity that is located in '**non co-operative countries and territories**', as identified by the inter-governmental body **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**.

The move aims to bring down the global terror financing and thus **prevent, detect and prohibit money laundering**.

At present, there is no restriction on an Indian entity regarding the countries where it can undertake Overseas Direct Investment. The prohibition aims to align with the instructions under **FEMA** with the objectives of the **FATF**.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

FATF currently comprises two regional organisations and 35 member jurisdictions, including **India, US, UK, China and the European Commission**.

MakeMyTrip launches India's first social luxury travel magazine:

India's largest online travel portal **MakeMyTrip** has launched the first ever social luxury travel magazine called '**Luxury Travel Times**'.

The mobile-only magazine is targeted at luxury travelers.

It is released through innovative ad platforms like **Facebook Canvas & Instagram-Stories**.

'**Spa-cation**', '**Heaven on Earth**' & '**Heritage**' were first few themes of the magazine.

MakeMyTrip:

CEO: Deep Kalra
Headquarters: Haryana

List of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2016:

The President of India approved the conferment of **Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards 2016** on 36 persons.

The Jeevan Raksha Padak includes **5 Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, 8 Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak** and **23 Jeevan Raksha Padak** to 23 persons. Out of these 7 awards are posthumous. Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are conferred for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person.

Trump appoints Indian-American attorney to key White House post:

US President Donald Trump has appointed prominent **Indian-American attorney Uttam Dhillon** to a key White House position.

Dhillon, who served as chief oversight counsel for the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee.

He has been appointed as special assistant to the President on ethics and compliance matters.

Scientists Grow Mouse Transplant Organ in Rat:

Scientists from Stanford University are trying to find an innovative solution to deal with the shortage of human transplant organs like **hearts, kidneys, livers, lungs and other organs**.

Thus they conducted a study wherein the scientists made an attempt to grow **mouse pancreases in rats** and then use them to cure **diabetes in mice**.

The pancreatic tissue was transplanted in the mouse with five days treatment using Immunosuppressive drugs to stop their bodies rejecting the foreign matter.

Indian Ace Cueist Pankaj Advani wins 7th National Billiards Championship:

Top seeded Ace cue **Pankaj Advani** won his **seventh national title** in the finals of **Manisha National Billiards and Snooker Championship** at the PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Pune.

He **defeated Rupesh Shah 5-1** in the final. Earlier **Advani** beat **Brijesh Damani** in the semifinals to enter the finals.

In December 2016, Advani had won his **11th World Billiards Championship title** by beating Peter Gilchrist of Singapore in the 150-Up format.

Japanese Sumo Wrestler Receives Highest Sports Honour in 2 Decade:

Japan based **sumo wrestler Kisenosato** was promoted to the highest rank of the wrestling, "**Yokozuna**" after winning his first title at the **New Year Grand Sumo Tournament with a 14-1 record**.

Usain Bolt Loses an Olympic Medal due to Positive Doping of Team-Mate Nesta Carter:

Jamaican sprinter, **Usain Bolt** will have to hand back one of his **nine Olympic gold medals won in the 4x100m relay** event at the **2008 Beijing Olympics** due to his Jamaican team-mate **Nesta Carter** who was tested positive for a banned substance.

The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** retested the **454** selected doping samples in 2016. The committee informed that **Carter** was found to have the banned stimulant **methylhexanamine** in his system.

Carter and Bolt were teammates on the winning **4x100-meter relay** team in Beijing in 2008, which also included **Michael Frater and Asafa Powell**. The team has been disqualified.

Carter also made up **Jamaica's record-breaking relay squad** which won the same event at London 2012 and is one of the country's most successful ever athletes.

US Actress Mary Tyler Moore Dies At 80:

Seven-time Emmy Award winning actress Mary Tyler Moore of United States

died in **Greenwich, Connecticut**. She was 80-years-old.

New York born Moore began her career in 1960 with her television role in the 1960s sitcom **The Dick Van Dyke Show** and the later gained fame with her popular **The Mary Tyler Moore Show** in the 1970s.

She received an **Oscar nomination for best actress** for her portrayal of an affluent mother in the 1980 film **Ordinary People**.

Russian Ambassador to India, Alexander M Kadakin passes away:

The Russian Ambassador to India **Alexander Kadakin** passed away at the age of 67.

He served as the Russian Ambassador to India since 2009. Besides, Kadakin had served as the Russian envoy to India between 1999 and 2004 as well.

Kadakin was born in **Chisnau** in the USSR in 1949. He began his diplomatic career as a third secretary at the Russian Embassy in India in 1972.

Nation Celebrates 68th Republic Day on January 26, 2017:

India celebrated its 68th Republic Day. The **Theme of 2017 Republic Day** is: **Skill India and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**. Every year this day is celebrated on January 26, as it was on this day that the Constitution of India came into force in the year 1950.

This year **the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi** and the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of **United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** was the **Chief Guest** at the ceremony.

For the first time in the history of Republic Day, a foreign contingent of 179 UAE Soldiers led the annual parade on Rajpath.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Three Day Visit to India:

India and UAE Signs 14 Agreements to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation on elevating bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

India and the UAE committed to further boost wide-range of bilateral engagements in strategic areas of **security, defence, energy**.

A Central Power Sector PSU & Central Transmission Utility, **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)**, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority (ADWEA)** & its group of companies in **Gurgaon**, for cooperation in power sector.

Telangana Ranks Second in Walnut's Cashless Score Card:

Telangana has been ranked at second spot in the '**Cashless India Scorecard**' released and prepared by **Walnut app** to measure the growth level in digital payments in the country post demonetization.

The top three states in the scorecard were **Gujarat, Telangana and Haryana** respectively with the highest growth in going cashless.

Indian Navy's Theatre Level Exercise, TROPEX 17 Begins:

The **Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX)**, an annual Indian Navy exercise kicked started on January 24, 2017 off the Western Seaboard. The last edition of the exercise was conducted in January 2015.

TROPEX 17 exercise is aimed at testing combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy, and the assets of the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard.

Andhra Pradesh Launches Rs 100 cr fund of funds for Fintech Startups:

The **Andhra Pradesh** under Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** has announced **Rs 100-crore fund of funds** to invest in Fintech startups.

Fintech is being seen as a promising space to generate job, thus the state has initiated an industry-academia-government partnership to tap and refine skilled talent available at cheaper costs to develop Visakhapatnam into a global fintech hub.

India Ranks 79th in the 2016 Corruption Perception Index:

India has been ranked at **79th spot out of 176 countries** in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for the year 2016 released by the Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI).

New Zealand and Denmark jointly shared the first position as the least corrupt nations while Somalia was rated as the most corrupt country in the list.

List of Top 5 Least Corrupt Nations

Rank	Country	Score (100)
1	Denmark	90
1	New Zealand	90
3	Finland	89
4	Sweden	88
5	Switzerland	86

India at Sixth Position among Eight Great Powers of 2017 List by American Foreign Policy Magazine:

India has been ranked at the **sixth position** in the latest annual list of eight great powers for the year 2017 published by leading American foreign policy magazine. The list has been topped by **US**.

However, it is often overlooked in the lists of the world's great powers, but it occupies a rare and attractive position globally.

List of Eight Great Powers of 2017

1	United States
2	China & Japan (both share same position)
4	Russia
5	Germany
6	India
7	Iran
8	Israel

Surya Namaskar Yajna Recognised in US Congress

The annual "**Surya Namaskar Yajna**" or "**Health for Humanity Yogathon**" has

been recognized in the US House of Representative on the occasion of its **10th anniversary**.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh has organized the "**Yoga for Health, Health for Humanity Yogathon**" from January 14 to January 29 to mark Makar Sankranti.

The 16-day event will raise awareness about yoga and its advantages in achieving a healthy body, mind, and spirit.

SBI Launches Wealth Management Product "SBI Exclusif" in Kochi:

The State Bank of India has launched a new wealth management product named "**SBI Exclusif**" in Kochi, Kerala. Later it will be rolled out in other cities of the state during the course of the year.

The product was launched by Chief General Manager, SBI, Kerala Circle, **S Venkataraman**.

SBI Exclusif is targeted at fast growing affluent and high net worth customer segments of the bank.

Karnataka Bank Signs MoU with Tirth Agro Technology:

Mangaluru based private sector bank Karnataka Bank Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the leading agricultural equipment/implements manufacturer **Tirth Agro Technology Pvt Ltd, Rajkot**, in to finance farmers for agri mechanisation.

The **Tirth Agro Technology Pvt Ltd** manufactures agricultural implements under the brand name '**Shaktiman**'. It has a network of more than 685 dealers and 42 distributors across India.

Government to Launch Aadhar Pay for Cashless Transactions through Biometrics:

The Government informed about its plan to launch the **biometric based Aadhaar Pay payment platform** in few weeks for **BHIM App**.

Aadhaar Pay service will enable people to make and receive payments using their **Aadhaar number and biometrics**. The government enabled the **Bharat Interface for Mobile (BHIM) app** with Aadhaar number.

With Aadhaar Pay, people will not require to carry their phone for payments. They can visit any merchant, share their Aadhaar number and verify themselves using biometrics to pay and receive money. Till date, 14 banks have come forward to avail Aadhaar Pay and the government is in talks with other banks too, Prasad added.

Nokia Gets Vodafone's 4G contract Worth Rs 3,650 crore:

Nokia Indian operation has bagged a contract worth **\$500 million (Rs 3,650 crore)** from **Mumbai based Vodafone** for deployment and expansion of 4G network in the country.

Nokia will cover **10 out of 22 telecom zones** for Vodafone India in the country. It would cover **Kolkata, Mumbai, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu-Chennai, Haryana, UP East,**

West Bengal, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Aditya Birla Group Plans to Invest Rs 7,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh:

The **Aditya Birla Group** announced its plans to invest **Rs 7,000 crore** in the next two years in **Andhra Pradesh**. The company aims to expand its existing businesses in the state.

The conglomerate already has investments of **Rs 10,000 crore** in the state across sectors like telecom, retail and cement.

HPCL, GAIL sign pact with AP for Rs 40K crore petrochem project:

Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) and **GAIL India Ltd** signed a pact with Andhra Pradesh for setting up a **Rs 40,000 crore** petrochemical plant in the state.

The **50:50 joint venture** will set up a **1.5 million tons Ethylene** Derivatives plant.

The plant will produce a wide range of petrochemical raw materials for the manufacture of detergents, paints and coatings, cosmetics, textiles and adhesives.

It will be set up at the **Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR)** sites identified by the state government at Kakinada.

3 Indian-origin conferred with Australia's highest civilian award:

Three Indian-origin persons have been awarded **Australia's highest civilian honor** this year for their contributions in the field of **medicine** and work towards the community.

Purushottam Sawrikar, a Sydney-based medical practitioner, received Order of Australia medal for the year 2017 in General division category for his service to medicine, and to the Indian community.

Sawrikar was a former President of Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association and also founded a community radio called **Akashwani Sydney**.

Makhan Singh Khangure from Perth received the award for his significant service to medicine in the field of neuroradiology, to education, and to a range of professional medical associations.

Vijay Kumar received the award for his significant service to medical research in the disciplines of nuclear medicine and biology, to professional organizations, and to the community.

Two Scientists from National Geophysical Research Institute Named for 2016 National Geoscience Award:

Dr. A Keshav Krishna, a scientist at the **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)**, Hyderabad has been selected for the 2016 **National Geoscience Award** in recognition of his work in the field of geo-environmental studies in Applied Geosciences.

Besides, **Dr. N. Purnachandra Rao**, Chief Scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), has been selected for 2016 National Geoscience Award for

recognition of his work in the field of Geophysics.

Meghalaya Governor V Shanmuganathan resigns over sexual assault allegations:

Meghalaya governor, **V Shanmuganathan** finally **resigned** after Raj Bhavan staff accused him of sexual misconduct. Shanmuganathan is a veteran RSS activist from Tamil Nadu and was appointed Meghalaya Governor in May 2015. Last year, he was also given additional charge of Arunachal Pradesh.

ISRO Successfully Tests Cryogenic Engine for Upper Stage of GSLV Mk III:

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested its indigenously developed Cryogenic engine designated as **C25**, on January 2017 for 50 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at **Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu**.

The cryogenic engine has been developed for use in the Upper Stage of **GSLV Mk III rocket**, which is scheduled to be launched within the first quarter of 2017.

This was the first test in a series of two tests. The next one has been planned for flight duration of 640 seconds.

The C25 stage is the most powerful upper stage developed by ISRO and uses Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Hydrogen propellant combination.

GSLV Mk III is a next generation launch vehicle of ISRO, capable of launching 4 ton class spacecraft in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

David Boon, Matthew Hayden inducted into Australian Cricket Hall of Fame:

Two of Australia's greatest top-order batsmen, **David Boon and Matthew Hayden**, and the brilliant women's all-rounder **Betty Wilson** will be inducted into the Australian Cricket **Hall of Fame (ACHoF)** at the 2017 Allan Border Medal ceremony in Sydney

ACHoF chairman **Peter King** announced that Boon, Hayden and Wilson were the selection committee's choice for induction this year.

Three-day long Brahmaputra Literary Festival Begins in Guwahati:

The three-day long **Brahmaputra Literary festival** began in **Guwahati, Assam**. The festival has been by the State Government jointly with the **National Book Trust**.

The event was inaugurated by the Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javadekar** in presence of Assam Chief Minister **Sarbanand Sonowal** and others.

The main focus of the festival is in the languages, **literature, culture, society, politics, performance traditions, music, identity, media** of the northeastern region of the country including national and international elements packages.

29th Kerala Science Congress Inaugurated by CM Pinarayi Vijayan:

The **29th Kerala Science Congress** was inaugurated by the Kerala Chief Minister

Pinarayi Vijayan at the **APJ Abdul Kalam hall** in the **Mar Thoma College** in Thiruvalla.

The three day annual science event has been jointly organized by the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment and the Kerala Forest Research Institute.

The main theme of the congress is 'Genomics in health and disease'.

Central Water Signs Pact with IIT Madras and IIS Bengaluru:

The **Central Water Commission (CWC)** under the Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation signed two separate MoUs with **IIT Madras and IIS Bengaluru** in New Delhi.

The MoU aims to help the institutes to procure specified equipment and software for enhancing their capability to support the World Bank assisted **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** of CWC.

CASHe integrates Paytm Wallet for direct cash transfers:

India's fastest loan giving app for young salaried professionals, **CASHe** has partnered with **Paytm** to allow its users to deposit cash transfers from CASHe to their Paytm wallets.

With this integration, users of CASHe will have an option to transfer their loan amounts into their Paytm Wallets in part or in full and credit the rest of the amount into their bank accounts. This is an industry-first innovation from CASHe.

CASHe offers multiple loan options ranging from **Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 1,00,000** payable over **15, 30 and 90 days**.

The average time taken for a loan to be disbursed by **CASHe is about eight minutes**, subject to proper submission of all documents.

Dr G N Rao inducted to Ophthalmology Hall of Fame:

Dr.Gullapalli N Rao, Founder and Chairman, **L V Prasad Eye Institute**, has been selected as one of two inductees for **the prestigious 2017 Ophthalmology Hall of Fame** instituted by the **American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS)**.

PSU Oil Companies Signs Pact with Andhra Pradesh Govt to Invest 1.65 Lakh Crore:

The Public Sector Oil Companies including **HPCL, ONGC and the GAIL** have signed MoUs with the **Andhra Pradesh Government** to invest **1.65 lakh crore** in several projects of the state especially the **Krishna-Godavari basin**.

Governors Banwarilal Purohit, PB Acharya to take additional charge of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh:

With the governor's post in two states – **Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh** – falling vacant due to the resignation of Meghalaya governor **V Shanmuganathan**.

The Centre has asked **Assam and Nagaland governors** to take additional charge of the two states respectively.

Assam governor Banwarilal Purohit was given additional charge of Meghalaya and **Nagaland Governor PB Acharya** was asked to take additional charge of Arunachal Pradesh

Founder of Indian supercomputing Dr. Bhatkar appointed new VC Nalanda University:

Vijay Pandurang Bhatkar, a technocrat who is considered the father of the Indian Supercomputer, has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, Rajgir, in Bihar.

He will hold the office for a **three-year period** from the date of his appointment as per **the Nalanda University Act, Sec 11(3)**. He has also been honored with the **Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan**.

Whatsapp helpline Launched by Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat launches to Address grievances of Army personnel:

The Chief of Army staff Gen **Bipin Rawat** launched a **Whatsapp helpline number** to receive grievances of army personnel.

The **Whatsapp number** where **soldiers can post** their complaints is **+91 9643300008**. The number will be shared with all soldiers and the number will remain at Rawat's office.

The initiative will enable the soldiers to share their grievance directly with the Chief of Army Staff.

Tokyo Olympics unveils Goku from Dragonball Z as a brand ambassador:

The **Tokyo Olympic Committee** has now announced that **Son Goku**, a cult anime character from **Dragonball Z**, will serve as one of its **brand ambassadors**.

Goku will have **Naruto, Shin Chan, Sailor Moon, Petty Cure, Luffy and Astroboy** for company in the ambassadorial role with their faces plastered over the official merchandises.

Tokyo was announced as the host in 2013 and the Games are scheduled to be held from July 24 to August 9 2020.

Sports Ministry Reconstitutes Committee to Identify Athletes under TOP Scheme:

The TOP Committee has been reconstituted by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Vijay Goel** to identify and support potential medal prospects for **2020 and 2024 Olympic Games** under the **"Target Olympic Podium" scheme**.

The aim of the committee will be to select the elite athletes to be provided with this financial assistance.

Chairman: **Shri Abhinav Bindra**, Olympic Gold Medalist

IMD to Set up Weather Stations in 660 Districts by 2019:

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has decided to set up weather stations in **660 districts** of the country for better and prompt weather forecasting with

major focus on **rain-fed and non-rain-fed areas** to give crop specific advisories

The system would be launched in phased manner. Initially, IMD has planned to set up the system in **130 districts** and gradually increase it to **660 by 2019**. The plan will be taken at block level after successful functioning at district level.

The IMD has also tied up with the Ministry of Agriculture to use the **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)**, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the districts, as weather forecasting observatories.

Nitin Gadkari Announces to Develop 1,253 km road in Assam as National Highways:

The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, **Nitin Jairam Gadkari**, inaugurated a 3-lane **Brahmaputra Bridge at Saraighat in Guwahati**.

As a part of the event, the Minister announced that the government would spend **Rs 15,000 crores to develop 1,253 kilometres of roads in Assam** into National Highways over the next few years.

Besides, the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL)** will spend **Rs 8,000 crores** over the next two years for developing **143 kilometres** of road, including a few bridges over Brahmaputra.

The 3-lane Bridge has been developed at a cost of **Rs. 475 crore** and aims to solve the problem of traffic congestion at Jalukbari and Amingaon points.

The Centre has also increased the roads funds from **Rs. 450 crore to Rs. 800 crore**.

RBI Gives Final License to India Post to Start Payment Bank Operations:

The India Post has received the final license from the **Reserve bank of India** to start its operation as payment bank with the name **India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)**.

With this India Post has become the third entity to get the license from the Central Bank to start payment bank services. Earlier, Bharti Airtel and digital payments firm Paytm got the approval from RBI and till now only Airtel has started operations

AP Singh has been anointed as the interim MD and CEO of the **India Post Payment Bank by the government**.

IPPB has been incorporated as a **Public Sector Bank** under the Department of Posts with **100% GOI equity**. Payments banks can accept deposits from individuals and small businesses of up to **Rs 1 lakh per account**.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rises by \$ 932.4 million to \$ 360.775 billion:

The Reserve Bank of India informed that the Foreign Exchange Reserves of India rose by **932.4 million dollars to 360.775 billion dollars** for the second consecutive week ended January 20.

In the previous week, India's forex reserve increased by 687.9 million dollars to 359.843 billion dollars.

India's largest startup incubator to be built at Hubballi:

Indian-American entrepreneur, philanthropist and venture capitalist **Gururaj Deshpande** has decided to launch India's largest startup incubation centre at **Hubballi** (earlier Hubli) in **Karnataka**.

The **Deshpande Foundation's startup incubation centre** will be built at a cost of **Rs 30 crore**, and is expected to be completed by September 2017.

As of now, **T-Hub, in Telangana**, built on a space of **70,000 sq.ft.** is the biggest incubation centre in the country.

Australian Open tournament 2017 Overview:

The **105th edition of the Australian Open tournament 2017** was held at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia from January 16 to January 29, 2017.

List of Winners

Title	Winners
	Runners
Men's Singles	Roger Federer
	Rafael Nadal
Women's Singles	Serena Williams
	Venus Williams
Men's Doubles	Henri Kontinen /John Peers
	Bob Bryan/Mike Bryan

Abul Hossain Wins 2017 Kolkata Marathon: Siliguri based Abul Hossain won the **Kolkata Full Marathon** by completing the race in **02:34:02**.

He defeated Kolkata lad **Biswanath Pal** who ran in **2:39.16**. Paritosh Roy finished third with a timing of **02:52:48 seconds**.

Hollywood Legend & Harry Potter actor John Hurt dies at 77:

Sir John Hurt, the **British actor** who starred in **The Elephant Man and Harry Potter**, died at his residence in Norfolk, London due to Cancer. He was 77.

He had won **two Oscar nominations** for **The Elephant Man and Midnight Express**. He was well known for his role as wand merchant Mr. Ollivander in Harry Potter.

Hurt's career spanned six decades. He had roles in more than 129 films with dozens of television roles.

President Mukherjee Launches Pulse Polio Programme on National Immunization Day:

The **National Immunization Day** was observed to spread awareness about eradicating polio. As a part of the day, President **Pranab Mukherjee** launched the **pulse polio programme** by administering polio drops to children aged below five years at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

On March 27, 2014, the entire South-East Asia Region of the World Health Organisation, including India got the polio-free certification. However, the risk of importation still persists from three countries namely **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria**, where poliovirus is still circulating.

For this, the government is conducting continuous polio vaccination at the international

borders with India. A travel advisory has also been issued to vaccinate all travelers who are travelling between India and other South East Asian countries including **Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, the Maldives and Myanmar.**

First Edition of the North East Investors Summit Held in Shillong

The first edition of the North East Investors Summit was inaugurated by the Union Textiles Minister, **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani in Shillong, Meghalaya.**

The North East Investors Summit 2017 was jointly organized by the Union Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) of the Government of India in collaboration with industry **associations Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Theme: Exploring Opportunities in North East Region.

Aim: To launch North East Region as a Global destination for investment by exploring possibilities of attracting the investment especially in textile manufacturing.

India's First Multi-Sports Museum Inaugurated in Kolkata:

India's first multi-sports museum, Fanatic Sports Museum (FSM), was inaugurated at the **Ecospace in New Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata** jointly by **Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Abhinav Bindra, Deepa Malik and Devendra Jhajaria.**

The museum, spread over **6700 square feet**, has been launched jointly by sports historian Boria Majumdar and industrialist from Kolkata, Harshavardhan Neotia. It is a first of its kind museum in India and is inspired by the MCC Museum at Lord's and the IOC Museum in Lausanne.

Bombay Natural History Society launches climate change programme in Central Himalayas:

The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** has launched climate change programme to assess the status, distribution and conservation of pheasants and finches in the **Central Himalayas.**

Aim: To evaluate the socio-economic activities of local communities and involve them in conservation efforts and sensitize the local forest department staff.

Trump Bans 7 nations from Entering US on Security Issues:

American President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to **temporarily ban visas for refugees** belonging to **seven Muslim-majority countries** namely **Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.**

Mauritius & six other countries joins global efforts to curb profit shifting by MNEs:

Mauritius along with **Gabon, Hungary, Indonesia, Lithuania, Malta** and the Russian Federation signed the **Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement for Country-by-Country Reporting (CbC MCAA).**

Now the total number of signatories increased to 57 while India signed the agreement in May 2016.

BEPS refers to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations

FGII Enters Into Bancassurance Tie-Up With Bank Of Maharashtra:

Future Generali India Insurance Company (FGII) announced an agency tie-up with **Pune based Bank of Maharashtra.**

Aim: To immensely benefit our customers by providing them an ease of access while choosing from a diverse range of non-life insurance products, all under one roof.

It has tie-up with over **100 banks in India for bancassurance.** Now it accounts for **5 per cent** of Future Generali's total business

Bank of Maharashtra:

Motto: One Family One Bank

Chairman & MD: Ravindra Prabhakar Marathe

Reliance Defence Signs Contract with Ministry of Defence to Construct 14 Fast patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard:

Reliance Defence and Engineering Ltd (RDEL), a wholly owned arm of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra), has signed a contract worth **Rs. 916 crore** with the Ministry of Defence to design and construct **14 Fast Patrol Vessels** for the **Indian Coast Guard.**

RDEL is the **first private sector shipyard** which has been awarded a contract of designing and building such ships for Indian Armed Forces.

Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited is the **India's largest shipbuilding** and Heavy industry led by Industrialist **Anil Ambani.**

Iris Mittenaere of France Crowned Miss Universe 2017:

Iris Mittenaere of France was crowned as the **Miss Universe 2017** in the international beauty pageant event which was held at the **Mall of Asia Arena in Manila, Philippines** organized by the Miss Universe Organization.

The **24-year-old dental surgery student** was crowned by the outgoing winner **Pia Wurtzbach from Philippines. Mittenaere** is the **first European to win the Miss Universe title** since 1990.

Dushyant Chautala appointed as New TTFI President:

Dushyant Chautala is elected as **youngest president of Table Tennis Federation of India** during the Annual General Body meeting held in **Gurugram.**

Chautala with two observers are selected for four years, extends until 2021.

Kuldip Vats – representing Indian Olympic Association

Ashwani Kumar – representing the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from the Sports Authority of India

Ashok Amritraj Appointed UN in India Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals:

Film producer and **Wimbledon tennis player, Ashok Amritraj** has been appointed the United Nations in **India Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

Amritraj is the **first Ambassador** for the UN in India

He is responsible to generate momentum and commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and to foster engagement of new stakeholders in the implementation of these Goals.

Amulya Patnaik appointed as Delhi Police Chief:

IPS officer from Union Territories Cadre, **Amulya Patnaik** is appointed as **Chief of Delhi police.** He is succeeded by **Alok Verma,** who has been moved as the director of CBI.

Patnaik is currently working as Delhi police special commissioner (administration).

Atomic clocks of Satellite IRNSS-1A Develops Technical Snag

The atomic clocks on the **first satellite IRNSS-1A** of the NAVIC, an indigenously built satellite system has developed technical complications. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman, **A.S. Kiran Kumar** informed that one of the **three crucial rubidium clock on IRNSS-1A spacecraft** failed six months ago while the other two failed subsequently.

NAVIC is a constellation of seven satellites in the geosynchronous orbit and two backup satellites on ground. Each satellite consists of three atomic clocks. Thus there are total of 27 atomic clock in NAVIC.

ISRO Chairman also announced that the default satellite would be replaced by one of the back-up satellite 1H, in the second half of the year 2017.

INSAT-3DR Satellite to Enable Detecting Farm Fires:

The Indian Weather Satellite, **INSAT-3DR,** launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has led to a remarkable achievement in Indian weather forecasting.

The Next Generation **INSAT-3DR,** will enable detecting Farm Fires, which was till now only conducted by **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** thus helping in formulating effective measures to deal with the issue.

INSAT-3DR also enables **night time monitoring of atmospheric** phenomenon like cloud cover, fog, haze and snow among others.

Supreme Court Appoints Vinod Rai as BCCI Committee's Head:

Vinod Rai, the former **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** was appointed as the head of the **Board of Control**

for Cricket in India (BCCI) administrative committee by the Supreme Court.

The main aim of the committee would be look after the day-to-day functioning of the board in addition to the proper implementation of the **Lodha committees** recommendations for the board.

PV Sindhu Clinches Her Maiden Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold Title:

The **2016 Olympic Silver Medallist PV Sindhu** clinched her maiden **Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold** women's singles title at the **Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow.**

The Indian ace shuttler defeated **Gregoria Mariska** of Indonesia 21-13, 21-14 to win her first medal of the year. Overall India won three titles in the tournament out of five events.

The **Men's Single title** was won by National Champion **Sameer Verma** who beat **B Sai Praneeth** 21-19, 21-16.

Pranaav Jerry Chopra and **N Sikki Reddy** won their **maiden Grand Prix Gold title** in mixed doubles beating **Ashwini Ponnappa and B Sumeeth Reddy** 22-20, 21-10.

Veteran journalist Devdutt passed away:

Veteran **journalist Devdutt** who is the witness of **Mahatma Gandhi assassination passes away in New Delhi.** He was 88

Devdutt introduced a journal of political opinion called Point of View after giving up a lucrative assignment in the World Health Organisation (WHO).

He was associated with the Punjab-based Hind Samachar, Gujarat's Sandesh and Odia newspaper Pragativadi. He has worked in many newspapers and periodicals

French Actress Emmanuelle Riva Dies aged 89:

Renowned **French Actress Emmanuelle Riva,** died in **Paris** at the age of 89 due to Cancer. She was nominated in Oscars for the movie Amour.

In 2013, she was nominated for the Academy Award under best actress category for her role in Amour. The film won the Academy Award for best foreign-language film.

Railway Ministry Requests Separate Fund for Rashtriya Rail Safety Fund:

The Ministry of Railway has proposed the Finance Ministry to create a non-lapsable safety fund named '**Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh'** over five years with initial corpus of **Rs. 20000 crore** and contribute a portion to fund it in the upcoming Budget 2017 to be presented on **February 1.**

The decision to set up the safety fund is based on the recommendation of a high-level safety review committee under the chairmanship of **Dr. Anil Kakodkar,** former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission.

Textile Ministry Inaugurates Meghalaya's First Ever Apparel and Garment Centre at Ampati:

Meghalaya's first ever Apparel and Garment Making Centre was inaugurated on January 2017 jointly by Union Textiles Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani** and Chief Minister of Meghalaya Dr. **Mukul Sangma** near **Ampati in South West Garo Hills**.

The facility has been set up in an area of **45,000 sq feet** at an approximate cost of Rs **14.26 crore**. It has been set up under North East Region Textiles Promotion Scheme (NERTPS).

Ministry of Defence to Set up Rs 1500 cr Defence Unit in Madhya Pradesh:

The Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, **Narendra Singh Tomar** announced that the Ministry of Defence is set to open its Defence Unit in **Morena district of Madhya Pradesh**.

The unit would be set up in **Kailaras and Sabalgarh tehsil** areas and span over **969.735 hectare** of land at a cost of **Rs. 1500 crore**.

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has already allotted **334.584 hectare** revenue land for the purpose free of cost.

E-Paathshala Launches Unique Technology-Backed Services for Educational Institutions in India:

Bangalore based Start-up firm **E-paathshala** has launched an integrated accreditation and ERP technology solution for the colleges and universities to enable them better manage their multiple accreditation standards in an easy, efficient and fast manner and bridge the gap identified for specific accreditations.

Income Tax Department (ITD) launches Operation Clean Money:

Income Tax Department (ITD) lead by **Sushil Chandra** has launched **Operation Clean Money** to verify the cash deposited in the banks during November 9th to December 30th 2016.

This information will be available at the portal <https://incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in>. The PAN holder can view the information using the link '**Cash Transactions 2016**' under 'Compliance' section of the portal.

Email and SMS will be sent to the taxpayers if any case they found in the database. The taxpayers should submit their online response on the portal within 10 days.

The verification will be closed if the cash deposit is declared under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY)**.

Ireland became the world's first country to stop investing in fossil fuels:

Ireland has become the **first country** in the world to divest **coal, oil and gas investments** from **Ireland Strategic Investment Fund**.

The bill was passed in the Irish parliament by gaining 53 votes out of 90. It was introduced by Deputy Thomas Pringle.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Presented Economic Survey 2016-17 in the Parliament:

The Union Finance Minister **Shri Arun Jaitley** presented the Economic Survey 2016-17 in the Parliament that provides a base for the government to prepare the annual Budget.

The Economic Survey has estimated that the **GDP growth rate** for **FY18** will be in the range of **6.75 percent to 7.5 percent**.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank Partners with Fisdom for Mission FINFIT:

The private sector lender **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** in partnership with **Bangalore** based fin-tech startup firm Fisdom, has launched a mobile application "**Mission FINFIT**" to offer the customers of the bank financial planning and personal wealth management services based on **Robo advisory**.

The important services that would be provided through the online platform includes getting the KYC done, investing money in various platforms, viewing the account summary, withdrawing the invested money among others.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
MD & CEO: Parthasarathi Mukherjee

Reserve Bank Lifts ATM Withdrawal Limits Effective From February 1:

As per the announcement by **Reserve Bank of India**, the daily withdrawal limit from ATM will be removed with effect from February 1, 2017. However the weekly limit to withdraw **Rs. 24000** from savings account will still continue.

Earlier, the RBI had hiked the daily withdrawal limit from savings account on January 16, 2017 to **Rs. 10000**.

Besides, the Central bank has also removed the cash **withdrawal limit** from **current accounts/ cash credit accounts/ overdraft accounts** with immediate effect.

India Post Payment Bank Begins Pilot Service in Ranchi & Raipur:

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) started its operations with the pilot services launched in **Raipur and Ranchi**.

The total paid up capital of the bank is **Rs. 800 crore** and the government has already infused **Rs. 275 crore**.

IPPB will offer an interest rate of **4.5 percent** on **deposits up to Rs.25,000; 5 percent** on **deposits of Rs.25,000-50,000** and **5.5 percent** on **Rs.50,000-1 lakh**.

FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey Projects GDP to grow 6.8 Percent in FY 17:

Based on the latest Economic Outlook Survey report released by FICCI, the India's GDP is projected to grow **6.8 percent** this fiscal which is **0.5 percent points less** than FICCI's previous estimate of **7.3 percent**.

Moussa Faki Mahamat appointed as new AU head:

Chadian foreign affairs minister **Moussa Faki Mahamat** has been elected as the head of the **African Union Commission**. He will replace **Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma**

ASTROSAT Captures Rare Act of Vampire Star:

Based on a study published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters, an unusual action of a small, **six billion old**, so **called vampire star**, has been captured by **ASTROSAT**, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory that was preying on bigger celestial body.

The team of scientist involved in the observation included scientists from IIA, Inter-University Centre of Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

Vampire stars are actually the **smaller stars** that suck the energy and masses of the bigger companion stars ultimately leading to its death.

Father of Pac-Man Masaya Nakamura Dies at 91:

Japanese Businessman Masaya Nakamura, who founded the leading video game developing company Namco, died. He was 91.

Nakamura is considered the **Father of Pac-Man**. In 1980, he played significant role to introduce the arcade games in Namco. The most successful arcade game developed **was Pac-Man by Toru Iwatani**.

Pac-Man has been named in the Guinness World Records as the world's most successful coin-operated arcade game.

He was also awarded the Order of the Rising Sun in 2007 by the Japanese government for his achievements.

12th Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force:

The **12th Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** is celebrated today (January 31, 2017) to commended the NDRF for its efforts during disaster response.

Celebrations:

Union Budget (2017-18):

Union Finance Minister **Shri Arun Jaitley** presented the Union budget 2017-2018 in Lok Sabha on February 1, 2017. This is the **4th** budget by the Narendra Modi government and it is the **1st** budget after major changes in Indian economy like GST and Demonetization in 2016.

Three major reforms:

Presented on **February 1, 2017** instead of being presented on last day of February every year.

Merger of Railway Budget with the General Budget

Abolition of Planned & Non-Planned Expenditure

Agenda :

The agenda for the Union Budget 2017-18 is **TEC India**, where **T** stands for Transform(The quality of governance and life of people), **E** stands for Energize(various section of society like youth) and **C** for Clean (evils like corruption, black money etc).

The **Total Budget expenditure** allocated for 2017-18 is **Rs. 21.47 lakh crore**.

Pillars of Budget 2017-18:

The Budget 2017-18 is based on **10 distinct pillars** to meet the TEC India agenda.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.Farmers | 6.Rural Population |
| 2.Youth | 7.Poor and the Underprivileged |
| 3.Infrastructure | 8.Financial Sector |
| 4.Digital Economy | 9.Public Service |
| 5.Prudent Fiscal Management | 10.Tax Administration |

Highlights of budget across various sectors:

Agriculture sector

- A sum of **Rs. 10 lakh crore** is allocated as credit to farmers, with 60 days interest waiver.
- NABARD fund will be **increased** to Rs. 40,000 crore for irrigation corpus from Rs 20,000.
- and fund of Rs.5,000 crore initial corpus for micro irrigation.
- Government will set up mini labs in **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** for soil testing.

Rural population

- Targets to bring 1 crore households out of poverty by **2019**.
- During 2017-18, **five lakh** farm ponds will be taken up under the **MGNREGA**. Over **Rs 3 lakh crore** will be spent for rural India. MGNREGA to **double** farmers' income and ensure participation of women upto **55%**.
- Will allocate Rs. 19,000 crore for **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** in 2017-18.
- Achieve 100% rural electrification by **March 2018**.
- Sanitation coverage has gone up from **42%** in Oct 13 to **60%** now.

Youth

- Will introduce a system of **measuring** annual learning outcomes and come out with an **innovation fund** for secondary education. Focus will be on **3,479** educationally-backward blocks.
- **Skill India mission** was launched to maximise potential and will set up **100 India International centres** across the country. Amount of **Rs.4000 cr** allotted for youth training on **Skill knowledge**.
- Courses on **foreign languages** will be introduced.
- Take steps to create **5000 PG seats** per annum.

Poor and health care

- Amount of **Rs. 500 crore** allocated for **Mahila Shakti Kendras**.
- Under a nationwide scheme for pregnant women, **Rs. 6000** will be transferred to each person.
- Due to surplus liquidity, banks have started **reducing** lending rates for housing.
- Elimination of **tuberculosis** by **2025** targeted.
- Two AIIMS will be set up in **Jharkhand** and **Gujarat**.
- Allocation for Scheduled Castes is **Rs. 52,393 crore**
- **Aadhaar-based smartcards** will be issued to **senior citizens** to monitor health.
- Govt to set up **dairy development fund** with corpus of **Rs 8,000 cr.**

Infrastructure & Railways

- A total allocation of **Rs. 39,61,354 crore** has been made for **infrastructure** and **Rs. 64,000 crore** allocated for highways.
- Total allocation for **Railways** is **Rs.1,31,000 crore**. **High speed Internet** to be allocated to 1,50,000 gram panchayats.
- **No service charge** on tickets booked through IRCTC and by **2019** all trains will have
- **bio-toilets**.
- **Raksha coach** with a corpus of **Rs. 1 lakh crore** for **5 years** (for passenger safety).
- **Unmanned level crossings** will be eliminated by **2020**.
- **Coach mitra facility** will be introduced to register all coach related complaints.**500** stations will be made **differently-abled** friendly.
- **All railway firms** to be listed on **Stock exchange**.

Energy Sector

- Amount of **Rs. 1.26,000 cr** for energy production-based investments received
- **Trade infra export scheme** will be launched 2017-18.
- Setting up the strategic policy for **crude reserves**.

Financial Sector

- FDI policy reforms - more than **90% of FDI inflows** are now automated.
- Decided to **abolish** FIPB and foreign investment promotion board in 2017-18.
- **Computer emergency response team** for financial sector to be formed.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** lending target at **Rs 2.44 lakh crore** for 2017-18.
- **Two** new schemes will be promote **Under Digital India - Bhim app**.

- DBT to **LPG** consumers, **Chandigarh** is kerosene free, **84** govt schemes are on the DBT platform.
- **Head post office** as the central office for rendering **passport services**
- Easy **online** booking system for Army, defence personnel.
- **Donations** for political parties got limited to **Rs.2,000 per donor** in cash mode.
- Amount of **Rs.10,000 cr** is allocated to **recapitalisation of PSB** in FY 2017-18.
- National carrier **Air India** will receive **Rs 1,800 crore** as equity infusion in **2017-18** under the government's ongoing financial assistance

Fiscal Situation

- Total expenditure - **Rs. 21, 47,000 crore**.
- **Abolition** on plan, non-plan expenditure, focus on capital expenditure (Capital expenditure will be 25.4 per cent).
- **Rs. 3,000 crore** under Dept of Economic Affairs for implementing Budget announcements. Defence expenditure, excluding pension, at **Rs 2,74,114 crore**. Expenditure in science and technology — **Rs. 37,435 crore**.
- Total resources transferred to States and UTs is **Rs 4.11 lakh crore**.
- Recommended 3% fiscal deficit for three years with deviation of **0.5%** of GDP.
- Revenue deficit - 1.9 %. Pegged fiscal deficit of 2017-18 at **3.2% of GDP** and remain committed to achieving 3% in the next year.

Tax proposals

- **Net tax revenue** of 2013-14 was **Rs 11.38 lakh crore**.
 - Rate of growth of advance tax in Personal I-T is **34.8%** in last three quarters of this financial year.
 - Holding period for long term capital gain **lowered to 2 years**
- Propose to have carry-forward of **MAT** for **15 years**.
- **Capital gains tax** to be exempted for persons holding land from which land was pooled for creation of state capital of Telangana.
 - Propose to reduce basic customs duty for LNG to **2.5% from 5%**
 - Income Tax Act to be amended. No transaction **above Rs 3 lakh** to be permitted in cash.
 - Limit of cash donation by charitable trust reduced to Rs 2,000 from **Rs 10,000**.
 - **Net revenue loss** in direct tax could be **Rs. 20,000 crore**.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has no provision for cash transfer:

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has clarified that there is no provision for **individual cash transfer** component in **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** scheme.

Union Cabinet Approved the Amend Bill to Modify Scheduled Castes list in Odisha:

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 1, 2017 gave its approval to amend the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950** Bill to make changes the list of **Scheduled Castes in Odisha**.

This amended Bill will be shortly introduced in the parliament under the name **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2017**. **Sualgiri/Swalgiri** caste which is a part of already included **Sabakhia** caste has been made eligible to be included in the list of SC in Odisha.

Rail Museum celebrates 40th anniversary:

The **National Rail Museum** in **New Delhi** celebrated its **40th anniversary** on **01st February 2017**. The museum, which houses a **large collection** of life-size rail exhibits, allows visitors to take a tour on a toy train. Its attractions include the **saloons** of the Maharajas of Indore and Mysore and Fairy Queen, the oldest working steam locomotive still in operation.

Cabinet approved the introduction of Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017:

The **Union Cabinet** approved introduction of the **Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017** in Parliament on February 1, 2017.

The amended Bill aims to include **Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh** in the Act and declare it as an institute of National Importance with the power to award degrees to students

With this **IIITDM, Kurnool** will become the **5th Member of IIIT** to be funded by government. **IITDM, Kurnool** runs on the Plan funds of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Digital Radio Round Table Conference inaugurated in New Delhi:

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting **M Venkaiah Naidu** was inaugurated the **Digital Radio or All Round Table Conference** in New Delhi on January 31, 2017. It is organised by **Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM)** and **Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)**

Its aim to stimulate the interests of the key Indian stakeholders in the public phase launch of the project to **digitise radio in India**, following the successful installation of DRM digital radio transmitters by All India Radio (AIR).

UNICEF launched USD 3.3 billion assistance:

The **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** launched an appeal for the year 2017 on January 31, 2017 for **USD 3.3 billion** to help over **48 million children** across

the globe who are driven from their homes due to conflict, disasters and climate change.

Among the UNICEF appeal for 2017, nearly **42 percent, USD 1.4 billion**, would be used to support **children from Syria** living as refugees across the borders in neighbouring states. Besides, the assistance would also focus on countries like **Yemen, South Sudan and Nigeria** which heavily affected children due to wars.

India to participate in International Economic Forum at St. Petersburg as Guest of Honour:

India is invited as the **Guest country** for the upcoming **2017 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum** which was scheduled to be held from June 1 to 3, 2017.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will attend the **St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF)**. India & Russia are working on the "bilateral aspect" during Modi's visit of Russia.

India's fiscal deficit reaches 94% of the budget estimate in December:

Fiscal deficit in the first nine months of 2016-17 touched **93.9 per cent** of the Budget target against **87.9 per cent** for the same period a year ago. In value terms, the April-December fiscal deficit stood at **Rs 5.01 lakh crore, or 93.9 per cent**, of 2016-17 Budget estimates (BE).

Arnab Goswami changed the name of his news channel to Republic TV:

Arnab Goswami, managing director and editor-in-chief of **ARG Outlier Media** has changed the name of his proposed news channel **Republic** into **Republic TV**.

This changes after **BJP** parliamentarian **Subramanian Swamy** raised issue against usage of the word 'Republic' and he mentioned that letting a private venture use the word 'Republic' will be illegal under **Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950**.

Andre Russell gets one-year ban for doping breach:

Jamaican cricketer Andre Russell (28) has been banned from all cricket for a **year** over a doping code violation by the **Jamaican Anti-Doping Commission** on February.

Russell did not file his **whereabouts** on three occasions in 2015 as required, which constitutes a failed drugs test under WADA's whereabouts rules.

Former Union Minister E Ahmad passed away in New Delhi:

Former Union minister and Indian Union Muslim League leader **E Ahamed** has passed away in New Delhi on February 1, 2017. Mr Ahamed was admitted at **Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) hospital** after he suffered a cardiac arrest. He was **78**.

He is widely considered as India's '**unofficial ambassador**' to Gulf countries and he had represented India in United Nations 10 times. He was sent to **GCC countries as an Emissary** of the then Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi in 1984.

SAARC programming committee meeting begins in Nepal:

The programming committee meeting of **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** has begun at Kathmandu (Nepal). Senior officials of all eight member countries are participating in the meeting.

Indian delegation is lead by **Shri Prashant Agarwal**, Joint Secretary (SAARC).

This is the **first senior level meeting** of Association since postponement of **19th SAARC Summit** in November last year.

India Innovation Index Inaugurates in New Delhi:

The **Indian Policy Think Tank, NITI Aayog** together with Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (**DIPP**) and Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**) has launched a first of its kind online portal, India Innovation Index in India to rank the states on the basis of innovation.

The portal was inaugurated by **Mr. Amitabh Kant**, CEO NITI Aayog in **New Delhi**. The Index has been **developed** by the Indian sides in consultation with the World Economic Forum, the World Intellectual Property Organization, Cornell University, OECD, UNIDO, ILO, UNESCO, ITU and others.

31st Surajkund International Crafts Mela kicked off in Faridabad:

Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** inaugurates the 31st Surajkund International Crafts Mela in **Faridabad**, Haryana.

Surajkund International Crafts Mela is known as '**Cashless Mela**' because all stakeholders have been provided option to opt for cashless transactions. A team of volunteers called '**Mela Mitra**' are appointed to help and guide visitors for Mela. The freedom fighter **Jharkhand Birsa Munda's statue** has been constructed and people from 21 countries are expecting to participating at the mela.

Neeti collaborates with UN for women empowerment:

Neeti Mohan is the **first Indian female singer** to collaborate with UN for women empowerment project titled "**Music to Inspire – Artists United Against Human Trafficking**" which is managed by the **UNODC**.

She has composed **Udne De** as a tribute to all the women and in support of equality for all. Over **60** renowned artists and dignitaries from various countries have collaborated with **Rukus Avenue** to participate in the "Music To Inspire – Artists United Against Human Trafficking". Some of the other notable participants are **AR Rahman**, former President **Jimmy Carter**, actress **Tatyana Ali**.

United Nation Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)

Headquarters: **Vienna**
Head : **Yuri Fedotov (Executive Director)**

India signs MoU with Srilanka for multi-ethnic tri-lingual School:

India and Sri Lanka has signed an MoU for the construction of a **multi-ethnic tri-lingual secondary school** in a north central district of the island nation. The school would provide an opportunity to **Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim** students to learn in a multi-cultural environment and thus promote reconciliation and unity in Sri Lanka.

The Indian Government would provide a grant of **SLR 300 million** for the island school to be constructed in **Polonnaruwa district**.

The MoU signed between:

India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka - **Taranjit Singh Sandhu**

HSBC Estimates India's GDP Growth at 7.1% in FY17-18:

HSBC has estimated the **GDP growth rate of India** at **7.1 percent** for the year **2017-18** which is up from the **6.3 percent** in the year **2016-17**.

NABARD Sanctioned Rs 157 crore Loan for Drinking Water Project in Haryana:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on February 2, 2017 sanctioned a loan amount of **Rs. 157 crore** to the Government of **Haryana** to undertake drinking water project.

Under this project, the government would undertake drinking water supply scheme in 84 villages of districts **Palwal and Faridabad**. The project is likely to benefit **3,06,814 persons**. The loan amount has been sanctioned from the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)**.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

Chairperson: **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala**
Headquarters: **Mumbai**

India signs Mou with World Bank for Financing Agreement Worth US\$ 201.50 Million:

The **Government of India** has signed a **USD 201.50 million** credit agreement with the **World Bank** on February 1, 2017 to improve the quality and equity of engineering education across several states in India. The project **aims to strengthen engineering education** in low-income group, hill states and states of the North East.

This agreement was signed for the third phase of the **Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP III)**. This was signed between **Raj kumar** Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance **Junaid Ahmad**, Country Director, World Bank India.

India's SpiceJet honoured with 3 categories at Asia One Awards in Singapore:

Gurgaon based airline, **SpiceJet** made record by winning awards in three prime categories at the Asia One Awards held in Singapore.

The low-cost airline was honoured as the '**Asia's Greatest Brands – 2016**' at the function. Among others, **Chairman and Managing Director of SpiceJet, Mr. Ajay Singh**, was honoured with the title of the '**Global Asian of the year**', 2016.

The Chief Financial Officer Mr. Kiran Koteswar won the award for '**Asia's Greatest CFO 2016**'.

China successfully tested missile DF-5C with 10 nuclear warheads:

China has tested successfully a new version of a missile **Dongfeng-5C missile** which can carry up to **10 nuclear warheads** from the Taiyuan Space Launch Centre in **Shanxi province**, and flew to a desert in **western China**.

Evidence of 2 Billion Years Volcanic Activity on Mars in Africa:

Based on an analysis done by the scientists of a **Martian meteorite** in Africa, evidence of existence of at-least **2 billion years** of volcanic activity on Mars have been uncovered.

The meteorite known as **Northwest Africa 7635** was discovered in 2012. The scientist from United States found it to be a type of volcanic rock called a **shergottite**. The findings lead to a **new clue** about the evolution of the planets in the history of volcanic activity on Mars.

Lakshya Sen attained World No. 1 Player in BWF Junior Rankings:

Indian badminton player **Lakshya Sen** has created history after he attained **World No. 1 Rank** in the latest **Junior Badminton World Federation (BWF)** ranking.

The 15-year-old player is the youngest ever player and the first ever from **Uttarakhand** to win the title at senior level. Earlier, his brother **Chirag Sen** was ranked number 2 in the world junior badminton rankings.

Lakshya has outclassed **Chia Hao Lee** of the Chinese Taipei to attain the World no. 1 ranking. Earlier, by **2016** end Lakshya was ranked at **8th spot** in the ranking.

2020 Olympic Games medals to be made from recycled mobile phones:

Olympic game medals will be made from recycled mobile phones for the year 2022 to promote sustainability said by **2020 Olympic Games organizers, Japan**

For this, the **Japan** government asked public to donate unwanted **mobile phones** and other electronic items to help make **5,000 medals**.The organizers are placed a **collection boxes** in local offices and telecoms stores from **April 2017** to collect the material.

World Wetlands Day observed on 2nd February:

World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February to marking the date of the adoption of the **Convention on Wetlands or Ramsar Convention** on 2 February 1971.

This year motto is to raise awareness and to **highlight the vital role of healthy wetlands** in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones on communities, and in helping to build resilience.

Theme: "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction".

Arun jaitley unveiled National Testing Agency:

Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** unleashed measures to revamp the country's education system, including setting up of a **National Testing Agency** to conduct all **entrance examinations** for higher education institutions.

This would free **CBSE, AICTE** and other premier institutions from these administrative responsibilities so that they can focus more on academics. The government proposes to leverage information technology and launch the **SWAYAM platform** with at least **350 online courses**.

AT&T to launch 5G network in Austin and Indianapolis:

American telecom company AT&T announced it will be launching **5G wireless network** with a maximum speed of **400Mbps** in two US cities, namely **Austin and Indianapolis**, this year. AT&T claims it will be first in the industry to launch 5G network. It further said deploying newer technologies could push the **maximum speed to 1Gbps** in some areas.

American telecom company : **AT&T**
Headquarters : **Dallas, Texas, United States**
Chairman and CEO : **Randall Stephenson**

Wind turbine breaks world record over 24-hr energy generation:

Denmark-based MHI Vestas Offshore unveiled a prototype **9-megawatt** wind turbine which broke the world record for energy generation over a 24-hour period by a single turbine. The 220-metre-tall V164 turbine, considered as the world's biggest wind turbine in production, achieved **2,16,000 kilowatt-hours** over **24 hours**, which is reportedly enough to power an average Indian household for over **200 years**.

Rex Tillerson sworn-in as US secretary:

In US, **Rex Tillerson**, the former chairman and chief executive of Exxon Mobil, has been sworn in as **President Donald Trump's Secretary of State** by Vice President **Mike Pence** in the presence of President Donald Trump in the **White House's Oval Office**.The Texas native, 64, was cleared for full Senate approval in a 56-43 vote. He is supported by **Republican party**.

National Women Physicians Day observed on Feb 3rd:

On February 3, honor the path that female doctors have paved since 1849 as we recognize **National Women Physicians Day**. This day marks the birthday of **Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell**, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States in 1849. Dr. Blackwell initiated the movement that helped women gain entry and equality in the field of medicine.

Bharat Rang Mahotsav Begins in New Delhi:

The **19th** edition of **Bharat Rang Mahotsav** or International Drama Festival kicked off in **New Delhi**.

The festival would see **94 performances** from 12 Countries & 16 Indian States. It is the Asia's biggest International theatre festival conducted by the **National School of Drama**. The festival aims to develop theatre across the country.

Right to Information (RTI) Act came into force in Sri Lanka:

Right to Information (RTI) Act has come into effect in Sri Lanka. RTI was one of the major announcements made by the present Sri Lankan government ahead of the 2015 election.

RTI Commission which comprises of **5 persons** namely Mahinda Gammanpila, Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena, S.G PUNCHIHEWA, Judge A.W.A. Salam and Dr. Selvy

Thiruchandran, is vested with a variety of powers and is responsible for ensuring people can utilize the Right to Information effectively.

The public authorities under which the RTI request falls are liable to respond to these requests within the specified timelines, subject to a maximum of **28 days**.

Sankhitha Gunaratne, RTI Manager of **Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL)** informed that public can now start filing RTI request.

RBI Allows NRIs access to ETCD market:

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on February 2, 2017 permitted the NRIs to have access to the **exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD)** market. This will enable the NRIs to **hedge** the currency risk due to making investment in India under FEMA 1999. Firstly NRIs would have to **nominate a bank** that will monitor and report the position of the NRI concerned in the **OTC and ETCD segments**.

LIQVD ASIA launches online exhibition portal-ExFirst.com:

A premium digital marketing agency **LIQVD ASIA** collaborate with **iKarmik.com**, has launched India's First Ever Online Exhibition gateway – **ExFirst.com**

Its **aim** to provide designers and retailers an opportunity to reach out to consumers across the country. It will be an **open platform** where an exhibition from any industry can be conducted by any organization.

IBBI appointed 3 persons as Whole Time members:

Former Deputy **CAG Suman Saxena**, **Mukulita Vijaywargiya** and **Navrang Saini** have been appointed as whole-time members for **5 years** or till completion of 65 years in **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**.

Indian Team won Asian Junior Squash Championship:

Indian Squash Team outclassed Rival **Pakistan 2-0** in the lost in the second round match of Pool A at the **18th Asian Junior Team Squash Championship 2017** in Hong-Kong.

Pankaj Advani won 29th National Snooker Championship title:

Indian cueist **Pankaj Advani** clinched his **29th Indian National Snooker Championship** title at the **PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Pune**.

The World Champion defeated **Pandurangaiah** of Railways **6-0** in a one-sided final. With this win, Advani has become the **only Indian player** to win all the national titles in both the **long and short formats** of snooker, 6-red Snooker and 15-red Snooker.

India rise to second on ICC rankings, Virat Kohli remains top T20 batsman:

As per the latest **ICC Ranking** of the Men's batting, **Virat Kohli** is still on the top spot with 799 points. He is followed by **Aaron Finch of Australia** at second position with 771 points and **Glenn Maxwell of Australia** is third.

Virat is ranked **Second in Tests and Third in ODIs**. This makes him the only Indian batsman to be raked in top five among all

formats. Among the **T20 Team Ranking**, **India** stood at second spot with a rating of 124. **New Zealand** was first and West Indies at third.

Imran Tahir from South Africa was placed first in the **T20 Bowlers** ranking while **Jasprit Bumrah** was second and Samuel Badree of West Indies third.

Veteran theatre personality Asim Basu passed away:

Eminent stage craft director, theatre personality, actor, director, artist, painter and writer **Asim Basu** passed away in Bhubaneswar, **Odisha**.

Basu is well known for his beautiful and graphic stage craft direction and he has received the state **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 1998.

He had acted in some Odia films and directed a few plays.

Centre of Excellence In Automation Technologies inaugurated in Ahmedabad:

India's first **Centre of Excellence in Automation Technology** was inaugurated by the **Gujarat Technological University** at its campus at **Vishwakarma Government Engineering College** in Ahmedabad.

Its **aims** to enhance the research and knowledge base of both students and faculties. It will work to **improve** the technical competence, entrepreneurship and employability of Under Graduate & Post Graduate students who are being trained at the centre.

Annual 'Udyanotsav' of Rashtrapati Bhavan inaugurated by President:

President Pranab Mukherjee opened the annual '**Udyanotsav**' of the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

The **Mughal Gardens** will remain open for general public from February 4, 2017 to March 12, 2017. The two varieties of roses named '**President Pranab**' and '**Suvra Mukherjee**' were developed by **Pranabir Kumar Maity** and **Ashok Kumar Maity** of Pushpanjali Rose Nursery at Jakpur, West Bengal. **Vertical Gardens** and **Air Purifying Plants** which absorb toxins from polluted air.

'Inner Strength and Disaster Resilience' inaugurated by Kiren Rijiju:

Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs inaugurated the programme on '**Inner Strength and Disaster Resilience**' in New Delhi. The programme was organised by **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**.

Bihar Introduces Third Gender Category in Board Exams:

The Bihar government has introduced the **transgender** as a **3rd** category to opt for and appear in the Board exams conducted by the **Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB)**.

It is for the first time that the Board will conduct the exams for the transgender category in 2017 after it was recognized by Supreme Court in 2014.

RBI Directs Banks to Waive off Transactions Charges:

The **Reserve Bank of India** has directed banks to **waive off transaction**

charges and lower interest rates on credit cards as a move to encourage digital transaction.

Transaction settled on **IMPS** and **UPI** above Rs. 1000 would not be levied any fee charge however the service tax will be charged at actual. For **USSD** transactions above Rs.1,000 a further **50 paise discount** is provided **till March 3, 2017**.

Credit card, debit card, charge card and other payment card services by banks have been exempted from payment of service tax for transactions of up to **Rs. 2,000**.

Gopinathan Re-Appointed by UN Joint Inspection Unit:

Top Indian diplomat, **Achamkulangare Gopinathan** has been re-appointed by the UN General Assembly to the Joint Inspection Unit for a **five-year term** beginning **January 1, 2018**.

Ministry of Finance appoints Sanjeev as Principal Economic Adviser:

Noted economist **Sanjeev Sanyal** has been appointed as the Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.

Sanjeev Sanyal, former Global Strategist and Managing Director of **Deutsche Bank** will serve as the Principal Economic Adviser in the Department of Economic Affairs. As per the notification, Sanyal has been appointed on **contract** for a **3-year period** from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders.

NTPC appointed Anand Kumar Gupta as Director of Commercial operation:

Anand Kumar Gupta (56) has been appointed as director of NTPC for commercial operation. He will be responsible for the activities relating to commercial, international and domestic business development and consultancy business of NTPC.

NASA's Juno spacecraft completes 4th flyby of Jupiter:

Juno spacecraft sent by US space agency NASA, orbiting the planet Jupiter has completed a close flyby of Jupiter for the **fourth time**. Juno is currently in a **53-day orbit** and its next close flyby of Jupiter will occur on **March 27, 2017**.

During this period, Juno is studying the **gas giant's auroras** to learn more about the planet's origins, structure, atmosphere and magnetosphere. The spacecraft was **launched** from **Cape Canaveral Air Force Station** on August 5, 2011 (UTC), as part of the New Frontiers program. This space probe was **built** by **Lockheed Martin**.

World Cancer Day Observed on 4th February:

The **World Cancer Day** is celebrated annually on **February 4** to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection and treatment.

The **theme** of 2017: '**We Can, I Can**'

The **main aim** of the day is to ensure that illness, sickness and deaths due to cancer are reduced significantly **by 2020**. The day was started by **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)** to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008.

Former CBI Director Joginder Singh Dies at 77:

Former CBI Director **Joginder Singh** passed away on February 3, 2017 after a prolonged illness in **New Delhi**. He was 77. The 1961 batch **IPS officer** of Karnataka cadre served as the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** chief between 1996 and 1997.

A 16-member Committee to Prepare a Yoga Protocol for Diabetes Control- AYUSH:

The Ministry of AYUSH has constituted a **16-member committee** under the chairmanship of **Dr. H.R. Nagendra**, Chancellor, S-Vyasa University, to prepare a Yoga Protocol for Diabetes Control.

The Ayush Minister **Shri Shripad Yesso Naik** said that regular yoga practice can help reduce the level of sugar in the blood, along with lowering blood pressure etc. It also **launched** a programme to integrate Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani with **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)**.

World's Longest Flight Launched by Qatar Airways:

The **Qatar Airways** has launched the **World's longest scheduled commercial service** to ply between **Doha to Auckland**. The inaugural service of **Flight QR920** took off on February 5, 2017 from Doha and will take **16 hours and 20 minutes** to travel **14,535 km** to reach Auckland in New Zealand.

However, during the return flight, the **Boeing 777 flight** would take **17 hours and 30 minutes** due to high-altitude winds.

Sweden pledges to cut all greenhouse gas emissions by 2045:

Sweden's deputy Prime Minister **Isabella Lövin** signed a climate bill aimed at cutting all greenhouse gas emissions in the country by **2045**. Lövin said Sweden wanted to set an example at a time when "**climate sceptics are really gaining power in the world again**". She further said she feels encouraged by China's and India's pledges taken for Paris Agreement commitments.

Ministry of Coal to allow Coal-Mining Companies for 1st Time in 4 Decades:

The **Susheel Kumar**, Coal Secretary, **Ministry of Coal**, has informed that India has planned to allow the **non-state mining companies** for the first time in four decade to mine and sell coal.

The Ministry of Coal is set to auction four mines to both **state-run and private companies** during the year 2017-18 starting from **April 1st**.

The **winner** of the auction would have the **freedom to sell the coal**. Earlier this freedom vested only to a handful of state-run companies.

World's top coal producing market: China, US and India

Alastair Cook Rewarded with Order of British Empire:

The **England Test captain Alastair Cook** was honored with the **Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE)** by **Prince Charles** at **Buckingham Palace, London**.

CBE is one of the highest Order of honors among a series of **top 5 British honors**. It is **rewarded** for contributions made in the field of arts and sciences, work with charitable and welfare organizations, and public service outside the Civil Service.

The 32-year-old also became the youngest batsman to **score 10000 run** in Test cricket in May 2016.

Scientists Discovers a New Ghost Shark Species:

Scientists have discovered a new species of **Ghost Shark** in **Belize**, which was previously unknown. It is the **50th species** of ghost shark discovered and has **rabbit-like teeth** with **bulky head**.

It is **3 feet (1 meter) in length** and the 2nd largest species of ghost shark ever discovered. The scientists have named the new species as **Erithacus** which is the genus name for robin birds. They have put it in the genus **Hydrolagus** which means water rabbit or water hare.

Alibaba-made app helps to find 611 missing Chinese children:

A mobile app developed by **Alibaba** helped Chinese authorities recover **611** missing children last year. The '**Tuanyuan**' app, which means 'reunion' in Chinese, sends push notifications with photos and descriptions to users who are close to the location of a child's disappearance. The **notifications** are sent to users farther from the location of the disappearance till the child is found.

Vijay Goel lays foundation stone for Para Sports in Gujarat:

Sports Minister **Vijay Goel** laid the foundation stone of the India's **1st Center of Excellence for Para Sports** to help para athletes in showcasing their skills and talent further both at the national and international level in **Gujarat** on February 5, 2017. This Center will **provide facilities** for training in athletics, swimming and power lifting the age group of **14-20 years**.

He also inaugurated the **SAI Training Center (Para)** at SAI NSWC Gandhinagar on February 4, 2017.

Budget outlay: **Rs.50 Cr**

India to host FIBA Women's Asia Cup in Bangalore:

Basketball Federation of India announced that India will host **FIBA Women's Asia Cup basketball tournament** in July 2017 in **Bangalore**. This will be the **first time** since 2009 that India will host a major FIBA (International Basketball Federation) event.

India also set to host the **FIBA U-16 Women's Asian Championship** from October 22 to 28 in **Hyderabad**.

International Basketball Federation: (commonly known as FIBA, FIBA World, or FIBA International)

Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland

Sharath won 7th national crown at the 11Even Sports Senior Table Tennis Nationals:

Veteran **Achanta Sharath Kamal** won the **men's singles title** after defeating **Soumyajit Ghosh**. This is Kamal's seventh national crown at the **11Even Sports Senior Table Tennis Nationals** held at the Manesar Sports Club in **Haryana**.

Madhurika Patkar won the **women's singles title** against six-time national champion **Poulomi Ghatak**. Now she became the **first-time champion** in the women's singles at the 11Even Sports Senior Table Tennis Nationals in Haryana.

Leader of Bangladesh Awami League - Suranjit Sengupta Died:

Suranjit Sengupta Das, the Hindu politician in the ruling Bangladesh Awami League died on February 5, 2017 in **Dhaka**. He was **72**.

He played a significant role in framing the first post-independent Constitution of Bangladesh in 1972. He was a **former Railway Minister** of Bangladesh.

Eminent litterateur Pathani Patnaik died at 89:

Eminent educationist and **litterateur Pathani Patnaik** passed away at his residence at Kanika Chhak in **Cuttack**. He was 89.

Patnaik had written more than **50 books** on different aspects of literature, including short stories and poems.

He was conferred with **Kendriya Sahitya Akademi Award** in 2010 and **Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award** in 1993 in recognition of his contribution to Odia literature. **Utkal Sahitya Samaj**, the oldest literary organisation of Odisha in 2015 felicitated Patnaik with its Lifetime Honorary membership.

Bano Qudsia - Renowned Pakistani Urdu Author died:

Renowned Urdu novelist and playwright from Pakistan, **Bano Qudsia**, passed away in Lahore. She was **88**. She began writing short stories from childhood. She gained fame from her **novel Raja Gidh** (The Vulture King).

Qudsia was born in Ferozepur, India in 1928 and migrated to Pakistan after partition. In 2003 she was awarded **Sitara-i-Imtiaz**, the third highest civilian award in the State of Pakistan and **Hilal-i-Imtiaz**, the second highest civilian award in 2010.

Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY) launched by CM Sarbananda Sonowal:

Chief Minister of Assam, **Sarbananda Sonowal**, launched **Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY)** in a function held at Sri Madhavdev International Auditorium of Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in **Guwahati**.

The CMSGUY scheme aims to bring a **revolutionary change** in the state by **doubling the farm income by 2022** which also marks the **75th** anniversary of India's Independence. The total financial outlay of the CMSGUY scheme is **Rs. 30,000 crore**. It will be implemented in phased manner in the villages of Assam till **2021-22**.

First Smart Police Station inaugurated by CM Chandrababu Naidu:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** inaugurates the State's first **Smart Police Station** at Nagarampalem in **Guntur city** in Amaravati. The main motive behind such smart police station is to bring a **sense of pride** among the officers and satisfaction among the public.

Railways Ministry Approves 1st Rail Project in Andaman & Nicobar Island:

The Railway Ministry is set to develop the **first ever railway line** in **Andaman and Nicobar Island** that currently has no rail network.

The Ministry of Railway is set to approve the project that will construct **240-km broad gauge railway line** connecting **Port Blair with Diglipur**, the largest town on Andaman Island. It will connect the two islands with **bridges and stations** along the coast. According to the ministry, the cost of laying the line would be nearly **Rs 2,413.68 crore**.

SC Directs Centre to Link Mobile Numbers to Aadhaar Card within a Year:

The **Supreme Court** has directed the central government on February 6, 2017 to link the phone numbers of the entire mobile users, with their **Aadhaar Number** within a period of **one year**.

The verification decision by bench of Judges including Chief Justice **Jagdish Singh Khehar** and Justice **NV Ramana** was needed as mobile phones are being used for banking purposes.

Indian Ship 'Samudra Pavak' will visit to Dubai for 4-day goodwill:

In an effort to strengthen the bilateral relations between **India and UAE**, the **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pavak** made a goodwill visit at the Mina Al Rashid (Dubai Port) from February 4 to 7, 2017.

The Indian Ambassador in UAE **Navdeep Suri** visited the Indian Navy ship. **Samudra Pavak** or "**Purifier of the Seas**" is the third ship of the Pollution Control Vessel series of the Indian Coast Guard that was indigenously designed and commissioned in January 2016.

Bank of Maharashtra tied up with Cigna TTK:

Public sector lender **Bank of Maharashtra** has partnered with insurance company **Cigna TTK Health** to market the insurer's products in the bank's branches across the entire country.

Under the agreement, the bank will offer the all of Cigna TTK's superior health insurance products to its **2 crore customers** through its network of over 1,896 branches, its 14,000 bank employees across the country as well as through its **digital platforms**.

Axis Bank tied up with Earthport to Enable Cross-Border Payments:

India's third largest private bank, **Axis Bank** has tied up with **Earthport Plc**, a cross-border payment network, to enable **faster outbound cross-border payments** for its customers through Earthport's state-of-the-art global payments network.

Axis Bank has become the **first bank in India** to connect with **Earthport's** global payments network, which spans over 60 countries.

Ujjivan Started its Pilot Operation in Bangalore:

The **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** officially started its operation with 5 pilot branches in **Bangalore**. **Samit Ghosh** is the MD and CEO of the Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

The Bank **aims** to launch about 14 branches **by March 2017** and extend services

across 457 branches in 24 states in a planned and phased manner over the next few months.

Ujjivan SFB would offer an attractive **rate of interest** in the range of **5.5% to 8 %** on Fixed Deposit and Recurring Deposits. The bank will offer an interest rate of **4 %** on savings account.

Tag line: Bulid A Better Life

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation observed on Feb 6th:

The **International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation** is a United Nations (UN) campaign held on **February 6th** to **stop** genital mutilation to girls and women. Various activities and events are held on February 6 each year to **promote** the UN's campaign to raise awareness and educate people about the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Theme of 2017: "**Building a solid and interactive bridge between Africa and the world to accelerate ending FGM by 2030**".

Measles Rubella vaccination campaign launched by Health Ministry:

Health Ministry launched **Measles Rubella** vaccination campaign in the country at a function in **Bengaluru**. The campaign against these two diseases Measles and Rubella will start from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Goa and Lakshadweep, covering nearly **3.6 crore children**.

Corporation Bank tied up with Religare Health Insurance:

Corporation Bank has signed an agreement with **Religare Health Insurance Co Ltd** to market its products and services through the distribution network of the bank across India. The Corporation Bank holds around **5 per cent** stake in Religare Health Insurance.

India's first social innovation hub Launched in Nizamabad:

The **Telangana** government has launched India's first social innovation centre The '**Kakatiya Hub For Social Innovation**' in Nizamabad, Telangana.

Jharkhand Sport persons will get 2% reservation in govt jobs:

Jharkhand Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** stated that state will give **two per cent** reservation to sports persons in government jobs and nutritious food to them. He said efforts were also being taken to give nutritious food to the sports persons, an official release in **Ranchi**.

Finance Minister of Assam Presents Rs. 2,350 Crore Deficit Budget 2017-18:

The Assam **Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** presented the state Budget for the session 2017-18 on February 7, 2017 in the state assembly. The budget was based on the theme "**Resurgent Assam**".

As per the Minister the state Budget 2017-18 was **Rs. 2,349.79 crore deficit Budget**. The Budget Estimates of 2017-18, proposes to have a receipt of Rs 84,732.16 crore under consolidated fund of the state. Out of this, **Rs 70,719.61 crore** is on Revenue account and **Rs 14,012.55 crore** is under Capital account.

Amend on Bilateral Taxation Treaty Protocol signed between India & Austria:

India and Austria signed a protocol to amend the existing bilateral taxation treaty for **Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion**.

The protocol was signed between Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman **Sushil Chandra** on behalf of India and Embassy of Austria Charge d' Affaires **Georg Zehetner** on behalf of Austria.

23rd International Conference & Exhibition on Terrestrial & Satellite Broadcasting held in New Delhi:

The 23rd session of the **International Conference & Exhibition on Terrestrial & Satellite Broadcasting** was held at the Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, **New Delhi**.

The event was organized by the **Broadcast Engineering Society (India)**. The theme of the event was **Hybrid Technologies in Broadcasting – New Opportunities**. Over **300 companies from 25 countries** participate to display their products in BES EXPO 2017.

Arunachal Pradesh implemented the e-Cabinet Solution:

Arunachal Pradesh became the **first state in the northeast** to implement e-Cabinet solution for the state cabinet members. "e-Cabinet is a powerful tool that the Arunachal Pradesh government plans to use to streamline its decision-making process,"

Using this system, the cabinet members can **access** the cabinet notes before the meeting. The entire business of the Cabinet can be conducted using the e-Cabinet solution.

17th session of BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting Held in Nepal:

The **17th session of the senior officials' meeting** of the **BIMSTEC** was held in **Kathmandu**. The delegates of the **seven member nations** attended the meeting to review the progress made by the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)**. It will **strengthen** the Regional Cooperation among them.

This session was chaired by **Shanker Das Bairagi**, Foreign Secretary and Head of Nepali Delegation. India was led by Secretary (East) Ms. **Preeti Saran**.

Seven member country: India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

China Tops the list in World's largest producer of solar power:

China has surpassed **Germany** to become the **world's largest producer of solar energy** after nearly doubling its installed photovoltaic capacity in 2016.

With the increased capacity, China generated **66.2 billion** kilowatt-hours of energy last year, which however accounted for only **1%** of its electrical output. The country further plans to **double** its current solar energy capacity by **2020**.

CBDT signs 4 more Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs):

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** under the Department of Revenue entered into **four** more

unilateral **Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs)** on with the tax payers so as to provide them a certainty regarding transfer pricing.

The four APAs signed belong to the **Manufacturing, Financial and Information Technology sectors** of the economy. Besides, the international transactions covered in these agreements include **Contract Manufacturing, IT Enabled Services and Software Development Services**. Now the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached **130** including 8 bilateral APAs and 122 Unilateral APAs.

'Arunachal Civil Service Awards' Launched by AP Govt:

The state government of **Arunachal Pradesh** launched the **Arunachal Civil Service Awards** in a bid to **encourage** good governance in the state.

Through the award, the government **aims** to improve the work culture and **boost** the **morale of government employees** by recognising their hard work and innovation.

The award consists of a **medal, a scroll** and cash awards of **Rs 1 lakh** for an individual and **Rs 5 lakh** for an organization or a group.

CEO of IBM Ginni receives record bonus of Rs.33.3 crore in 2016:

IBM Chairperson, President, and CEO **Ginni Rometty** received an annual incentive payout of **Rs.33.3 crore (\$4.95 million)** in 2016, her biggest bonus since she was appointed the head of the technology company in 2012. Shares of IBM rose by about **21%** last year, its first annual gain in four years, outperforming the **S&P 500 Index**.

International Business Machines corp (IBM)

Headquarters : New York, United States
CEO : Ginni Rometty

Russia Banned From 2017 London World Athletics Championships:

The **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)**, the World Governing Body for Track and Field events, informed that **Russia** has been barred from the 2017 summer **World Athletics Championships in London**.

Russia has been **barred** from international competition **since November 2015** following a damaging report alleging that state-sponsored doping was prevailing in the country. Further, The country again has been banned until November 2017.

International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)

Headquarter: Monaco
President : Sebastian Coe

Conclusion of 81st Senior National Badminton Championship:

Sourabh Verma defeated Lakshya Sen 21-13, 21-12 to clinch the **Men's Singles title** in the 81st Senior National Badminton Championships held in **Patna** on February 7, 2017.

In the **women's singles category**, second seed **Rituparna Das** beat Reshma Karthik 21-12, 21-14 to clinch the championship.

The duo of **Aparna Balan and Prajakta Sawant** defeated Shikha Gautam and Sanyogita Ghorpade 21-9, 21-11 to clinch the **women's doubles title**.

In the **men's doubles title**, **Satwik Sai Raj and Chirag Shetty** surpassed Nanda Gopal K and Sanyam Shukla 17-21, 21-16, 14-21 to win the title.

In the **mixed doubles**, the pair of **Satwik Sai Raj and Maneesha K** defeated Venkat Gaurav Prasad and Juhi Dewangan 21-14, 21-18 to claim the title.

Venkaiah Naidu release annual book 'India-2017' & 'Bharat-2017' in Delhi:

Information and Broadcasting Minister **M. Venkaiah Naidu** will release the annual year book '**India-2017**' and '**Bharat-2017**' at a function in **New Delhi** on 6th February 2017. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore will also be present on the occasion.

These books give **comprehensive information** about the country and various States and Union Territories including functioning of the Government and the economy. It also **provides** detailed information on various schemes and projects of Government and its various departments.

Queen Elizabeth II Celebrated Sapphire Jubilee:

Queen Elizabeth II, the world's longest reigning sovereign, has become the **first British monarch** to reach her Sapphire Jubilee, with 65 years on the throne.

The 90-year-old monarch is marking the landmark as a day of private contemplation at her Sandringham estate in Norfolk as it also coincides with the day her father, George V who has died.

India hosts GICNT at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in Delhi:

The **Ministry of External Affairs** in coordination with the **Department of Atomic Energy** is hosting the **Implementation and Assessment Group Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)** at the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, **New Delhi**.

India is committed to **prevent** the spread of nuclear weapons and technology and promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and global nuclear non-proliferation.

UJALA scheme Launched in Jharkhand by Raghubar Das:

Jharkhand Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** launched energy efficient fans and LED tube lights under the '**Unnat Jeevan by Affordable LEDs and Appliances for All**' (**UJALA**) scheme in the state.

The UJALA scheme is being implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a JV under the administration of Ministry of Power, Government of India. In Jharkhand, EESL plans to distribute more than **25 lakh LED tube lights** and one lakh energy efficient fans to people on upfront payment. It is estimated that over **5.5 lakh** consumers will benefit from the scheme.

Gujarat Becomes 1st State in India to Establishes Cashless System for Public Distribution System:

Gujarat has become the first state in India to establish **Cashless system for distribution of food grain** to the beneficiaries under NFSA (National Food Security Act).

The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution **Ram Vilas Paswan** appreciated the efforts of the state government which has installed **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System** in **17,250 Fair Price Shops (FPS)** much before the target of March 31 as decided by the state. This will help in eradicate corruption and stop the leakage of grain in the PDS.

Ministry of Railways Launches its 1st Phase of the Station Redevelopment Program:

The **Ministry of Railways** launched the first phase of **Station Redevelopment Programme** for commercial development of **23 stations** across India. The total outlay of the project in the first phase is expected to be worth **Rs 9,000 crore**.

Under the Station Redevelopment Programme, the Railway will take up **400 A1 and A stations** for redevelopment through public private partnership (PPP) at an estimated cost of **Rs 1 lakh crore**. The 23 stations in the **first phase of redevelopment** includes Chennai Central, Ranchi, Udaipur, Indore, Yesvantpur, Bangalore Cantonment, Visakhapatnam, Howrah, Kamakhya, Faridabad, Jammu Tawi, Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Kozhikode and Bhopal.

HRD Ministry created a Sub-Panel of CABE to Boost Girls' Education:

The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a **sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)** under Chairmanship of Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister **Kadiyam Srihari** to look into issues related to **girls education**. The committee will further look into the issues of **safety of girl students** in schools, particularly in residential schools and hostels and identify infrastructure gaps.

Dubai Gets 1st Women Commercial Pilot from Royal Family:

Shaikha Mozah Al Maktoum, one of the female members of the ruling family of Dubai, has become the **first woman commercial pilot of Dubai**. Sheikha Mozah received her wings certificate in April 2016, after completing the APP First Officer programme at the CAE Oxford Aviation Academy in Phoenix, Arizona.

Review of Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy for 2016-17 – RBI:

The **Reserve Bank of India** announced its **sixth bimonthly monetary policy review for 2016-17** and has maintained its status quo with key policy rate unchanged. On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation in the country, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** decided to keep the key rates unchanged.

The RBI has projected GDP growth in the current fiscal at **6.9 percent**. It expects the growth to recover sharply in 2017-18 and reach **7.4 percent**. Reserve Bank of India informed about its decision to set up a separate **Enforcement Department** to effectively monitor bank in case they violate regulations. The Enforcement Department will start operations from **April 1, 2017**. RBI has

announced that from March 13, 2017, there would be **no limit** on cash withdrawal.

Policy rates: Reserve Ratio:
Bank Rate - 6.75% CRR - 4%
Repo Rate - 6.25% SLR - 20.50%
Reverse Repo Rate - 5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 6.75%

Federal Bank Signed pact with Commodity Online to Distribute the Loans Against Warehouse Receipts:

Private sector lender **Federal Bank Limited** has partnered with **Commodity Online**, a leading online data and information portal for the **distribution of loans against warehouse receipts** and collateral management services across the country. Commodity Online will launch an agri-commodity financing platform through its portal **www.commodityonline.com**.

HDFC & Kotak Mahindra Bank Go Live with Bharat Bill Payment System:

The Private sector lenders **HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank** were started their operations with the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** ease the bill payment service for the customers.

BBPS was introduced by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. It is a **centralized payment platform** that offers speed and convenience to pay all types of bills.

National Payments Corporation of India(NPCI)

Headquarters : Mumbai

Bank of Baroda & IFFCO Launched Co-Branded Debit Card for Farmers:

Fertilizer major **IFFCO and Bank of Baroda** have signed an MoU to launch **co-branded debit cards** for farmers in a bid to promote cashless transactions in the rural area.

The MoU **aims** to **issue 2 lakh** co-branded debit cards to selected farmers on the basis of the recommendation of its authorised representative. Under the MoU, **Bank of Baroda** will open **Aadhaar-enabled accounts** of farmers and issue co-branded debits card to the specified farmers with overdraft facility of **Rs 2,500 per card**.

With the help of this card farmers can **purchase** agri-inputs from the IFFCO and its subsidiary on credit period of one month and at an attractive interest rate.

Surgeon Raghu Ram Honored with B C Roy Award:

Hyderabad based **Dr P Raghu Ram**, President of **Association of Breast Surgeons of India (ABSI)** has been honored with the prestigious **Dr B C Roy National Award** for 'outstanding service in the field of socio medical relief' for the year 2016.

The award will be conferred upon Ram by **President Pranab Mukherjee** on July 1, 2017 which is also observed as **National Doctors Day**. He is the **youngest surgeon** ever from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to have been selected for the award.

Jonathan quits from the boards of Ola, Snapdeal and Housing:

SoftBank Group's Chief Operating Officer (COO) Jonathan Bullock has resigned from the boards of Ola and Snapdeal due to "personal reasons and other obligations". He also resigned from the **board of Housing**, citing a regulatory filing. SoftBank's Managing

Director **David Thevenon** is likely to replace Bullock and join the boards of Ola and Snapdeal.

Satish Menon as CEO of IPL by Kings XI Punjab:

Kings XI Punjab have appointed **Satish Menon** as Chief Executive Officer and **Rajeev Khanna** as the Chief Operating Officer of the franchise for the upcoming season of Indian Premiere League (IPL).

ISRO Indigenously Develops Telemetry and Telecommand Processor (TTCP):

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** informed that the indigenous development of **Telemetry & Telecommand Processor (TTCP)** has been realised and now with the help of Indian industry its product ionisation will be initiated.

The indigenously developed Processor was successfully deployed in **checkout of GSAT-19** which is scheduled to be launched shortly. This processor will replace the expensive imported equipment. Its indigenous development was taken up by ISRO as part of '**Make in India**' campaign

Researchers Developed Stable Compound Na2He of Helium and Sodium :

An international team of researchers from **China, Russia, and the United States** conducted computer modelling to create a thermodynamically stable compound of sodium and the noble gas helium, Na2He, which has a fluorite-type structure and is stable at high pressures. With this experiment, the study of chemistry gets a **big change in noble gas theory**.

Mohit Ahlawat the 1st cricketer to score 300 in T20s at any stage of level:

21-year-old **Mohit Ahlawat** became the **first batsman in the world to score a 300** in a T20 match. Ahlawat, who has represented Delhi in **Ranji Trophy**, scored an unbeaten **300 off 72 balls** in a local T20 tournament at **Delhi's Lalita Park**. Ahlawat smashed **39 sixes and 14 fours** in his knock.

Genzebe Dibaba broken the World Record to Win Women's 2,000-m:

Ethiopian runner Genzebe Dibaba broke the **women's 2,000-metre world record**, running the distance in **5 minutes , 23.75 seconds** at an indoor arena in Spain . Dibaba's timing was almost seven seconds less than the previous indoor world record of 5:30.53, and also almost two seconds less than the outdoor record of 5:25.36.

Adani appointed Purdie as CEO of renewable energy unit in Australia:

The Adani Group has appointed **Jennifer Purdie** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its **renewable energy business unit in Australia** in a bid to drive its plans to become the **largest renewable energy player** in the country.

Adani **aims** to become the **largest renewable energy** industry participant in Australia with a total capacity of **1,500 MW** in the near term.

Budget Homes in Mumbai Metropolitan Region Launched by HDIL:

Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd will soon launching its new budget homes brand in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)**. Through this

brand, HDIL **aims** at making **quality housing at affordable prices** accessible to a wider section of people.

Under HDIL will provide affordable homes within **Rs. 50 lakh** inclusive of stamp duty and registration in Mumbai's suburbs and within Rs. 20 lakh, including stamp duty and registration charges, in the **Vasai-Virar region**.

Betsy DeVos won Senate confirmation vote:

In United States, Senate has confirmed President Donald Trump's controversial nominee for **Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos**, by the slenderest possible margin. US Vice-President Mike Pence cast the tie-breaking vote to secure her cabinet role, splitting the chamber 50-50.

Ratan Tata introduce 'Moonshot Wheels' bus to Support the Indian team's moon mission:

Ratan Tata unveiled '**Moonshot Wheels**', a bus which will travel across the country to spread awareness about India's first private moon mission to be attempted by **Bengaluru-based TeamIndus**. The bus will travel to **11** states and carry astronomy models. TeamIndus is one of the 5 finalists for Google's Lunar XPRIZE competition and has signed a launch contract with ISRO.

Convertible "Dual mode" headphones patents Granted by Apple :

Technology major **Apple** has been granted a patent for **convertible "dual mode" headphones** that can be transformed into **stereo speakers**. Users will be able to switch between the two modes at the touch of a button or through sensors that **detect** the position of the device. Additional sensors prevent speakers from turning on when headphones are close to users' ears.

Apple Headquarters : California, United States

CEO : Tim Cook

Jovenel Moise Elected as New President of Haiti :

Jovenel Moise was sworn in as Haiti's President and will serve a **5-year term**. Moise won a re-run presidential election last year with 55.6% votes after the first round of elections in October 2015 were scrapped over fraud allegations. Moise replaces interim president Jocelerme Privert, who was appointed to the post.

Country : Haiti
Capital : Port-au-Prince
Currency : Haitian gourde
President : Jovenel Moise

Abhishek & Sandeep quits from the senior-level executives of Snapdeal :

Snapdeal's head of corporate development **Abhishek Kumar**, and senior vice president **Sandeep Komaravelly**, have quit the homegrown e-commerce company. Kumar was working along with founders Kunal Bahl and Rohit Bansal for raising funds. Kumar's responsibilities have been taken over by former Housing CEO **Jason Kothari**, who joined

Snapdeal as Chief Strategy and Investment officer last month.

Company : Snapdeal
Headquarters : New Delhi
CEO : Kunal Bahl

Union Cabinet Approved PMGDISHA Scheme:

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the '**Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan**' (**PMGDISHA**) to make **6 crore** rural households digitally literate by **March 2019**.The outlay for **PMGDISHA is Rs.2,351.38 crore**.

He apprised of the Framework Agreement between India and Vietnam on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes

IIM Bill of 2017 Introduced by Prakash Javadekar in Lok Sabha:

The **Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar** introduced the **Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha** to provide 20 prestigious Management Institutes powers to grant degrees.

As per the Bill, IIMs would be declared "**institutions of national importance**" and the Board of Governors will be the principal executive body of each IIM. The **Director** of each institute will be appointed by the **Board of Governors** out of a panel of names recommended by a search-cum-selection committee, which too would be constituted by the Board.

2017 International Desert Festival Started in Jaisalmer:

The **three day long International Desert Festival 2017** started with great enthusiasm in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan** . The procession travelled from Gadisar Lake to Shaheed Poonam Singh Stadium. The **major attraction of 2017** is the women wrestling which has been introduced for the first time.

Water Resource Ministry Formed a Committee to Accelerate Namami Gange programme:

A **committee** has been formed by the government to accelerate the process of the implementation of **Namami Gange programme** under which it plans to make the River Ganga free from waste by **2018**.

The announcement regarding the committee was made by the **Union Minister of Water Resources Uma Bharti** in New Delhi. The committee would comprise of Ministers of **Water Resources, Environment and Forest, and Drinking Water and Sanitation** as its members and will be responsible to meet at least once every fortnight.

India and United States Agreed Sustain Defence Partnership:

India and the United States have agreed to maintain the pace of their partnership especially in the area of the defence ties. The Defence Secretary **James Mattis** held a telephonic conversation with the Indian Defence Minister **Manohar Parrikar** with the commitment to further strengthen the **bilateral defence cooperation** made in recent years.

This was the **first bilateral talk** between the two ministers after **Mattis** was sworn in as Defence Secretary .

India Ranks 43rd Position in International Intellectual Property Index:

In the **5th Annual International Intellectual Property Index** released by US Chambers of Commerce's **Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC)**. India has been ranked **very poor** at **43rd position** out of 45 countries.

The 2017 International Intellectual Property Index titled **'The Roots of Innovation'** revealed that though India showed slight improvement its performance, still it continued to lag behind the rest of the world in IP protections. **1.US 2. UK 3. Germany Bank of America opens Branches without Employees:**

Bank of America Corp has opened **three completely automated branches** over the past month with no working employee wherein customers can use ATMs and have video conferences with employees at other branches. The bank has opened one completely automated branch in **Minneapolis** and one in **Denver**. Bank of America aims to open **50 to 60** such new branches over the next year.

Centre Appoints Three Directors to Central Board:

The central government appointed three part-time **Non-Official Directors** on the **Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India** for a **four-year term** after an approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet has appointed economist **Ashok Gulati, Manish Sabharwal**, chairman of services provider Team lease and **Rajiv Kumar**, economist and former FICCI secretary general as part-time Non-Official Directors on the Central Board.

Farmaajo Elected as New President of Somalia:

Former Prime Minister **Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo** was declared the new **President of Somalia**. The dual Somali-US citizenship holder Farmaajo defeated the incumbent President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud** with 184 to 97 vote in the second round.

Country : Somalia
Capital : Mogadishu
Currencies : United States Dollar, Somali shilling

Large Uranium Reserves found in Meghalaya:

Reserves of **Uranium** have been found in Meghalaya over a large area around **Domiasiat, Wahkyn, Lostoin** among others. The **Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL)** under **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** had already made a plan to develop the mineral resources at Domiasiat under the name of **"Kylleng Phendengsohiong Mawthabah (KPM) Uranium Mining Project"**. The project has the potential to generate huge amount of nuclear fuel for the atomic power plants of the country.

Pujara Breaks 52-year-old Indian First-class Record:

Cheteshwar Pujara broke the long-standing record on the first day of the **Hyderabad Test match** against **Bangladesh** on at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad, by taking his season tally to **1,605 in just 21 innings**. Earlier the record was

made by **Chandu Borde** in **1964-65** by scoring 1604 in 28 innings.

British Screenwriter Alan Simpson died:

Veteran screenwriter **Alan Simpson**, who co-wrote the landmark British comedy series **"Hancock's Half Hour"** and **"Steptoe and Son"**, with writing partner Ray has died at the age of **87**.

Book "Veerappan, Chasing the Brigand" Released by Rajnath Singh:

The book titled **"Veerappan, Chasing the Brigand"**, authored by **Shri K. Vijay Kumar**, Senior Security Adviser, Ministry of Home Affairs, was released by the Union Home Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** in New Delhi.

The book is a source of inspiration to understand the tactics used for wiping out the most dreaded forest brigand **Veerappan** on whom a prize money of **Rs.5 crores** had been declared.

National Deworming Day Observed on February 10, 2017:

The **National Deworming Day (NDD)**, a School and Anganwadi based Mass Deworming Programme was observed in all the states and Union Territories of India. The day is celebrated annually on **February 10**. Since 2015 in all the schools across India to stop the infections due to **Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH)** or **worms infections** among the children.

US Senate Approves Jeff Sessions as Attorney General:

In the US, Senate voted to confirm Republican **Senator Jeff Sessions** as the next **Attorney General** of the United States. The Alabama senator is known for his tough stance on immigration enforcement and his early support of **President Donald Trump** who nominated him for the job. The session was confirmed by a **52-47 vote**.

Centre makes Aadhaar Card Mandatory for Availing Food Grains:

The central government has made the **Aadhaar mandatory** for receiving the **subsidised food grains** from the **ration shops** in a bid to better achieve the target of **Rs. 1.4 crore** subsidy under the food security law. Those not having the biometric-based unique identification number can apply for the same by **June 30**.

Under the **National Food Security Law (NFSA)**, the government provides 5 kg of food grains per person every month at **Rs.1-3/kg** to over 80 crore people. The notification will be effective from **February 8** in all States and Union Territories (UTs) **except Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir**.

AP Govt constitutes 33 member committee to Promote Sagarmala Project:

A **33 member committee** has been constituted under the chairmanship of Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** for the speedy implementation of the **Sagarmala Project in Andhra Pradesh**. Sagarmala project **aims** to improve the state's coastline and inland waterways.

Shri Ananth Kumar Inaugurated Orientation Programme for 1000 PMBJKs:

The Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, **Shri**

Ananth kumar inaugurated the **Orientation Programme** for the district heads of National Yuva Cooperative Society (NYCS) in **New Delhi** to launch the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)** in the country. Currently there are **777 PMBJKs** and the government **aims** to achieve **3000 kendras** by **March 2017**.

Govt to Open 56 More Post Office Passport Seva Facilities across India:

With the successful operationalization of the **two pilot projects** of utilizing Head Post Offices as the **Passport Seva Kendra**, the government has now decided to further launch the programmes in **56 more facilities** across India. This pilot projects were launched in **Mysuru and Dahod (Gujarat)**.

India – UK Deal to Allow more Flights to Boost Tourism and Trade:

Union Minister of Civil Aviation, **Shri Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju** and **Lord Ahmad** from U.K. have signed a MoU to ease **restrictions on the number of scheduled flights** between the two countries to trade and tourism.

Limits on flights from **Chennai** and **Kolkata** have been scrapped, allowing for a greater range of flights for passengers while providing a boost to trade and tourism for the UK and India. This will pave the way to **new export markets, creating jobs and economic growth**.

India to Pitch Global Services accord to WTO chief Azevedo:

India presented the proposed **Trade Facilitation in Services (TFS) Agreement** to the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** Director General **Roberto Azevedo** and India Inc in an event organized by Confederation of Indian Industry in **New Delhi**.

The pact **aim** to ensure portability of social security contributions and make fees for immigration or visas are reasonable, transparent and non-restrictive in nature. It also aims to pave the way for **a single window mechanism** for foreign investment approvals.

Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
Leader : Roberto Azevedo

China Releases theme, Priorities of this Year's BRICS Summit:

BRICS 2017 association of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to be held in **Xiamen, China** in September 2017. The summit will be held under the theme **"BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future"**
BRICS:
Headquarter : Shanghai, China.
Host Leader of this year : Xi Jinping

Government Raises Rs.6700 crore from 2% stake in ITC:

As a part of its disinvestment plan for 2016-17, the central government sold **2 percent** of its stake in **ITC to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** and earned **Rs 6,690 crore**. Held under the **Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI)**, the stake was sold at Rs 275.85 per share through block deals.

Punjabi Folk Singer Satinder Sartaaj for UN Project against Human Trafficking:

Folk singer from Punjab **Satinder Sartaaj** (34) has been selected for the awareness project

against human trafficking **"Blue Heart Campaign"** by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**). Sartaaj will work with Indian musicians like AR Rahman and Sonu Nigam to spread awareness about the **illegal practice through Music** to Inspire album.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Head Quarters : Vienna, Austria **Head : Yuri Fedotov**

Hemant Bhargava appointed to be a Managing Director of LIC:

Hemant Bhargava has been appointed as one of the three managing director of Mumbai based **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India **till July 31, 2019** by the Cabinet Appointments Committee. Prior to this, Bhargava was working as the **zonal manager (I/C) Delhi**.

Nokia to acquire Comptel for \$370 million:

Finland multinational communications and information technology company **Nokia** announced to buy telecoms software firm **Comptel** for **347 million euro's (\$370 million)**. The **aim** of the acquisition to help phone carriers manage their **networks** as mobile be more and more rely on software to improve their networks.

Govt Launches Special Portal to Speed up Statutory Clearance for Mining Operations:

The Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, **Shri Piyush Goyal** launched the **TAMRA (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation) portal** and **Mobile Application** in New Delhi on February 10, 2017.

TAMRA Portal and **Mobile Application** aims to enhance the **transparency and accountability** in the mining sector as a part of the **Ease of Doing Business**. It will **speed up mining activity in India** and to **track the statutory clearance of mining blocks**.

Official Mascot unveiled for U-17 World Cup India 2017:

The official **Mascot** for the **2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup India** tournament was revealed in **New Delhi** at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium**. The mascot was unveiled during the launch of **Mission XI Million programme**.

A **clouded leopard** named **Kheleo** with young and charismatic face has been launched as the Mascot. It will participate in numerous activities during the **first FIFA tournament** to be hosted by India, from **October 6 to 28, 2017**.

Virat Kohli Becomes 1st Batsman to score 4 Double centuries in four Straight Series:

Virat Kohli became the first player to score double century in **four consecutive Test series** while playing against **Bangladesh** in Hyderabad. He also became the **second captain** to score **four double centuries** for his country.

Govt Launches Mission XI Million to Promote Football Among School Children:

The Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports **Shri Vijay Goyal** launched the **Mission XI Million**, the biggest school sport outreach programme, in New Delhi in the

presence of **President of AIFF Shri Praful Patel**.

The programme has been launched with an aim to make **football a sport of choice in India** and encourage children to play the football games on regular basis. The program will be rolled out in every state of the country ranging **from Kashmir to Kanyakumari from Kutch to Imphal**. The government aims to reach over **37 cities** and **12,000 schools** across **all 29 states** of India.

Nobel laureate Sir Peter Mansfield passes away at 83:

UK physicist and Nobel laureate **Sir Peter Mansfield** had died in UK. He was 83. Peter led a team of experts who revolutionised science and worked on **MRI scans**. He had won the **Nobel prize for Physiology or Medicine** for developing Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) in 2003.

World's first Braille Atlas for visually impaired persons Launched in New Delhi:

The Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences **Harsh Vardhan** released the **world's first comprehensive Braille atlas** for nearly **50 lakh visually challenged people** in India in New Delhi. This is for the **first time** that such atlas has been prepared for physically challenged with such minute details. The Braille Atlas has been prepared by **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)** under Department of Science & Technology.

The Braille atlas has **20 maps on different themes** like physical, socio-economic, river system, crops pattern, natural vegetation, cultural, metropolitan areas, roads and railways, soil types and crops.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science - 11th February:

11th February was declared by the UN as "**International Day of Women and Girls in Science**". This event is a collective effort by several UN agencies including UNESCO, UN-Women, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to **recognize** the importance of women and girls in scientific communities and to promote their full and equal participation in all aspects of science education and scientific careers.

Theme of 2017: "Gender, Science and Sustainable Development: The Impact of Media".

Chhattisgarh asks schools to observe 'Matru Pitru Diwas' day on Feb 14:

February 14 will be celebrated as **parents' day** at all schools in Chhattisgarh to teach "Indian culture" to students. The Directorate Public Education issued a notice to principals of all schools to observe '**Matru Pitru Diwas**' on the Valentine's Day. Congress, however, described it as an attempt to impose '**Hindutva**' ideology on the state.

Sudarsan Pattnaik creates record of world's tallest sand castle:

Renowned sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** has set a Guinness World Record by building the **world's tallest sand castle**, which stood 48 feet and 8 inches tall. Pattnaik broke the previous record of **45 feet and 10 inches**, which was created at Miami beach, US

in 2005. Pattnaik and 45 of his students took about 9 days to build the castle.

From 2018 Common entrance exam for engineering:

All India Council for Technical Education will conduct a **single exam** for engineering and architecture from 2018. At present, many states conduct their own engineering examination or admissions are done on the basis of Class 12 marks. Further, students seeking admission to the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** will have to clear the JEE-Advanced after taking the engineering entrance exam.

International Coin fair to be held at Thiruvananthapuram :

More than **2,500 coins** from around **500 regions**, including the coins belonging to the times of empires and princely states, will be on display at the three day international Coin fair at **Thiruvananthapuram**. According to sources, the exhibition will also feature collections of **Justin Gilbert Lopez**, who holds a **Guinness world record** for the largest coin collection.

2nd edition of 'Hunar Haat' inaugurated in New Delhi:

Minority Affairs Minister **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** inaugurated the second edition of '**Hunar Haat**' to encourage, promote and provide national and international market to master artisans and craftsmen belonging to minority communities. The theme is '**Crafts Aur Cuisine Ka Sangam**'.

2nd Gateway of India Geo economic Dialogue to be hosted by MEA:

The External Affairs Ministry, **MEA** is co-hosting the Second Gateway of **India Geo economic Dialogue** with Gateway House in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. This is India's premier geo-economics conference on the **theme, 'Where Geopolitics meets Business'** focussed on building synergies between business and foreign policy. There will be panel discussions covering topics like Sovereign Funds, Global Taxation and Digital Economy.

11th Aero India 2017 to be held at Yelahanka in Bengaluru:

The **11th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition - Aero India 2017** will be held at the Air Force Station, **Yelahanka in Bengaluru**. 72 aircraft, beside **270 Indian** and 279 foreign companies will participate in the 5-day event. Exhibitors from US, Russia, Israel, Germany, Singapore, UAE, South Korea and Australia will participate.

Ajay Tyagi becomes as new SEBI Chairman:

The government appointed senior IAS officer **Ajay Tyagi** as the Chairman of markets regulator, **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**. Tyagi will replace UK Sinha, whose extended tenure ends **on March 1, 2017**. Tyagi is currently Additional Secretary (Investment) in the Department of Economic

Affairs and handles capital markets, among other responsibilities.

Government to set up a Defence Procurement Organisation (DPO) to simply Purchase Process:

The Union Government has planned to up a **Defence Procurement Organisation (DPO)** in a move to integrate and streamline the long and complex process of defence acquisitions. The committee would be headed by former Director of **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow, Dr. Pritam Singh**. DPO will function under the Defence Ministry.

The organization would be set up on the recommendation of **Dr. Pritam** who submitted a report on the modalities of setting up the DPO to Defence Minister **Manohar Parrikar** and would be established in about **2-3 years**.

Multinational Naval Drill Aman-17 Begins in Karachi:

The five days multinational **Aman-17** naval exercise kicked off in Karachi where 37 countries took part. The **aim** of this multinational exercise is to display united resolve of the countries against terrorism and crimes in maritime domain. The exercise will also **help in enhancing** Pakistan Navy's interoperability with regional and extra-regional navies. This year **theme** is "**Together for peace**".

BoB to Finance MSME in Diamond Sector at Concessional Rates:

Bank of Baroda is planning to launch a supply chain financing product for the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** in the **diamond industry** to boost their existence in the sector. The bank will begin the supply chain financing on pilot basis in **Surat**. Cutting and polishing units, which procure roughs from large companies and supply finished products back, will be provided finance at a competitive rate of interest.

Hindustan Motors Sells iconic Ambassador car brand to French Company Peugeot:

C K Birla Group-owned Hindustan Motors have signed a deal with French carmaker **Peugeot SA Group** to sell its iconic Indian car brand "**Ambassador**" to Peugeot for **Rs. 80 crore**. Kolkata based **Hindustan Motors** would sell the car brand as well as the trademarks and use the proceeds to clear the dues of the employees and lenders.

GMR Hyderabad Airport Receives CAPA Order of Merit:

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL), which operates Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, has been honored with the **Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA)** Chairman's Order of Merit for its focus on environmental sustainability. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport was also awarded for becoming the **first airport** in Asia Pacific to become carbon neutral. GHIAL received the award during the **CAPA 12 Annual India Aviation Summit** held in **Mumbai**.

Subir Dutta appointed as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Madagascar

Subir Dutta has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Madagascar. Dutta is currently working in the Embassy of India, Vientiane

Madagascar:

Capital: **Antananarivo**

Currency: **Malagasy ariary**

India Successfully Test-Fires Home Grown Interceptor Missile in Odisha coast

India successfully test-fired its **Advanced Air Defence (AAD)** interceptor missile from launching complex-IV of **Dhamara Abdul Kalam** defence base off **Odisha coast** under its Ballistic Missile Defence Programme. It will **strengthen** India's position in the exclusive club of US, Russia and Israel.

The Advanced Air Defence interceptor named as **Ashwin** has the capability to destroy the incoming enemy missile in the endo-atmospheric region at a low altitude of less than **30 kilometres**.

Intech DMLS Launches India's First Indigenously Developed Jet Engines Series:

India's first **Metal 3D printing** provider **Intech DMLS Limited** has launched the country's first indigenously developed Jet Engine Series under the brand name **Poeir Jets**. Poeir Jets Pvt Ltd, an R&D subsidiary of **Intech DMLS**, has unveiled the first series of Jet engines for **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** & Remote Controlled (R/C) Aircraft. The engine MJE 20 is indigenously designed & manufactured with a thrust of 20 Kgf.

INTECH DMLS Pvt. Ltd

Headquarter: Bangalore

Managing Director: Sridhar Balaram

Election Commission asks HRD to introduce 'electoral literacy' in schools:

The Election Commission has asked the HRD Ministry to introduce '**Electoral literacy**' in secondary school syllabus to teach students how to become responsible voters. **HRD** has also been directed to ask the **NCERT** to introduce a booklet on the election process.

Indian Railways conducts world's largest online test

The **Indian Railways** has claimed that it has conducted the **world's largest online examination** with nearly **92 lakh** candidates, to fill more than **18,000 vacancies** in various categories.

BHIM app for UPI payments is now on Apple iOS

After launching the Android version of the mobile payments app **BHIM**, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** released the application on **iOS devices**. The app has a **limit of Rs. 10,000 per transaction and Rs. 20,000 per day** for transfers through a bank account. Features of the app include Pay to **Aadhaar number and SPAM report**.

2017 National Women's Parliament held in Andhra Pradesh:

In a first of its kind initiative, National Women's Parliament was organized by the **Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly** in association with **MAEER's MIT School of Governance at Pavithra Sangamam** in **Amravati, Andhra Pradesh** with an aim to **empower women**.

The three day conclave theme: '**Empowering Women – Strengthening Democracy**'.

Second edition of International Spice Conference Begins at Thiruvananthapuram

The second edition of the International Spice Conference began at **Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala**. The conference was inaugurated by the Nestle India Limited Chairman and Managing director **Suresh Narayanan**. **AISEF** has set a target to achieve the spice export to about **five billion by 2021**, from the current export of **Rs 2.5-billion**.

The theme of the conference is "**21st Century Spic Industry-Disrupt or be Disrupted**".

IIT Kharagpur to launch India's first School on Quality and Reliability:

The Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Kharagpur** is starting **India's first inter-disciplinary School** on Quality and Reliability (Q&R) in India. The main of the establishing the school is to **improve the quality of life for the people of India** as well as develop quality conscious global citizen. Besides quality, the school will also help to improve the trinity of **3Ps namely Process, Planet and People** with target on Engineering, Human and Natural systems.

India Decides to Host Counter-Radicalisation Conference with ASEAN:

India has decided to conduct Conference with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to share experiences and ideas from the member countries on **IIT Kharagpur** preventing radicalization and promoting deradicalisation . The Conference **may be held in October 2017**.

FSSAI sets up 11 member panel to finalize Food Fortification Laws :

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has set up a **11 member** scientific panel to frame final regulations on fortification of foods and prepare strategies to address **malnutrition problem**. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has already issued the draft guidelines on fortification for **five food items** including salt, milk, wheat flour, rice and edible oil to boost production and consumption of fortified foods.

Govt approves electronics development fund of Rs 6,831 crore:

The centre approved setting up the Electronic Development Fund Tele communication Minister with a total corpus of **Rs. 6,831 crore** to support entrepreneurship and innovation in electronics and IT. The Minister of Law and IT, **Ravi Shankar Prasad**

approved a seed capital of **Rs 681 crore** on the basis of which more venture capital will be raised.

India world's fastest growing e-commerce market:

India is **world's fastest growing e-commerce market** expected to reach **\$64 billion by 2021** with a compound annual growth rate of 31.2%, according to a Forrester Research study. India will take over 10 years to reach the level of the US and China markets, the report said. China remains the largest market for e-commerce globally, it added.

Diego Maradona to take on ambassador role with FIFA:

The FIFA governing body has named **Argentina's former soccer player Diego Maradona** as the new Ambassador of the FIFA .The 56 year old will have major role in FIFA's activities to promote the game across the globe and will also be be involved in relevant development projects.

Narinder Chauhan appointed as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Philippines:

Former IFS officer **Narinder Chauhan** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of **India to the Republic of the Philippines** . **Currently Narinder** is working as the Ambassador of **India to the Republic of Serbia**.

India Won the T20 World Cup for Blind:

India successfully won its **Twenty20 World Cup for Blind** title by defeating **Pakistan** in the finals. With eight wins from nine matches, India went into the finals as the favourites and lived up to it with a comprehensive victory. For Pakistan, though, it was their first loss in the tournament. **Man-of-the-match** is acquired by the Indian player **Prakash Jayaramaiah** stood out with a splendid unbeaten 99-run. **Man-of-the-series Badar Munir** was the top-scorer for Pakistan with a 570-run effort.

Ashwin breaks Lillee record to fastest 250 wickets:

Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** created the record of claiming **250 Test wickets** in least number of matches in his 45th Test, eclipsing legendary Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee (He Scored 250 wickets in 48 matches).He is the sixth Indian bowler after Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434), Harbhajan Singh (417), Zaheer Khan (311), Bishan Singh Bedi (266) to reach to 250 Test wickets.

Max Stöckl sets world record for fastest MTB downhill speed:

Austrian downhill rider Max Stöckl broke the world speed record for stock mountain bikes (MTBs) on gravel. Cycling downhill in the Atacama desert in Chile, Stöckl reached a record top speed of over 167 kmph. The photographer present at the slope managed to capture Stöckl's descent with a multiple exposure photograph, alongside other photographs.

Basketball fans set record for loudest indoor roar in sports:

University of Kentucky's basketball fans set a **Guinness record for the largest crowd roar** at an indoor sports event, during their team UK Wildcats' match against Kansas University Jayhawks last week.

Russian athlete stripped of London Olympics gold for doping:

Russia's **Mariya Savinova-Farnosova** has been stripped of her 800-metre London 2012 Olympic gold after the Court of Arbitration for Sport imposed a four-year ban saying there was "**clear evidence**" she used performance-enhancing drugs.

NBA & Take Two to Launch NBA 2K E-League:

The **National Basketball Association** (NBA), an **American professional basketball league**, is creating a brand **new e-sports league** called **NBA 2K e-League** in partnership with Take-Two Interactive Software Inc., the developers of the popular **NBA 2K video games**. This is the first time that a professional sports organization will operate an e-sports league. The competitive gaming league will be launched in **2018**.

Eminent journalist and Laughter Persona Pandit Dharmasheel Chaturvedi Dies :

The eminent **thinker, writer and journalist Pandit Dharmasheel Chaturvedi** passed away in Varanasi. The Hindi Kavi Pt. Dharmasheel Chaturvedi was considered 'Swayam Mein Banaras' means 'Banaras in Himslef' in elite circle. The laughter bursting persona of Kavi Sammelan, Pt. Dharmasheel Chaturvedi was nicknamed as Akkhad Banarasi all over India for being the star at the Hasya Kavita Enthusiasts.

Former Dutch Football Player Piet Keizer Dies at 73:

Former **Dutch Football Player Piet Keizer** Dies at 73. He won several awards including European Champions Cup in 1971, 1972 and 1973, the club World Cup in 1972 and a total of six national titles.

Jiro Taniguchi, a Japanese manga legend Dies at 69:

Jiro Taniguchi, a Japanese manga writer died in Tokyo at 69. Taniguchi began his career as an assistant to the artist Kyota Ishikawa. His own first piece of manga was published in the year 1970 named "A Desiccated Summer." Taniguchi first shot to fame in Japan at the end of the 1980s with the first volume of "The Times of Botchan"

NPC Organizes National Productivity Week:

Every year the **National Productivity Council (NPC)** has been organizing observance of its Foundation Day on **February 12 as "National Productivity Day"** and the ensuing week from **February 12-18 as "National Productivity Week"** throughout the country. The theme for 2017 National Productivity Week (NPW) is "**From Waste to**

Profits-through Reduce, Recycle and Reuse".

North Korea test fires ballistic missile:

North Korea fired into the Sea of Japan, as a "**surface-to-surface medium-to-long-range ballistic missile**". A US official said the missile travelled **500 kilometers (310 miles)** before landing in the Sea of Japan, also known as the East Sea, and that it was launched from **North Pyongan province**.

Intermediate-range ballistic missiles typically travel from **3,000 to 5,500 kilometers (1,864 to 3,417 miles)**. The agency described the missile as a "**Korean style new type strategic weapon system**."

Celebrating National Productivity Week from Feb 12-18, 2017:

National Productivity Council, an autonomous body under Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India was **established on 12th February, 1958**, with the **objective** of stimulating and promoting productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country. The **theme** of 2017 is "**From Waste to Profits-through Reduce, Recycle and Reuse**".

Dr Neelu Rohmetra, 1st Woman Indian Institute of Management Director:

The government appointed **10 heads** of IIMs which includes **Dr. Neelu Rohmetra**. The tenure of a new director will be for five years or until they turn 65 years of age. **Dr. Neelu Rohmetra** of Jammu University has been appointed as one of heads of IIMs. Now she became the **first woman director** of Indian Institute of Management **Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh**.

Second PSB recapitalisation plan on the anvil:

The government plans to come out with '**Indradhanush 2.0**', a **comprehensive plan** for recapitalisation of public sector lenders, with a view to make sure they remain solvent and fully comply with the global capital adequacy norms, **Basel-III**.

In line with the plan, public sector banks were given **Rs.25,000 crore** in 2015-16, and a similar amount has been earmarked for the current fiscal. Besides, **Rs.10,000 crore** each would be infused in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

'Indradhanush 2.0' will be finalised after completion of the **Asset Quality Review (AQR)** by the Reserve Bank. The review is likely to be completed by **March-end**.

Centre plans to invest Rs.2,200 crores in electronic technology start-ups :

The Centre is targeting an investment of about **Rs.2,200 crore** by **2019** in start-ups working on new technologies in the electronic sector under the **Electronics Development Fund (EDF)**, a senior government .

Limaye to get Rs.8 crore package at NSE:

Leading stock exchange **NSE** has proposed a pay package of **Rs.8 crore per annum** for its new chief **Vikram Limaye** and will seek **approval** of its shareholders for his appointment and remuneration package.

National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Head quarters : Mumbai

CEO : Chitra Ramakrishna

ICC Women's World Cup: Poonam Yadav's fifer helps India thrash Zimbabwe by nine wickets in qualifier

Leg-spinner **Poonam Yadav** produced a career-best bowling figures as India thrashed a hapless **Zimbabwe** by **nine wickets**. The chase turned out to be a cakewalk for the Indians as Mithali Raj's team took just nine overs to overwhelm the target for the loss of just one wicket.

Opener **Veda Krishnamurthy** was the lone Indian wicket to fall, after playing a quick 29-run knock off 16 deliveries. Mona Meshram (21 not out) and **Harmanpreet Kaur** (11 not out) guided Indian women home without any further damage.

Manga legend Jiro Taniguchi dies at 69:

Jiro Taniguchi, a legend in **Japan's comic art of manga**, died in **Tokyo** at the age of **69**, leaving behind an international following for his exquisite line drawing of scenes from everyday life.

Taniguchi first shot to fame in Japan at the end of the 1980s with the first volume of "**The Times of Botchan**", which centres around Natsume Soseki, one of Japan's greatest writers.

MEA & Gateway House Co-Hosts 2nd Gateway of India Geoeconomic Dialogue in Mumbai:

Gateway House and the Ministry of External Affairs are co-hosting the 2017's edition of '**The Gateway of India Geoeconomic Dialogue**'. This is India's premier geo-economics conference with the focus on building synergies between business and foreign policy.

The theme of the conference is "**Where Geopolitics meets Business**".

Karnataka amends law to allow kambala:

Paving the way for the conduct of **kambala**, traditional buffalo race, the **Karnataka Legislative Assembly** passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017.

Kambala is a traditional annual **buffalo race** in marshy fields held in the coastal districts of the state in which buffalo pairs are made to race one after another in paddy fields and is considered a thanks giving to the Gods for protecting the animals from diseases.

Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Limited country's 1st cashless township:

The National Institution for Transforming India, NITI Ayog has declared GNFC township as "**Cashless Role Model Township**", which inspires other corporate to

follow. Around 10,000 people will be benefited by the initiative.

India's first floating elementary school inaugurated on Manipur's Loktak Lake:

Loktak lake is one of the **largest freshwater lake in the country**, has now become home to first of its kind **loktak floating elementary school**. Situated about 50 km from Imphal, the school has been inaugurated at Langolsabi Leikai of Champu **Khangpok village in Manipur**.

The Loktak Lake is referred as the "**lifeline of Manipur**" as it is highly productive and many lives depend on the lake for endurance.

The newly-inaugurated school in the floating village is currently providing education to around **40 children** from **Class I-III** by engaging two local teachers.

PRDA will pay the volunteers under the project called '**Empowering vulnerable local communities for sustainable development**', which is funded by Action Aid India.

Asia 's Premier Air Show "AERO INDIA " begins at Bengaluru in Karnataka:

Aero India is a biennial air show and aviation exhibition held in Bengaluru, India at the Yelahanka Air Force Station. It is organised by Defence Exhibition Organisation, Ministry of Defence. It is the second largest air show in the world after the Paris Air Show.

Germaine de Randamie crowned 1st women's featherweight champ at UFC 208:

Netherland native **Germaine de Randamie** defeated Holly Holm (7-3) to claim the UFC Women's Featherweight Champion at the UFC 208 in Brooklyn, New York.

The 32-year-old de Randamie became the first women to clinch the victory in the first fight of the newly introduced 145lb division.

Joe Root appointed England Test captain as replacement for Alastair Cook

Joe Root was "privileged and humbled" to be promoted to replace Alastair Cook to start a new era for an England Test team that his predecessor admitted had "stagnated" in 2016.

At 26 Root becomes **the second youngest Test captain in world cricket**, behind West Indies's Jason Holder, and takes charge of an England team beaten 4-0 in India before Christmas and languishing at fifth in the world rankings.

NADA Suspent four Athelets for violating Anti- doping rules:

The National Anti Doping Agency's disciplinary panel has handed four-year suspensions to four athletes for violating anti-doping rules.

Gaurav Yadav (javelin thrower), Jagseer Singh (paraathlete), Tejvir Singh (handball player) and Subrata Nandi (swimmer) were handed the punishments following three hearings held over the last month.

Racer Jehan Daruvala makes history by winning NZ Grand Prix

Young Indian racer **Jehan Daruvala** tasted his first major success of 2017 when he won the Toyota Racing Series's New Zealand GP.

Earlier of the Toyota Racing Series, Jehan bagged pole position for Race 1 and the New Zealand GP as well. The extremely close qualifying sessions saw 4 racers within two tenths of a second in each session.

World Radio Day – FEB 13

World Radio Day is an observance day held annually on **13 February**. World Radio Day is about celebrating radio, why we love it and why we need it today more than ever. A day to remember the unique power of radio to touch lives and bring people together across every corner of the globe.

It was proclaimed on 3 November 2011 by **UNESCO's 36th** General Conference after originally proposed by the Kingdom of Spain.

2017 theme is "**Radio is You**" which puts the spotlight on audiences, ensuring their views and diversity are represented on the airwaves.

LG clears Delhi govt's proposal to raise pensions:

Lt Governor **Anil Baijal** has cleared another proposal by the Delhi government to increase the **monthly pensions of widows, senior citizens and the disabled by Rs 1,000 each**.

The **disability pension** has been raised from **Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500** while the **pension for widows and destitute women** has been raised from **Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500**. Currently, **4.52 lakh** people are covered under the scheme while the upper limit allowed is **5.3 lakhs**. Recently, Mr. Baijal approved the Delhi government's ambitious proposal of setting up **mohalla clinics** on the premises of government schools.

Sachin Tendulkar adopts another village for Transformation:

Rajya Sabha MP **Sachin Tendulkar** is now set to adopt **Donja in Osmanabad (Maharashtra)** under the **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna**. Earlier he adopt the village in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh has gone a huge transformation after Sachin Tendulkar decided to adopt it in 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Tendulkar has sanctioned over **Rs 4 crore** from his **MPLAD fund** for development of Donja. Tendulkar has emphasised on the issue of potable water since **Osmanabad** has been facing a drought over the last couple of years. The school building which is **over 70 years** old will also be replaced with a new one.

UNESCOs Nature Fest held at Great Himalayan Nation Park (GNHP):

France based UNESCO organised the two-day Nature Fest at the World Heritage Site Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP) at **Sairopa in Kullu district**.

The Great Himalayan National Park (GNHP), is one of India's national parks, is located in **Kullu** region in the state of

Himachal Pradesh. GHP was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites on June 2014.

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

More than 2,500 coins to be displayed at Kerala coin fair:

The exhibition is collections of **Justin Gilbert Lopez**, who holds a The District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) is gearing up to host an International Coin Fair at **Kanakakunnu Palace**. Minister for Tourism, Cooperation and **Devaswoms Kadakampally Surendran** will inaugurate the exhibition.

The three-day exhibition will feature the collections of Justin Gilbert Lopez, who holds a Guinness world record for the largest coin collection. CoinLopez, who hails from Poovar, has a collection of coins from **310 countries**, even those whose claims of statehood are currently under dispute.

World's First Flying car Introduced in UK for sale:

A **Slovakia-based** company, **AeroMobil** unveiled flying car(**PAL-V**) prototype at SXSW Interactive. It gets up to **700 km** of flight on a tank of regular gasoline. It's scheduled to go on sale in 2017.

PAL-V has created the Liberty Sport and Liberty Pioneer, a pair of two-person three-wheelers capable of flying at speeds of up to **112mph**. The Sport is the cheaper of the two, with the base model starting at **\$400,000**. The Pioneer, comes in at **\$600,000**. Both versions use a **retractable rotor blade** and Pair of engines one that's used for driving, the other for Flying with **817 miles** range of fuel efficiency of **31mpg**.

Indo-U.S. pact on exchange of scientists:

A **new agreement** for the **exchange** of scientists and engineers between India and the United States was concluded in **New Delhi**. **Dr. Atma Ram**, Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, signed the agreement for India while the **U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Chester Bowles**, signed for the United States. On the Indian side there will be an emphasis on certain aspects of applied science to help in **solving** important national problems.

Russia deploys missile in apparent treaty violation:

Russia has deployed a **new cruise missile** despite complaints by U.S. officials that it **violates** an arms control treaty banning ground-based U.S. and Russian intermediate-range missiles.

U.S. officials have now concluded that the **SSC-8 missile** is operational and has been secretly deployed, the report said. The Russians now have two battalions of the prohibited cruise missile. One is still located at the test site at **Kapustin Yar** in the country's southeast.

Michael Flynn resigns: Trump's national security adviser quits over Russia links:

Michael Flynn, a former military general who helped to shape President Donald Trump's foreign policy views, resigned as the **National Security Adviser**. Mr. Flynn, in his resignation letter, admitted to **giving incomplete information** to the Vice-President on his phone calls with the Russian Ambassador to the U.S. while he was the NSA-designate.

Australia batsman Adam Voges has announced his retirement from international cricket:

Adam Voges has announced that he is calling curtains on his international career. The **37-year-old** bows out with the second highest Test average of all time behind Australian great **Sir Donald Bradman**. His 1,485 runs in exactly 20 matches have come at 61.87, ahead of South African Graeme Pollock (2,256 from 23 Tests at 60.97).

IBBI invites public comments on Draft Regulations for Voluntary Liquidation:

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has invited public comments on the **Draft Regulations** for Voluntary Liquidation. According to the comments on each provision of the draft regulations are invited by **8th March, 2017**. The draft regulations are available on the Board's website at www.ibbi.gov.in.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs had set-up **four Working Groups** to facilitate implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Based on these drafts, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Board) has notified by two regulations. They are

(a) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons**) Regulations, 2016

(b) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**Liquidation Process**) Regulations, 2016.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

Headquarters : New Delhi

Chairman : MS Sahoo

United Bank targets Rs1,150 cr. in tea sector loans:

United Bank of India plans to increase its tea sector portfolio to about **Rs.1,150 crore** from the existing Rs.1,000 crore. MD & CEO **Pawan Bajaj** said that the bank had a strong presence in the sector in West Bengal, Assam, and Meghalaya, will **increase** by Rs.100 crore to Rs.150 crore from the tea sector in the **south**. The bank had also **opened** about **3 lakh accounts** for plantation sector workers in the **north** in the demonetisation period.

Ghosh and Shetty pushed, Archana impresses in Table Tennis

Archana Kamath beat Moumita Dutta in the **U-21 quarterfinals** and then returned to open her campaign in the women's qualifying rounds. Archana Kamath gave more evidence of her growing prowess in the qualifying phase of the **\$150,000 ITTF World Tour India Open** table tennis tournament.

Mumbai boy awarded CM title by World Chess Federation:

Kush Bhagat, a second grade student from Hill Spring International School, was awarded the title of Candidate Master (CM) by **World Chess Federation body**. Under his coach, **Balaji Guttula**, he won **U-7 Maharashtra State Championship 2016** title to becoming the World Schools under 7 Blitz champion in Sochi (Russia). He **won 3 gold medals** at the first ever **Western Youth Chess Championship 2016** at Dubai in UAE, Grammy.

Veteran journalist T V Parasuram died at 93:

Veteran **journalist T V Parasuram**, a former correspondent of the Press Trust of India, died in the **US** due to age-related illness, his family said. Parasuram, 93, passed away in his sleep in **Bethesda**.

DMRC to bring in world's first transit rating system:

The **world's first transit rating system**, which caters exclusively to metro networks, was unveiled at the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's** head office.

The **Metro Bhawan** has also become the **first building** in the country to achieve a certification by the **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)**. "Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will be the first metro network in the world to pursue the **pilot - LEED v4 O+M**. To assess the functioning of metro stations, an **'arc performance platform'** has been released, which will track performance based on **five categories** — energy, water, waste, transportation, and human experience.

Jammu & Kashmir Government Launches e-Prison Project:

The Jammu & Kashmir government launched an **E-Prison project** NIC Centre Civil Secretariat Jammu to digitalize the record about the jail inmates.

The project was inaugurated the state Minister for Information Technology, Technical Education and Youth Service & Sports, **Molvi Imran Raza Ansari**. The projected is being implemented by J&K e-Governance Agency. Data about **500 jail** inmates have already been digitized.

Mamata Banerjee declares Kalimpong as separate district:

West Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee** declared Kalimpong as **21st district** of West Bengal Kalimpong as separate district of WBon. The new district is from **Darjeeling**. On the same day Banerjee announced **two projects** for the development of **newly created Kalimpong**

❖ Rs **220 crore road link project** to connect Kalimpong with Sikkim via the old Silk Route

❖ Rs **50 crore water supply project** to address Kalimpong's water scarcity problem.

Schoolchildren set world record, fly 7,730 paper planes in 1 minute:

As many as **80 students** of **Moginand Senior Secondary School in Himachal Pradesh** have set a world record by flying **7,730 paper planes** in **one minute**. This record was set as a part of a **campaign against drugs**. The record was previously held by **87 students** of a New Zealand school, where 3,622 paper planes were flown in a minute.

Madhya Pradesh government to set up Tourism Board

Shivraj Singh Chouhan lead by Madhya Pradesh government has decided to constitute **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** for expansion of facilities at tourist spots and draw investment in the sector. The board would work to frame, execute and monitor new policies for inviting investors, increase land bank

India Joins 9 Country UN Network to Reduce Maternal, Newborn and Child Deaths by 2030:

India has become one of the **nine members** of the new **'Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health'** that **aims** to improve the quality of care for new mothers and babies. The global health network is supported by **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, **UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and other partners.

The main **aim** of the network is to **strengthen** national efforts to improve the quality of care for new mothers and babies so that countries can achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals** targets to end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths **by 2030**.

India to Join Moscow Meet on Afghanistan's Future:

India participated in a conference organized to **discuss** Afghanistan's future in Moscow along with **5** other nations.

The conference was led by Russian President **Putin's** special envoy on Afghanistan **Zamir Kabulov** while India was represented by **Gopal Baglay**. This was **objected** by India and Afghanistan as India has always believed in close and constructive cooperation for peace, stability, security and development in Afghanistan. Due to this Moscow **agreed to expand** its scope of conclave and announced a six-nation conference including India.

US, Thailand to launch 2017 Cobra Gold Military Exercise:

The **2017 Cobra Gold Military Exercise** kicked off at the Sattahip Royal Thai Marine Corps Base in **Chonburi Province, Thailand**. Cobra Gold 2017 is the **36th edition** of the multinational drill and is co-organized by Cobra Gold United States and Thailand. It will **expand** regional cooperation and collaboration for disaster relief.

The **ten day exercise** would continue till February 24, 2017 and the closing ceremony of the event will take place in **Phu Lamyai Training area** in **Nakhon Ratchasima Province**.

India, Croatia signs agreement to boost bilateral trade & enhance economic cooperation:

Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and **Martina Dalic**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy, Republic of Croatia have signed an agreement to boost bilateral trade and enhance economic cooperation in Zagreb, Croatia

Aim: To promote and develop bilateral trade and economic relations.

Country : **Croatia**

Capital : Zagreb

Prime minister: Andrej Plenković

Currency : Croatian kuna

President : Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović

Cabinet nod for SBI merger with 5 associate banks:

The Cabinet **approved** the merger of State Bank of India **with five** of its associate banks – **State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala, and State Bank of Travancore**. The merger is likely to **result in** recurring savings, estimated at more than Rs.1,000 crore in the first year, through a combination of enhanced operational efficiency and reduced cost of funds. The suggestions were taken on-board and decision formally approved by the Cabinet.

ISRO creates history with Launch of 104 satellites, Breaks Russia's Record:

India, a **one-rocket** fledgling in space transportation compared to its European and U.S. counterparts, created launch by placing a **record 104 spacecraft** in their desired orbits. The feat was **performed** on the old reliable launch vehicle, the **PSLV**, numbered **C-37**, which took off from the first launch pad at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, at 9.28 a.m. C-37 was a largely commercial flight as all but three passenger satellites, small nanosats, belonged to six other countries.

The **PSLV** now marks **38 successful missions** in a row out of a total of 39 flights. ISRO launches 104 satellites in one go, creates history **SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT RECORD HAUL:** The PSLV-C37 blasting off from Sriharikota with 104 satellites.

Researchers Develops Stretchable Rubber Material "Thubber" for Stretchable Machines:

Scientists from Carnegie Mellon University have developed a **thermally conductive rubber material** which is an innovative discovery for creating soft, stretchable machines and electronics.

The findings were published in Proceedings of the **National Academy of Sciences**. As per the report, the material named as **'thubber'** is an electrically insulating composite which represents a combination of

metal-like **thermal conductivity and elasticity**. It can stretch over six times its initial length.

President appoints five new SC judges:

President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed **five new Judges** to Supreme Court of India. Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice **Naveen Sinha**, Madras High Court Chief Justice **Sanjay Kishan Kaul**, Chhattisgarh High Court Chief Justice **Dipak Gupta**, Kerala High Court Chief Justice **Mohan M Shantanagoudar**

And Karnataka High Court judge Justice **S Abdul Nazeer** have been appointed to the Apex Court by the **President Pranab Mukherjee** with effect from the date they assume charge of their office. The working strength of Supreme Court is 28 now against the sanctioned strength of **31**.

Norman promoted as FIBA Technical Delegate:

Norman Isaac has become the **first Indian** ever to be promoted by the **International Basketball Federation (FIBA)** as **Technical Delegate (TD)**. The sport's worldwide governing body recently confirmed the appointment after Isaac, along with a select few aspirants from across the globe, successfully cleared a battery of tests at Doha, Qatar.

FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball)

Head quarters: Mies, Switzerland

President : Horacio Muratore

Secretary General : Patrick Baumann

Justice Vikramjit Sen takes charge of DDCA:

Justice (Retd) **Vikramjit Sen** took charge of the **Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)** and issued a series of instructions which showed he means business. Justice Sen has asked the DDCA to **provide** the list of grants/allocations provided to all alienated clubs in seven days.

France's Jean-Pierre Lacroix named new UN peacekeeping chief:

Jean-Pierre Lacroix from France has been appointed as the head of UN peacekeeping for a year pending a review of the world body's functions and structure by the UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**.

Fourth Laureus for Bolt; Biles wins her first:

Sprint king **Usain Bolt** pipped the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and LeBron James to win the **'Sportsman of the Year'** trophy for the record- equalling **fourth time** while gymnast Simone Biles clinched the top honour in the women's category at the **Laureus World Awards** here.

'Greenest' schools awarded Kendriya Vidyalaya from Hebbal in Karnataka:

A school from **Punjab's Moga district**, a **Kendriya Vidyalaya** from **Hebbal in Karnataka**, and a sports school from **Sonipat, Haryana**, claimed the top honours as the

'greenest' schools of 2016 in India. Union Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javadekar** gave away the Green Schools Awards, instituted by the New Delhi based research and advocacy body **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**.

Asuka and Sakura claim under-21 honours:

World junior champion **Harimoto Tomokazu** fell short of living up to the hype but his compatriots from Japan swept the under-21 titles to spoil Hong Kong's party in the \$150,000 ITTF World Tour India Open table tennis tournament.

Tomokazu's teammates **Sakai Asuka and Mori Sakura** claimed the honours, Tomokazu's loss in the semifinal to Hong Kong's Lam Siu Hang proved the talking point.

Madhya Pradesh: Waterways transportation to begin on Narmada River:

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has said that waterways transportation would be started around river **Narmada** in the State. "The waterways transportation will be started in a circumference of **100 km in Narmada** river as about **30 % of State's** population lives on the banks of this river".

Himachal Pradesh Governor Inaugurates Campaign against Drug Addiction:

The Himachal Pradesh **Governor Acharya Devvrat** inaugurated a Campaign against **Drug Addiction** organized by Shimla Press Club in Shimla. The campaign **aims to make the state drug free**. The Governor has announced to grant **Rs 1 lakh to the Press Club Shimla** for organising the campaign against drugs. Through the campaign, the state will make effort to eradicate drugs that not only affect the physical and mental health of the addict but also lead them towards increase in crime.

5-day Indian Panorama Film Festival organised in Port Blair:

The five-day **'Indian Panorama Film Festival'** being organised by the Directorate of Information and Publicity, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, in association with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Directorate of Film Festivals/IFFI, New Delhi, Govt. of India got underway in Port Blair yesterday.

Demonetisation: 9 lakh accounts 'doubtful', under I-T scanner for suspicious cash deposits:

Nearly half of the **18 lakh people** under the Income Tax department's scanner for suspicious bank deposits post demonetisation have been put in the **'doubtful'** category. Since **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)** runs **till March 31**, action against any depositor can be taken only after the scheme closes as the depositor may choose to disclose the wealth and pay taxes.

As many as **9 lakh accounts** of the **18 lakh people** who were sent the SMS are considered **"doubtful"**. Under **'Operation Clean Money'**, the I-T department had sent

SMS and e-mails to **18 lakh people** who, according to its data analysis, made suspicious deposits of over Rs.5 lakh during the 50-day window provided to get rid of old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes.

Two-day Global Investor Summit 'Momentum Jharkhand' begins in Ranchi:

A two-day mega event of **Global Investor Summit**, branded as **"Momentum Jharkhand"** is going to start at Khelgaon of Ranchi. More than **one thousands delegates**, including many leading industrialists, both Indian and from other countries, will take part in this. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Summit through video-conferencing.

Chennai to host EEPIC annual show:

The **three-day show** will be held at the **Chennai Trade Centre**, and will commence on **March 16. Russia will be the partner country for this year's event**. More than **100 companies** from Russia are expected to participate in the upcoming show. Sources in EEPIC expected more than **600 companies** from **60 countries** to take part in the mega event. The International Sourcing Show is primarily intended to encourage building global partnerships with India.

Take lead in jet project: Russia:

The **5th generation** fighter aircraft to be developed jointly by **India and Russia** will be an entirely new machine based on the Russian fifth generation jet which is already flying, a senior Russian industry.

The two countries are negotiating the contract. They include the **S-400** long range air defence systems, **Kamov-226T** utility helicopters and additional Mi-17 helicopters. "This is an entirely **new project [FGFA]** for building a new aircraft said by **Victor N. Kladov**, Director of International Cooperation and Regional Policy of Rostec, Russian state corporation.

India Slips to 143 in Economic Freedom Index:

India has been ranked **143** out of 186 economies in the annual **Index of Economic Freedom 2017** released by top US based Think Tank, The Heritage Foundation. The Index measures the degree of economic freedom in the countries of the world. **Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand** are the top three nations in the Index respectively.

India has been placed in the category of **"Mostly Unfree"** Economies in which the points ranges from **50.0-59.9**.

WWF had chosen a Panda as logo to save printing cost:

The **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** chose a **panda** as their logo to save printing costs. "We wanted an animal that is beautiful, is endangered, and...Loved. We also wanted an animal that had an impact in black and white to save money on printing costs," stated Co-founder **Peter Scott**. The inspiration for the logo also came from **Chi-Chi**, a giant panda.

Organization: World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

CEO : Marco Lambertini

Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland

UNICEF Launches \$110 Million Appeal for Sudan Children:

The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has launched a **\$110 million** appeal to help two million acutely malnourished children across Sudan including hundreds of thousands living in conflict areas. Sudan is home to around **13 percent** of all children suffering from acute malnutrition across Africa.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Headquarters: New York City, United States

CEO : Anthony Lake

Edappadi Palaniswami sworn as New Chief Minister: Tamilnadu:

In Tamil Nadu, **Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao** administered the oath of office to **Edappadi K. Palaniswami** as the **13th** Chief Minister along with a Council of 30 Ministers. This is the first time in 29 years a Chief Minister will be seeking a vote of confidence in the House.

Swarup new envoy to Canada:

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson **Vikas Swarup** has been appointed the new High Commissioner to Canada. Mr. Swarup, a well-known author became the MEA spokesperson in April 2015. He is expected to join his new post in **Ottawa** by mid-March.

Florida law professor is Trump's Labour pick:

U.S. President **Donald Trump** nominated former National Labour Relations Board member **R. Alexander Acosta** to serve as U.S. Secretary of Labour, one day after Mr. Trump's original choice withdrew.

Matt Idema appointed as first ever COO of WhatsApp:

Facebook-owned messaging app WhatsApp has hired **Matt Idema**, its first ever **Chief Operating Officer (COO)**, since its initial release back in 2009. Until now, Idema was leading product marketing for all of Facebook's business products worldwide. WhatsApp, which now has **1.2 billion** monthly active users worldwide, currently employs 200 people.

Dassault, Reliance form JV for Rafale:

Reliance Aerostructure Limited has incorporated joint venture with **Dassault Aviation** to capture a major share of the offset business arising from the **€7.87 billion deal** for Rafale fighter jets. The joint venture will execute the offset in phases with **Phase I** resulting in the generation of more than 700 highly-skilled direct jobs and 2,800 indirect jobs. The offset is worth about **Rs.30,000 cr**.

Tata Motors, Microsoft ink technology pact:

Tata Motors and software major **Microsoft** entered into a strategic partnership wherein the Indian automaker will leverage latter's connected vehicle. Tata Motors will unveil its first vehicle, incorporating AI,

advanced machine learning, and the capabilities, at the **87th Geneva International Motor Show on March 7, 2017.**

RBI plans to rejig MDR for cards:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to rationalise the **merchant discount rate (MDR)** for debit cards – the rate which banks charge a merchant when the customer uses a card for a transaction. For small and special category of merchants, the MDR has been capped at **0.4%** of the transaction value for physical point-of sale (PoS) machines and **0.3%** for **digital PoS**. For all other categories of merchants, MDR is capped at 0.95% of transaction value for physical PoS and 0.85% for digital PoS. For government transactions, a flat fee of Rs.5 has been proposed for transaction value up to **Rs.1,000.**

GDP to expand post demonetisation:

Demonetisation of old high value currency and the government’s push towards digital economy will definitely expand India’s GDP, Minister of State for Finance **Arjun Ram Meghwal.** **23.2%** of the economic activity is “**shadow economy**” and government push to cashless transactions will widen the tax bracket.

Citi Bank launches instant chat service for customers:

Mumbai based **Citi Bank** has launched instant chat services for customers named **Citibank Online (CBOL).** With this **India** become the **first country** in Asia Pacific within the Citi network to have this kind of service. CBOL will focus on resolving queries instantly regarding cards, loans, domestic and non-resident accounts, and online transactions.

ISRO gearing up for second moon mission:

Buoyed by the **success of PSLV- C37** which set a world record by placing 104 satellites in orbit, the **Indian Space Research Organisation** is turning its attention to **India’s second lunar mission, Chandrayaan-2,** scheduled for **2018.** The static test of the lander module of Chandrayaan-2 will be held at ISRO Propulsion Complex, **Mahendragiri,** by the end of February. Director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, **S. Somanath,** said the test would **measure** performance of the lander module propulsion system.

UAE chalks plans to build First city on Mars by 2117:

The **UAE** has unveiled plans to build the **first city on Mars by 2117** as the energy-rich country looks to **transport** people to the **Red Planet** over the next few decades. Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai **Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum** and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. He announced the **100- year national project** on which the Gulf State would collaborate with specialised international organisations and scientific institutes.

Small crocodile species identified from fossil:

Scientists have discovered a **new species of crocodiles** by means of a 3D reconstruction of the fossil skull of a reptile that lived about **154 million years** ago in **Germany.** The **Langenberg Quarry** has

proven to be a rich source of marine-related fossils, including small crocodile-like **atoposaurid** species. They concluded that the atoposaurid is a new species, which they named it **Knoetschkesuchus.**

High-quality graphene created using soybean:

Scientists in **Melbourne** have used the humble soybean to make the **world’s strongest material graphene** commercially more viable. **Graphene** is a carbon material that is one atom thick. Scientists at **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)** in Australia have developed a novel “**GraphAir**” technology that grows graphene.

Book to chronicle Dream Girl’s journey:

Dream Girl **Hema Malini’s** journey from an actor, a danseuse and Filmmaker to a politician is being chronicled in a new book which will hit the stores on her **69th birthday** this October, Billed as an authorised biography, **Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl** is penned by author-columnist **Ram Kamal Mukherjee.**

Davis Cup: Bengaluru to host India-Uzbekistan tie in April

Bengaluru’s KSLTA Stadium will host the **Davis Cup** tie between **India and Uzbekistan** in **April 2017.** The announcement was made in a release by **AITA (All India Tennis Association).**

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