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# CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2017

**Chennai:** #1, South Usman Road, T Nagar. | **Madurai:** #24/21, Near Mapillai Vinayagar Theatre, Kalavasal. | **Trichy:** opp BSNL office, Juman Center, 43 Promenade Road, Cantonment. | **Salem:** #209, Sonia Plaza / Muthu Complex, Junction Main Rd, State Bank Colony, Salem. | **Coimbatore** #545, 1st floor, Adjacent to SBI (DB Road Branch), Diwan Bahadur Road, RS Puram, Coimbatore (Kovai) - 641002 | **Chandigarh:** SCO 131-132 Sector 17C. | **Bangalore.**

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

**Fadnavis inaugurates automatic weather station in Vidarbha:**

**Maharashtra** Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** inaugurated the **State's first automatic weather station at Dongargaon in Vidarbha region**. It would **help farmers plan and manage the sowing process better**.

Around **2,065 such weather stations** will come across Maharashtra on **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** model this year, and 1,000 of these will be set up by June.

**Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launches two Schemes on International Labour Day:**

Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, **Shri Bandaru Dattatreya** launched two schemes **"One IP - Two Dispensaries"** and **"Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission"** on the occasion of International Labour Day.

Under **One IP - Two Dispensaries scheme** ESIC has given an option to an Insured Person (IP) to choose two dispensaries, **one for self and another for family** through an employer.

**Under Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission scheme** all EPF Members who have activated their UAN (**Universal Account Number**) and seeded their KYC (Aadhaar) with EPFO will be able to apply for **PF final settlement, Pension withdrawal benefit** and

**PF part withdrawal** from their **UAN Interface** directly.

**Govt flags off 'Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan' to promote nationalism among youth:**

Union Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javadekar** launched the **Vidya - Veerta Abhiyan** in **New Delhi** to encourage the students from Universities and educational institutions across the country **to display portraits of Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers**. The aim of this Abhiyan is **to instilling a sense of patriotism and nationalism** among students.

**Suresh Prabhu flags off Ahmedabad-Chennai Humsafar express:**

Western Railways **First Humsafar Express** between **Ahmedabad** and **Chennai** was flagged off by Railway Minister **Suresh Prabhu** at a function through **video conferencing** held at **Udvada town in Valsad district in Gujarat**.

Humsafar Express, comprising the air-conditioned three-tier coaches, **aims at providing a luxurious travelling experience to the common man**.

**Six months after note ban, Telangana tops in digital transactions:**

**Nearly six months** after the government announced its **demonetisation drive**, the southern states of **Telangana, Kerala and**

**Andhra Pradesh** lead the country in digital transactions.

Data from the **IT ministry** shows **Telangana** clocking **5900 e-transactions per 1000 people**, with **Kerala** and **Andhra Pradesh** registering **4300** and **4100** respectively.

#### **MP first to switch to Jan-Dec fiscal year:**

**Madhya Pradesh** has become the **first state** to switch to the **January-December financial year** from the **existing April-March cycle**, with the state cabinet. The **move breaks a 150-year tradition** as India started adopting the April-March financial year **from 1867**.

So, now the Budget session of the **next financial year** will be held either in **December 2017 or January 2018**, state Public Relations Minister **Narottam Mishra**.

#### **Indore, Bhopal top cleanest cities list; UP cities rank lowest:**

**Indore** in **Madhya Pradesh** is **India's cleanest city**, while **Bhopal**, located in the same state, is a close **second** according to a "**Swachh Survekshan 2017**" list of 25 Indian cities announced by Union Minister **Venkaiah Naidu**.

The Swachh Survekshan survey scores the **Swachh Bharat or Clean India Mission** in **434 cities** across the country. **Mysuru**, which topped the list **last year**, has gone down to **fifth spot**

this year. **Dirtiest Place** is **Gonda** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

#### **International PermaCulture Meet to be held in Hyderabad:**

The **13th** edition of **International Permaculture Convergence (IPC) India** will be held in **Hyderabad** from November 27 to December 2, 2017 with the theme '**Towards Healthy Societies**'.

The event will **help farmers** learn how their current challenges can be **solved using PermaCulture principles**.

#### **DoT Launches 'Tarang Sanchar' Portal, Lets You Track Mobile Tower Radiation in Your Area:**

The **Telecom Department** launched a '**Tarang Sanchar**' Web portal that will allow people to **track radiation emitted from mobile towers** within a locality and check their compliance with the stipulated norms.

**Manoj Sinha**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications launched the **Tarang Sanchar portal** in an event organised at **New Delhi**.

#### **Gadkari opens exhibition pavilions of MoRTH at IITLS-2017:**

Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated two exhibitions - '**The Highway Saga**'. The exhibitions are part of the **India Integrated**

## Transport and Logistics Summit (IITLS)

being organized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

**The Highway Saga:** Past, Present and Future is an exhibition depicting the evolution of road transport in India.

## India's most expensive limestone block in Chhattisgarh was auctioned:

The country's most expensive third **limestone block** in **Chhattisgarh** finally went to Dalmia (Bharat) Cement.

The **Kesla-II limestone block** in **Raipur district** of Chhattisgarh with an estimated reserve of **215 million tonnes** was put for auction.

## President Pranab Mukherjee approves banking ordinance on Non-performing Assets:

President **Pranab Mukherjee** approved an ordinance on **Non-performing Assets (NPA)** which will provide greater powers to **Reserve Bank of India** to **tackle mounting bad loans**. Earlier, the Cabinet had approved promulgation of the ordinance to amend the **Banking Regulation Act** for resolution of the **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** crisis.

## Odisha increased the pension amount of freedom fighters:

The Odisha government announced an increase in the monthly State Pension for freedom fighters. **Chief Minister Naveen**

**Patnaik** gave his approval for the hike, urging the Finance Department to issue necessary notification.

**Jailed freedom fighters** for participating in the freedom struggle will now be entitled to **Rs.10,000 pension per month, increasing from the present Rs.6, 000.**

The freedom fighters who were **not jailed** and took part in '**Goa Mukti Andolan**', will also get enhanced pension. They will get **Rs 9,000** instead of **Rs 5,000.**

## Committee formed to review Mizo peace accord:

Mizoram Governor **Lt. General Nirbhay Sharma** has constituted a committee to review the **peace accord** signed between the Centre and the erstwhile underground **Mizo National Front (MNF) on June 30, 1986.**

The committee officially named as the '**Peace Accord Review Committee**' would be chaired by Chief Minister **Lal Thanhawla.**

## Nitin Gadkari inaugurates India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit 2017:

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

## Two Indian warships visit Egyptian port city:

**Two Indian warships** have visited **Egypt** as a part of Indian Navy's overseas deployment to the **Mediterranean Sea** and the **west coast of Africa**.

**INS Mumbai** and **INS Aditya**, part of Indian Navy's Western Naval Command based in Mumbai, arrived in the Egyptian port city. For **enhancing co-operation** and **understanding** between the two countries.

**Odisha to introduce boat ambulances in four districts:**

**Odisha** will introduce **boat ambulance service** in **four districts** where people face difficulties in getting health service.

The boat ambulance service will be available in the districts of **Koraput, Malkangiri, Kendrapara** and **Kalahandi**. This is part of an MoU signed between the **State Government** and the **Ziqitza Health Care**.

**Jharkhand government partners with Oracle to boost IT infrastructure:**

In a bid to ramp up its IT infrastructure, the **Jharkhand government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **US-based technology major Oracle** to **enhance delivery of services** to citizens as well as make the State more attractive for start-ups. It will create increase employment and alleviate poverty.

**DIPP, WIPO to set up Technology and Innovation Support Centres for IP generation:**

**Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** have joined hands to establish **Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC)** in the country which is expected to boost generation and commercialisation of intellectual properties.

**Get train tickets at your doorstep by pay on delivery:**

IRCTC is now offering **home delivery of rail tickets** and will allow passengers to make payment through any payment mode, including cash.

Broad-basing the customer service, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has now introduced **pay-on-delivery** service, allowing passengers to book train tickets online and pay at the time of delivery.

**PM Modi launches Supreme Court's Integrated Case Management System:**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **integrated case management system** of the Supreme Court in the presence of the **Chief Justice of India, Jagdish Singh Khehar**.

The system will **help litigant's access data** and retrieve information online. The new system will be a step towards making the proceedings of **the Supreme Court paperless**.

**SAMADHAN: Rajnath Singh coins an acronym to wipe out left-wing terror**

Presiding over a review meeting of the states affected by **Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)**, Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** announced a **new strategy against the Maoists—SAMADHAN**.

The Minister explained the acronym as **S**-smart leadership, **A**-aggressive strategy, **M**-motivation and training, **A**-actionable intelligence, **D**-dashboard-based KPIs (key performance indicators) and KRAs (key result areas), **H**-harnessing technology, **A**-action plan for each theatre and **N**-no access to financing.

**The Income Tax department has launched a new "e-facility"**

The **Income Tax department** has launched a new **e-facility to link Aadhaar** with the **Permanent Account Number**, a mandatory procedure for filing IT returns now.

The department's e-filing website **incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in** has created a new link on its homepage making it "easy" to link the two unique identities of an individual.

**Air India to operate direct flight between Colombo and Varanasi:**

PM Narendra Modi announced that from August this year, **Air India** will operate **direct flights** between **Colombo** and **Varanasi**. He is participated in the **International Vesak Day** at

Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo, **Sri Lankan**, the biggest festival of Buddhists.

**West Bengal to set up plant tissue culture laboratory:**

The West Bengal government has decided to set up a **state-of-the-art plant tissue culture laboratory** at the **Kolkata Biotech Park** to enhance production and quality of plants and vegetables.

**PM Modi inaugurates super specialty hospital in Dickoya:**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated a **Rs. 150 crore** super-speciality hospital in **Srilanka** built with India's assistance in **Dickoya**, home to a large Tamil community who are of Indian-origin. Sri Lankan President **Maithripala Sirisena** attended the function with Modi.

**Shri Rajnath Singh launches the MHA Mobile Application for Grievances Redressal:**

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

The Union Home Minister also launched **BSFMyApp** on the occasion. This App is required when the Jawans feel that their problems need attention of the Ministry of Home



Affairs. This has given a **'Digital Option'** to Jawans to lodge their grievances and he is just one click away from Jawans.

## India test-fires 'Spyder' surface-to-air missile from Odisha test range:

India, test fired a **surface-to-air missile 'Spyder'** from a test range in **Odisha** as part of missile launch practice of a series of tests of the short-range quick reaction.

**Spyder (Surface-to-air PYTHON and DERBY)** is an acquired missile system from **Israel** which is a short-range, quick reaction surface-to-air missile to neutralise enemy targets up to a distance of **15 km** and at heights between **20 and 9,000 metres**.

## Aadhaar not mandatory for PAN in Assam, J&K:

The government has exempted residents of **Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, non-resident Indians, foreigners** or any **citizen above 80 years** of age from mandatory quoting of Aadhaar while filing income tax returns or to obtain a permanent account number, under **Section 139AA** of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

## Telangana First State to Have Logo for Vehicles Driven by person with Hearing Impairment:

The **logo** was designed by city-based graphic designer **Manikanta Annapragada** who was the

first person to obtain a driving licence under the **'hearing impaired' category** in the country.

The logo consists of a hearing impaired mark along with text saying, **"Driver is deaf — Please watch out"**.

## Election Commission of India Launches National Contact Centre to Educate Voters:

The **Election Commission of India** has launched the National Contact Centre and also gives a toll-free number **1800111950**.

With this, any citizen from anywhere across the country, can make a call to this number to get any information or to complaints either in English or Hindi. It is being operated by special software called **National Grievance Redress System**.

## PM to unveil road map for "Narmada Seva Mission":

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will unveil a road map for the conservation of the **Narmada River** in **Madhya Pradesh**. The event will be organised at **Amarkantak** in **Anoopur district** where the river originates.

It will mark the conclusion of **'Namami Devi Narmade Seva Yatra'**. The Narmada river conservation awareness campaign was launched in **December** last year.

## PM Modi to be inaugurated India longest bridge:

**PM Modi** will be inaugurating the India **longest bridge "The Dhola-Sadiya"** over the **Lohit River** in **Assam**, close to the border with china. The Total cost of this project is **950 crore** and length is **9.15 km** between Dhola and Sadiya.

## India ranked 2nd in EY renewable energy attractiveness index:

**India** has moved up to the **second spot** from third position in this year's '**Renewable energy country attractiveness index**' released by EY. The USA is topped position.

## Bengali mandatory in west Bengal schools:

The **West Bengal** government has made **Bengali compulsory** in **all schools**, including private English medium schools of the State. It will be compulsory for students to learn Bengali in schools. The announcement was made by Education **Minister Partha Chatterjee**.

## India's first ornamental fish tech park at Chennai:

India's first **Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park** (ARTP) will be set up in **Chennai**. The park, an ultra-modern exclusive facility for **ornamental fish** equipped with multi-species hatchery and live feed culture units, will become operational in the **next three months**, fulfilling a major requirement of the industry for mass production of high value aquarium fish.

## West Bengal government to introduce new fishing method 'cage culture':

**West Bengal** government is all set to introduce a new method of deep-sea pisciculture commonly known as **cage culture**. As the name suggests, the practice consists of culturing fish inside big floating cages in the middle of the sea.

## Government will provide Rs 1 lakh crore DBT scheme in 2017-18:

The central government is targeting to disburse **Rs 1 lakh crore** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** in the current financial year even as total pay-outs under the scheme since its launch is set to touch **Rs 2 lakh crore** May month-end.

## BSF operation 'Garam Hawa':

The **BSF** has started operation '**Garam Hawa**' in the western sector in **Rajasthan**, under which vigil along the **international border with Pakistan** has been stepped up. The operation will continue till May 23.

The Operation **main aim** is to reinforce and strengthen the BSF's vigil along the border during the summer.

## Raneh waterfall awarded Best Holiday Award:

The Raneh waterfall near **Khajuraho** in **Madhya Pradesh** has been awarded the **Best Holiday Award for 2017**. The waterfall is also close to **Panna Tiger Reserve** and **Ken crocodile sanctuary** in the state.



## Cabinet Committee approved to build 10 atomic reactors:

Cabinet Committee gave nod to build **10 indigenous Pressurised Heavy water reactors** in order to boost the nuclear power generation in the country. Each reactor will have the capacity to produce **700 MW of electricity**.

## Festival of award-winning films in Goa:

The **64th National Award Winning Films Festival 2017** will be held in **Panaji** from May 18 to June 14.

### Winners List

**Best feature film:** 'Kaasav' (Turtle)

**Best direction in the non-feature film:** 'Aaba Aiktaay Naa?' (Father, Are You Listening?)

## 14th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council held at Srinagar:

**Union finance minister Arun Jaitley** to chair the **14th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** meet that discuss on tax rates on commodities and services. It is being held at the **Sher-I-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC)** on the banks of the **Dal Lake, Jammu & Kashmir**.

## Indian Army gets its first artillery guns "ULH":

The Army has got its **first artillery guns** from **BAE Systems**. Two 155mm/39 caliber **ultra light howitzers (ULH)** will be trial firing

at the **Pokhran** field firing range in **Rajasthan**. It was brought from **United States**.

## ISRO to launch 3 Communication Satellites:

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will launch three communication satellites **GSAT-19, GSAT-11 and GSAT-20** in the next 18 months to boost internet speed across the nation.

## First anti-tobacco film festival in Goa:

The first Goa **Anti-Tobacco Film Festival** will be held on **May 31**, and will screen over 30 films, which is organised by "**The Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG)**", the State government's entertainment wing.

The festival will select films to **spread awareness on the ill effects of tobacco** use and to decrease the occurrence of oral cancer in the State.

## NITI Aayog held the first "Samavesh" meeting:

An aim to bring together **32 premier educational and policy research institutions** to catalyse the country's development process, government think- tank NITI Aayog held the **first Samavesh** meeting at **New Delhi**.

The Meeting was held under the co-chairmanship of NITI Aayog CEO **Amitabh Kant** and Principal Adviser NITI Aayog **Ratan P Watal**.

## Goa launched portal for government service:

Goa Chief Minister **Manohar Parrikar** launched **www.goaonline.gov.in**. The portal is a part of the **Centre's e-district Mission Mode programme**, under which citizens will be able to obtain a residence certificate, income certificate, permission for sound at no charge.

**Visakhapatnam and Beas Stations are the cleanest rail station:**

**Vishakhapatnam** and **Beas** railway stations are the **cleanest** railway stations out of the 407 station in the country. The **Darbhanga railway station** in **Bihar** was the **dirtiest** among the busiest stations.

Under the **A1 category** - **Vishakhapatnam** (Andhra Pradesh) topped the list followed by **Secunderabad** (Telangana) and **Jammu Tawi** (Jammu and Kashmir) while in **A category**, **Beas (Punjab)** bagged the first position followed by **Khammam (Telangana)** and **Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)**.

**Lord Ram museum in Ayodhya:**

Uttar Pradesh chief minister **Yogi Adityanath** gave in principle approval for grant of land for the purpose of a **grand Ram museum in Ayodhya**. Government has allotted **Rs.225 crore** to build a **museum**.

**Modi will become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel:**

The Prime Minister **Modi** made the announcement of his visit to Israel during an event in **Surat**. He will visit to Israel in **July**.

This visit will be coinciding with the **25th anniversary** of the **diplomatic ties** between the two countries.

**CCEA nods for railway project:**

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the laying of railway tracks in **Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh** and **Andhra Pradesh** with an estimated cost of **Rs.5,695 crore**.

The CCEA also approved **four laning** of the **118-km Porbandar-Dwarka** section of **National Highway 8E in Gujarat**.

**Trujet was first airline to get air operator certificate:**

A **Trujet airway** was **first airline** to get **air operator** certificate under the scheduled **commuter operator** category.

The move will enable the airline to operate flights under the **Centre's UDAN scheme** for regional connectivity. **Trujet** is **one of five airlines** to have won bids to operate on 128 routes connecting 70 airports under the scheme.

**Prime Minister Modi to open African Development Bank Event:**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will arrive to inaugurate the **African Development Bank (AfDB)** Group's annual convention in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat** on May 23. The theme of the event is **"Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa."**

## NGT bans open defecation, waste dumping on Yamuna floodplains:

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** was banned **open defecation and dumping of waste** on the floodplains of the **Yamuna** and announced an environment compensation of **Rs 5,000** for those who violated the diktat.

**NGT Chairperson:** Justice Swatanter Kumar

## Luxurious Train "Tejas" flag off between Mumbai-Goa:

The luxurious train, **Tejas Express** set to be running between **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus** and **Karmali** in **North Goa** on May 22. All preparations have been done for the launch of the 20-coach train, which will have **secured gangways, automatic doors**, and 22 new features.

## Punjab launches campaign on Hypertension:

The **Punjab Health Department** has launched a State-wide programme to sensitise people about **hypertension** and to educate them on **healthy lifestyle** practices. The programme was launched to mark **World Hypertension Day** on May 17. Punjab State, Health and Family Welfare Minister: **Brahm Mohinder**

## Maharashtra to form "Good Morning" Squad:

The **Maharashtra government** has decided to form **"Good Morning"** squads in a bid to **curb open defecation** across the state and also asked to check whether residents have access to toilets.

## Government Finalises Defence policy for bigger role of Private Sector:

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** finalised the broad contours of a long-term strategic partnership with the **Indian private sector** in **defence manufacturing**.

The **DAC** is the **top decision-making body** on **defence procurement**, chaired by Defence Minister **Arun Jaitley**.

## Madhya Pradesh to devise Happiness Index:

**Madhya Pradesh** Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IIT-Kharagpur** (the only institute to have a Happiness Centre) for developing state **Happiness Index**. World Happiness Index 2017 India 122nd spot.

The State government had, in July last year, set up the **Anand Mantralaya** or the **Ministry of Happiness**, with Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** as its first **"happiness minister"**.

## E-classes in Maharashtra by December 2018:

Maharashtra **Chief Minister M Devendra Fadnavis** announced that state will **digitize all government schools** by **December 2018**. Under the plan, schools will be equipped with modern technology to make teaching interactive. Maharashtra Governor: **C Vidhyasagar Rao** (Additional charge with Tamil Nadu)

**Free Wi-Fi at 28 Konkan Railway Stations:**

**Suresh Prabhu** inaugurates **internet service** facilities for passengers at **28 Konkan railway stations** and Promise better facilities at **Kudal** and **Chiplun railway stations**.

**Konkan Railway** has tied up with **Syscon Joister** to provide **2 Mbps peer-to-peer 24x7 free Wi-Fi** at the 28 stations in line with the Union government's Digital India Initiative.

**Kozhikode Station to become first women and child friendly police station:**

The **Kozhikode Town Station** that secured the **title of the first ISO 9001:2008 certified police station** in **Kerala in 2011** is all set to update its status further by achieving the tag of the **city's first women and child-friendly police station**.

The infrastructure upgrade, police personnel at stations too will be given **special training for addressing grievances of women and children** in a more humane way. Resource persons designated by **the UNICEF** will coordinate the training programme in all the women and child-friendly stations.

**PM Modi launch Kandla port project in Gujarat:**

PM Narendra Modi announced that **Gujarat's Kandla Port** will be connected with **Chabahar port in Iran**. This is being developed with India's participation, to boost India's international trade.

Kandla Port will be renamed as **Deendayal Port Trust** to as part of **Pt Deendayal Upadhyay's** centenary celebrations.  
**Indian Army honours Major Gogoi:**

**Major Nitin Leetul Gogoi** was awarded **COAS (Chief of Army Staff) commendation** for sustained efforts in **counter-insurgency operations**. The officer was awarded by **Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat**.

**Government target to construct 12 lakh houses under PMAY (Urban):**

The Central government has set a target to construct **12 lakh houses** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in 2017-18**. Further, targets construction of **26 lakh** houses in 2018-19, **26 lakh** in 2019-20, **30 lakh** in 2020-21 and **29.80 lakh** in 2021-22.

The government had launched the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** in June 2015, aiming to ensure **housing for all by 2022**.

**UP raises 'Divyang' pension to Rs.500:**

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has hiked the monthly **'Divyang'** pension from **Rs.300 to Rs.500**. A decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**.

**Tripura assembly to adopt GST Bill:**

A three-day special session of the **Tripura Assembly** set to **ratify** the **Goods and**

**Services Tax bill** as part of the **constitution (122 Amendment) Bill, 2014**. **State Finance Minister Bhanulal Saha** introduced the Bill, which is expected to be passed unanimously.

The GST bill has been **passed** unanimously by **both Houses of Parliament**, but it **requires** legislative **ratification** from **50 percent** of the **state Assemblies**.

**Jammu & Kashmir launch E-clinic for farmers:**

The **Jammu & Kashmir** government launched an **e-clinics** service for farmers with the **aim to double farmers' income by 2022**.

The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with **Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)**, has set up **15 plant clinics** in **Samba, Kathua and Jammu**.

**Government abolished the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB):**

The Union Cabinet approved phasing out of the 25-year-old **Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)**. The **FIPB** is the inter-ministerial body — or a single window clearance mechanism for applications on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India in sectors under the government approval route.

The move to phase out the **FIPB is aimed** at making India a more attractive FDI destination and increasing FDI inflows by

providing greater ease of doing business and promoting the '**Maximum Governance and Minimum Government**' principle.

**Government maternity benefit scheme renamed as PMMVY:**

The government has renamed the "**Matritva Sahyog Yojana**" a scheme to give **Rs 6,000 to pregnant** and lactating mothers for the **first live birth** as **Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**.

Scheme was launched way back in 2010 it was called the "**Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana**". After coming to power in 2014, the NDA government dropped "Indira Gandhi" from the scheme. Now, change as **PMMVY**.

**Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh releases the book 'India 2017 Year book':**

Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** has released the book '**India 2017 Yearbook**' authored by the Union Home Secretary, **Shri Rajiv Mehrishi**. The book was published by the **McGraw Hill Education India**.

**Harsh Malhotra Committee Submit report to Goel:**

The **7-member high-level committee on Scouts and Guides** under the **chairmanship of Harsh Malhotra** has submitted its final report to Minister for State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports, **Vijay Goel**.

**Committee Recommendations:**

❖ The Committee has suggested mandatory revamp of the **Bharat Scout and Guides** and **Hindustan Scouts and Guides**.

❖ It has found a number of **irregularities and anomalies** in the management and financial management.

❖ It has further recommended for a **permanent monitoring Committee** to periodically assess the activities of both the organizations.

❖ The committee has also recommended that there should be **government nominees on the Boards of both the organizations**.

**Union Government launch SEVA mobile app:**

**Coal Minister Piyush Goyal** launched the **Saral Eindhyan Vitaran Application (SEVA)** for **monitoring coal movement**.

The **mobile app** and the **online dashboard** monitor the movement of coal from mines allocated to **the power sector**. **Consumer** specific data would be **password protected** on the **SEVA Dashboard**.

**JSPL commissions Odisha's biggest integrated steel plant:**

**Jindal steel power plant** commissions the Odisha's biggest integrated steel plant.

The state steel plant of JSP is inaugurated by the **Odisha Chief Minister**. It would provide direct employment to around 30,000 people and indirect jobs to many others.

Chief Minister: **Naveen Patnaik**

Capital: **Bhubaneswar**

Governor: **S C Jamir**

**Paragliding festival to resume at Yelagiri next year:**

The state government will take steps to resume the international **paragliding festival** in Yelagiri Hills next year, said **K C Veeramani, minister for commercial taxes**, at the inauguration two-day summer festival at Yelagiri Hills.

**Himachal Pradesh** in North India is the place where paragliding festival takes place in our country.

**Venkaiah Naidu, Arvind Kejriwal jointly inaugurates Heritage Line stretch of Delhi Metro:**

The Heritage Line stretch of Delhi Metro is expected to take considerable load off **Chandni Chowk** and **Chawri Bazar stations** of Yellow Line.

The new metro line which has four stations: Kashmere Gate, Dilli Gate, Jama Masjid and Lal Quila.

**53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Nehru celebrated:**

Congress president **Sonia Gandhi** pays homage to **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** on his **53<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary at Shanti Van** in New Delhi.

**Agro-marine processing scheme "SAMPADA":**



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched **agro-marine processing scheme SAMPADA** to promote food processing and create job opportunities for the youth.

- ❖ Initial Investment: **Rs.6000 Crore**
- ❖ SAMPADA: **Scheme for Agro- Marine Processing And Development of Agro- Processing.**

**Nagpur becomes India's first city to have electric mass mobility system:**

**Road transport and highways minister** Nitin Gadkari, along with **Maharashtra** Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis**, inaugurated **India's first multi-modal electric vehicle** project at the Nagpur Airport Complex in Nagpur.

The **Orange City** has become **India's first city to have electric mass mobility system**. It will have a fleet of **200 electric vehicles** including taxis, buses, e-rickshaw and auto rickshaws, all of fully owned by **cab aggregator Ola**.

**Ozone2Climate Technology Roadshow in Delhi:**

The Environment ministry along with the **UN Environment OzonAction's Compliance Assistance Programme** organised an **'Ozone2Climate' Technology Roadshow** on the sidelines of **South Asia National Ozone Officers Annual Network Meeting** in New Delhi.

The **Roadshow** took place to post the **Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol**. Environment secretary **Ajay Narayan Jha** represents the behalf of Indian government in the meeting.

**ISRO set to launch its heaviest rocket GSLV MK III:**

**ISRO** set to launch its **heaviest rocket** of **640-tonne Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III** (GSLV Mk III) on **June** at **Sriharikota**. The rocket will be carrying **communication satellite GSAT-19**. The GSAT 19, weighing around **3.2 tonnes** is the heaviest satellite to be lifted by an Indian rocket.

- ISRO Headquarter: **Bangalore**
- Director: **A. S. Kiran Kumar**

**PM's 6-day tour to Europe:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi beginning a **6-day, four-nation (Germany, Spain, Russia and France)** tour of **Europe**. Starting from **Germany**, the Prime Minister will travel to **Spain** (May 29-30), **Russia** (May 31- June 1) and **France** (June 2-3).

**PM Modi** is to meet all these leaders once again in July at the **G-20 summit in Hamburg** (**Spain is not a G-20 country**, but is a **permanent invitee**).

**Union Minister Arun Jaitley** launched **Aeronautical Test Range:**

The **Rs 1,300 crore Aeronautical Test Range (ATR)** set up in **Chitradurga** in **Karnataka** for testing **unmanned and manned aircraft** being developed locally would be inaugurated by **Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley**.

## **Pune police bagged smart policing award 2017:**

The **Pune city police** have bagged the **Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) Smart Policing Award** for the year 2017.

The Pune City Police has been awarded for their initiatives on women and cyber security such as **"Buddy Cop"**, **"Damini squad"** and **"Lost & Found portal"**.

## **Dailong village in Manipur declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site:**

The **Manipur government** has declared **Dailong village** of Tamenglong district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site of the state. The **Dailong village** covering an area of 11.35 sq km has been declared as **Biodiversity Heritage Site** under **Section 37(1) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

## **Haryana announces pension scheme for Journalists:**

Haryana CM **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced incentives for journalists, including an **Rs 10,000 monthly pension scheme** for those

who are **above 60 years** and have completed **20 years** in the profession.

He also announced a **life insurance** cover of **Rs 10 lakh** and a **cashless mediclaim policy** of **Rs 500,000**. The announcements were made by the Chief Minister at the **"Swarna Jayanti Journalists Meet"** in **Panchkula**.

- Haryana Capital: **Chandigarh**
- Governor: **Kaptan Singh Solanki**

## **President Mukherjee receives the first copies of medical books:**

President Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of medical book named as **"Colour Atlas of Oral Implantology"** authored by **Dr. Prafulbali & Lanka Mahesh & "Conservative Dentistry - Basics"** authored by **Dr. Rk bali & Dr. Deepika Chandhok** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

## **Kerala becomes the first totally electrified state in the country:**

**Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** declared **Kerala** as the **first totally electrified state** in the country. The state has achieved the totally electrified tag providing power connection to **4.70 lakh houses** in the last one year.

## **Prakash Javadekar launches UGC App:**

HRD minister **Prakash Javadekar** launched an **Anti-Ragging Mobile App** introduced by the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**. The app will help student

**register complaints** to counter the **menace of ragging**.

**INS Ganga to retire after 32 years of service:**

Indian Navy frigate **INS Ganga** will be placed in **non-operational category** followed by **decommissioning**, after 32 years of service.

INS Ganga is a **Godavari-class guided-missile frigate** of the Indian Navy and was built in Mumbai by **Mazagon Dock Limited**. INS Ganga was **commissioned** on **December 30, 1985**.

#### **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Dubai gets its own typographic font:**

**Dubai** has teamed up with **Microsoft** to become the **world's first city to have a font** named after the **gleaming metropolis**.

Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai **Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum** had launched the '**Dubai Font**' in line with the UAE's vision of becoming a regional and global leader in innovation.

The font, the first typeface developed by Microsoft for a city, comes in both **Arabic and Latin scripts** and will be available in **23 languages** to 100 million Office 365 users around the world.

**8th World Water Forum will be held at Brazil:**

The **8th World Water Forum** that is scheduled to take place in the Brazilian capital **Brasilia** in **March 2018**.

As per the survey, more than one-third of Indians think that not enough is being done to achieve the **UN sustainable development goals** to make **water and sanitation for all a reality by 2030** by the Council president **Benedito Braga**.

**The world's biggest X-ray laser that has generated its first beam of light:**

The **world's biggest X-ray laser** has generated its first **beam of light** that will allow scientists to get a glimpse of new materials, **drugs and chemical reactions** at the atomic level.

The **3.4-kilometre-long European XFEL**, most of which is located in underground tunnels in Germany, will usher a new era of European research.

**Egypt to mark Tagore's birth anniversary:**

A **five day cultural festival** is being organized in **Cairo** to mark the **155th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**. The **Embassy of India** in Cairo and Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture is **hosting the festival** from **May 8 to 12**.

**Jordan, US launch major military exercises:**

**Jordan** and the **United States** kicked off "**Eager Lion**" military exercises, the **seventh**

so far are the **largest and most complex** with about 7,400 troops from more than 20 nations taking part.

It would include **border security, cyber defence,** and **"command and control" exercises,** to bolster coordination in response to threats including terrorism.

**China proposes four-point initiative to improve ties with India:**

**China** has proposed a **four-point initiative** to overcome differences and deepen relations with India which includes aligning its **'One Belt One Road' project** with **India's Act East Policy** and restart negotiations on a free trade pact.

**Firstly,** start negotiation on a China-India Treaty of Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation.

**Secondly,** restart negotiation of China-India Free Trade Agreement.

**Thirdly,** strive for an early harvest on the border issue.

**Fourthly,** actively explore the feasibility of aligning China's 'One Belt One Road Initiative' (OBOR) and India's Act East Policy.

**India elected president of UN-Habitat:**

**India** has been unanimously elected as the **president of the UN-Habitat,** an organ of the United Nations to promote sustainable human settlements across the globe.

Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister **M Venkaiah Naidu,** who is currently in

**Nairobi, Kenya,** will chair the four-day meeting of the **58-member Governing Council (GC) of UN-Habitat.** The theme of the 26th meeting of the GC is **'Opportunities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda'.**

**Sachin Tendulkar visits Indian Navy's frigate Tarkash in London:**

Hundreds of **UK-based Indians** turned out to cheer as cricket legend **Sachin Tendulkar** welcomed an Indian naval frigate as it docked on the **river Thames in London.** **INS Tarkash,** a state-of-the art stealth ship, is in the UK for naval exercises and to mark **UK India Year of Culture 2017.**

**Nepal Signed a deal to join China New Silk Road Project:**

Nepal on signed up to **China's new Silk Road drive,** a massive infrastructure project spanning some **65 countries** at the centre of the Asian giant's push to expand its global influence.

**The One Belt, One Road Initiative (OBOR)** spearheaded by **President Xi Jinping** would see **60 percent of the global population** and around a third of global GDP linked through a network of Chinese-bankrolled ports, railways, roads and industrial parks.

**Brazil declares an end to Zika emergency:**

**Brazil** has declared an **end to its public health emergency** for the **Zika virus** on, 18 months after a surge in cases drew headlines

around the world. Now, ban was lifted following the less cases of **Zika** affected people in the country.

#### **US approves sale of 160 missiles to UAE:**

The US State Department has approved the possible sale of **160 missiles** to the **United Arab Emirates** for an estimated **\$2 billion** as per pentagon report.

The UAE government has requested the possible sale of **60 Patriot missiles** with canisters and **100 Patriot guidance enhanced missiles**, among other military equipment from US.

#### **AP to ink MoU with Singapore for new capital at Amaravati:**

**Andhra Pradesh** Government will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Republic of Singapore**.

The MoU will **enhance cooperation** between them and **to create opportunities** for Singapore entities to invest in the new capital and Andhra Pradesh and contribute their expertise in the economic development.

#### **Palestinian President Abbas to visit India:**

Palestinian President **Mahmoud Abbas** will hold a bilateral summit with **Mr. Modi** and will be hosted by President **Pranab Mukherjee**. He will meet External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj**.

According to the external affairs ministry, the visit will **provide an opportunity for reviewing** the entire gamut of bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process, and regional and international issues.

#### **Trump meets UAE crown prince**

President **Donald Trump** is meeting the crown prince of Abu Dhabi at the White House. The President welcomed **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** of the **United Arab Emirates** for their first face-to-face meeting since Mr. Trump took office.

The two leaders spoke about **"regional security matters," trade and bilateral investments**, as well as about the defence cooperation agreement between the two countries.

#### **Yemen declares state of emergency over cholera outbreak:**

**Yemen** is declared a state of emergency in the **Sana'a**, Yemeni capital where a deadly outbreak of **cholera** has spread rapidly.

The **World Health Organization** now classifies Yemen as one of the **worst humanitarian emergencies** in the world alongside Syria, South Sudan, Nigeria and Iraq.

#### **Scientists invent world's first 3D-printed robot:**

The Scientists from **University of California** have developed the **first 3D-printed**

**four-legged robot** that can climb over obstacles and walk on different rough surfaces such as sand and pebbles.

### **Rijiju for Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) Mexico meet:**

An Indian delegation led by Minister of State for Home **Kiren Rijiju** is participating in the five day **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) summit** being held in **Cancun, Mexico**.

**The GPDRR** is a global forum for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and review of progress in the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**, which was adopted at the **Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** held in March 2015 in **Sendai, Japan**.

### **North Korea test fired ballistic missile "Pukguksong-2":**

**North Korea** successfully tested the missile "**Pukguksong-2**", a land based version of **Pyongyang's submarine weapon** using solid fuel for immediate firing in the army. President **Kim Jong-Un** approved the deployment of this weapon in the army.

Capital: **Pyongyang**

Currency: **North Korean won**

### **NASA names bacteria after Abdul Kalam**

Scientists at **NASA** have named a new organism discovered by them after the much-loved **Former president of India, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.

The name of the bacterium is **Solibacillus kalamii**, the species name is after Dr. Abdul Kalam and genus name is **Solibacillus** which is a spore-forming **bacteria**.

### **172<sup>nd</sup> OPEC Meeting at Vienna:**

**172<sup>nd</sup> Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** meeting will be held at **Vienna, Austria** on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Oil Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** will participate in **behalf of India**.

OPEC Headquarter: **Vienna, Austria**

### **Smallest nation joins solar alliance:**

**The world's smallest republic**, the tiny island nation of **Nauru** has become the **sixth country to ratify the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework** pact initiated by the **Indian and French Governments** at the climate change summit held at **Paris in 2015**.

Five more nations, from **Africa, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, Ghana** and **Djibouti** have committed to sign the pact during the ongoing meeting of the **African Development bank in India**.

### **India becomes No. 2 stainless steel maker:**

**India** overtook **Japan** to become the **second-largest producer of stainless steel** in



the **world**, behind **China**, in 2016, according to data released by the **International Stainless Steel Forum (ISSF)**.

India's stainless steel production rose **9% last year** to **3.32 million tonnes**, from 3 million tonnes in 2015, ISSF said at their **annual conference** in **Tokyo**.

## Philippines declare martial law on Mindanao Island:

Philippine **President Rodrigo Duterte** has declared **martial law for 60 days** on **Marawi, island of Mindanao** after clashes between the army and militants linked to so-called Islamic State (IS). **Marawi** is about 800km (500 miles) south of the **capital Manila**.

**Martial law** allows the use of the military to **enforce law** and the **detention of people** without charge for long periods.

## Rehana Ameer elected as Councillor of ward in UK:

**Rehana Ameer** has become the **first India-born woman** to be elected as a **councillor** to **ward** in **City of London Corporation, UK**. She was elected as a **councillor** to the **Court of Common Council**.

## Azraq becomes world first clean energy refugee camp in Jordan:

**Azraq** has become the **world first refugee camp** powered by **renewable energy** in **Jordan**.

**The \$9.7 million plant was funded by IKEA**, the global furnishings retailer. With the solar plant, the refugee agency is going to save **\$1.5million** a year in **electricity cost**.

## Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda resigns:

Nepal Prime Minister **Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda** announced his resignation so that the leader of his **coalition partner party** can succeed him, in line with an agreement between the two parties.

**Dr. Sher Bahadur Deuba** (President of Nepali Congress Party) might be next **Prime minister of Nepal**, expect to assume office soon.

## Nepal:

- ❖ Capital: Kathmandu
- ❖ Currency: Nepalese rupee

## Taiwan will become first country in Asia to legalise gay marriage:

**Taiwan's** top court ruled in **favour of gay marriage** to make a landmark decision that paves the way for the island to **become the first place in Asia to legalise same-sex unions**. It gave the government **two years** to implement the ruling.

## Taiwan:

- ❖ Capital: Taipei
- ❖ Currency: Dollar (TWD)
- ❖ President: Tsai Ing-wen (first women president in Taiwan)

## Israel signs \$630 million missile deal with India:

The Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed a **\$630 million Barak-8 long range surface to air Missile** deal with the **Indian state-owned aerospace** and defence company **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**.

**IAI** contract is for supplying **Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM)** systems.

- ❖ Israel Capital: Jerusalem
- ❖ Israel President: Reuven Rivlin
- ❖ Israel Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu
- ❖ BEL Headquarter: Bangalore
- ❖ BEL CEO: S K Sharma

**Japan to build a war museum in Manipur:**

**Japanese ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu** announced that Japanese **World War 2 Museum** would be built at the **Maiba Lokpa Ching** in Bishanpur district, **Manipur**.

**Maiba Lokpa Ching** is a historical place where the British and the Japanese fought during the Second World War.

**Japan:**

- ❖ Capital: Tokyo
- ❖ Currency: Japan Yen
- ❖ Prime Minister: Shizo Abe

**India ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in internal displacement numbers:**

The **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre** and the **Norwegian Refugee Council** released a new report of **India ranked third** among countries **most affected by displacement** related to disasters followed by **China (1<sup>st</sup>) and Philippines (2<sup>nd</sup>)**.

Nearly **2.4 million people** in India were **internally displaced** due to conflict, violence and disasters in **2016**.

**G7 leaders make progress on trade:**

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations pledged **to fight protectionism**.

However, the **United States** remained isolated from the other six G7 nations over climate change, demanding more time to decide whether to honour its commitments to reduce carbon emissions under the 2015 Paris Agreements.

**KEY PERSONS IN G-7 MEET**

European Council President: **Donald Tusk**

Canadian Prime Minister: **Justin Trudeau**

German Chancellor: **Angela Merkel**

U.S. President: **Donald Trump**

Italian Prime Minister: **Paolo Gentiloni**

French President: **Emmanuel Macron**

Japanese President: **Shinzo Abe**

**Indian researchers developed 3D bioprinted cartilage:**

It is the **first time** that permanent cartilage similar to natural ones has been developed by Indian researchers at **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**.

**Sushma Swaraj met Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth:**

Union External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** met **Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind**

**Jugnauth** and discussed ways to deepen **bilateral cooperation** in various areas including trade and investment at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, **New Delhi**.

#### About Mauritius:

- ❖ Currency: **Mauritian rupee**
- ❖ Capital: **Port Louis**

President: **Ameenah Gurib**

#### India announces \$500 mn assistance to Mauritius:

**India** announced a **\$500 million line of credit** to **Mauritius** as the two countries resolved to deepen ties in a range of areas including the maritime domain.

The two countries also signed a **maritime security agreement** after extensive talks between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his **Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth**.

#### World's Largest Aircraft Completes Successful Test Flight:

**"Hybrid Air Vehicles HAV 304/Airlander 10"** is the **world largest aircraft** successfully completed a test flight in **Cardington, UK**.

It flew for a total of **180 minutes** to test the aircraft's handling and improved landing technology. **Airlander 10** has a **length of 92 metres** largest in the world.

#### Dubai has recruited the world's first robot police officer "Robocop":

The **world's first operational robot police officer** named as **"Robocop"** was officially inducted into the Dubai police force at the **4th Gulf Information Security Expo and Conference at Dubai**.

The **Robocop** is around **5-foot tall** and **weighs a 100kg**. It can not only identify hand gestures from a distance of up to 1.5 metres, but can also detect people's emotions and facial expressions.

#### About Dubai:

- ❖ Capital: **Abu Dhabi**
- ❖ Currency: **Dirham**
- ❖ President: **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

#### Vietnam hosts 3rd inter-sessional ministerial meeting of RCEP:

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting 2017 was held in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

The meeting was attended by **16 economic and trade ministers** from the **10 member states** of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) and its **six partners** including **China, Australia, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand**, as well as representatives of relevant international organizations.

#### About Vietnam:

- ❖ President: **Tran Dai Quang**
- ❖ Currency: **Vietnamese dong**

❖ Capital: **Hanoi**

**The world's largest optical and infrared telescope "ELT" in Chile:**

The Construction has begun on the **European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT)** in **Chile**. It built by the **European Southern Observatory (ESO)** on the **3,046 m (9,993 ft)** on high summit of **Cerro Armazones** in **Chile**.

It has **39 meter wide lens** that will help scientists understand the inner-workings of the universe. The Construction **deadline** to completion is **2024**.

**About Chile:**

- Capital: **Santiago**
- Currency: **Chilean peso**
- President: **Michelle Bachelet**

**China launches advanced satellite navigation positioning system:**

China launched national **satellite navigation and positioning system**. It is the **largest in the country** and boasts the widest coverage.

The system consists of **2,700 base stations**, a **national database center** and **30 provincial level database centers**.

**Australia becomes first country to prevent paedophiles from travelling abroad:**

The **Australian government** announced a **bill** is considered a **first in the world** to **prevent paedophiles** registered in the country

from travelling abroad in search of potential victims especially in Asia.

**According to the bill**, a convicted **paedophile registered in the lists** of the states and territories, which total about 20,000 people **cannot leave the country** or **obtain an Australian passport**.

**India, Fiji ink pact to ramp up defence cooperation:**

**India and Fiji** signed an agreement that provides for **stepping up defence** and **security ties** including in **defence production** and **military training**.

The deal was signed between **finance & defence minister Arun Jaitley** and Fijian counterpart Minister for Foreign Affairs **Ratu Inoke Kubuabola**. They also agreed to deepen cooperation in **maritime security sphere**.

**About Fiji:**

- Capital: **Suva**
- Currency: **Fijian dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Frank Bainimarama**
- President: **George Konrote**

**Exim Bank extends \$500 m LoC to SBM (Mauritius) Infra:**

**Export-Import Bank of India** (Exim India) has extended a **\$500 million line-of-credit (LoC)** to **SBM (Mauritius) Infrastructure Company Ltd**.

This LoC has been extended for the purpose of financing its participation through

Redeemable Preference Shares in public sector entities **to implement infrastructure of other projects in Mauritius**

This LoC was signed in the Capital in the presence of

Prime Minister of Mauritius: **Pravind Jugnauth**

Managing Director, signed the LoC on behalf of

Exim India: **David Rasquinha**

Capital: **Port Louis**

Currency: **Rupee**

President: **Ameenah Gurib**

**Cyclone Mora hits Bangladesh coast:**

**Bangladesh** has evacuated at least 350,000 people as a **Cyclone Mora** lashed coastal areas causing the islands of **Saint Martin and Teknaf** in the coastal district of Cox's Bazar.

Capital: **Dhaka**

Currency: **Taka**

Prime minister: **Sheikh Hasina**

President: **Abdul Hamid**

### **Banking & Business**

**AIIB grants \$160 million for Andhra Pradesh power project:**

China-sponsored **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** approved **USD 160 million loan** for a power project in **Andhra Pradesh**, the **first credit** from the bank for an **Indian project**.

AIIB, in which India is the second largest shareholder after China, has approved the project with the objective **to strengthen the power**

**transmission and distribution system in Andhra Pradesh.**

**India to launch new IIP series with 2011-12 base year on May 9:**

**India** will unveil a new series of **Index of Industrial Production** with a base year 2011-12 on May 9 with an **aim to map economic activities more accurately.**

The new series for **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, which captures industrial activities on monthly basis, will be launched by Chief Statistician and MOSPI Secretary **T C A Anant.**

**ADB pegs India's growth at 7.4% for 2017-18:**

The Indian economy will grow **7.4 per cent** for 2017-18 and **7.6 per cent** in the next financial as the bankruptcy and GST laws will help to create a more business-friendly environment, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**

**NPCI enables acceptance of JCB cards across ATMs in India:**

**India-Japan economic relationship** reached a new milestone with the public launch of **acceptance of JCB cards at NPCI** (National Payments Corporation of India) network in India.

With this development, visitors from Japan can now use their JCB cards across **ATMs & POS terminals** in India. **JCB (Japan Credit**

**Bureau)** is a global payment company and leading credit card issuer and acquirer in Japan.

## Reliance, SAP launches 'SARAL GST' solution for taxpayers:

**Reliance Corporate IT Park (RCITPL)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with enterprise application software major **SAP** to launch '**SARAL GST**' solution for taxpayers.

According to the subsidiary of **Reliance Industries**, the new offering will enable taxpayers to be GST compliant and smoothly access the government's GST System, once GST is rolled out from **July 1, 2017**.

## Brexit bonanza: Hinduja brother top UK's rich list

The **Hinduja brothers** have topped the **2017 list** of the richest people in the UK with an estimated fortune of **16.2 billion pounds**, a massive 3.2 billion pound hike in their fortunes over the previous year.

Besides the Hinduja brothers, there are over **40 Indian- origin super-rich** in this year's list of the UK's 1,000 wealthiest people.

## India to grow at 7.7 per cent in 2018-19: IMF

The **International Monetary Fund** says **India's** growth is expected to rebound to **7.2 per cent** in the **2017-18 fiscal** and **7.7 per cent in 2018-19** after disruptions caused by demonetization.

## Cashkaro.com ties up with YES Bank to launch card-linked offers:

To promote cash-less economy, cash back portal **Cashkaro.com** has tied up with **YES Bank** to launch **card-linked offers** as part of its loyalty programme for both **offline** and **online** shoppers.

## Apple acquires sleep-tracking app 'Beddit':

**US tech giant Apple** has acquired an app and sleep monitoring device called **Beddit**. **Beddit** an app and sleep system is designed to monitor daily sleep habits through the iPhone.

## 12 banks face prospect of RBI crackdown for NPA crisis:

The highest net NPA ratio was reported by **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** at **14.32%**, followed by **Dena Bank** at **10.66%** and **United Bank of India** at **10.62%**.

**IDBI Bank**, which follows **United Bank**, has a net NPA ratio of **9.61%** and has had **PCA (Prompt Corrective Action)** initiated against it. **Forbes Middle East** lists **top 100 Indian business leaders**, **Lulu's Yusuf Ali** tops owner's category:

Retail **Mogul Yusuf Ali** and Pepsico executive **Sanjeev Chadha** are among the **top 100 Indian business leaders** in the **Arab World 2017**, according to a Forbes ranking for the Middle East.

**Ali**, managing director of **Lulu Group International** topped the Indian business



**owners' category** and Chadha, CEO, Asia, Middle East and Africa at **PepsiCo International** led the Indian **executive's category**.

**FICCI predicts economy growth rate at 7.4% in 2017-18:**

In a survey conducted during **March** and **April 2017**, industry chamber **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry** (FICCI) predicted India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth will be around **7.4 per cent** for fiscal 2017-18, with a minimum and maximum level of **7 per cent** and **7.6 per cent** respectively.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank Unveil 811 digital saving accounts:**

**Kotak Mahindra Bank** unveiled India first downloadable **digital saving account** namely as "**811 account**". It is **zero minimum balance account** and can open an account in **5 minutes** from phone with just **Aadhaar and PAN number**.

**Mukesh Ambani leads Forbes list of Global Game Changers:**

Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** leads a Forbes list of '**Global Game Changers**' who are transforming their industries and changing the lives of billions of people around the globe.

**Banks have Rs.770 crore unrecognised stressed asset:**

India ratings and research estimates that **Rs.2.6 lakh crore** of corporate and SME loans (3.2% of total bank credit) will be recognised as **stressed loans** by FY19 whereas **unrecognised stressed loans** estimated **Rs.770 crore**.

**Softbank to invest Rs 9,079 crore in Paytm Payment Bank:**

**Japanese Softbank** has pumped in **\$1.4 billion** (over **Rs 9,079 crore**) in Indian digital payments platform, **Paytm**. This is Softbank's largest investment in a single company in **India**.

The funding will help **Paytm** expand fast its soon-to-be launched **payments bank operations** in India.

**RBI new policy- 25% branches in villages:**

The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) mandated that **25 percent** of the total number of '**banking outlets**' opened during a financial year should be located in **unbanked rural centres** under "**Rationalisation of Branch Authorisation Policy**".

**India FDI inflow hit record high at \$60.1Bn in 2016-17:**

The **commerce and industry ministry** reported that country **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows hit an all-time high of **\$60.1 billion in 2016-17** whereas **\$55.6 billion in 2015-16**.

## India Rank at 154<sup>th</sup> in Global Burden of disease index:

India has placed a **154<sup>th</sup>** among **195 countries** in the **healthcare index**. **Switzerland** topped the health index, followed by **Sweden** and **Norway**.

## BSNL signs pacts with Facebook, Mobikwik:

State-owned telecom operator **BSNL** has inked a clutch of agreements with **Facebook** and **Mobikwik** as its looks to popularise the internet and its value added services among customers.

The pacts were signed to commemorate the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. Under the **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) with Facebook, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) will provide connectivity for the social network's '**Express Wi-Fi Program**'.

## DBS Bank has partnership with three life insurers:

**Singapore-headquarter DBS Bank** has become the **first bank** in India to adopt a new open architecture model with **three life insurers** on a single platform.

This is expected to give its clients the freedom to choose using an analytics driven, intelligent and interactive process.

**3 life insurers:** Aviva India Life, Birla Sun Life and Tata AIA Life

DBS Bank CEO: **Piyush Gupta**

DBS Bank Chairman: **Peter Seah Lim Huat**

## Paytm started operation of Paytm payment bank:

**Paytm Payments Bank** opened today with **31 branches** and **3,000 customer service points** in the **first year**. It will get **400cr investment** in the first two years of operation. It will **Pay 4% interest** on **saving account**.

**Paytm** unveiled the **Paytm Payments Bank** becoming the **first bank to offer cashbacks on deposits**.

Customers will also be offered **zero charges on all online transactions** and **no minimum balance requirement**.

Paytm Payments Bank will offer **Rs. 250 cashback** to customers depositing **Rs. 25,000** to Payments Bank account.

## CBDT has signed two unilateral APAs with Indian taxpayers:

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** (CBDT) has signed **two unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements** (APAs) with **Indian taxpayers** as it looks to reduce litigation by providing certainty in transfer price.

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

## Karnataka Bank ink pact with LIC:

**Karnataka Bank Ltd** has entered into a **memorandum of understanding** (MoU) with

**Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** of India for selling life insurance products of LIC.

- MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank:  
**Mahabaleshwara M.S**
- LIC Chairman: **V.K.Sharma**
- LIC Headquarter: **Mumbai**

**HDFC Life launches India's first life insurance email bot -"SPOK":**

**HDFC Life**, one of India's leading **private life insurance** companies, announced the launch of **India's first life insurance email bot** named as **"SPOK"**.

**SPOK** is an **artificial intelligence-based application**. It can automatically read, understand, categorise, prioritise and respond to customer emails that are sent to HDFC Life, within milliseconds.

**Karnataka Bank ties up with HDFC Asset Management:**

**Karnataka Bank Ltd** has signed an agreement with **HDFC Asset Management Ltd** (HDFCAML) to sell the mutual fund products of HDFCAML.

- ❖ HDFCAML is a Subsidiary of HDFC.
- ❖ HDFC Headquarter: Mumbai

**Federal Bank launches new trading platform 'Selfie':**

**Federal Bank**, in association with **Geojit** has launched a **new trading platform** called **'Selfie'** for customers.

The **trading platform** will give its users absolute control over their investments with

timely research inputs to make sound investment decisions.

**Federal Bank:**

- ❖ CEO: Shyam Srinivasan
- ❖ Headquarters: Kochi

**EPFO gives nod to hike in stock investment to 15 per cent:**

The **Employees Provident Fund Organisation** has approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) **to 15 per cent**, from the existing **10 per cent**.

Union Labour Minister: **Bandaru Dattatreya**

**RBI allows co-operative banks to issue mobile wallets:**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed **co-operative banks** are permitted to **install ATMs** and **issue debit cards**, to also issue **prepaid payment instruments (PPIs)** like **mobile wallets**.

**Co-operative banks** are permitting to **issue wallets** for utility bill payments and other activities up to a **limit of Rs 10,000**.

**RBI Criteria to follow by Co-ops bank:**

- ❖ The apex bank also laid down various criteria like banks should be **core banking or CBS compliant**, with net non-performing assets being less than **3 per cent** and also being profitable in the previous financial year.

- ❖ A **Comprehensive Customer grievance redressal mechanism** should be setup and should be **no monetary penalty**.
- ❖ The bank should have **internal** and **audit inspection processes** both for branches as well as head office.

Headquarters: **Vadodara**

Bank Tagline: **India's International Bank**

**About IFFCO** (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited):

Chairman: **Balvinder Singh Nakai**

Headquarter: **New Delhi**

## RBI to observe financial literacy week from June 5-9:

The **main objective** of observing the financial literacy week is to emphasize the importance of financial literacy. It will focus on **four broad themes—know your customer (KYC), Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redressal** and **Going Digital (UPI and \*99#)**.

## IFFCO, Bank of Baroda launch co-branded debit card:

Largest fertiliser cooperative **IFFCO** signed MoU with **Bank of Baroda** to launch its **co-branded debit card** for **farmers** at a card distribution ceremony organized at their corporate office in **New Delhi**.

The co-branded debit cards, with inbuilt overdraft of **Rs. 2,500** in special savings bank account. This is aimed at enabling them to **buy agri-inputs** through a convenient **cashless transaction mechanism** and providing further thrust to PM Narendra Modi's **Digital India programme**.

### About Bank of Baroda:

President: **P S Jaya Kumar**

## HDFC 7<sup>th</sup> rank among top 10 consumers financial services companies:

Mortgage lender **HDFC Ltd** is the **only Indian company** to be named among the **top 10** consumer financial services companies in the world. **American Express** claiming the **first position** in the list released by the **Forbes Global List 2017**. **HDFC** was **7<sup>th</sup>** in the list.

### About HDFC:

- ❖ Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- ❖ CEO: **Keki M. Mistry**

## IOC becomes India's most profitable PSU (Public Sector Undertaking):

**Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has overtaken **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** to become **India's most profitable** state-owned company. **Reliance Industries** and **Tata Consultancy Service** are **top two** most profitable companies in the country.

- IOC Headquarter: **New Delhi**
- ONGC Headquarter: **Uttarakhand**
- TCS Headquarter: **Mumbai**
- Reliance Industries Headquarter: **Mumbai**

## Singapore central bank fines Credit Suisse and UOB banks:

Singapore's central bank announced that it was fined **Credit Suisse** and **United Overseas Bank (UOB)** a total of **S\$1.6 million** (\$1.15 million) for breaches of **anti-money laundering rules** for transactions related to **Malaysia's scandal-ridden state fund 1MDB**.

## EPF contributions to remain at 12%:

The Central government will not bring back its proposal to decrease rate of deduction from salary towards provident fund (PF) savings from **12% to 10%**.

Labour and Employment Minister: **Bandaru Dattatreya**

## India ranks 120<sup>th</sup> in women workforce index:

India was ranked **120<sup>th</sup> among 131 nations** in **women workforce** index, a report released by the **World Bank**. In India, the women participation was just at **27%** compared to China and Brazil where it was between **65-70%**.

## World Bank projects 7.2% growth rate for India in 2017-18:

The **India Development Update** report under **World Bank** projected Indian **economy** to expand by **7.2% in 2017-18** and accelerate to **7.7% by 2019-20** as compared to **6.8% in 2016-17**.

In a latest **World Economic Outlook (WEO)**, **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has cut down India growth forecast for year 2017 by 0.4% points to **7.2%**.

## About World Bank:

- Headquarter: **Washington, D.C., United States**
- President: **Jim Yong Kim**

## Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Morocco's SNRT:

Government-run **Prasar Bharati** (Headquarter: New Delhi) signed an agreement with **Morocco's Societe Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT)** to step up **cooperation in the broadcasting sector**.

The MoU was signed during the **fifth India Morocco Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)** in **Rabat**, Capital of **Morocco**. It was signed by **Kheya Bhattacharya, Ambassador of India**, on behalf of **Prasar Bharati** and **Faycal Laraichi, Chief Executive Officer of SNRT**.

- Morocco Currency: **Moroccan Dirham**
- Morocco Prime Minister: **Saad Eddine El Othmani**
- Prasar Bharati Chairman: **A. Surya Prakash**

## SEBI targets participatory note norms:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) plans to further tighten norms for issuance of **offshore derivative instruments (ODIs)** and **participatory notes (PNs)**.

The capital market regulator has proposed levying a regulatory fee of **\$1,000 will have to pay once every three years** on every foreign portfolio investor (FPI) that issues ODIs or PNs.

Chairman: **Ajay Tyagi**

Headquarter: **Mumbai**

Founded: **1992**

**Solar panel equipment to attract 5% GST:**

Solar panel equipment will attract the lowest tax rate of **5 per cent** under the GST regime, as against the initially proposed **18 per cent**.

Revenue Secretary: **Hasmukh Adhia**

**APPOINTMENTS**

**Mr. Anthony Lianzuala takes over as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA):**

**Mr. Anthony Lianzuala** took over as the **New Controller General of Accounts (CGA)** in **New Delhi**. He will be the **First person** from the **North-Eastern Region** to hold this position.

**Shobana Kamineni assumes charge as CII President:**

**Shobana Kamineni**, Executive Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, has assumed office as the **president** of **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.

She has taken over from **Naushad Forbes**, Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Limited. Kamineni is also **vice-chairperson of the KEI**

**Group**, a diversified logistics, leisure & infrastructure company.

**Mallikarjun Kharge appointed as new chairman of PAC:**

Congress leader **Mallikarjun Kharge** is the new chairman of the **21-member Public Accounts Committee of Parliament**. Kharge replaces Congress leader **K V Thomas** whose term ended on April 30.

**Braj Bihari Kumar to succeed economist S K Thorat as ICSSR chief:**

**Braj Bihari Kumar**, editor of quarterly journals Dialogue and Chintan Srijan, has been appointed as the **chairman** of the **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)**, succeeding noted **economist S K Thorat**, for a period of three years.

**Rajkiran Rai G and R.A. Sankara Narayanan sworn in as MD and CEO of Union bank of India and Vijaya bank:**

**Rajkiran Rai G** was the MD and CEO of **Union Bank of India** for a period of **three years**. **R A Sankara Narayanan**, was the MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank.

**Emmanuel Macron vows unity after winning French presidential election:**

Pro European centrist leader **Emmanuel Macron** has been elected as the **youngest President of France**.



Mr Macron will also become the **first President** from outside the two traditional main parties since the modern republic's foundation in 1958.

### **Sunil Mehta assumes charge as MD & CEO of PNB:**

**Sunil Mehta**, who was recently appointed as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**.

### **Donald Trump appoints Indian American Neil Chatterjee to key energy post:**

US President **Donald Trump** has appointed **Neil Chatterjee** to the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**, which oversees electricity, natural gas and oil at the national level.

He is the **second Indian American** to be appointed by Trump to a major regulatory position with a controversial mission.

### **Venu Rajamony appointed India's Ambassador to Netherlands:**

**Press Secretary** to President **Pranab Mukherjee** and senior diplomat **Venu Rajamony** has been appointed **India's Ambassador to the Netherlands**.

Rajamony will also be **India's Permanent Representative** to the Organisation for **Prevention of Chemical Weapons based in The Hague** and cover the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration and

other international organisations based in the Netherlands.

### **"Moon" was sworn in as the President of South Korea:**

**Moon Jae-in**, a former refugee, special force soldier and human rights lawyer, has been sworn in as **president of South Korea**.

### **Vinay Mohan Kwatra named India's new ambassador to France:**

Seasoned diplomat **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**, currently a joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, has been appointed as the **next ambassador to France**. A 1988-batch Foreign Service officer, Kwatra will succeed **Mohan Kumar**, who is retiring.

Apart from having experience of dealing with the UN organisations such as **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** and **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, he has served in Indian diplomatic missions in China and the US.

### **Amitabh Bachchan is WHO's goodwill ambassador for hepatitis:**

To check the spread of the **hepatitis epidemic**, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** appointed actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as its **goodwill ambassador** for **hepatitis** in the **South-East Asia region**.

### **Hubert Minnis is the Bahamas' new prime minister:**

**Hubert Minnis**, a former health minister was sworn as prime minister of the **Bahamas**, the country's fourth since the small island chain became **independent of British rule in 1973**.

## V. K. Saraswat named new JNU chancellor:

The HRD Ministry has named former DRDO chief **Vijay Kumar Saraswat** as the **next chancellor of JNU**. A NITI Aayog member, Mr. Saraswat will replace former ISRO chief **Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan**.

## Israel's appointed the first female Sharia judge:

Israel President **Reuven Rivlin** and Justice Minister **Ayelet Shaked** appointed the first ever **female judge Hana Khatib** for **Israel's Sharia Court** system in Jerusalem.

## Edouard Philippe as French PM:

France President **Emmanuel Macron** appointed an **Edouard Philippe** as France new prime minister. This is the **first time** in the history of the **Fifth Republic** that a President has appointed someone from outside his own party without being explicitly required to do so by a parliamentary vote.

## "Aisha Mughal"- First Pakistan Transgender Lecturer:

**Pakistan** got its **first transgender lecturer** as **Aisha Mughal** took the charge at the government-run **Quaid-e-Azam University** in

**Islamabad**. Aisha Mughal has been appointed as the lecturer in the department of gender in the university.

## President Rouhani re-elected in Iran:

Iran President **Hassan Rouhani** won the presidential election in **Iran**. This was his **second term** as President of Iran.

**Prime Minister of Iran:** Ali Khamenei

**Capital & Currency:** Tehran and Iranian rial

## Ravi Karunanayake appointed as new foreign minister of Srilanka:

Srilanka President **Maithripala Sirisena** replaced **Mangala Samaraweera** from Foreign Minister to new **Finance Minister**. **Ravi Karunanayake**, from Finance Ministry, to **new Foreign Minister**.

Prime Minister of Srilanka: **Ranil**

## Wickremesinghe

Capitals: **Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte**

Currency: **Sri Lankan rupee**

## Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia is now director general of WHO:

**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** of **Ethiopia** was voted director general of World health organisation. **The first African** to head this agency.

Currency: **Ethiopian birr**

Prime Minister: **Hailemariam Desalegn**

Capital: **addis Ababa**

## Canada opposition picks young to take on

### Justin Trudeau:

The 38-year-old **Andrew Scheer** will be the face of opposition Conservatives in **2019** election against the Liberal Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**.

Capital: **Ottawa**

Currency: **US Dollar**

## SoftBank nominates Rajeev Misra as new CEO of Vision Fund:

Tokyo based telecom-to-technology giant **SoftBank Group** has nominated India-born **Rajeev Misra**, the chief executive of its mega \$100-billion technology-focused **Vision Fund**.

- ❖ SoftBank Headquarters: **Minato, Tokyo, Japan**
- ❖ President: **Nikesh Arora**

## Najam Sethi elects as next chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board:

**Najam Sethi** was approved as the unanimous choice to be the **next Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman** at its Annual General Meeting. Sethi would succeed **Shaharyar Khan** as the PCB chief.

## Vani Sarraju Rao appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Finland:

**Ms. Vani Sarraju Rao** has appointed the **next Ambassador of India to Finland**. She is presently **Joint Secretary** in the ministry of External Affairs.

### About Finland:

- Capital: **Helsinki**
- Currency: **Euro**
- President: **Sauli Niinisto**
- Prime Minister: **Juha Sipila**

## Jaideep Mazumdar appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Philippines:

**Shri Jaideep Mazumdar** presently **Joint Secretary** in the Ministry of External Affairs has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Philippines**.

### About Philippines:

- Capital: **Manila**
- Currency: **Peso**
- President: **Rodrigo Duterte**

## IFFCO Rakesh Kapur elected vice-chairman of IFA:

**Rakesh Kapur** has been appointed a **chairman of International Fertilizer Association (IFA)**. Also, he is a joint managing director of **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)**. IFA Annual conference held in **Marrakech, Morocco**.

- IFA Headquarter: **Paris, France**
- Morocco capital & currency: **Rabat and Moroccan Dirham**
- Morocco Prime Minister: **Saadeddine Othmani**

## AWARDS

**Chandrababu Naidu bags US-India Business Council award:**

**Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** has been selected for the 'Transformative Chief Minister Award' in recognition for his role in advancing the **US-India partnership** at the state level.

The award by the **US-India Business Council** would be presented to Naidu during the **USIBC West Coast Summit** in Menlo Park, in California's **Silicon Valley**.

**Sanjay Pratihari** bags prestigious **INSA medal**:

**Sanjay Pratihari**, a scientist at **Tezpur University**, has been chosen for the prestigious **Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal** for the **Young Scientist Award** for the year **2017**.

**Rajive Kaul** gets diplomatic service award from South Korea:

**Chairman** of **Nicco group** and past president of CII **Rajive Kaul** was conferred with the **Order of Diplomatic Service Merit Sungnye Medal** of the Republic of Korea for his services rendered as honorary consul general of **South Korea in Kolkata**.

The award was conferred by the Prime Minister of South Korea **Hwang Kyo-ahn** at a programme in **New Delhi**.

**Sachin Tendulkar** awarded **Asian Awards Fellowship**:

The Indian cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** was awarded **The Fellowship Award** at the **Asian Awards** in **London**.

The former cricketer has become only the **fourth person** ever to receive **The Fellowship Award** since the inception of these awards **seven years ago**. They are **late Ravi Shankar, Sir Ben Kingsley** and **Jackie Chan** for the award.

**3 Indian scientists** elected fellows of **Royal Society**:

**Three Indian-origin scientists** known for their expertise in **genetics, computers** and **ecology** have been elected **fellows of the Royal Society**, the **world's oldest scientific academy** in continuous existence.

The three Indian-origin scientists are **Krishna Chatterjee** (University of Cambridge), **Yadvinder Malhi** (University of Oxford) and **Subhash Khot** (New York University).

**IIT Hyderabad researcher** wins **INSA young scientist award**:

A researcher from **Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad**, **Prof. Aravind Kumar Rengan**, who is an Assistant Professor in the Biomedical Engineering has been awarded **Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal** in the **Young Scientist category** for **2017**.

**Shrinivas Kulkarni** wins **Dan David Prize**:

Indian scientist **Shrinivas Kulkarni** has won the **prestigious Dan David prize** for his

contribution in the field of **astronomy**. He is a professor of astrophysics and planetary science at **California Institute of Technology** in **Pasadena**.

## Indian-American Pranay Varada wins National Geographic Bee contest:

**Pranay Varada**, the 14-year-old **Indian-American student**, has won the prestigious USD 50,000 **National Geographic Bee competition**, maintaining the dominance of the community in the contest.

## ISRO receives 2014 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize:

Former Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** presented the **2014 Indira Gandhi Prize** for Peace to the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.

The award, announced by a jury headed by Vice President **Hamid Ansari in 2014**, consists of a trophy, a cash prize of Rs 1 crore and a citation.

## Environmentalist Purnima Devi Barman wins Green Oscar:

**Guwahati, Assam's** renowned environmentalist **Purnima Devi Barman** has won the **prestigious Whitley Awards**, also known as the **Green Oscars received from Princess Royal Anne**, for her efforts in conserving **greater adjutant storks** (The greater adjutant is a huge bird).

She has been working with **Dadara, Pachariya and Hingimari villages of Kamrup district** to save the **greater adjutant stork**, locally known as '**Haargila**' in Assam.

## Nepali woman scales Mount Everest with anti-trafficking message:

**Kanchhi Maya Tamang** is the **first Tamang woman** from **Nepal** to scale the 8,848-metre peak. She believed if she raised a slogan from the world's highest peak she would be heard. Her message: '**Fight Against Human Trafficking**'.

## Anshu Jamsenpa scales Mt Everest twice within five days:

The mountaineer from **Arunachal Pradesh** had reached the top of **Mt Everest**. **Jamsenpa** set the **world record** for becoming the **first woman climber** to reach the **top of Mt Everest twice within five days**. She is also the **first Indian woman** to reach the top of Mt Everest for the **fifth time**. The 32-year-old had achieved the feat of summiting Mt Everest twice within 10 days in 2011.

## Deveshwar, Soumitra Chatterjee conferred Bengal's highest civilian award:

**Thespian Soumitra Chatterjee** and India's longest serving boss **Y.C. Deveshwar** were conferred the **Banga Samman**, West Bengal's highest civilian award, by Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee**.

## Drake beats Adele's Billboard Music Awards record with 13 wins:

**Rapper Drake** grabbed a **record 13 wins** at the **2017 Billboard Music Awards** beating **Adele** by one, at the event in **Las Vegas** including **best artist**.

## Cochin Port Trust won two awards from ministry of shipping:

**Cochin Port Trust** has received **two Best Performance Awards** from Ministry of Shipping for the **highest growth in operating surplus** and also for achieving **third highest growth in cargo traffic** among the major ports in the year **2016-17**.

The **awards** were received from **Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping by **P Raveendran**, **Chairman** and **A V Ramana**, **Deputy Chairman**, Cochin Port Trust at function held at **Goa Port Trust**.

## Jacqueline Fernandez wins UK humanitarian award & Author Jeffrey Archer won Life Time Achievement award:

Bollywood actor **Jacqueline Fernandez** received the **International Humanitarian award** and "bestselling" writer **Jeffrey Archer** the **Lifetime Achievement award** at the **second annual Asian Voice Charity Awards**.

They won the awards to **recognise the work of charity organisations** in the UK and abroad.

## Adoor Gopalakrishnan gets J.C. Daniel Award:

Malayalam filmmaker **Adoor Gopalakrishnan** has been chosen for the prestigious **J.C. Daniel Award for 2016** (Kerala's highest award in Malayalam cinema)

The award was **conferred by the Kerala government** annually in recognition of an individual's contributions to Malayalam cinema, carries a purse of **Rs.1 lakh**, a plaque, and a citation.

## Young Indian cartoonist wins top conservation award:

**Rohan Chakravarty**, a **wildlife and environment cartoonist** from India has won this year's **WWF International President's Award** for his efforts to change attitudes towards nature.

The **2017 WWF International President's Award** is presented in **Manado, Indonesia**.

## The Square wins Palme d'Or Award:

**The Square** has won the **Palme d'Or** at the **2017 Cannes film festival** directed by Swedish **Ruben Ostlund**. Also, **Sofia Coppola** won the **best director award** for the film "**The Beguiled**".



## Pioneers of "visual theatre" Prof. Satyabrata Rout awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar 2016:

**Satyabrata Rout**, a professor from the Department of Theatre Arts, S N School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been awarded **Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar** for the year **2016**.

He has been given this award for developed "a **unique method of teaching and practising direction and design** for practitioners and scholars".

## SPORTS

### Joshna Chinappa wins historic Asian squash title, Saurav Ghosal falters:

**Joshna Chinappa** scripted history by becoming the **first Indian to clinch the Asian Squash title** with a thrilling win over compatriot **Dipika Pallikal Karthik** in the women's final in **Chennai**.

In the men's final, however, **Saurav Ghosal** went down fighting against No.1 seed **Max Lee** to finish **second best**.

### Shillong Lajong vs Aizawl FC, I-League highlights: Aizawl FC become champions

**Aizawl FC** played against **Shillong Lajong** to become the new champions of the **I-League** (Football) and the **first** ever club from the **northeast to win the top-flight title**.

## Mark Selby beats John Higgins to retain his World Snooker Championship title:

**England's Mark Selby** produced a magnificent comeback to beat **John Higgins** in the final of the **World snooker championship** at **Crucible Theatre** and win the **global crown for the third time**.

Selby became only the **fourth player** after **Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry and Ronnie O'Sullivan** to win back-to-back titles since the event was first held at the Crucible in **1977**.

## FIFA rankings: Indian football team breaks into top 100 for 1st time in 21 years

The **Indian men's national football team** has made it into the **top 100** of the FIFA world football rankings for the **first time in 21 years**. Now India 94th place.

## Azlan Shah Cup 2017: Great Britain beat Australia in final

**Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2017 (Hockey)** concluded at **Ipoh, Malaysia** with **Great Britain** beating **Australia** 4-3 in the final to lift the trophy.

## Simbine Won a world-class sprint diamond league 100m:

The **23-year-old** powered home in **9.99 seconds** to become the **first South African man** to win a **Diamond League 100m**. The Event was held at **Doha, Capital of Qatar**.

## Shiva Thapa Settles for Silver at Asian Boxing Championships:

Fourth seed **Shiva Thapa (60kg)** settled for a **silver medal** at the **Asian Boxing Championships** held in **Tashkent**, Uzbekistan, becoming the **first Indian** to claim three back-to-back medals at the continental showpiece.

He won a gold medal in **2013** and a bronze in the year **2015**. **Elnur Abduraimov** won the gold medal in this event.

## Asian athletics logo launched:

Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** unveiled the **logo** and **mascot of the 22nd Asian athletics championship**, to be held in July. The mascot '**Olly the turtle**' has been created **to spread awareness** about the endangered Olive Ridley turtle.

## Jhulan Goswami becomes the leading wicket-taker in Women's ODIs:

India Women pacer **Jhulan Goswami** became the all-time leading wicket-taker in ODIs, overtaking former **Australia pacer Cathryn Fitzpatrick's** tally of 180.

Goswami breached the mark with her three-wicket haul in the ongoing **quadrangular series** game against **hosts South Africa**, in **Potchefstroom**.

## Sachin Tendulkar to be co-owner of a Pro Kabaddi League team:

**Sachin Tendulkar** set to become the new owners of the four new **Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)** teams that will participate in the **fifth season** of the tournament, to be played from July to October.

Sachin Tendulkar will team up with serial entrepreneur **N. Prasad** as the co-owner of the **Tamil Nadu-based franchise**.

## Asian Wrestling Championships: Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat clinch silver; Ritu wins bronze

Rio Olympic bronze medallist **Sakshi Malik** settled for the **silver** losing to **Risako Kawai of Japan** in the **women's 60kg category**, while **Vinesh Phogat** (55kg) also fell short in the final at the Asian Wrestling Championships.

In women's **48kg category**, **Ritu Phogat** settled for the **bronze medal**.

## Bajrang Punia gives India first gold medal at Asian Wrestling Championship 2017:

**Bajrang Punia** defeated **Lee Seung-chul** of South Korea to win the **gold medal** in the **men's 65 kg freestyle category** at the Asian Wrestling Championship.

## Arjun Maini wins GP3 sprint race:

The 19-year-old Indian **Arjun Maini**, who drives for **Jenzer Motorsport**, capped off a remarkable week by **winning his first race** in the **GP3 series** at the Circuit de Catalunya in **Barcelona**.

## Someshwara Rao claim 200m gold and Hokato Sema bags bronze:

India's **Ramudri Someshwara Rao** won a **gold medal** in men's 200m T44 event at the **2017 World Para athletics GP**. Someshwara clocked **25.29s** in the final. **Hokato Sema** won a **bronze in shot put**. Both will now take part in the **IPC Para athletics World Championships** to be held at **London** in July.

## Sumit Kumar bags silver at Asian wrestling championship:

**Sumit Kumar** won a **silver medal** match against **Yadollah Mohammadmazemi Mohebi** of Iran in final of the **125kg freestyle** class of the Asian wrestling championship in **New Delhi**.

## Indian Women Cricket team set new ODI record:

**Indian Women** set new records in Women's ODI cricket at the Potchefstroom against **Ireland** by **Deepti Sharma** (188runs) and **Poonam Raut** (109 runs) recorded the first ever **triple century (320)** stand in Women's ODI cricket.

## Rafael Nadal won Madrid Masters Title:

**Rafael Nadal** claimed his **fifth Madrid Masters title** with a win over No. 8 seed **Dominic Thiem**. The triumph is Nadal's **30th**

**Masters Title**, level with Novak Djokovic for the most among current players.

## Vidit and Vaishali bag bronze medals:

**Vidit Gujrathi** and **R. Vaishali** did **India** proud by winning the **bronze** at the **Asian chess championship** at **Chengdu, China**.

Chinese **Wang Hao** and Vietnamese woman **Kim Phung** clinch the title of **Asian chess championship**.

## German policewoman to become first female referee in Europe's top leagues:

A 38-year-old **German** policewoman **Bibiana Steinhaus** will next season become the **first female referee** in **Europe's top leagues** after she was promoted to officiate in the **Bundesliga**.

## Mumbai Indians lift IPL10 Title

**Mumbai Indians** won the final of IPL10 against Pune Supergiant. Mumbai Indians won the **third IPL cup** out of 10 IPL seasons. It is held in **Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium** in **Uppal, Hyderabad**.

Mumbai Indians captain: **Rohit Sharma**

Pune Supergiant: **Steve Smith**

## IPL 10 Awards:

Orange Cap: **David Warner** (Sunrise Hyderabad)

Purple Cap: **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** (Sunrise Hyderabad))

Emerging Player Award - **Basil Thampi** (Gujarat Lions)

### Real Madrid won La Liga title after 5 years:

**Real Madrid** won against **Malaga** and claim **33<sup>rd</sup> League La Liga title** in **La Rosaleda, Spain**.

### Nitin Tomar sets new record:

**Nitin Tomar** became the **highest-bid player** ever in the brief history of the **ProKabaddi League (PKL)** when the **22-year-old raider** was picked up for a whopping **Rs. 93 lakh** by the **new UP franchise** at the **Season Five** auction. **Nitin** had been part of **Puneri Paltan** in the **previous edition**. PKL commissioner is **Anupam Goswami**.

### Mithali Raj became first Indian women cricketer to captain 100 ODIs

**Mithali Raj**, India woman cricket team captain became the **first Indian to lead** the side in **100 ODIs**.

### Gurindervir Singh and Abhishek Mathew won gold medals:

**Gurindervir Singh (100m)** and **Abhishek Mathew (800m)** won **gold medals** for India at the **Asian youth athletics championship** in **Bangkok**. India also won **two bronze medals** through **Akshay Nain** (boys' 400m) and **Seema** (girls' 3,000m).

### Irene Cheptai wins TCS World 10K Road Race:

**Irene Cheptai**, from **Kenya** won a **10K road race** international debut by winning the **TCS World 10k road race** to reach a target at time **clocked 31:51**.

### Hockey Chandigarh won the National Championship 2017:

**Hockey Chandigarh** clinched the **7<sup>th</sup> Hockey India sub-junior boys "National championship 2017 ('A' Division) title"** after won against **Sports Authority of India** in the final at **Bangalore**.

### New Table Tennis league "Ultimate Ping Pong" to be launch in July:

A **new table tennis league**, named **Ultimate Ping Pong (UPP)**, with **six teams** on board, will kick off on **July 13** with support from the **Indian national federation**.

The launch was announced by **11Even Sports Pvt. Ltd (ESPL)**, a company formed to promote table tennis in India.

The inaugural season will be played from **July 13 to July 30** in three different cities - **Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai**.

### Kumar Sangakkara to retire from First Class cricket:

Sri Lankan legend **Kumar Sangakkara** will retire from **First Class cricket** in September at the end of England's county championship season.

At age 39, **Sangakkara**, one of the legends of Sri Lankan cricket, has over **20,000**

**runs in first-class cricket**, besides being the **fifth-highest run-getter** of all time in Tests. He also has over **14,000 runs** in the **ODI format**.  
**Indian Medley Relay team won gold in Asian Youth Athletics Championship:**

The Indian boy's medley relay team, comprising **Gurindervir Singh, Palender Kumar, Manish and Akshay Nain**, won the **gold medal** in the **2nd Asian youth athletics championship**.

**Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong** took the **silver and bronze medals** respectively.

**Chelsea won the Premier League title:**

**Chelsea** got the **Premier League trophy** (Football) after their win over **Sunderland**. **Chelsea** earns **Euro 150 million** for **Premier League title** win. **Sunderland** at bottom place earns **Euro 100 million** in the season.

**John Terry**, Captain of **Chelsea** bid **adieu** to the club he had been part of **22 years** and **13 years as Captain**.

**Antonio Conte** named as **Barclays Premier League Manager of the Year:**

**Antonio Conte**, **Manager of Chelsea** team won **Barclays Premier League Manager of the Year** by the **League Managers Association (LMA)** as well as **LMA Manager of the Year** after guiding **Chelsea** to win the **Premier League** title.

**India beat Indonesia in Sudirman Cup:**

**India** defeated **Indonesia** in the **Sudirman Cup mixed team badminton**

**championship** at the **Carrara Indoor Sports Stadium** in **Gold Coast, Australia**.

**Mixed Team: Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy**

**ICC ties up with Hublot:**

The **International Cricket Council** announced a long-term deal with luxury brand **Hublot**, which will include all **ICC events to 2020**. The agreement will mean **Hublot** supply watches for the player-of-the-Match in semi-finals and finals at all **ICC** major events.

**Ashwin bags the CEAT Award:**

India's off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** won the coveted **International Cricketer of the Year award** at the **CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR)** International awards 2017.

The award was presented to **Ashwin** by former **India skipper Sunil Gavaskar** and **Harsh Goenka, Chairman of RPG Enterprises**, at a function held at the **Cricket Club of India**.

**Manchester United won Europa League title:**

**Manchester United** defeated **Ajax Amsterdam** in **Stockholm, Sweden** to win the first **Europa League title (Football)**, thus confirming their qualification for the **UEFA Champions League** next season.

**Sweden won the Ice Hockey World title:**

**Sweden** beat **Canada** to win the **Ice Hockey World Championship** title for the **10<sup>th</sup>**

**time.** The **tournament** was held in **Cologne, Germany.**

## **Stan Wawrinka retains Geneva Open title:**

**World** number **three Stan Wawrinka** stormed back from a set down to beat German qualifier Mischa Zverev and retain the men's title in Geneva Open title.

**Stan Wawrinka:** Switzerland

## **Javelin thrower Rohit fails dope test:**

Young Javelin thrower **Rohit Yadav, 16,** is set to be stripped of the **silver** that he **won** at the **Asian youth athletics** championship after he tested positive for the banned substance **Stanozolol.**

## **Silver for Arjun, Anmol:**

**Arjun Babuta** won silver in the **10m** air rifle event of the **27<sup>th</sup>** Meeting of **Shooting Hope International Junior** competition in **Plzen.**

**Anmol Jain** also won silver in the **50m free pistol** category.

## **Book -"Winning like Virat: Think & Succeed like Kohli":**

A new book -"**Winning like Virat: Think & Succeed like Kohli**" authored by **Abhirup Bhattacharya.** The book reveals the secrets of the cricketer's consistent form, while attempting to decode his philosophy towards life.

## **Mangalore to host World Surfing League:**

**Naveen Raj Singh,** Secretary of the **Karnataka Tourism Department** announced that Karnataka will make all arrangements to **host World Surfing League** at **Sasihithlu beach** near **Mangalore** in May next year.

## **P V Sindhu elected to Badminton World Federation Athletics Commission:**

Badminton Player **P.V. Sindhu** became the **second Indian** after her compatriot **Saina Nehwal** to be inducted in the **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission.**

**Sindhu** emerged the **highest voted player** in the BWF Athletes' Commission election that took place on the sidelines of the **Sudirman Cup.** She will be joined by **Marc Zweibler of Germany** and **Kristy Gilmour of Scotland** for a **four-year term.**

## **About Badminton World Federation:**

- ❖ Headquarter: **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
- ❖ President: **Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen**

## **Bhavani Devi became the first Indian to win gold in World Cup Fencing Championship:**

India's **C A Bhavani Devi** has become the **first Indian** to win the **gold medal** in the sabre event of the **Tournoi World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship** held at **Reykjavik** in **Iceland.**



## Harmanpreet Kaur becomes the first Indian women cricketer to play in England's T20 league:

**Harmanpreet Kaur** set to become **the first Indian women cricketer** to feature in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of **England's Women's Cricket Super League** after signing up with Team **Surrey Stars**.

## Ananya Kamboj to represent India at F4F Championship:

**Ananya Kamboj** is going to represent **India** at the '**Football for Friendship**' Championship in **St. Petersburg, Russia** from **26 June to 3 July**, as a **Young Journalist**.

This is part of **Mission XI Million programme** of the **FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017**. The '**Football for Friendship**' programme is supported by **Gazprom** and **FIFA**.

- FIFA Headquarter: **Zurich, Switzerland**
- FIFA President: **Gianni Infantino**

## Sebastian Vettel wins Monaco Grand Prix:

Ferrari team **Sebastian Vettel** beat his Ferrari teammate **Kimi Raikkonen** to win the **Monaco Grand Prix**. It was held at **Circuit de Monaco, La Condamine** and **Monte Carlo, Monaco**.

## About Monaco:

- Currency: **Euro**
- Capital: **Monaco**

Minister of State: **Serge Telle**

## Historical Events of the Day

### JANUARY:

- January 1 – Global Family Day
- January 4 – World Braille Day
- January 9 – Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non – resident Indian Day)
- January 10 – World Hindi Day
- January 12 – National Youth Day
- January 15 – National Army Day
- January 24 – National Girl Child Day
- January 25 – National Voters Day

### FEBRUARY:

- February 2 – World Wetlands Day;  
**Theme: "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction"**.
- February 3 - National Women Physicians Day
- February 4 - World cancer day; **Theme: 'We Can, I Can'**.
- February 10 - National Deworming Day
- February 13 - World Radio Day; **Theme: "Radio is You"**.
- February 20 - The United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice; **Theme: "Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work"**.
- February 21 - International Mother Language Day (IMLD); **Theme: "Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education"**.
- Feb 22 - World Thinking Day; **Theme – 'Grow'**.
- Feb 24 - Central excise day.

• Feb 27 - National and International Polar Bear Day.

• Feb 28 - National Science Day; **Theme - 'Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons'.**

## **MARCH:**

• March 1 - Zero Discrimination Day; **Theme: "make some noise for zero Discrimination".**

• March 3 - World Wildlife Day; **Theme: "Listen to the young voices".**

• March 3 - The World Hearing Day (WHD); **Theme of 2017: "Action for hearing loss: make a sound investment"**

• National Safety Day/Week celebrated from 4<sup>th</sup> of March (Saturday) to the 10<sup>th</sup> of March (Friday) in 2017 **theme of 2017 is "Keep Each Other Safe".**

• March 8 - International Women's Day (IWD) **Theme: "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030"** and its' campaign theme is **"#BeBoldForChange"**.

• March 12 - World Day against Cyber Censorship (WDACC)

• World Kidney Day (WKD) is observed every year on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in March. Theme of 2017 is Kidney Disease & Obesity.**

• **2017 Commonwealth Day** is celebrated every year on the **second Monday in March. The theme of this year is "A Peace-building Commonwealth".**

• March 14 - National Pi Day ( $\pi$  - approx 3.14159) which is approximately 3.14159.

• March 15: World Consumer Rights Day.

**Theme of 2017 is 'Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust'.**

• March 17: World Sleep Day; **Theme: "Sleep Soundly, Nurture life".**

• March 20: World Sparrow Day

• March 21: International Day of Forests. **Theme: "Forests and energy".**

• March 22: World Water Day. **Theme: "Wastewater".**

• March 23: World Meteorological Day. **Theme: "Understanding Clouds".**

• March 24: World Tuberculosis Day. **Theme: "Unite to End TB : Leave no one behind".**

• March 25: **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave.** **Theme: "Remember Slavery; Recognizing the Legacy and Contributions of People of African descendant"**

• March 27: **World Theatre Day.**

	Important Days	Theme 2017
April 2	World Autism Day	<b>"Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination".</b>
April 4	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	"Needs driven. People Centred"
April 5	National Maritime	

	Day	
April 7	World Health Day	"Depression: Let's Talk".
April 10	World Homeopathy Day	"Enhancing <b>Quality Research In Homeopathy Through Scientific evidence and rich clinical experience</b> ".
April 11	National Safe Motherhood Day	"Improving Maternal Health by Empowering Women!"
April 14	Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Birthday (Water Day)	
April 17	World Hemophilia Day	"Hear Their Voices"
April 18	World Heritage Day	"Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism".
April 21	National Civil Service Day	"Making New India"
April 22	Earth Day	"Environmental & Climate Literacy"
April 23	World Book and Copyright Day	
April 24	National Panchayat Raj Diwas	

April 25	World Malaria Day	Malaria prevention: "Let's close the gap"
April 26	World Intellectual Property Day	"Innovation – Improving Lives"
April 29	International Dance Day	
April 30	International Jazz Day	

May-01	International Labour Day (Workers Day)	
		Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies
May-03	Press Freedom Day.	
May-04	Coal miner's day	
May 7 (1st Sunday of May)	World Laughter day	
May-08	World Red Cross Day	
May-09	Victory Day	
May-11	National Technology Day	'Technology for inclusive and

		sustainable growth'	May-22	International Day for Biological Diversity	
May-12	International Nurses Day	Nurses: A Voice to Lead, Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals	May-22	International Day for Biological Diversity	"Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism"
May 14 (2nd Sunday of May)	Internal Mother's Day		May-24	Commonwealth Day	A Peace-building Commonwealth
May-15	International Day of Family	"Families, education and well-being"	May-31	Anti-Tobacco Day	"Tobacco – A threat to development"
May-16	National Dengue Day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 1: World Milk day</li> <li>• June 4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.</li> <li>• June 5: World Environment Day.</li> <li>• June 7: International level crossing awareness day</li> <li>• June 8: World ocean day</li> <li>• June 12: World day against child labour</li> <li>• June 14: World blood donor day</li> <li>• June 17: World day to combat desertification and drought</li> <li>• June 20: World Refugee day.</li> <li>• June 21: World Music day.</li> <li>• 3rd Sunday of June (June 21th 2017): Father's Day.</li> <li>• June 23: United Nation's public service day</li> <li>• June 23: International Widow's day</li> <li>• June 26: International day against Drug abuse &amp; Illicit Trafficking.</li> <li>• June 27: World Diabetes Day.</li> <li>• June 29: National Statistics day</li> </ul>		
May-17	World Telecommunication Day	Big Data for Big Impact			
	World Hypertension Day				
May-18	World AIDS Vaccine Day				
	International Museum Day	"Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums".			
May-20	World Metrology Day				
May-21	Anti-terrorism Day				

## OBITUARY

### Former Madhya Pradesh Minister passes away:

Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh **Minister Pratap Singh Baghel** died of heart failure at a hospital in **Jobat area**. He was **70**. Pratap Singh Baghel had served as Minister in **M.P. twice**.

### Captain Chand Roop passes away:

**Dronacharya award** winning wrestling coach Captain **Chand Roop** passed away in Delhi. He was 87. Chand Roop took up wrestling after joining the **Indian Army in 1948**. He was a **former National champion** who became a coach to train the Army wrestlers.

### Leila Seth, first woman judge of Delhi HC Passed away:

Leila Seth, **the first woman judge of the Delhi High Court** and a member of the Justice **J. S. Verma committee** set up to take a re-look into rape laws in India after the December 16, 2012 gang rape in Delhi, died of cardiac arrest.

### Legendary Sitarist Rais Khan, who shifted to Pakistan in 1968, dies:

India-born legendary **sitar player Ustad Rais Khan** passed away in Pakistan. He was **77**. Khan was honoured with **Presidential award**

and **Sitara-i-Imtiaz** in **2005** and **2017**, respectively.

### Oldest Nepali mountaineer dies climbing Mt Everest:

**Nepal's 86-year-old** mountaineer **Min Bahadur Sherchan**, who was once the **oldest climber to scale the Mount Everest**, died.

### Stanley Weston, G.I. Joe Inventor, Dies at 84:

**Stanley Weston**, inventor of the **G.I. Joe action figure** and a pioneer of the licensing business, died in **Los Angeles**. He was **84**.

### 'Kill Bill' and 'Twin Peaks' Actor Michael Parks passes away at age 77:

**Michael Parks**, a prolific character actor and a favourite of directors **Quentin Tarantino** and **Kevin Smith** has died. He was 77. In a career that spanned five decades, Parks acted in more than 100 films and TV shows, including "**Twin Peaks**."

### Himachal Pradesh Cabinet Minister passes away:

Himachal Pradesh **Ayurveda and Cooperative Affairs Minister Karan Singh** from **Congress** passed away in AIIMS, New Delhi.

### Ramamohan Rao passes away:

Former **Principal Information Officer** to the **Government of India I. Ramamohan Rao** passed away. He was 83. Mr. Rao, who served as a **journalist and communicator** for over six decades, was also media adviser to four former Prime Ministers — Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandrasekhar and P.V. Narasimha Rao.

**Former Puducherry Chief Minister Ramassamy passes away:**

Former Puducherry Chief Minister **S Ramassamy** died at his residence at the age of **80**. He became Chief Minister in **1974** heading the **AIADMK-CPI** coalition ministry for a brief period.

**Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave passes away:**

Minister of State (Independent) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change **Anil Madhav Dave** passed away at age of 60. He was elected to the **Rajya Sabha** from **Madhya Pradesh**.

**'Airlift' hero Matthunny Mathews passes away:**

Prominent Indian businessman **Matthunny Mathews** who was instrumental in the safe evacuation of stranded Indians during the **Iraqi invasion in 1990**, passed away in **Kuwait**.

**Former James Bond star Sir Roger Moore passes away:**

**Hollywood actor and former James Bond star Sir Roger Moore** who played James Bond role in seven feature films between 1973 and 1985 **died at age of 89 in Switzerland** due to cancer.

**Queen of Cashmere, "Laura Biagiotti" passes away:**

**Laura Biagiotti** was the **first Italian designer** to present a **fashion show** in **China** and **Russia**. She has died in Rome at **age 73** due to cardiac arrest.

**Former Panama dictator Manuel Noriega passes away:**

**Former Panama dictator Manuel Noriega** has died at the age of 83. Manuel Noriega ruled Panama from **1983 to 1989** and spied for the Central Intelligence Agency.

- Currencies: **United States Dollar, Panamanian balboa**  
Capital: **Panama City**



**Official Website:**

**[www.raceinstitute.in](http://www.raceinstitute.in)**

**Official Blog:**

**[www.bankersdaily.in](http://www.bankersdaily.in)**

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