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IMPORTANT BANKING & BUSINESS AWARENESS

RBI in News:

Fifth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18: Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** decided to:

Policy Rate	Current (Remains Unchanged)
Repo Rate	6.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.25%
CRR	4%
SLR	19.5%

The projection of real GVA growth for 2017-18 of the October resolution at **6.7per cent** has been retained, with risks evenly balanced. On the whole, inflation is estimated in the range **4.3-4.7** per cent in Q3 and Q4 of this year, including the HRA effect of up to 35 basis points, with risks evenly balanced.

- The **Reserve Bank of India** opened a branch in the Dehradun to **make transactions** of the state government more convenient inaugurated by **CM Trivendra Singh Rawat**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has formed a **High-level Task Force** on **Public Credit Registry (PCR)** for India. The task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of **Yeshwant M. Deosthalee**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** issued final guidelines for **prepaid payment instruments (PPI)** such as **closed, semi-closed and open wallets**. According to the new guidelines, all the PPIs will now be interoperable, which means will allow transaction with each other.
- The RBI has said banks will provide funds to women self-help groups, SHGs, in rural areas at **7 per cent** under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** in the current fiscal.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has reportedly rejected **HDFC Bank's** plea to declassify its parent **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (HDFC)** as a **foreign institutional investor (FII)**.

- State-owned Union Bank of India (UBI) plans to raise up to Rs 500 crore to comply with the global **standard Basel III banking norms by March 2019**.
- The global mobile payment solutions company '**OBOPAY**' has secured a license for **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)** from the Reserve Bank of India to operate a semi-closed loop wallet in the country.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed **Rs 3 crore** penalties on **IndusInd Bank** for breaching rules on income classification norms.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs 5 crore** on **Syndicate Bank**. It has been paid for their non-compliance with directions on "Cheque Purchase or Discounting, Bill Discounting, and Know Your Customer (KYC)" norms.
- **Bank of India (BOI)** became the eighth lender to come under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)**, as bad loans raised high and return on assets turned negative.
- **Bad loans** of Public sector banks (**PSBs**) stood at **Rs 7.34 lakh crore** by the end of second quarter this fiscal, a bulk of which came from corporate defaulters, private sector banks' NPAs were considerably low, according to data furnished by the **RBI**. Among the major government-owned banks, **State Bank of India** had the highest level of NPAs (Rs 1.86 lakh crore), followed by **Punjab National Bank** (Rs 57,630 crore), **Bank of India** (Rs 49,307 crore).

SBI in News:

- **State Bank of India** has pared the **interest rate** on **retail term-deposits** of **one-year** maturity by **25 basis points**, to **50** per cent. The change is effective **October 1**.
- The **Odisha government's** Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection and the **State Bank of India** have signed an MOU for integration of **SBI e-Pay** with **cyber treasury**.
- The SBI Foundation has committed Rs10 crore for the conservation and restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST) of Mumbai over a period of three to five years.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched the **second edition** of its **Hackathon**. This hackathon has been named '**Digitize For Bank**'.
- The **State Bank of (SBI)**, the country's **largest public-sector lender**, said it has signed an agreement with Escorts Ltd to finance farmers **for purchase of Escorts tractors**.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has decided to **slash Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** charges by up to **80 percent**.

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has cut its benchmark lending rate by **0.05** per cent across **maturities**, effective from November 1, according to an announcement by the state-run lender and also the MCLR has been changed to 7.70.
- **India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI)** announced **reduction** of interest rates on home and automobile loans by **five basis points** (bps).
- **State Bank of India** has launched a unified integrated app called **YONO**. It offers all kinds of financial and lifestyle products. The abbreviation of YONO is **You Need Only One**. It is the **first digital banking platform** which offers customised products to the customer.
- The country's largest bank, State Bank of India, launched **State Bank Rewardz Scheme**. It is an enterprise-wise loyalty programme through which customers can earn reward points for various types of banking transactions.
- **SBI Card** and **Bharat Petroleum** have announced the launch of the **BPCL SBI Card** and claimed to be the '**most rewarding fuel co-branded credit card in the country**'.
- The country's largest lender SBI gets board approval for raising **Rs.8,000 crore through various sources**, including masala bonds, to meet Basel III capital norms. State Bank of India (SBI) said it had time **till March 2018 to raise the funds**.

Other Important Banking & Business Awareness:

- The **U.S. Federal Reserve** fined **HSBC Holdings PLC** (HSBA.L) **\$175 million** or "unsafe and unsound practices" in its foreign exchange trading business, the latest in a series of fines for banks that fail to prevent market manipulation.
- **Digital payments** firm **MobiKwik** announced its partnership with **IRCTC Rail connect app**, which will allow customers book railway tickets using the former's payment gateway.
- **India's renewable energy capacity** will **more than double** by **2022** to overtake renewable expansion in the **European Union** for the first time, **International Energy Agency (IEA)**.
- Fair trade regulator **CCI** imposed **finest** totalling **₹27 crore** on **Aditya Birla group firm Grasim Industries** and two others for **bid rigging Delhi Jal Board tenders** for supply of a **water purification product**.
- **PAN card** and **Aadhaar card** are not needed for **jewellery** purchases above **Rs 50,000**. The government decided to revoke the notification that extended provisions of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, (PMLA)** to **jewellery**.
- **HDFC Life Insurance Company** has launched '**Neo**', a servicing bot for Twitter that uses **artificial intelligence** for **customer service**. This is the second bot put in operation by HDFC Life, after the launch of SPOK, which was an email bot to answer customer queries.

- **Private insurer Tata AIA Life** announced the launch of '**Eazy Connect**' that will extend **online customer service** to **social media platforms**.
- **Vijaya Bank** has entered into a **MoU** with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** for enabling all HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UPI merchant solutions.
- India's third largest private sector bank – **Axis Bank** acquired payments wallet Free charge for **Rs 373 crore** in an all-cash deal.
- **Reliance Capital arm** will get a **loan assistance** of **Rs.300 crore** from **IREDA** and utilise the funds for lending it to its renewable energy projects.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved **Rs.2,000 crore** specifically for setting up **Aadhaar centres** in post offices, a move that will see private contractors phased out from the data collection process.
- **Pension regulator PFRDA** notified the increase in maximum entry age limit for **National Pension System (NPS)** to **65 years**, its Chairman Hemant Contractor has said.
- The government has made biometric identification Aadhaar mandatory for all post office deposits, **PPF**, the **National Savings Certificate scheme** and **Kisan Vikas Patra**.
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned an amount **Rs. 273.06 crore** to the Andhra Pradesh Government under **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** for Rural Water supply, Road and Bridge projects.
- The **Andhra Pradesh** Government signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Master card** to setup a **centre of excellence** in **Visakhapatnam**.
- **Microsoft** has signed a **15-year** wind energy agreement with GE in **Ireland**, becoming one of the **first global technology firms** to support a new wind project in the country. It will purchase energy from **37-megawatt Tullahennel wind farm** in County Kerry, Ireland.
- **SEBI** has **tightened** the noose on listed companies not adhering to norms regarding **minimum public shareholding (MPS)**. Those that are **non-compliant** will have to pay a fine of **5,000 a day**.
- Regulator **SEBI** banned **Swasata Steel Industries Ltd (SSIL)** and its **seven directors** from the securities market for at least **four years** in a case related to illegally raising **Rs 12 crore** from the **public**.
- **HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company** has received capital markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI)** go ahead to raise an estimated **Rs 7,500 crore** through an **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.
- According to SEBI order, **Rupani's** alleged **manipulative transactions** took place between January-June 2011. His Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) has been asked to pay a fine of **Rs 15 lakh**.

- Country's largest private sector lender **ICICI Bank** committed a financial assistance of **Rs 10 crore** to the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- **Standard Chartered Bank** said it has officially opened its **new Global Business Services (GBS) centre** in **Bengaluru**.
- The nation's largest lender **State Bank of India** is creating a **15,000-sqft innovation centre** in **Navi Mumbai** investing around Rs 100 crore.
- **HSBC** announced the launch of mobile app – **Trade Transaction Tracker** – to help **customers track** the status of their trade transactions on a real-time basis.
- **State Bank of India** said it has launched a new product "**SME Assist**" to provide **short-term working capital demand loans** to its **MSME clients** under **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
- **Union Bank of India** has launched an **Android app, Union Sahyog**, as part of its drive to digitize customer-facing banking services.
- **MasterCard** announced the launch of its **second Innovation Centre** in **Pune, India**, after **Singapore**, in Asia and **ninth globally** to focus on solving "**India-specific**" problems in the areas of technology and financial enablement.
- The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri **Arun Jaitley** participated in the **G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting** in **Washington D.C.**
- **International Business Machines Corp. (IBM)** announced the launch of **IBM Block chain**, a **new block chain banking** solution that will help financial institutions for **cross-border payments**.
- Private sector **Yes Bank** said it has committed **Rs 156 crore** to fund **first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)** to be constructed at **Varanasi** under **Hybrid Annuity-PPP Model**.
- **Bangkok Bank** to launch faster, better, more international services – **signs deal** with Intellect Design to implement its **iGTB Digital Transaction Banking Platform**.
- E-commerce major **Myntra** launched its **CSR initiative** in association with the **Union Textile Ministry**, to work directly with **weavers and elevate their economic stature**.
- **For a better and speedy services, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** is pleased to introduce a new facility for its esteemed members having **Universal Account Number (UAN)** and other relevant details to link their respective UAN with Aadhaar online.
- **Mahindra & Mahindra** said it has launched a programme, **Prerna**, to **empower women working in the agriculture sector** by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment.
- The software industry lobby **NASSCOM** is setting up centres of excellence **on artificial intelligence (AI) and data sciences** for a better understanding on the emerging technologies in **Bengaluru and Hyderabad**.

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **Zeta**, a fintech pioneer on Tuesday announced the launch of 'Paymint', a comprehensive digital wallet to manage multiple employee benefits.
- **ONGC** and **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** have agreed to share infrastructure in the **KG Basin**, following tough negotiations lasting for six months brokered by **DG Atanu Chakraborty** of the Directorate-General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).
- Domestic crude steel production jumped **6.8 per cent to 8.39 million tonnes** (mt) in September 2017 compared to 7.86 mt in September 2016.
- The government has made it **mandatory to check the original identification documents** of individuals dealing in cash **above the Rs 50,000 threshold** for banks and financial institutions as part of the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules.
- **IndusInd Bank**, in association with **MobiKwik**, announced the launch of a co-branded wallet, "**IndusInd Mobikwik**", that allows its customers to pay at the MobiKwik merchant network using their accounts, with a "direct debit feature".
- The **government** extended the deadline by a month till **November 30** for businesses to claim credit of **transitional** stock in the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime**.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** tied up with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to launch a **`200-crore fund** for **providing loans to MSMEs**. The programme will fund term loans in the `25 lakh to `2 crore ticket size. This joint financing programme with SIDBI aims to enhance credit to MSMEs.
- SIDBI has revamped its portal **www.udyamimitra.in** with enhanced features to provide easy access to credit and hand-holding services for micro small medium enterprises (MSME).
- **Star Health and Allied Insurance (SHAI)** has introduced an **industry-first health insurance cover** for people **already diagnosed with cancer**.
- Forex and inward solutions provider **Transcorp International** launched a **platinum pre-paid card** in association with **Yes Bank** that can be used for transactions in stores and ATMs across the country.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** has received **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval to operate as **Scheduled Commercial Bank**. This bank's name has now been included in the **Second Schedule of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- **ONGC** has received the Information **Memorandum** from the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management** for acquiring majority stake in fellow public-sector undertaking **HPCL**.
- Private sector lender **Yes Bank** signed an **agreement** with the government to provide **Rs 1,000 crore** financing for **food processing projects**. The funding will be provided to around 100 food processing projects with an average ticket size of Rs 10 crore each.

- **ICICI Bank**, the **country's largest private sector bank** by consolidated assets, has launched voice-based international remittance service on its **Money2India application**. **ICICI Bank** is the **first bank** in the country to leverage on Apple's virtual voice assistant to enable cross border remittances.
- Linkage of **"Aadhaar"** with Insurance Policies as mandatory and asked the insurers to comply with statutory norms and mandatory under the **"Prevention of Money -Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Second Amendments Rules, 2017"**.
- **Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)**, the **world's first diamond derivatives exchange**, said it has successfully completed **first-ever diamond futures contracts** settlement with the total traded quantity in November expiry for 5,382.08 carats valued at Rs **32 crore**.
- **Bank of China** formally launched its **operations in Pakistan**, with its first branch inaugurated in the bank would strengthen the **"brotherly relations"** between the two countries in the financial sector.
- **Emirates NBD**, the **UAE's second-largest lender**, has **started operations in India** with an aim to invest **USD 100 million capital** into its Indian operations.
- On the first anniversary of demonetisation, **IDFC Bank** has entered a **"strategic alliance"** with mobile wallet major **MobiKwik** to launch a **co-branded virtual Visa prepaid card** for customers of MobiKwik.
- **Federal Bank** has obtained RBI approval to **open representative offices at Kuwait and Singapore**.
- The **government** has raised the **maximum amount** that a **Central government employee** can borrow from the government for house-building to **25 lakh** from the **earlier Rs.7.5 lakh**.
- Private sector life insurer **PNB MetLife** has inked a corporate agency **tie-up** with **Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK)** to sell retail and group insurance products of the company to the foreign bank's customers in India.
- The Nation's Finance Capital **"MUMBAI"** will host the **34th Annual Conference of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA)** and will be hosted by State Bank of India and the theme of this conference is **"Asia's Turn to Transform"**.
- **Uber Technologies Inc.** approved **SoftBank Group Corp.**'s offer to buy a **multibillion-dollar stake** in the ride-hailing company, setting the stage for one of the largest private start-up deals ever.
- The **Government of India** launched the **BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)** managed by **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** targeting an initial amount of about **8,000 crores**. This New Fund Offer is open till November 17, 2017.

- The leader in financial education, **Bombay Stock Exchange Institute (BIL)**, has **signed a MoU with DLT Labs in Mumbai** to set up the country's first state-of-the-art Block Chain Lab in an institution.
- Digital payments services company, Paytm entered into a tie-up with ICICI Bank to jointly launch '**Paytm-ICICI Bank Postpaid**', that offers short-term credit to their common customers.
- **Reliance General Insurance** inks a bancassurance agreement with **YES Bank**. This is the **first partnership signed by YES Bank** since the open-architecture norms under the corporate agency regulations were introduced by the IRDAI in April 2016.
- Private sector lender **Yes Bank** signed a MoU with **Innovation Centre Denmark India (ICDK India)**, a partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science.
- Multinational networking and Telecommunications Company **Ericsson** headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden partnered with India's largest telecom operator **Bharti Airtel** for deploying 5G technology in the country. Apart from Ericsson, **Airtel has similar partnership with Nokia for 5G** technology standard and management of connected devices.
- **RBL Bank** opened its **First all Women branch in Chennai at RA Puram in Tamil Nadu**.
- Messaging app **Hike** has tied up with **Airtel Payments Bank** to power its mobile wallet product. Airtel was the **first company in India to receive a payments bank** license from the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Paytm** will use **Urja Money's owned Credit Mate technology** to create a loan management system in collaboration with lending partners.
- **Samsung India**, a subsidiary of the South Korea-based electronics major has partnered with the **Uttar Pradesh government** to set-up **20 new smart healthcare centres** across the state to provide health care equipments.
- Canara Bank celebrated its Founder's Day by launching several initiatives and benefits for its staff. It includes **Canarites app, a digital library, a field recovery mobile app, a retail loan (vehicle) – tracking system, and a regulatory guidance tracking system** were launched.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** (Kotak) launched "**Smart Banking 24X7**" e-lobbies, in the Mumbai suburbs of Juhu and Powai.K, which **gives customers the freedom to complete banking transactions at any hour of the day as per their convenience**.
- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has launched an instant international payment services using **Ripple's enterprise block chain technology solution** for retail and corporate customers. The bank is offering the facility only to its retail customers in the country to receive payments from the **UAE-based Rak Bank** and for its corporate customers from **Standard Chartered, Singapore**.

- A new Payments Bank '**Paytm Payments Bank**' was launched by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in **New Delhi**. Paytm Payments Bank provides free personalized RuPay digital debit card.
- One Rupee note turns 100 years in age on November 30 2017.
- Railway Ministry has introduced **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)/ Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) App** for booking of railway tickets from railway counters.
- MD & CEO of **Corporation Bank** Jai kumar Garg has launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards in Mangaluru.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** is rolling out **Paytm FASTag** across the India, with the government mandating the use of FASTag on every new vehicle sold from **December 1**.
- The government has engaged private lender **ICICI Bank** to enable online payments at 470 mandis integrated with the national portal of **electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)**.
- **Alphabet Inc's Google** launches **artificial intelligence (AI)** research centre in china. It is the first of its kind in Asia and will comprise a small team operating out of its existing office in Beijing.
- **Axis Securities**, a subsidiary of Axis Bank become the first-ever broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange **by registering itself with NCDEX**. It is announced by **Axis Securities Managing Director, Arun Thukral**.
- The government **extended the deadline** for mandatory **linking of PAN with Aadhaar** by three months to **March 31, 2018**.
- **South Korea** banned its financial institutions from dealing in virtual currencies such as Bitcoin.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** launched a "**Sahafat Finance Scheme**" wherein a loan of up to **Rs.3 lakh** can be availed by journalists and employees of media houses in the state.
- **Airtel** to acquire Millicom's Operations in **Rwanda**, which operates under the brand name of **Tigo Rwanda**.
- **Ola** operated by **ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd** has acquired food delivery start-up **Food panda** India Pvt. Ltd from its German parent Delivery Hero.
- **YES Bank** and the **European Investment Bank** will co-finance **\$400-million** funding for renewable power generation in the country. Under this renewable power generation initiative, several solar projects in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka will be established.
- **AU Small Finance Bank** has announced signing a MoU with **Sahaj e-Village** for extending its banking service in remote areas.
- India's largest mortgage lender HDFC has sold its realty brokerage business **HDFC Realty** and its digital real estate business HDFC Developers which owns **HDFC Red** to online classifieds player Quikr. It has been valued at about **Rs.357 crore**.
- **Blink, the wire-free home monitoring system**, has been acquired by Amazon.

- **IRDAI** Norms Permits Insurers to begin **Offshore Business** from **GIFT IFSC**.
- **Smartphone** manufacturer **Samsung** launched its '**Bill Payments**' on its flagship payments service, **Samsung Pay** in partnership with **Axis Bank**. The new feature launched by the company will enable users to pay their utility bills seamlessly via **Samsung Pay**.
- Agri service solutions provider **Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM)** and **Myanmar** ties up with **HDFC Bank** and **IndusInd Bank** to provide **collateral management services**. SLCM will also leverage its proprietary (patent pending) technology '**Agri Reach**'.
- The Cryptocurrency dealer **Pluto Exchange** announced the launch of India's first mobile application for **transacting in virtual currencies**. By using a four-digit **personal identification number (PIN)**, users can now buy, sell, store and spend bitcoins via a mobile number.
- The **Bank of Baroda** has signed an MoU with **POORTI Agri Services Pvt. Ltd** to provide end-end solution to farmers. This is the **Platform for Online Ordering & Rural Transformation of India** known as "POORTI".
- US buyout giant **KKR & Co** has become the **first foreign investor** to fully own an **asset reconstruction company (ARC)** in India as it received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India**. Its headquartered in **New York City**.
- **Allahabad Bank** ties up with state-run **National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)** for utilizing the latter's Information Utility Services envisaged under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The **Bank of India** bank has received capital infusion of **Rs. 2,257 crore** from the government for **strengthening NPA-hit public sector banks**, which includes recapitalisation bonds, budgetary support and equity dilution.

World Bank in News:

- The World Bank has approved **\$125 million** (around Rs.800 crore) loan to **India** for the **STRIVE project** for skill development.
- **India** has signed a **loan agreement** of **119 million dollar** with **World Bank** for the **Odisha higher education programme for excellence and equity project (OHEPEE)**.
- India signed a loan agreement worth **\$40 million** with the **World Bank** for **UP Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project**. It is aimed at increasing tourism-related benefits for local communities in Uttar Pradesh.

Asian Development Bank in News:

- **The Asian Development Bank** will provide a **150 million USD loan** to Nepal to improve its **urban infrastructure**. The project is targeted to complete within five years and the objective of project is to enhance urban infrastructure in the Terai region.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a **\$65.5 million** loan agreement in the national capital to continue interventions to check **coastal erosion** on the **Western Coast in Karnataka**.

International Monetary Fund in News:

- The **International Monetary Fund** has approved the third installment of **USD 12 billion**, three-year loan for **Egypt**.
- The International Monetary Fund approved a new **88 billion US dollar** credit line for **Mexico**, replacing the existing line. It is a two-year agreement.

Complete List of Schemes with Annual Rate of Interest: January-March Period

Schemes	Rates
Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme	7.6%
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.3 %
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.1 %
Senior Citizens Savings Scheme	8.3 %
National Savings Certificate	7.6 %
Saving Deposit	4 %
5 years Recurring Deposit	6.9 %

India's GDP growth forecast from Various Organisations:

ORGANISATIONS	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
World Bank	7%	7.5%	7.5%
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	6.7%	-	-
Reserve Bank of India	6.7%	-	-
ADB	6.7%	7.5%	-
Fitch Rating	6.7%		-
OECD	6.7%	7.2%	-
CRISIL	6.7%	-	-
India Ratings and Research	6.7%	-	-
UNITED NATIONS	7.3%	7.9%	-

Central Statistics Office (CSO)	7.1%	-	-
Nomura	7.1%	-	-
HSBC	7.1%	-	-

RECENT SURVEYS TAKEN BY VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS:

- **India** is likely to be the **world's fastest-growing large** economy in the next 10 years, driven by digitization, favourable demographics, globalisation and reforms, predicts a Morgan Stanley report. **Morgan Stanley** expects digitization will provide a boost of 50-75 bps to GDP growth and forecast that India will grow to a **USD 6-trillion economy** and achieve upper-middle income status by **2026-27**.
- According to a survey conducted by a realty consultancy firm **Knight Frank**, Karnataka capital **Bengaluru** has been ranked world's most affordable **technology hub**, followed by **Haryana's Gurugram**.
- **India** is expected to retain its position as the **top remittances** receiving country, with its diaspora set to pump in a whopping USD 65 billion in the year 2017, reported the World Bank.
- **Donald Trump** is the world's **most followed leader** on Twitter, while **Narendra Modi** is the **third**, according to the latest report by Twiplomacy, a Burson Marsteller research project that tracks the use of Twitter by governments and international organizations.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore** and **IIT Bombay** are among the **world's top 200 institutions** for engineering and computer science, the Times Higher Education subject-wise rankings have found which was topped by Stanford University.
- **General Insurance Corp of India (GIC Re)** kicked off its mega **Rs 11,370 crore initial public offer**. This is **India's third biggest IPO** ever after Coal India's Rs 15,200 crore and Reliance Power's Rs 11,700 crore issues.
- **Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA)** has ranked **No. 1** in the Airports Council International's (ACI) service quality survey in the category of 5 to 15 million passengers per annum.
- The **Indian aviation market** will be the **third largest** in the world by **2036** and is expected to add 337 million new passengers, according to a study by the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- **Singapore's passport** has been announced as the **most powerful** in the world as it secured the **top spot in the Passport Index'** most powerful ranking with a visa-free score of 159. **Germany** and **Sweden** ranked second and third, with a score of 158 and 157, respectively.

- Lonely Planet has ranked **Chile** as the number one country to visit next year in its **much-anticipated Best in Travel 2018 list**. **South Korea** and **Portugal** have ranked **second** and **third** respectively, while Djibouti and New Zealand have completed the top five.
- **Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos** has overtaken Bill Gates and is now the **richest person** in the world, with a **fortune topping \$90 billion** for the first time ever.
- The findings of the first-ever **Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI)**, the **safest state** to be a woman in India is **Goa**, followed by **Kerala, Mizoram, Sikkim** and Manipur. Bihar, Jharkhand, UP are the states where women and girls are **most vulnerable**.
- An **International Index for Press Freedom** has placed **Pakistan** among the most **dangerous countries for journalists** along with the **Philippines** and **Bangladesh**. The **2017 World Press Freedom Index**, prepared by international media advocacy group Reporters Without Borders (RSF), ranked Pakistan 139th out of 180 countries surveyed for the report. In 2017, India is **136th** in the report.
- **Forbes** has released the **World's Most Powerful Women's list** and **Chanda Kochar, CEO of ICICI Bank** was named as the most powerful woman in India and also ranked **32nd in worldwide list**.
- **German Chancellor Angela Merkel** has **topped** the Forbes list of the **100 most powerful women** beating **British PM Theresa May**, philanthropist Melinda Gates and Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg.
- **India** ranked **108** in the **Global Gender Gap Report 2017** published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) out of the 144 countries. The list was topped by Iceland for the ninth consecutive year. In the South Asian Countries, **Bangladesh** topped the list by ranking 47th Rank among 144 nations. Yemen ranks last in the list.
- **Hong Kong** remains the **world's most visited city** by **international travellers** in spite of strained relations with neighbouring China.
- **India** is ranked **14th** in this year's **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2018** for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by opting to transform its electricity sector towards green technology. China, with its high emissions ranks 41st.
- Based on the **per capita income** of its people, **Qatar** has been named the **world's richest country** as per the recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) report and **India** is in **126th**.
- According to **IMD, leading global business school**, India has improved its ranking by three notches to 51 globally in the **World Talent Ranking** in terms of ability to attract, develop and retain talent while Switzerland topped the list.

- According to the **Emerging Trends in Real Estate Asia Pacific 2018** report, **Mumbai, Bengaluru** and **New Delhi** get high scores in the list of 22 markets in the Asia Pacific Region with the rank of 12,15 and 20 respectively. **Sydney**, Melbourne, Singapore, Shanghai and Ho Chi Minh City topped the list globally.
- According to Forbes, American singer **Beyonce** has been named the **highest-paid woman in music** in 2017 by the Forbes and the Top 3 highest paid women in the music industry in this present are Beyonce, Adele and Taylor Swift.
- **Tencent** becomes the first Chinese company (which is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange) to be valued at **more than \$500 billion in Asia**. **Alibaba is Asia's second-highest-valued firm** at \$474 billion.
- **Latin America** and the **Caribbean** have been reported as the **most violent places for women in the world** by the **United Nations**, highlighting Central America and Mexico as particularly dangerous.
- **P. Jindal Global University (JGU)** has been ranked among the Top 10 Private education Institutions in India in the **QS University Rankings BRICS**. It is released by Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), Professor (Dr.) V.S. Chauhan.
- **India** was ranked **100th** among 149 countries on the **list of prosperous countries**, an annual ranking developed by the London-based Legatum Institute.
- **Delhi** Ranks **7th** in **Most Expensive Office Locations List**, according to the latest report by JLL India. The list is topped by **Hong Kong**.
- **Indian diaspora** is **world's largest** with more than 15.6 million people from India living overseas. After India, **Mexico** has the second largest diaspora followed by China. The report was released by **International Organisation for Migration**.
- **India** take the **14th spot** in terms of **best country** for expats to live and work in, says a HSBC survey. The list, which is **topped** by **Singapore**, is part of HSBC's latest 'expat explorer survey'.
- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**)'s **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** has bagged the **10th** spot in the latest edition of **Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI)**, London, September 2017.
- **Reliance Industries** Chief **Mukesh Ambani** emerged as **India's wealthiest** for the 10th straight year as his net worth swelled to \$38 billion. **Wipro's Azim Premji** was the distant **second** (\$19 billion), while Sun Pharma's **Dilip Shanghvi** slipped from his earlier second place to the ninth now (\$12.1 billion) on **Forbes magazine's annual India Rich List 2017**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** slashed India's GDP growth forecast to **6.7 per cent** for **2017** from 7.2 per cent.

- **Ajay Tyagi**, who took over the reins of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** in March this year, has been ranked at the **seventh** position among the top 10 regulators worldwide.
- According to **Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017**, **India** has been ranked the **eighth** most valuable nation brand. The **United States** topped the list with **China** at second position.
- **India** has emerged as the **second largest market** for the industry, a report by professional networking giant **LinkedIn** has revealed.
- The country slipping three notches to **100** among 119 countries on the **Global Hunger Index (GHI)**, 2017. This is worse than the likes of North Korea, Bangladesh, and Iraq, and better only than Pakistan and Afghanistan among Asian countries.
- **London** has retained its rank as the **number one** city in the world according to **Global Power City Index (GPCI)**. London performed strongly across all areas, ranking ahead of cities such as **New York, Tokyo, Paris and Singapore**
- Japanese capital city **Tokyo** has topped The **Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index 2017**, which ranked 60 cities on parameters including personal and health security.
- The **Jaipur and Srinagar Airport** got **First** and **second rank** respectively in the category of **2-5 million passengers** in **ACI-ASQ Survey**.
- The **Thomson Reuters Foundation** conducted a survey in 19 of the world's biggest megacities as ranked by the United Nations to find out the safest cities for women which was topped by Cairo.
- **India** is among the five countries – Pakistan, Nigeria, Congo and Ethiopia being the others, responsible for half of all new-born deaths in the world, according to a **UN report**. The report, "**Levels and Trends in Child Mortality 2017**", revealed that 5.6 million children died before reaching the age of five in 2016.
- An extraordinary individual is 19-year-old Indian-origin student, **Akshay Ruparelia** (founder of doorstep.uk), who has become the **Youngest Millionaire in the UK**, valued at 12 million pounds, in just over a year.
- While **India** stands at the **28th position** out of the 30 among the reviewed countries in the **Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index 2017**. The list is topped by **Denmark**.
- **India** has pipped the **US** to become the **world's second-largest smartphone market** at the end of the third quarter and also said China's Xiaomi is expected to end Korean major Samsung's four and-a-half year reign at the top soon according to the Singapore based **Canalys report**.
- India is likely to have jumped **30 places** to hit **100th spot** in the World Bank's **Ease of Doing Business** ranking of 190 countries, according to media reports.
- Late singer **Michael Jackson** has been named the **highest-earning dead celebrity** for the **5th consecutive year by Forbes** and it is estimated to be \$75 Million every year.

- Collins Dictionary has named **"FAKE NEWS"** as the "Word of the Year". This word was heavily popularized by US President Donald Trump.
- **India** has slipped to the **7th position** this quarter in **business optimism ranking** in **Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR) survey** and **Indonesia topped the list**. Last quarter, India was ranked second in the survey.
- **India** will emerge as the **third largest economy** overtaking **Japan** over the next ten years on the back of falling dependency, financial maturity and higher income and affordability, says a report by **Bank of America Merrill Lynch**.
- **Asia's 50 Richest Families list 2017** was released by **Forbes** and **Mukesh Ambani Family** has topped the list with a net worth of \$44.8 Billion and **Korea's Lee Family** holds the 2nd Spot with a wealth of \$40.8 Billion
- **Indians** are the **second Highest Public Bingers in the world**, whereas the first place was taken by Mexico in the survey was released by the Online streaming platform Netflix.
- Indian-American California senator **Kamala Harris** has topped the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine's 2017 list.
- Saudi Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman** is leading Time magazine's people's poll for its **"Person of the Year 2017"** award.
- The **Taj Mahal**, India's iconic ivory-white marble mausoleum in Agra, is the **second-best UNESCO world heritage site** in the world, according to a new survey.
- Musician Diddy was **on the top of Forbes' annual world's highest-paid musician**. The list is based on pre-tax income from June 1, 2016, through June 1, 2017.
- India's **Maruti Suzuki** became **India's sixth most valued firm (₹2.74 trillion)**, marginally ahead of SBI's market value of **₹2.71 trillion**. **Reliance Industries** is the country's **most valued company**.
- America's **Michael Jordan** from America has been named as the highest-paid athletes of all time by the latest list released by Forbes.
- **India** currently ranks **60th** out of 127 countries on the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2017**. The list was topped by **Switzerland**. In 2016 GII, India was in 66th rank.
- **Iraq** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** for the **first time to become India's top crude oil supplier** in the current fiscal.
- **India to become world's fifth largest economy in 2018**, in dollar terms according to the **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)** report. **China** is likely to overtake the United States as the **world's No.1 economy in 2032**. While **Britain** looks set to lag **behind France** over the next couple of years.

- **India (9.85%)** has the **highest level of non-performing assets (NPA)** among BRICS countries and is **ranked fifth on the list of countries**, which is provided by **CARE Ratings**. **Spain** is the only **PIIGS country** ranked lower than India on the list. EU nations –Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain — are commonly referred to as PIIGS.

RECENT SUMMITS HELD IN BOTH NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

National Summit:

S.NO	NAME OF THE SUMMIT	THEME	HELD IN
1.	3 rd edition of 'Women of India Organic Festival'	'Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You'	New Delhi
2.	First Edition of the ASEAN India Music Festival	"Shared Values, Common Destiny"	New Delhi
3.	First Meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee		New Delhi
4.	3 rd International Conference on Yoga	"Yoga for Wellness"	New Delhi
5.	3 rd Global Investors' India Forum	'Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India'	New Delhi
6.	First Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine		New Delhi
7.	21 st World Congress of Mental Health		New Delhi
8.	9 th edition of 'CMS Vatavaran'	"Conservation 4 Water"	New Delhi
9.	Global Clubfoot Conference		New Delhi
10.	World Food India 2017 festival		New Delhi
11.	4 th JWFACTC meeting (Joint Working Group on Aircraft Carrier Technology Co-operation)		New Delhi
12.	First Heli Expo India & International Civil Helicopter Conclave	'Enhancing Connectivity'	New Delhi
13.	Second meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA)		New Delhi

14.	37th India International Trade Fair (IITF)	"Startup India Standup India"	New Delhi
15.	First Ever APCERT (Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team) Conference	"Building Trust in the Digital Economy"	New Delhi
16.	42nd International Congress of Military Medicine	"Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead"	New Delhi
17.	12th North-East Business Summit		New Delhi
18.	11th World Congress on Adolescent Health		New Delhi
19.	Conference on Consumer Protection for South, South East and East Asian Nations	"Empowering Consumers in New Markets"	New Delhi
20.	Second meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA)		New Delhi
21.	1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health		New Delhi
22.	7th edition of 'Kathakar: International Storytellers Festival'		New Delhi
23.	UN global wildlife conference	"Equity and Empowerment"	New Delhi
24.	First International Conference on Sports Medicine and Sports Sciences SAICON 2017		New Delhi
25.	The 7th International Ground Water Conference (IGWC-2017)	"Ground water Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges and Climate Change Adaptation"	New Delhi
26.	Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).	"Indian Business in a New India"	New Delhi
27.	14 th Inclusive Finance India Summit		New Delhi
28.	44th Indian Handicrafts and Gifts-Delhi Fair		Greater Noida, UP
29.	India's First International Cherry Blossom Festival		Shillong, Meghalaya

30.	6th International Tourism Mart 2017		Guwahati, Assam
31.	Two-day conference on 'Towards Resource Resilient India'		Mumbai
32.	AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017		Panaji, Goa
33.	20th International Children's Film Festival (ICFFI)	"New India"	Hyderabad
34.	The 9th edition of Agrovision, Central India's biggest agriculture summit		at Reshimbagh Ground, Maharashtra
35.	Three-day Organic World Congress - 2017		Greater Noida, UP
36.	First international agriculture hackathon		Vizag, Andhra Pradesh
37.	India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit		Dantewada, Chhattisgarh
38.	India-US Ocean Dialogue		Goa
39.	'Nobel Prize Series — India 2018 (Science Impacts Life)'		Goa (From 1-28 feb 2018)
40.	48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)		Panaji, Goa
41.	12th Biennial International Conference & Exposition of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists India	"Energy trough Synergy"	Jaipur
42.	Software-Defined Networking and Network Functions Virtualization 'SDN & NFV India Congress 2017'		Mumbai
43.	First Military Literature Festival		Chandigarh
44.	Global Entrepreneurship summit 2017	"Women First, Prosperity for All"	Hyderabad

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT:

S.NO	NAME OF THE SUMMIT	THEME	HELD IN
1.	Second World Congress on Marxism		Peking University in Beijing, May 2018

2.	ADMM (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting)-Plus meeting		Philippines
3.	8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians	'Association of the SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians': a platform for the Parliamentarians of South Asia to work together to reach the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development'.	Sri Lanka
4.	14th South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law (SAARCLAW) Conference	"Emerging Legal Trends in SAARC Countries".	Colombo, Sri Lanka
5.	International Peace Conference		Imphal, Manipur
6.	First ever International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2017	Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH	Dubai
7.	World Youth Forum		at Sharam El Shiekh, Egypt
8.	1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in Sustainable Development Era	"Ending TB: Our Promise to Our People"	at Moscow, Russia
9.	Shanghai Cooperation Organization Meeting		Sochi, Russia
10.	4th Global Conference on Sustained Eradication of Child Labour		Argentina
11.	4th India-Canada Annual Ministerial Dialogue		New Delhi
12.	'UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial: Vancouver 2017'		at Vancouver in Canada
13.	An international Conference on "Ramayan Circuit and Mithila-Awadh Relations"		at Janakpur in Nepal
14.	5th Meeting of Nepal-India Oversight Mechanism		Kathmandu, Nepal

15.	10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES)	"Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia"	Kathmandu, Nepal
16.	15th ASEAN-India Summit		in Manila, Philippines
17.	12th East Asia Summit		in Manila, Philippines
18.	7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER7).		in Bangkok
19.	India-UAE Partnership Summit	Investment Implementation	Dubai
20.	2 nd UN World Tourism Organization/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture		Muscat, Oman
21.	Eleventh World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC11)		Buenos Aires, Argentina

NAVY EXERCISE:

- 30th edition of **CORPAT** (Coordinated Patrol) - **India and Indonesia** - at Belawan, Indonesia.
- **Passage Exercise** (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo, Japan. Two Indian Ships in Japan For Naval Exercise – **INS Satpura and Kadmatt**.

MILITARY EXERCISE

- **MITRA SHAKTI 2017** - **India** and **Sri Lanka** - at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
- **INDRA-2017** - **Indian** and **Russian** Armed Forces - Eastern Military District of Russia.
- **DANX** (Defence of A&N Islands Exercise) – **India** and **Andaman & Nicobar Island**.
- **Aerospace Security-2017**- **China** and **Russia** - in Beijing, China.
- **'SAMPRITI 2017'** – **India** and **Bangladesh** – Meghalaya.
- **"PRABAL DOSTYK 2017"** - **Indian** and **Kazakhstan** - at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- **"Flag4"**- **UAE, US, UK** and **France** - Abu Dhabi.
- **'Ajeya Warrior'** - **India-United Kingdom (UK)** - **Bikaner, Rajasthan**.
- **IMBAX** - **India and Myanmar** - Shillong, Meghalaya.

AIR FORCE EXERCISE

- **"Vigilant Ace"** - **U.S** and **South Korea**

- **'EX BLUE FLAG-17'** - United States, Greece, Poland, France, Italy and Germany – **Israel**

IMPORTANT NATIONAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL:

- ❖ **Venkaiah Naidu** Unveiled **Mahatma Gandhi Statue** of 1.8 m in Rajghat Samadhi Complex (New Delhi) at a cost of Rs 8.73 lakh. The statue, made by renowned sculptor Ram Sutar.
- ❖ **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **Pratham—Shyok bridge** that will link **Leh to Karakoram**, providing connectivity on the strategically important Darbuk—Shyok—Daulat Beg Olde axis for military transport.
- ❖ **Defence Security Corps** personnel now have a software '**ARPAN**' **Version 3.0** which shall ease personal documentation and all issues related to their progression. The software has been developed by **Tech Mahindra**.
- ❖ The **Union Government** launched "**SECURE Himalaya**", a **six-year** project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity and land. It was launched by the Union environment minister **Harsh Vardhan** in association with the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) on the inaugural day of the **Global Wildlife Programme** (GWP).
- ❖ The Chairman of National Highways Authority of India **Shri Deepak Kumar** launched a **Project Monitoring Information System (PMIS) Mobile App** that will facilitate close, in-house monitoring of NHA projects on a mobile phone.
- ❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Golden Jubilee Year** Celebrations of the **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**. Originally set up as not-for-profit organisation on October 4, 1968.
- ❖ **Rail passengers** will continue to enjoy **service charge exemption** on tickets booked online till **March 2018**.
- ❖ **Paryatan Parv** of M/O Tourism Inaugurated by **Dr. Mahesh Sharma**, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and MoS Environment, Forest & Climate Change at Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has been **adjudged** as the **best** department for its contribution during **Swachhta Pakhwada**, an inter-Ministry initiative of **Swachh Bharat Mission** of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ❖ A **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** was signed by **Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh** and **Meghalaya** under the '**Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat**' programme to boost the cultural ties.

- ❖ In a bid to **create awareness** about **para-sports** and provide a platform to para sportspersons to narrate their stories of triumph and adversity, **thenationspride.com**, the country's **first portal** dedicated to para-sports was launched.
- ❖ Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, inaugurated **Saudi Aramcos ARAMCO ASIA INDIA** office in **Gurugram** jointly with Mr Amin H Al-Nasser, President and CEO of Saudi Aramco. The office is located at Two Horizon Tower, Gurugram.
- ❖ Textiles Minister **Smriti Irani** inaugurated the **44th edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts (IHGF)-Delhi Fair** at India Expo Centre and Mart on the outskirts of **Delhi in Greater Noida**.
- ❖ **Government of India** will commemorate the **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**, Father of the Nation, during the period from **2nd October 2019 to 2nd October 2020**.
- ❖ **National Mission for Clean Ganga** has approved eight projects worth Rs. **700 crore**, out of which four pertain to sewage management in **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal**, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.
- ❖ The recently constituted **Economic Advisory Council** to the **Prime Minister(EAC-PM)** will hold its first meeting in **New Delhi** to deliberate upon and lay out a roadmap to give a leg up to the Indian economy in the short term after GDP growth for the first quarter fell to a three-year low of **5.7%**.
- ❖ The **Government** has launched "**Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana**" and expansion of "**Postal Life Insurance**". Under the Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana, at least one village having a **minimum of 100 households** will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country.
- ❖ **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** will commission an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette **INS Kiltan** into the Indian Navy at the **Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam**.
- ❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **first All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, set up along the lines of AIIMS, on Ayurveda Day in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI)** declared an '**Institute of National Importance**' under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The FDDI bill was passed by the Parliament in July 2017.
- ❖ **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has started an online campaign **#Iam That Woman**. The aim of the campaign is to end **Gender bias** in women against women.
- ❖ **Mr. Modi** laid the foundation stone of various projects worth **3700 crore rupees**. The projects include **four sewerage projects** under **Namami Gange** and **four National Highway projects**. These projects include a **six-lane bridge over river Ganga**.

- ❖ On the occasion of its **85th anniversary**, the **Indian Air Force** has launched an **innovative mobile health App** named '**Med Watch**' in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of '**Digital India**'.
- ❖ Shipping Minister **Nitin Gadkari** said a Blueprint has been finalized for 142 expansion projects to modernize 12 major ports and develop new harbors at a cost about **Rs. 90,000 crore**.
- ❖ **INSV Tarini** entered **Fremantle (Australia)** port during its maiden voyage to circumnavigate the globe. This is the **first-ever Indian circumnavigation** of the globe by an all-women crew.
- ❖ The Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri **Suresh Prabhu** launched the official website for the **Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM)** of the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)**.
- ❖ **India's** first **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK)** for Skilling in smart cities was inaugurated, October 23 in New Delhi, by **Union Minister Rajnath Singh**. The inauguration was done in collaboration with the **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)**.
- ❖ The **Indian government** announced an allocation of **Rs 2.11 lakh crore over 2 years** for the **recapitalization of public sector banks**.
- ❖ **Madhya Pradesh** has emerged as the **top state** in terms of **digital initiatives** undertaken, with a maximum score of 100.1 on performance index, followed by **Maharashtra** at 99.9 and **Andhra Pradesh** at 99.8, says a report by Coeus Age Consulting.
- ❖ The deadline for mandatory linking of **Aadhaar** to avail benefits of government schemes has been **postponed to March 31, 2018**, the Centre informed the Supreme Court.
- ❖ **Ministries of Power and Textiles** have joined hands under **SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries)** initiative. The SAATHI initiative will be jointly implemented by EESL and office of Textile Commissioner on the pan-India basis.
- ❖ The **Railway's first set of solar plants** with a total capacity of **5-megawatt peak (MWp)** will be launched by **Railway Minister Piyush Goyal**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved over **Rs 7,000 crore** for construction of permanent campuses of **six new Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)** across the country.
- ❖ After the Doklam standoff with the Chinese army, the government has armed the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** with **ISRO's** geostationary communication satellite, **GSAT-6**, to supervise the nearly **3,500-km-long Sino-Indian border**.
- ❖ The **centre** has released **Rs 8,698 crore** to states to compensate them for **revenue loss following GST implementation**. All states barring Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh, have been given compensation for the first two months (July-August) after Goods and Services Tax rollout.

- ❖ Five states — **Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka** — are celebrating their foundation day on 1st November 2017.
- ❖ The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **21st World Congress of Mental Health** being organised by the World Federation for Mental Health in partnership with Caring Foundation and other institutions in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ Smt Mahajan inaugurated **65th foundation day celebrations** of EPFO in **New Delhi**. She also inaugurated 1 MW solar power plant at various regional offices of EPFO.
- ❖ The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** has now partnered with **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, under Ministry of Power, for the project 'Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency'. The project will receive a composite funding of **\$454 million** comprised of the **GEF grant - \$20 million** and co-financing of **\$434 million** (loans and equity), including a **\$200 million loan** from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- ❖ **Integrated Quarter Master Package (IQMP) software application** was formally released to the **Indian Army** by the Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen **Sarath Chand** in an event organised at South Block.
- ❖ **Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha** launched a **Pan India scholarship program** for school children called "**Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana**" to increase the reach of Philately.
- ❖ The **1st Heli Expo India and International Civil Helicopter Conclave-2017** is inaugurated in **New Delhi** by the **Uttarakhand** Tourism Minister Shri **Satpal Maharaja ji**.
- ❖ "**Nirbhay**", India's indigenously designed and developed **long range sub sonic cruise missile** was successfully test fired from **ITR (Integrated Test Range) at Chandipur, Odisha Coast**. It was developed by **DRDO** and it has an **operational range of 1,000 Km** and has the capacity to carry warheads up to **300Kg**.
- ❖ The state govt is on the '**No load shedding mission**' for the **orange city** and its rural areas. The amount of electricity supply will now increase in the city as the state has approved **Rs 312 Cr** under **Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGYJ)**.
- ❖ **Chennai** is the **third Indian city** on the list of **UNESCO Creative Cities list** after Varanasi and Jaipur were added last Year.
- ❖ The **Delhi government** signed a **twin city agreement** with the **Seoul Metropolitan Government** for **strengthening cooperation** in the **fields of e-governance, transportation, climate change and smart city**.
- ❖ The **Nordic-Baltic embassies** will **host the first ever youth film festival of the European nations** in **Delhi** showcasing movies from the region.

- ❖ **Central Government** has given its **principle approval** for linking historical religious places of **Sri Fatehgarh Sahib and Sri Chamkaur Sahib** with the National Highway paving way to connect the sacred places of younger Sahibzadas – Baba Zorawar Singh.
- ❖ The **governments of Odisha** and neighbouring **West Bengal** will organize a **joint security exercise** named as '**Sagar Kavach**' to further tighten the existing coastal security mechanism along the 630-km long coastline.
- ❖ **Union minister Nitin Gadkari** announced that the **World Bank**– supported **Rs 6,000 crore scheme to improve the irrigation facilities** and water accessibility capacity in several states, including **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat**.
- ❖ **Forests Minister Rao Narbir Singh** laid the **foundation stone for Butterfly Conservatory Park**, which will be developed on **15 acres** in Gurugram and will be the **biggest butterfly park** in North India.
- ❖ The **New and Renewable Energy Ministry** said the **5 Mw small hydropower plant** in **Biaras Drass of Kargil in Jammu & Kashmir** has become the **first project** to be **commissioned** under the **Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative**.
- ❖ Northeast is all set to get **India's first-ever "Air Dispensary"** based in a helicopter and a contribution of Rs. 25 Crores has already been contributed by the **Union Ministry of Development of Northeast (DONER)**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** will celebrate the **Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017)** from 16th to 20th November 2017.
- ❖ Minister of Railways & Coal, **Shri Piyush Goyal** launched a comprehensive plan named as "**Project Saksham**" for imparting **training to all employees** of Indian Railways to help boost productivity and efficiency.
- ❖ A **wave-powered navigational buoy**, developed by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**, to guide ships in and out of ports - at Ennore Kamarajar Port - launched by Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences **M Rajeevan** - 33rd executive committee meeting of **International Energy Agency-Ocean Energy Systems Collaboration Programme (IEA-OES)**.
- ❖ Under the PMAY-U, the Centre aims to provide houses to all the urban poor by 2022. The Centre approved the enhancement of the carpet area of houses for the Middle-Income Group (MIG) category under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**.
- ❖ **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** is all set to a complete one crore new houses by 31st March 2019 that aims to bring social transformation in rural areas.
- ❖ **Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu** sign MoU join UDAY Scheme and in the last two years 27 states and 4 Union Territories have joined.

- ❖ To promote the Digital India program, Prime Minister launched an one-in-all app called Umang (**Unified Mobile App For New-Age Governance**). It was developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MIET) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD).
- ❖ According to the report of Sheatwork, a knowledge hub for women entrepreneurs, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of women entrepreneurs in India **followed by Kerala and West Bengal**.
- ❖ The "North East Rural Livelihood Project" supported by "**World Bank**" is launched by the **Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region Dr Jitendra Singh**. The objective of the scheme is to assist over 10,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and to benefit about three lakh poor households.
- ❖ Central Government approved **infrastructure projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore in Tamil Nadu** including three elevated corridors for Chennai and bus ports at Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem that will be on par with airports.
- ❖ India has asked the United Nations to declare 2018 as the '**International Year of Millets**' to promote it as nutrition-rich smart food across the world.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** cleared an ordinance amending the **Indian Forest Act, 1927**. The ordinance omits bamboo grown in non-forest areas from the definition of trees, thereby exempting it from requiring permits for felling or transportation.
- ❖ According to **Central Electricity Authority, Maharashtra** stands as the single largest consumer of electricity in India. It is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana.
- ❖ With an aim to boost 'Skill India' mission, Google now joined hands with Pluralsight and Udacity for a new scholarship program that **will help 130K developers and students from India**. It provides necessary skills needed to be successful in the constantly changing technology landscape.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the continuation of the scheme on **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)**. **It has been extended** for another three financial years (FYs 2017-18 to 2019-20). It also provides Grants-in-aid of Rs.18 crore to the Institute. It will make the Institute self-sustainable by the end of FY 2019-20.
- ❖ The Government of India has constituted 15th Finance Commission in pursuance of clause (1) of article 280 of the Constitution. The Commission headed by **N.K. Singh**, and also by **Shri Arvind Mehta** will be the Secretary to the Commission will make recommendations for the five years commencing on April 1, 2020.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had launched **India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHMI)**. The IHMI aims to reduce disability and death related to cardiovascular disease (CVD), the leading cause of death in India.

- ❖ The **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana** (SAUBHAGYA) was launched in Manipur by Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh, the household electrification has to be completed in all states by **31st March, 2019**.
- ❖ **Union Defence Ministry** approved procurement of 260 naval communication sets including Software Defined Radios (SDR), naval communication sets for Indian Navy of **worth Rs. 490 crore**.
- ❖ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been awarded the Bronze Medal** for its creative and informative display. It was given at the 37th India International Trade Fair 2017 being **held at Pragati Maidan**.
- ❖ Union cabinet has approved setting up of **National Nutrition Mission** which is three-year mission budget of **9046.17 crore rupees** and it comes under Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ The **22nd meeting of Board of Management** (BOM) of Small Farmers, Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), chaired by Minister Radha Mohan Singh was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ A tripartite MoU was signed between National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**) and Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Council (**THSC**) with **Airbnb** to Upskill Hospitality Entrepreneurs.
- ❖ India's Kumbh Mela has been recognized by UNESCO as an **"intangible cultural heritage of humanity"** at its **12th session in Jeju, South Korea**.
- ❖ **India** has been **declared free from infectious Trachoma** which is a contagious bacterial infection of the eye. It causes inflamed granulation on the inner surface of the lids. Releasing the **National Trachoma Survey Report (2014-17) in New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** has signed an agreement with **German firm GIZ** for technical cooperation in the implementation of transport projects in Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar and Kochi.
- ❖ Shri J P Nadda launches new initiatives on **Universal Health Coverage Day**. The Union Health Minister and MoS (Finance) launched **"LaQshya"** – Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative and **mHealth** - a Safe Delivery Mobile Application for health workers.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh** stands on top of recording **highest number of cyber-crimes** in India followed by Maharashtra. While Assam stands on the fifth position, as per latest data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ The state cabinet ratified the proposal of **"Seva Sindhu"**, a common citizen platform **to promote** the delivery system of government services and to address the issues of the common citizen.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik unveiled the new multi-coloured logo for the Kumbh Mela at a function in the Raj Bhawan at Lucknow. The festival is scheduled **to be held in Allahabad in January 2019**. The logo comprising of **temples, seers, kalash (pitcher) and a 'Swastika'**.

- ❖ The Union Government signed **US \$250 million** loan agreement with World Bank for “**Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion**”.
- ❖ The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** approved its first loan to China to reduce its dependence on coal by over **600,000 tonnes** annually by building a natural gas distribution network for villages. **China** is the **Largest Shareholder of AIIB**.
- ❖ The Home Ministry has released **Rs 174 crore** to six states (Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) for development of infrastructure under the **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)**.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has extended the deadline up to **March 31, 2018** for linking of Aadhaar with various schemes and welfare measures.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced **Rs 90,000 crore** for improving roads and national highways in the Northeast in the next two to three years to facilitate better connectivity.
- ❖ Shri Narendra Modi has approved **Capital Investment Subsidy** amounting to **Rs.264.67 crore** to four industrial units located in North Eastern Region (NER).
- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of National Ayush Mission (NAM) from 2017-2020. It has been approved with an outlay of **Rs. 2400 crore** over the 3-year period.
- ❖ The GST Council has approved mandatory compliance of **e-way bill** for intra-state movement of goods from **June 1, 2018**.
- ❖ The **Skill Development Ministry** and **Maruti Suzuki** have signed an agreement to impart training to youth and enhance their employment potential.
- ❖ **Indian Railways** has planned to make all stations **100% LED lit by March 2018**.
- ❖ India has outpaced the global milk production with an **annual growth rate of 5.53%** compared with the **2.09% achieved globally**, announced by Union **Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh** said during the past 3 years.
- ❖ In a major boost to the inland waterway transport system in the northeast, Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari **flagged off cargo movement on the Pandu-Dhubri route of the Brahmaputra River**.
- ❖ **The Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha** launched **DARPAN – “Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India”**. It will offer core banking services in rural areas.
- ❖ The **17th Indian Science Communication Congress (ISCC-2017)** held at Indian Institute of Mass Communication in **New Delhi**. It aims at promoting communication of India’s scientific wisdom.

It was hosted by the **IIMC** and **CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources** (NISCAIR).

❖ **Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration** with Department of Commerce, FICCI and Pharmexcil to organize **the International AROGYA 2017**. It is the First Edition of International Exhibition and Conference on AYUSH. The theme of the conference is '**Enhancing the export potential of AYUSH**'.

❖ Indian Affairs With an aim to bring the foreign policy to the masses the **External Affairs Ministry** has come up with an initiative called **SAMEEP – 'Students and MEA Engagement Programme'**. The main objective of SAMEEP is to take Indian foreign policy and its global engagements to students across the country.

❖ **India's** first home-grown **high purity gold reference standard** – the **Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201)** – was launched at the India Government Mint, Mumbai.

❖ **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has been given a nod to extend **Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport**. The task will be carried out by building an RCC platform on the beach and shallow area which will allow bigger ATRs to operate to the island. Agatti could be **India's first runway-on-sea bridge**.

❖ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) **Dr Jitendra Singh** launched the **electronic-Human Resource Management System** (e-HRMS), in New Delhi. The e-service book launched for **DoPT during March this year** will also be integrated into the e-HRMS. This will **enhance public delivery** more satisfactory and more employees will be available for core work of the Government than maintaining of Service Book.

❖ The Prime Minister, Shri **Narendra Modi**, inaugurated a new metro link between **Noida** and **Delhi**.

❖ **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu** has inaugurated the Centenary celebrations of the **Yoga Institute in Mumbai**. The institute was founded by **Shree Yogendraji Mani Haribhai Desai**, the disciple of Paramahansa Madhavadasji in 1918.

❖ The Environment ministry has launched a pilot project **for beach clean-up and development**. It also aims for the '**Blue Flag**' certification for such identified beaches. The 'Blue Flag' is a certification by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.

❖ NITI Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** is a Government of India's flagship program **to promote innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide** in schools, universities and industry.

❖ Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha has announced that under **BharatNet project**, the government has approved **Rs.4,066 crore** for providing internet connectivity to people in **all gram panchayats**. The government plans to connect all GPs with high-speed broadband **by March 2019**.

❖ The prestigious **2,655 km long JHBDPL project**, also known as the '**Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga**' project will originate at Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh will pass through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The project will cost **Rs 12,940 crore** and is targeted to be completed **by 2019**.

❖ **India** will host the next **UN global wildlife conference in 2020**. India to be the host of the next CMS Conference of the Parties CMSCOP13! Officially announced at the closing CMSCOP12 plenary, in Manila, Phillipines.

❖ Tech major **SAP** announced the launch of Asia Pacific Japan (APJ) **region's first SAP Leonardo Center** in **Bengaluru**.

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated the **Indian Railways' 110km Bidar - Kalaburgi railway track** in the **Hyderabad-Karnataka region**.

❖ **All four Wheelers to have FASTag devices** to be fixed and it is mandatory on the front windscreen by automobile manufacturers from December 1, 2017.

❖ The **India Pavilion** at **COP 23** was inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Harsh Vardhan** at **Bonn in Germany**. India's theme for COP 23 "**Conserving Now, Preserving Future**".

❖ Centre for **Cellular and Molecular Biology** (CCMB) in association with the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) has come out with an **Improved Samba Masuri (ISM)** with low Glycemic Index (GI).

❖ Cabinet committee on economic affairs approved for a new scheme called **Mahila Shakthi Kendra** for the empowerment of rural women and **Rs. 3636 crore** has been allocated to the scheme.

❖ Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Smt. Anupriya Patel Launched **National Strategic Plan (2017-24) and Mission "SAMPARK"**.

❖ The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu released the **Mid-term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20** in New Delhi.

❖ Anupriya Patel, MoS (Health & Family Welfare) inaugurated the **22nd conference of Asian Harmonization Working Party (AHWP)** at New Delhi.

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **Dr Ambedkar International Centre** in New Delhi.

❖ The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the **12th Annual Convention of Central Information Commission (CIC)** in New Delhi.

❖ Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology inaugurated the **"NIC-CERT"**, a setup of National Informatics Centre to prevent and predict cyber-attacks on government utilities. It was launched in **New Delhi**.

STATES/ UT IN NEWS

ANDHRA PRADESH:

- ❖ **'No helmet, no petrol'** rule for two-wheeler riders to reduce road accident deaths has come into force in **Andhra Pradesh**, with chief minister Chandrababu Naidu urging all the petrol bunk dealers to cooperate.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** laid the foundation stone for the **TU142M aircraft museum** in Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The Coastal city is all set to **host the first ever agriculture hackathon** being organized by **Andhra Pradesh government**.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** is hosting its **first Hot Air Balloon Festival** in **Araku Valley**.
- ❖ CANEUS International, a agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) and the Andhra Pradesh State Skills Development Corporation (APSSDC) to establish a **Centre of Excellence on Space Sciences and Technologies for Development (CoE4SSTD)** at Hindpur in Anantapur.
- ❖ A South Korean diplomat has appreciated the Make-in-India programme and this program has enabled companies from South Korea to invest a **Rs. 25,000 crore and around 100 companies** will soon be invested in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ **India Rice Conclave 2017** was inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu in **Vijayawada**. India Rice Conclave 2017 was organised by the Agriculture Department of Andhra Pradesh in association with **Indian Chamber of Commerce**.
- ❖ The **Andhra Pradesh government** has signed an agreement with **Alphabet InC.'s X** to bring the Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) technology in the state.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved a scheme to provide a pension of **Rs 1500 to trans genders** above 18 years of age in the state.
- ❖ The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated four projects of the State Government at Velagapudi, **Andhra Pradesh**. The Projects were **Andhra Pradesh Fibregrid Project, Andhra Pradesh Surveillance Project, Drone Project; and Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC)** system. The President focused on the **24/7 hyper-connected world** and the **online presence** of the government.
- ❖ **President Ramnath Kovind** inaugurated the Four-day **100th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association** to focus on economic growth of the country and growth in agriculture, industry and service sectors at Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced to launch India's **Cartosat-2 series earth observation satellite** in a single mission. PSLV-C40 will be used for the launch in **Sriharikota**. PSLV-C37 launched the **first Cartosat-2 series satellite** along with 103 co-passenger satellites in a single flight in February 2017.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR:

- ❖ Lieutenant Governor Prof. **Jagadish Mukhi** declared **Port Blair city** as **Open Defecation Free**.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH:

- ❖ The Arunachal Assembly passed a bill paving way for creation of **a new district** to be named **Kamle**, bifurcating the present Upper and Lower Subansiri districts.

ASSAM:

- ❖ Foundation stone for the first ever **Industrial Training Institute** for the **Divyangans** exclusively was laid at Dibrugarh **ITI** Complex at **Borboruah**, Dibrugarh by Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- ❖ The **Indian Space Research Organization** (ISRO) will set up a research centre in **Assam** to explore the possibility of using geospatial technology, which include data generated through **global positioning system** (GPS), **geographical information systems** (GIS).
- ❖ **Assam government** signed **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** and Terms of Reference (ToR) with Singapore for skilling youth of the state.
- ❖ **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** rolled out **647 schemes** entailing an investment of **Rs 24.57 crore** for development of the **world's largest river island Majuli**.
- ❖ **Assam government** and the Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev-led **Isha Foundation** inked an MOU for rejuvenation and conservation of rivers.

BIHAR:

- ❖ The **Bihar Cabinet** approved **reservations for persons with disabilities** in **government jobs** and **educational institutions**.
- ❖ The **Bihar government** has launched a new scheme, "**Safe City Surveillance Scheme**" for checking crime against women. The primary objective is **to provide security and assistance 24*7 to reduce the crime rate**.
- ❖ **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** has laid foundation stones for more than 100 projects worth **Rs 700 crore** in **Nalanda district**. It has been launched as part of his state-wide "**Vikas Samiksha Yatra**".

CHHATTISGARH:

- ❖ Chhattisgarh government has **reduced the rate of interest** on loan given to women and their self-help groups (SHGs) under '**Saksham Yojna**' from 6.5 per cent to **5 per cent**.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh **Dr. Raman Singh**, in his address to people of state in his monthly radio programme **Raman Ke Goth** aired from Akashwani Raipur. It launched toll free number **1800-180-1253** and helpline number **0771-2511253** in Police Headquarters Raipur with senior citizen cell, for **helping senior citizens**.

❖ To inspire, nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in tribal youth, the **NITI Aayog** in partnership with the **US government** organized **India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit** at **Dantewada**. The summit is inaugurated by MoS Science and Technology **YS Chowdhary**.

GOA:

❖ **Goa** is hosting the inaugural **India-US Ocean Dialogue beginning**. Its aimed at promoting sustainable development of the Blue Economy, is being hosted by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs at the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Oceanography** (CSIR-NIO) in Goa.

❖ World's first Sanskrit 3D film '**Anurakthi**' was screened in 3D category at the International Film Festival of India in Panaji in Goa. The movie is directed by Asokan PK.

❖ Goa Chief Minister **Manohar Parrikar** launched the **Jai Kisaan App**. The aim of the app is to fulfil the needs of the farmer's community in India.

GUJARAT:

❖ **President Ramnath Kovind** has also declared the **Rural Gujarat** as **ODF -Open Defecation Free**, at a function held at **Kirti Mandir** in **Porbandar**.

❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the setting up of the country's **first "Marine Police Training Institute"** at the newly created **Dev Bhoomi Dwarka district of Gujarat**.

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched an **intensive immunization drive from Gujarat's Vadnagar**, saying no child should suffer from any vaccine-preventable disease.

❖ The **Gujarat government** announced **4 per cent cut** in the **value-added tax (VAT)** on petrol and diesel, bringing down their prices by Rs 2.93 and Rs 2.72 respectively.

❖ **Gujarat** Government has announced the **Garments and Apparel Policy-2017**, with the aim of creating **more opportunities** in the **garment sector of Gujarat** and to create huge employment opportunities for women through the apparel industry.

❖ **Gujarat govt** has signed MoUs worth **Rs10,400 crore** with three companies that have the potential of creating 21,300 job opportunities in the state. The MoUs were signed in presence of **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani**.

❖ **Gujarat Minister of State for Tribal Welfare Shabdasharan T advi** inaugurated the **Birsa Munda Tribal University** in the **tribal-dominated Rajpipla** town in Narmada district.

❖ Kandla port trust has received **Rs. 1,176 crore** for setting up Environment clearance in the smart Industrial port city in **Kutch, Gujarat**.

❖ **Turner International India** has entered into a brand partnership with Gujarat based group called Rajgreen for the launch of **India's First Cartoon Network based Theme Park** in Surat.

❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the initiative to set up **India's first ever National Rail and Transport University (NRTU)** in **Vadodara**, Gujarat.

❖ The 25th National Children Science Congress was inaugurated by CM of Gujarat **Vijay Rupani**, held in Ahmedabad. It mainly focuses on persons with disabilities. **Theme:** 'Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development'

HARYANA:

❖ **Haryana government** has decided to observe **Gandhi Jayanti** as International Day of **Non-Violence in the state**.

❖ **Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** gave his nod to rename **Amin village** to **Abhimanyupur** after Mahabharata warrior Arjuna's son Abhimanyu.

❖ **Haryana government** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with Verbind, an **integrated trade facilitation services** organisation, to set up logistics and trading hub in the state that would attract investment to the tune of Rs **20,000 crore**.

❖ **Haryana** has become the **first state** in the country to treat **Hepatitis-C** patients of all categories through oral medicine.

❖ **Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO)** inaugurated a two-day Korea festival showcasing Korea's rich art, culture and heritage in **Gurugram**, Haryana.

❖ India's first and only design university, **World University of Design** opened at **Sonipat, Haryana**. It was promoted by **Om Parkash Bansal Educational and Social Welfare Trust of Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab**.

❖ President Shri **Ram Nath Kovind** will inaugurate the **International Gita Mahotsav** at Kurukshetra in Haryana. **Mauritius** is participating in Mahotsav as partner country and **Uttar Pradesh** as partner state.

HIMACHAL PRADESH:

❖ **Himachal Pradesh** government implemented the **Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS)** to provide easy access to curative health care services by way of additional cover. The scheme would provide top-up coverage of **Rs 30,000** per senior citizen to all existing **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY)** smart card holders. This would be in addition to the basic coverage of Rs 30,000 in Trust and Society mode.

JAMMU & KASHMIR:

❖ **Government forces** launched a major **Cordon-and-Search-Operation (CASO)** in Hajin town of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

❖ The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has constructed the **world's highest motorable** road in **Ladakh** region of **Jammu and Kashmir**, passing through Umlingla Top at a height of over **19,300 feet**. The feat was achieved under 'Project Himank' of the organisation.

❖ The **World's Highest Bridge** in **Jammu and Kashmir** on the **River Chenab** was launched by Indian Railways with a height of 359 metres and it is an important link between **111 Kms** between Katra and Banihal.

JHARKHAND:

❖ **President Ramnath Kovind** inaugurated **JOHAR (Jharkhand's Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth) scheme** aided by World Bank which is aimed at doubling the income of two lakh rural poor, which is worth **one thousand five hundred crore rupees**, on the Establishment day of Jharkhand.

❖ The Food Processing Ministry of the Central Government has announced **a grant of Rs.113 crore** for food processing potential in Jharkhand.

KARNATAKA:

❖ Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the '**Mathru Purna**' scheme, which **aims to provide nutritious meals** to about 12 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers in the state.

❖ The **Union government** has given its green light to the combined development of **Harohalli industrial zone** in Ramnagara district of Karnataka entailing an investment of **Rs 1,561 crore**, reported a national news agency quoting a government official.

❖ The **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** has given push to its plan to make **Kempe Gowda International Airport (KIA)** the **country's first airport** to have complete Aadhaar-enabled entry and biometric boarding system.

❖ The **Karnataka cabinet** has **cleared the State Policy for Transgenders**, 2017 with an aim of bringing the community into the mainstream and safeguarding them from exploitation.

❖ **Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** inaugurated the **sixth China-India Forum** meet being jointly hosted by the **Government of China, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)**, China-India Friendship Association (CIFA), and Podar Enterprise in Bangalore.

❖ **Karnataka** State Government unveiled an ambitious project to install Wi-Fi facility in all gram panchayats across the state.

❖ **Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd India (TPREL)** has commissioned its **100 MW solar plant project** at Pavagada Solar Park in Karnataka.

❖ **Bengaluru City** joined the ranks of Singapore, Melbourne, New York, and became the **first city in the country** to have **a logo of its own**. The Tourism Department of the Karnataka Government

recently launched the logo at the **Vidhana Soudha**. Brand Bengaluru got its own logo – the **tagline 'Bengaluru – Be U' (be you)**.

❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched a **start-up incubation centre** called the **Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning (CEOL)** in **Mangaluru, Karnataka** to promote **Startup India initiative** in the country. She also allocated **Rs. 1.5 crore** from her **MPLAD (Member of Parliament's Local Area Development) scheme** for the development of CEOL.

❖ **India** will get **EUR 300 million** from **European Investment Bank (EIB)** for **financing Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II- Line R6**, according to finance ministry. Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II is to be jointly financed by the **EIB (EUR 500 million)** and **AIIB (EUR 300 million)**. This project is to be completed in **five years**.

KERALA:

❖ President launched **100 crore rupees Mata Amrita nandamayi Math Project "Jeevamritham"** to provide filtration system for cleaning drinking water to 5000 villages across India, in **Kollam district** in **Kerala**.

❖ The **Kerala government** has decided to set up a **'trauma care'** policy to provide **road accident victims free treatment** for the **first 48 hours**.

❖ The Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce Kerala (INJACK) is **organizing first Japan Mela in Kochi**.

❖ **India's largest floating solar power plant** to be inaugurated at **Banasura Sagar dam** in **Wayanad, Kerala**.

❖ The CPI (M)-led **Kerala government** decided to raise the **minimum age for consuming liquor from 21 to 23**. Kerala has the **second highest level of per capita liquor consumption** for any Indian state following Andhra Pradesh.

❖ An MoU was inked by the Kerala government and fertiliser major **FACT** for setting up a **Rs.1,800-crore petrochemical park in Kochi**.

MADHYA PRADESH:

❖ **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme**. The Chief Minister also honoured the people who had completed the age of hundred years with **"Shataayu"**.

❖ **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the ambitious **'Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna'** for the farmers of the state and it is also the first state to led a money at zero percent interest rate.

❖ **Madhya Pradesh** becomes the **first state** in the country **to launch Panch Parmeshwar portal and app system** for making panchayat functioning more transparent easy and reliable. Under the scheme all acts, and dealings of the gram panchayats will be displayed on public domain.

❖ The Madhya Pradesh Assembly **unanimously passed a bill** awarding **death to those** found guilty of raping girls aged 12 and below.

MAHARASHTRA:

❖ Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** will launch the countrywide Free **Eye Check-up Campaign** and distribution of spectacles for truck drivers, cleaners and helpers at Panjari Toll Plaza, Nagpur Bypass in **Maharashtra**.

❖ Chief minister **Devendra Fadnavis** launched '**MahaLabharthi**', **web portal** that will help people get information about all the government schemes that they are eligible for. The government is now working to connect the web portal with other websites, to allow people to apply for the welfare schemes.

❖ The **210-metre-high statue** of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**, which the **Maharashtra government** plans to making it the **world's tallest statue**, once built. Currently, the **Spring Temple Buddha statue**, which stands at **208 metres** in China, is the world's tallest statue.

❖ **Maharashtra government** announced a ban on plastic bottles, which will cover government offices, functions and state educational institutes before it is extended to private institutes. It will be effect from 18 March 2018.

❖ **Mumbai-based pilot Amol Yadav** developed an indigenous aircraft. This is the first aircraft manufactured in India.

❖ Maharashtra govt has announced to set up **Gender Budget Cells** to improve the coordination and implementation of various schemes of Women and Child Welfare Department (WCD) with other departments.

❖ **Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI)** launched '**Manyata**' in **Maharashtra**. It is a nationwide movement stressing the need for quality care for mothers during and immediately after childbirth.

❖ **INS Kalvari** was commissioned into Indian Navy's fleet by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after delay of five years in Mumbai.

❖ **The seventh edition of the India International Coffee Festival (IICF)** will be held in Bengaluru. It is organised by the **India Coffee Trust** and **State-run Coffee Board** to promote the Indian coffees globally.

❖ **The country's first air-conditioned (AC) suburban train commenced its services in Mumbai**. The first service of the **12-coach EMU** will commence **between Borivali and Churchgate**. This will be the first train with automatic doors in the suburban system.

❖ **Maharashtra government** has set up a **17-member development authority** for the **Raigad Fort**. It will be headed by Rajya Sabha member **Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati**.

❖ **India** to host **3rd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors** of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The meeting will be hosted in **Mumbai**.

MEGHALAYA:

- ❖ A new record was created by the **Meghalaya Election Department** for the formation of **Biggest Human Logo** and they also entered the **LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS**
- ❖ Meghalaya became the **first state in India** to operationalize a law that makes social audit of government programmes and schemes a part of government practice.

MIZORAM:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 60-megawatt **Tuirial hydroelectric power project** in Aizawl, **Mizoram**.

NAGALAND:

- ❖ **Nagaland** is set to host '**Hornbill Festival**' with a **main motive** to **promote** the '**plastic-free**' mission all around.
- ❖ The **Point of Sale facility** was formally launched by State Chief Secretary, Pankaj Kumar, at Kohima.

ODISHA:

- ❖ Petroleum Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated **first phase of Piped Natural Gas supply system** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. In the first phase, **255 houses** in Nalco Nagar in Chandra sekharapur of Bhubaneswar were supplied with environment-friendly PNG.
- ❖ Accessing government data just got easier with the Odisha government unveiled the State Open Government Data Platform **www.odisha.data.gov.in**.
- ❖ **Odisha** will be the '**Focus State**' in the **World Food India (WFI)-2017**, the **international food** event to be held at New Delhi from 3 to 5 November 2017.
- ❖ The **Union Government** announced that an indigenously developed lightweight '**Glide**' bomb-**SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon)** – was dropped from an Indian Air Force aircraft at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur**.
- ❖ Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 15 projects involving an investment of **Rs.11,690 crore**. Patnaik also launched a portal named '**GO SWIFT**' to help investors get single window facilitation and tracking mechanism online.

- ❖ **Fish Pond Yojana scheme** was launched by the Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to boost fish production in the state. The budget allocated is **96 crore rupees in Bhubaneswar**.
- ❖ Surface-to-air missile '**Akash**' was successfully test fired for the first from the Launch Complex-III at ITR Chandipur in Odisha.
- ❖ The Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas **Dharmendra Pradhan** has inaugurated eastern India's first compressed natural gas (CNG) stations for scooters in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

PONDICHERRY:

- ❖ **Central Government** earmarked **Rs 109 crores** to **promote heritage and spiritual tourism** projects under '**Swadesh Darshan**' Scheme in **Puducherry**.

PUNJAB:

- ❖ The **Punjab government** launched the **first Military Literature Festival** in **Chandigarh**.
- ❖ The collaboration is to promote child safety in state and also to educate the people on Child Sexual Abuse and **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012**. A program called '**Satark Main, Surakshit Main**' was also launched in Chandigarh by Punjab government to save the Children.
- ❖ The Golden Temple situated in Amritsar, Punjab has been awarded the 'most visited place of the world'. The award is given by '**World Book of Records (WBR)**', a London-based organisation.
- ❖ Punjab Chief Minister '**Amarinder Singh**' has launched a mobile app "**PUDA-UCIC, Unauthorized constructions and illegal colonies**" to check unauthorized construction

RAJASTHAN:

- ❖ **Rajasthan** became the **first** state in the country to **incorporate skill development** programme in higher education.
- ❖ Going digital, the **Rajasthan assembly** has become the **first** in India to **call attention and adjournment motions** and **proposals online from legislators** to send them to the state government.
- ❖ **Rajasthan's Chief Electoral Officer Ashwini Bhagat** launched the Election Commission's web-based project, **ERO-Net**, using which voters can register their names on electoral rolls.
- ❖ The first edition of **International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency** (INSPIRE 2017) begins in Jaipur, **Rajasthan** organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in partnership with **The World Bank**, and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

- ❖ Rajasthan has become the **first Indian state** to launch **free email addresses in Hindi** (in Devanagari script) for its residents.
- ❖ Rajasthan state government sets up **Automatic service ATMs 'E-Mitra Plus'** at nearly **9900 Atal Seva Kendras** and **2500 urban locations** situated across the state. It will work for 24*7 for 365 days.

TAMIL NADU:

- ❖ The **Madurai City Corporation** is set to receive a **special award** from the Centre as part of the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**. The Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple has been adjudged best '**Swachh Iconic Place**' in India as on October 1.
- ❖ The **world's largest combustion research centre** was inaugurated at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras** in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, **Edappadi K Palanswami**, laid the foundation stone for an **aerospace park** at **Kanchipuram** district to be set up by the State Government in **245 acres** and at an estimated cost of **Rs.198 crore**.
- ❖ **The governments of India** and **Tamil Nadu** signed an agreement with **the World Bank** for the multilateral lender to provide **\$318 million loan**. It is for **modernisation of irrigation projects** in Tamil Nadu and to improve market opportunities for small and marginal farmers and their adoption of climate resilient techniques.

TELANGANA:

- ❖ **Hyderabad** will host the **first ever global scale International Trade and Technology** event on Indian Fisheries and **Aquaculture AquaEx India 2018** from March 15 to 17 next year.
- ❖ **BHEL** has commenced the execution of **Yadadri Supercritical Thermal Power Project** by the **Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGENCO)** and it is located at **Damaracherla in Telangana** and valued at approximately **Rs. 20, 400 crore**.
- ❖ **Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao** declared **Urdu** as the **state's second official language**. Every office in the state will now have an Urdu speaking officer.
- ❖ Telangana government Joined Hands with the **Patanjali group** with an aim to set up '**Food Park**'. The Patanjali Group will set up a large food park in Telangana with units for processing edible oil, fruit pulp and spices.
- ❖ **Telangana government** has announced that it will set up an Incubation Centre '**WE Hub**', a first such incubator in the country for start-ups by women entrepreneurs and also set up a Rs 15-crore fund to meet the investment needs of these start-ups.

- ❖ **Hyderabad** is all set to be **World's first Information Technology campus** for persons with disabilities (**PWDs**).
- ❖ **Kacheguda Railway Station** under the South-Central Railway (SCR) has earned the unique distinction of being the first Energy Efficient '**A1 Category**' Railway Station on Indian Railways.
- ❖ Cabinet approves Agreement with UNESCO on establishment of **International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography**, as a Category-2 Centre (C2C) of UNESCO, in **Hyderabad**.
- ❖ The Telangana state government's prestigious **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme** has finally got the Green Nod from central government.
- ❖ **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad** and **Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board** have come together to promote the growth of tourism traffic.

UTTARAKHAND:

- ❖ **Uttarakhand** signed a MoU with **Hewlett Packard Enterprise** (HPE) India Pvt Limited for establishing e-health will facilitate telemedicine service at four community health centers in the State.

UTTAR PRADESH:

- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh** State Government launched a mass marriage scheme called '**Mukhyamantri Samoochik Vivaah Yojana**'. Under the scheme, Uttar Pradesh social welfare department will conduct mass marriages.
- ❖ A grand temple worth **Rs 30 crore** is going to be built in honour of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in **Meerut** district of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Aditya Nath** flagged off 50 buses under the '**Sankalp Seva**' service in **Lucknow**.
- ❖ The **UP Cabinet** gave its nod for the constitution of a **Prayagraj Mela Pradhikaran (Prayagraj Mela Authority)**.
- ❖ The **Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh** attended the **56th Raising Day Parade of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** at 39th Bn, ITBP, Lakhnawali Camp, Surajpur, Greater Noida.
- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh cabinet** decided to make India's **first conservation reserve** for **black buck** in **Allahabad's Meja**.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh tops in new opening of **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** (PMJDY) after Demonetizations.
- ❖ **Rae Bareli**, constituency of Congress President Sonia Gandhi, will get Smart City tag.
- ❖ **Shamli district** of Uttar Pradesh has been included in the National Capital Region, taking the total number of districts in the NCR to 23.

- ❖ **Uttar Pradesh** has become the first State to endorse the **Central government's draft bill** that makes instant triple talaq a cognisable and non-bailable offence.
- ❖ A research institute for the study of the '**Bhagavad Gita**' will be set up by the Uttar Pradesh government **in Mathura**.
- ❖ **The Uttar Pradesh Govt.** has launched a free household power connection scheme '**Prakash hai to vikas hai**' for the poor. Initially, the two villages **Lohban and Gausana** of Mathura district have been covered for 100% electrification. Under the scheme, the **government** will cover **16 million households by the end of 2018**.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding with South Korea to enhance cooperation **in the field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming**.

WEST BENGAL:

- ❖ **IIT-Kharagpur** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Samsung India** for the setting up of a **digital academy** on the institute's campus.
- ❖ The Kolkata is all set to host an **international Puppet festival** from October 26. West Bengal principal secretary Tourism and Home Affairs **Atri Bhattacharya** will be inaugurating the festival.
- ❖ The **Asian Development Bank** and the **Government of India** signed a **\$300 million** loan to continue a series of fiscal reforms in the State of **West Bengal** to **improve the quality of public service delivery**.
- ❖ **Britain** will be the **focus country** this year in commemoration of the UK-India Year of Culture 2017 in **Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)**, **India's second** oldest film festival.
- ❖ **West Bengal** gets financial aid from World Bank to get subsidy to buy 130 electric buses for about Rs.7 lakh per each bus.
- ❖ The Home and Hill Affairs Department of the West Bengal Government has constituted a "**Hill Area Development Committee**" for Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts headed by Mann Ghising, President of Gorkha national Liberation Front (GNLF).
- ❖ The **78th session** of the **Indian History Congress** begins at the Jadavpur University campus **in Kolkata**. A lifetime achievement award was conferred to **Sabyasachi Bhattacharya** and it is handed over by Habib.

RECENT MOU's / AGREEMENTS SIGNED

MINISTRY / ORGANISATIONS OF INDIA	COUNTRY	KEY POINTS / AREAS

Make in India initiative	France	To further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation as a key pillar of the strategic partnership.
	European Union	To strengthen ties in key areas of trade and security .
Minister for Commerce and Industry	USA	To promote bilateral trade and investment in the areas of mutual cooperation, market access in agriculture, non-agricultural goods and services and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL).	USA	To work together on the sale of US crude and explore opportunities to expand the role of natural gas in India in the districts of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana .
Indian Navy	USA	To provide Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System Technology (EMALS) to India for aircraft carriers.
Ministry of Defence	USA	To implement the programme for Helicopter Operations from Ships other than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC). And To strengthen maritime security .
Finance Ministry	Bangladesh	USD 4.5 billion third line of credit (LoC) agreement for its infrastructure and social sector development .
	Ethiopia	To boost bilateral ties on trade, communication and media . To provide USD 195 million to Ethiopia for an electric transmission line and USD 2 million for medicines.
Ministry of Railways	Germany	To make country's existing rail corridors semi-high speed of 200km/hr in Chennai-Kazipet corridor . Government-to-Government Umbrella Agreement . On Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) .
Skill Development and Entrepreneurship		
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	Japan	Collaborate to send a joint mission to the moon, which includes landing a rover and bringing samples back to the earth.
	Myanmar	For strengthening Myanmar's women police force .

	Armenia	On cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters.
	China, US	To cooperate together on cyberspace security .
Indian National Science Academy	Belarus	On Scientific and Technological Cooperation .
Ministry of External Affairs	Bhutan	It committed assistance of Rs. 4500 Crore for implementation of development projects during Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan (2013 – 2018) .
	Finland	To boost in the areas of trade and investment, renewable energy and science and technology .
	Poland	To recognize the mutual benefit of Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation .
	Kingdom of Lesotho	Donated 500 metric tonnes of rice.
Central Board of Direct Taxes	Netherlands	Two Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APA) pertain to the Electronics and Technology sectors of the economy.
	Russia	Russia will assist India to set up a National Crisis Management Centre in the country.
		To give visa-free entry to the chartered and scheduled flights crew members.
Ministry of Defence	Singapore	To deepen cooperation in the maritime security domain and to boost overall defence cooperation .
Ministry of Railways	Spain	To launch a Rapid Rail Transit System (RTS) under which the trains run at a speed of 180Kmph.
	Italy	For cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary issues .
	Cuba	For enhanced cooperation in the health sector .
	Morocco	For enhanced cooperation in the health sector .
	Colombia	In the field of agriculture and fisheries .
	Myanmar	Upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar .
		For socio-economic development of Myanmar's Rakhine State.

OTHER COUNTRIES:

Head Office - Chennai: #1, South Usman Road, T Nagar. Chennai. Mob: 9043303030 / 7601808080
Madurai | Trichy | Salem | Coimbatore | Chandigarh | Bangalore | Erode | Namakkal | Puducherry | Thanjavur | Trivandrum
Official Website: www.raceinstitute.in | Official Blog: www.bankersdaily.in

- **Saudi Arabia and Russia - \$1 billion fund** to invest in energy projects and Saudi Arabia agreed to purchase **S400 missile defence systems** from Russia.
- **US and Saudi Arabia** - US to sell **\$15 bn** advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (**THAAD**) missile to Saudi Arabia.
- **Pakistan and Iran** - To improve **Border Security Management**.
- **U.S. and Israel** - Withdrawal from the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, accusing it of "continuing anti-Israel bias".
- **China and U.S.-** A total of 19 deals covering **bioscience, aviation and smart manufacturing** worth **USD nine billion**.
- **US and Qatar** - To expand their **counter-terrorism partnership**.
- **US and China** - Both nations signed business contracts worth **\$220 billion**.
- **US** grants \$500k - To promote religious freedom in **India, Sri Lanka**.
- **Nepal and China** - **Nepal Electricity Authority** and **China Three Gorges Corporation** to construct **750 MW West Seti Hydropower Project**. Estimated cost of this project will be **1.8 billion US dollars**.
- **Russia and Egypt** - To construct Egypt's first nuclear plant. The plant will be constructed in Dabaa city in Egypt's coastal Matrouh province.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The **Saudi Arabian government** has approved the practice of **yoga** as a **sports activity**, claimed a social media post of Nouf Marwaai, founder of the Arab Yoga Foundation in the Saudi kingdom.
- **Turkey** has set up its **biggest overseas military base** in the **Somali** capital, **Mogadishu**, increasing Ankara's presence in the Horn of Africa country.
- The **South Pacific island nation** of **Vanuatu** has become host to the **world's first government** to accept **bitcoin** in exchange for **citizenship**.
- The **15-member nations** including **Pakistan** have been elected to serve on the **United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council and the other countries are** Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine.
- **NATO states** opened a counter-espionage hub in **Poland**, aimed at expanding the alliance's intelligence-gathering capabilities amid tensions with Russia.

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, led a delegation to **Tokyo, Japan** from 17-18 October 2017 to participate in **LNG Producer- Consumer Conference**.
- **India, Brazil and South Africa signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement** that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries.
- **Nicaragua** has signed the **Paris climate agreement**, meaning that the US and Syria are the only two countries not to be giving the accord their support.
- **Saudi Arabia** has become the **first country** to give a **robot citizenship**. The **robot, named Sophia**, was confirmed as a Saudi citizen during a business event in Riyadh.
- The **Foreign Minister of Tunisia Mr. Khemaies Jhinaoui** is visiting India from 28th to 31st October 2017 for co-chairing the **12th India-Tunisia Joint Commission Meeting** along with Smt. **Sushma Swaraj**, External Affairs Minister of India.
- **Burundi** is becoming the **first country** to withdraw from the **International Criminal Court**. Burundi is the only one of three African nations to go ahead with its withdrawal.
- The **Dalai Lama** during his three-day maiden visit to **Manipur** addressed at the **International Peace Conference** in the capital.
- The **European Parliament's** has rejected the transnational legislature's decision to award the prestigious **Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought** to the "**democratic opposition of Venezuela**".
- **Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF)** opened its doors to public and trade visitors. It is the **third largest book fair** in the world. The book fair was held under the theme '**A World in My Book**'. The event has been organised by Sharjah Book Authority (SBA).
- **Kazakhstan** is changing its name to **Qazaqstan** as part of a transition from Cyrillic to a Latin-based script. A national commission will be set up to oversee the transition, which will be completed by **2025**.
- An international Conference on "**Ramayan Circuit and Mithila-Awadh Relations**" started at **Janakpur in Nepal**. Eminent experts from India and Nepal participating in the two-day event. Culture Minister of **Nepal Jitendra Naryan Dev** inaugurated this conference.
- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) Youth Affairs and Sports Col. **Rajyavardhan Rathore** has left to attend **World Youth Forum**, scheduled to be held at **Sharam El Shiekh, Egypt**.
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **Shri Raj Kumar Singh** led the Indian delegation in the **International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial**, being held in **Paris** and **India** signed a joint work programme with IEA and other key members of IEA (**Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia & Thailand**).

- A **Multi-Agency Group (MAG)** will investigate the **Paradise Papers** on offshore financial holdings, including a list 714 Indian individuals and entities.
- **India** was **re-elected** as the **member of the UNESCO's executive board**, its top decision-making body. The election was held at the 39th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in Paris.
- **India** will hold **Dubai's first-ever AYUSH conference** to spread awareness about the prevention and management of lifestyle diseases through Yoga and Ayurveda. '**International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2017**' with the theme of '**Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH**'.
- **Syria** has officially signed up to the **Paris Agreement**, the UN, leaving the United States as the only country to reject the global climate-rescue pact.
- An **Inter-Governmental Mid-Point review meeting of Asia and Pacific Decade** for Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 held in **Beijing, China**. Indian Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment **Thawar Chand Gehlot** attended the meet.
- **India** has been re-elected to the **Council of the International Maritime Organisation**.
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)** of Wild Fauna and Flora was held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The first phase of the **Chabahar port project** is known as the Shahid Beheshti port and it is inaugurated by Iranian President **Hassan Rouhani**.
- **Venezuela** launched its own **crypto currency called Petro** to circumvent US-led financial sanctions.
- **Australia** has officially become the **26th country** legalise **same-sex marriage** after the Parliament passes historic law.
- **India** on held the **fourth edition of the trilateral meet** with Japan and Australia in **New Delhi**. To maintain the momentum of partnership between like-minded countries to ensure an "open and free" Indo-Pacific stance.
- The World Health Organisation has declared **Gabon** a "**polio-free country**".
- **India** will be the guest of honour during **the sixth edition of the World Government Summit** scheduled from February 11th – 13th, 2018 in **Dubai**.
- Under the Digital India program, **Government of India** will help **Mauritius** to develop and setup **Digital Locker Services** along with the technical support and Advisory Services.
- The **United Arab Emirates** has begun collecting new "**sin**" taxes on **tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks**. Tobacco and **energy drinks** will be taxed at **100 percent** and **soft drinks** at **50 percent**.

- The **world's first "negative emissions"** plant that turns **carbon dioxide into carbonate rocks** has begun operations in **Iceland**.
- **State-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** has started selling lubricants in **Myanmar** as part of broader plans of Indian retailers to play a bigger role in the south-east Asian nation's oil and gas sector.
- **Japan** will simplify its **visa rules** from **January 1, 2018** for Indians and issue multiple-entry-visa for short-term stay, a move which is expected to benefit tourists and business persons as well as repeat visitors, the Japanese embassy.
- **Canada** will be the **partner country at the 23rd iteration of the Tech Summit**, India's largest knowledge and technology conference and exhibition to be held in New Delhi. The Summit is organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- **Russian Defence Ministry** said the armed forces have launched **four ballistic missiles** as part of large-scale war games involving Russia's strategic forces. As per the ministry, **Russian Tu-160, Tu-95MS and Tu-22M3** long-range strategic bombers successfully launched cruise missiles at targets.
- The government of **Germany** signed a loan agreement with **North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)** for providing **EUR 80 million** to India. The **objective** of the project '**Pare Hydroelectric Plant**' is to generate hydroelectric power for the socio-economic development of the North-Eastern region.
- India provided medical assistance worth **about \$1 million to Yemen**. Minister of State for **External Affairs M.J. Akbar** presented a box of anti-cholera medicines to **Yemeni Ambassador Abdulmalik Abdullah Al-Eryani**.
- Russia launches four ballistic missiles in military exercise Russian **Tu-160, Tu-95MS and Tu-22M3** long-range strategic bombers successfully launched cruise missiles at targets placed at test grounds in Russia and in Kazakhstan.

CHINA:

- **China** announced commissioning its **first radar-evading Chengdu J-20 stealth fighter jets** into military service at the 11th Air show China in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province.
- The **world's first hybrid electric tram** powered by **hydrogen fuel** cells has started running in **China**, marking a big step in the application of green energy in public transport.
- **China** unveiled **Asia's largest artificial island-building ship**. The 140-metre-long vessel, which has been dubbed as "magic island maker", is capable of digging 6,000 cubic metres an hour.

- **China** launched the **world's first all-electric ship**, which can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge. It was launched in **Guangzhou in South China's** Guangdong Province. The ship has been manufactured by the Guangzhou Shipyard International Company Limited.
- China launched **three remote sensing satellites (Jilin-1 04, Jilin 1 05 and Jilin-1 06)** from **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in **South Western Sichuan Province** and it was designed to improve observation capability to promote commercial use for the remote sensing industry.
- The **3rd edition of the Dialogue** between the NITI Aayog and the Development Research Council of China, the DRC- NITI Aayog Dialogue was held **in Beijing**. The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and Mr Li Wei, President (Minister), DRC.
- **China's** domestically developed "**AG600**", the **World's Largest Amphibious Aircraft**, performed its maiden flight. It took off from the Jinwan Civil Aviation Airport at Zhuhai in Guangdong Province.
- **The World's Longest Glass Bridge** has been **opened in China**. It is located in **Shijiazhuang, Hebei province near Beijing**, the capital of China. The bridge stretches **488 meters** long and **two meters** wide.
- **The first photovoltaic (solar) highway** based on home-grown technology was successfully tested in **Shandong province of China**. The road has wireless charging systems for electric vehicles. China became the **second country** in the world to construct a photovoltaic highway **after France**.
- China has launched the **World's Largest Human Genome Research Project** to document the **genetic makeup of one lakh people to help generate the precision medicines for the future**.

USA:

- The **11th Trade Policy Forum (TPF) Meeting** was held in **Washington D.C.** The Minister for Commerce and Industry, **Shri Suresh Prabhu** had productive discussions with the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer.
- **NASA** has launched the satellite for the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, so that it will improve the accuracy of weather forecasts. The **Joint Polar Satellite System-1 (JPSS-1)** lifted off on a United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket **from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California**.
- Planet Labs Inc, a US-based integrated aerospace and data analytics company, announced four of its Dove satellites will be launched **aboard India's PSLV-C40 mission, scheduled to fly in January 2018**.
- **US** withdraws from UN Global Compact on Migration.

BANGLADESH:

- The deal between **Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)** and **Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)** was signed in presence of India's external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, who arrived in Dhaka recently on a two-day visit to discuss bilateral issues.
- Adani Power** said its arm **Adani Power (Jharkhand)** has inked **long-term pact** with **Bangladesh Power Development Board** to supply electricity from its upcoming 1,600 MW plant at Godda in Jharkhand.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS (NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

S.NO	Designation	Current	Previous
1.	MD & CEO of State Bank of India	Rajnish Kumar	Arundhati Bhattacharya
2.	Director of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)	Param shah	Pratik Dattani
3.	First Sikh elected leader of Canada's New Democratic Party	Jagmeet Singh	
4.	New Chief of Pakistan's Naval Staff	Vice Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi	Admiral Mohammad Zakauallah
5.	Deputy director general of programmes of the World Health Organisation (WHO)	Soumya Swaminathan	
6.	30 th Prime Minister of Mongolia	Ukhnaa Khurelsukh	
7.	CEO of Free Charge Payment Technologies Private Ltd	Sangram Singh	
8.	New Zealand's youngest woman leader	Jacinda Ardern	
9.	Business Head of 'MobiKwik Payment Gateway'	Rukaiya Rangwala	
10.	Laureus' first Indian ambassador	Yuvraj Singh	
11.	Next UNESCO chief	French Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay	Irina Bokova
12.	New president of US India Business Council (USIBC)	Nisha Desai Biswal	
13.	Next Ambassador of India to the Principality of Monaco	Vinay Mohan Kwatra (Presently Ambassador of India to France)	

14.	Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)	Anupam Kher	Gajendra Chauhan
15.	Next Chief Executive of HSBC	John Flint (on February 21, 2018)	Stuart Gulliver (current)
16.	MD & CEO of PNB MetLife India Insurance	Ashish Srivastava	
17.	Event ambassador for the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2018	Corey Anderson (New Zealand)	
18.	Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Macedonia	Ms. Pooja Kapur (Presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria)	
19.	Next Ambassador of India to the Holy See (Vatican City)	Sibi George (Presently Next Ambassador of India to Switzerland)	Smita Purushottam
20.	Tata Capital CEO	Rajiv Sabharwal (on Jan 2018)	Praveen P Kadle
21.	HSBC CEO (India)	Jayant Rikhye	Stuart Milne
22.	New Mayor of Tbilisi	Kakha Kaladze (former AC Milan football star)	
23.	Centre's interlocutor	Dineshwar Sharma (Former IB Chief)	
24.	India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) MD & CEO	Suresh Sethi	
25.	New member of Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for Manipur and Mizoram	Ngangom Sarat Singh	
26.	Additional Director General, CISF	Shri Alok Kumar Pateria	
27.	Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	Rakesh Asthana	
28.	Special Director of IB	Gurbachan Singh	
29.	Special DG of CRPF	Sudeep Lakhtakia	
30.	CEO of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)	NS Venkatesh	C V R Rajendran

31.	New Prime Minister of New Zealand	Jacinda Ardern	
32.	Next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Zambia	N.J.Gangte	
33.	Vice Chief of Naval Staff	Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P	Vice Admiral Karambir Singh
34.	Flag Officer commanding-in -Chief of the prestigious Eastern Naval Command (ENC)	Vice Admiral Karambir Singh	Vice Admiral HCS Bisht
35.	Brand Ambassador of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation	Suresh Raina	
36.	Re-elected President of IWLF (Indian Weight-Lifting Federation)	Birendra Prasad Baishya	
37.	Bharti AXA Life Insurance	Vikas Seth	Sandeep Ghosh
38.	Re-elected Japan Prime Minister	Shinzo Abe (Liberal Democratic Party)	
39.	Consul General of Korea	Suresh Chukkapalli	
40.	Global MD & CEO of Tata Steel Ltd	T V Narendran	
41.	Private Secretary to President of India	Vikram Singh	
42.	Part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)	Shamika Ravi	
43.	AIBA Women's Youth World Championships Ambassador	Mary Kom	
44.	Additional Director General of BSF	Nasir Kamal	
45.	New Finance Secretary	Hasmukh Adhia	
46.	General Manager, Southern Railway	R K Kulshrestha	
47.	Gurgaon's First Woman Mayor	Madhu Azad	
48.	Special Secretary in Commerce Ministry	Binoy Kumar	
49.	Whole-time member of SEBI	Sanjeev Kaushik [Chairman & M D of India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFCL)].	
50.	First Sikh mayor of New Jersey's Hoboken city	Ravinder Singh	
51.	Re-elected Slovenian President	Borut Pahor	

52.	First Woman President of NASSCOM in 2018	Debjani Ghosh	R Chandrashekhar (Till March 2018)
53.	Next Ambassador of India to Ecuador	Ravi Bangar (Presently Ambassador of India to Colombia)	
54.	Ombudsman of All India Football Federation (AIFF)	Bhaskar Ganguly	
55.	Indian-born Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter in the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship)	Bharat Khandare	Arjan Singh Bhullar (First Indian)
56.	President of 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi from March 2-8, 2020	Vijay Prasad Dimri	Shailesh Nayak
57.	First Transgender of Rajasthan Police	Ganga Kumari	
58.	Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board or the Bank of International Settlement (BIS)	RBI Governor Urjit Patel	
59.	Chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange	Sethurathnam Ravi	Dhirendra Swarup
60.	Ambassador of World Packaging Organisation (WPO)	Chakravarthi AVPS	
61.	First Female Black Rod in Britain	Sarah Clarke	
62.	SEBI executive director	Anand Rajeshwar Baiwar	
63.	Director General of Doordarshan News	Ira Joshi	
64.	New president of Zimbabwe	Emmerson Mnangagwa	Robert Mugabe
65.	First Female Pilot in Indian Navy	Shubhangi Swaroop	
66.	Britain's new Ambassador to the UN	Karen Pierce	Matthew Rycroft
67.	Chairman of NAA (National Anti-Profitteering Authority)	Badri Narain Sharma	
68.	India's G20 Sherpa for the Development Tracof the grouping	Shaktikanta Das	
69.	President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA)	Nirmala Sitharaman	

70.	UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India	Dia Mirza	
71.	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India	Pradeep Singh Kharola	Rajiv Bansal
72.	First woman Secretary-General of Lok Sabha	Snehlata Shrivastava (Till November 30, 2018)	Anoop Mishra
73.	New Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board	DK Sarraf	
74.	MD & CEO of Infosys	Salil Parekh (From Jan 3 2018)	Pravin Rao
75.	Second term as Kenya's president	Uhuru Kenyatta	
76.	Chairman of Prasar Bharati Board for the second consecutive term till February 2020.	A Surya Prakash	
77.	First female referee to officiate FIFA U-17 World Cup match	Esther Staubli	
78.	Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment	Ellie Goulding	
79.	Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru	Subbarayudu	
80.	Re-elected as Chief Minister of Gujarat	Vijay Rupani	
81.	New Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh	Jai Ram Thakur	
82.	Director General of National Cadet Corps	Lieutenant General B S Sahrawat	
83.	New chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).	Prof Dharendra Pal Singh	
84.	General Manager of BCCI	India wicketkeeper Saba Karim	
85.	Chief Operating Officer of Uber Technologies	Barney Harford	
86.	Belgium's first female ambassador to Saudi Arabia	Dominique Mineur	
87.	DG of Narcotics Control Bureau	Senior IPS officer Abhay	
88.	Newly elected President of Liberia	Former football star George Weah	

RESIGNATIONS:

- **Solicitor-General** - Ranjit Kumar
- **Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (CEO)** - Kwon Oh-hyun
- **PepsiCo India (CEO)** - D Shivakumar
- **Facebook India MD** - Umang Bedi
- **WHO withdraws Goodwill Ambassador Title** - Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwean President)
- **Nepal Ambassador to India** - Deep Kumar Upadhyay
- **Britain's International Development Secretary** - Priti Patel
- **Bangladesh cricket coach** - Chandika Hathurusingha
- **UK Defence Secretary** - Michael Fallon
- **Bangladesh Chief Justice** - Surendra Kumar Sinha
- **Jury Head of 48th International Film Festival 2017 of India** - Sujoy Ghosh
- **Pakistan's Law Minister:** Zahid Hamid
- **National Observer for Indian Boxing** - Mary Kom
- **National Observer for Indian Wrestling** - Sushil Kumar
- **Airtel Payments Bank's managing director and CEO** - Shashi Arora

RETIREMENTS:

- **Indian Pacer** - Ashish Nehra
- **International Football** - Arjen Robben (Netherlands Captain)
- **Test and ODI Cricket** - John Hastings (Australian fast bowler)
- **Father of Taiwan chip Industry** - Morris Chang (June 2018)
- **Tennis player** - Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- **Pakistan off-spinner** - Saeed Ajmal

RECENT COMMITTEES AND HEAD

- **Public Credit Registry (PCR)** - Reviewing the current availability of information on credit in India - **Yeshwant M. Deosthalee**
- **First cricketer** from Bangladesh to be inducted in the **MCC World Cricket Committee** under the chairmanship of Mike Gatting - **Shakib Al Hasan**

- To make the composition scheme more attractive and to revisit the **Goods & Services Tax Rates** on restaurants - Assam Finance Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- A high-level committee for proper management of the water resources in the **North-Eastern Region (NER)** - **Dr. Rajiv Kumar** Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog.
- To examine **sub categorization of Other Backward Classes** (OBCs) under **Article 340** of the Constitution - **Chief Justice G Rohini**
- To **propose new laws** or amendments to **deal with hate speech on the internet** under the **section 66AA of IT Act** - **TK Viswanathan**
- To oversee **merger proposals of state-owned banks** - Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley**.
- To study the feasibility of merging financially weak **District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs)** with the **Maharashtra State Cooperative (MSC)** Bank - **Yashwant Thorat** (Former NABARD Chairman).
- Investigations in cases of **Paradise Papers** will be monitored through a reconstituted **Multi-Agency Group** – **Sushil Chandra** (CBDT Chairman).
- Seven-Member Committee **to formulate short and long-term measures** to solve the problem of air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region - **CK Mishra**

RECENT AWARDS (NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

S.NO	Name of the Award	Category	Winner
1.	UK Business Award – To bring an Innovative IT solution to Africa	International Business Person of the Year	Birendra Sasmal
2.	All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under Swachh Bharath Mission	'Most Clean Campus Award 2017' (3 rd place)	Manipal Institute of Technology
3.	Arbitration Award	Worth Rs 806 crore against Malaysia's M3nergy	Hindustan Petroleum Corp
4.	National Tourism Award	'Best Tourist Guide'	Rama Khandwala
5.	Anna Politkovskaya Award instituted by Reach All Women (RAW) in War		Gauri Lankesh

6.	'National Safety Awards'	For outstanding achievements in terms of the longest accident free period and lowest accident frequency rate at their works	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
7.	First-ever Miss Wheelchair World		Aleksandra Chichikova (Belarus)
8.	'Cross of the Order of Merit' (Germany's Highest Civilian Honour)	For achievements in the economic, social, political or intellectual realms.	Rajesh Nath
9.	National Awards for senior citizens	Long-serving Indian boxing coach	Gurbax Singh Sandhu
10.	Golden Peacock Award	Excellence in Corporate Governance	TAKE Solutions
11.	5th International Advertising Associations (IAA) Leadership Awards in Mumbai	Best FMCG	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)
12.	Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award	Public Administration, Academics and Management for 2017	Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak
13.	Vayalar award	For his novel 'Sugandhi Enna Andal Devanayaki'	Novelist T D Radhakrishnan
14.	Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016	Rich contribution to the Malayalam literature	M K Sanu
15.	First Centenary National Award	Literature	Namita Gokhale
16.	Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015-16.	For bringing "social inclusiveness in culture"	T M Krishna
17.	American Bazaar Philanthropy award	For his commitment to revive Philadelphia through the Germination Project	Ajay Raju

18.	UN Medal	For their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in the conflict-ridden country	50 Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan (UNMISS)
19.	Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award	MoPNG on the basis of the activities undertaken in the past three years	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
20.	Padma Prabha Puraskaram 2017	Considering his contribution to Malayalam literature	Prabha Varma
21.	Kalakar Puraskar 2017	Protecting Konkani identity	Gopal Gowda
22.	Man Booker Prize 2017	For his novel 'Lincoln in the Bardo'	George Saunders
23.	Indcom Award 2017	For Best Digital Media Campaign	UAE Exchange India
24.	2017 World Food Prize Award		Akinwunmi Adesina
25.	Lata Mangeshkar Award		Playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan And Noted music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik
26.	"America's Top Young Scientist" Award	Sensor that can detect lead levels in water better than traditional methods	Gitanjali Rao
27.	2 Indian-American businessmen felicitated by Donald Trump		Sharad Thakkar and Karan Arora
28.	International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) Award 2017	'Homeland Security' category for his campaign 'Amcho Bastar, Amcho Police'	Bastar SP Sheikh Aarif Hussain

29.	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Industrial Innovation Award, 2017	most innovative Indian companies in the services category	L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTS)
30.	Top US award	For their exceptional contributions in the field of HIV/AIDS	Professors Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim
31.	UK's most influential black person		Gina Miller
32.	9th Realty Plus Excellence Awards (North) 2017	2017 Young Achiever's Award	Rahul Singla
33.	'Golden Peacock Award'	Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation	N Chandrababu Naidu
34.	Lifetime Achievement Award	Bestowed with the recognition by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry for her contribution in the field of cinema	Sharmila Tagore
35.	Special Award	For his outstanding contribution to promote and arts, fine arts and literature.	Muzaffar Ali
36.	Parmod Mahajan Smriti Award		Anupam Kher
37.	Ezhuthachan Puraskaram	For his contributions to Malayalam literature and poetry	K Satchidanandan
38.	European Union's Sakharov Prize	For human rights	Venezuela
39.	UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017	For cultural heritage conservation	Royal Opera House, Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple
40.	Dun & Bradstreet - Everest Infra Awards 2017'	Infrastructure Project category	Tata Power Solar

41.	Jnanpith award 2017	For her path-breaking contribution to Indian literature	Krishna Sobti
42.	Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award 2017		Girish Karnad
43.	Airline Excellence Award	"2018 Airline of the Year"	Air New Zealand
44.	Vishnudas Bhave award	For his contribution to the theatre	Mohan Joshi
45.	21st Asia Insurance Industry Awards	"General Insurance Company of the Year"	Apollo Munich Health Insurance
46.	South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM)	Best Short Film Award	'The School Bag'
47.	ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)	'Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2017'	Maya Swaminathan Sinha
48.	Israel's 2018 Genesis Prize	Her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots	Natalie Portman
49.	Sumitra Charat Ram Award	Lifetime Achievement	Girija Devi
50.	National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017	Renewable energy and waste management	Atomberg Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
51.	2017 'Bad Grammar Award'	"the incorrect use of English by people and institutions who should know better"	"Transport for London"
52.	"Kalinga Safety Award"	For best safety performer of the year 2016	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL)
53.	Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017	For its exceptional work worldwide by Harmony Foundation	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
54.	Indian Sports Honours (ISH) event	Indian Sportswoman of the Year	Mithali Raj

55.	International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	Personality of the year award	Amitabh Bachchan
56.	Miss International 2017		Kevin Lilliana
57.	Abu Dhabi Award	"social contribution in country value"	Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC)
58.	2017 Cervantes Prize		Sergio Ramirez Mercado
59.	National Book Award for fiction	For her novel "Sing, Unburied, Sing"	Jesmyn Ward
60.	Miss World 2017		Manushi Chhillar (India)
61.	Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development	For his leadership of the country between 2004 and 2014 and for enhancing India's stature globally	Former PM Manmohan Singh
62.	International Film Festival of India	Lifetime Achievement Award	Atom Egoyan
63.	Prof. Yashwantrao Kelkar Youth Award 2017	Child care activist for taking care 400 children	Gopinath R
64.	IEBF Excellence Award	For his renowned work in the field of social and Community services	Pawan Kalyan
65.	Nain Singh-Kishen Singh Life Time Achievement Award	For their invaluable contribution in promotion of mountaineering in the country	Manik Banerjee
66.	UNICEF celebrity advocate status	For cause of Child Empowerment	Actress Trisha Krishnan
67.	QS University Rankings	Ranked among the Top 10 Private Institutions in India	O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)

68.	3rd Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist Award		Japanese professor Hiroshi Marui
69.	Time Global Sustainability Film Awards 2017		"Lipstick Under My Burkha"
70.	Miss Supranational 2017		Miss Korea Jenny Kim
71.	Indian of the year special achievement award	For her historic win at the Miss World contest	Manushi Chhillar
72.	Fortune's 'Businessperson of the Year'		Nvidia's Jensen Huang (Top) & Aditya Puri (18 th)
73.	23rd Edition of Star Screen Awards	Best Actress Award (Critics) for Tumhari Sulu	Vidya Balan
		Best Actor (Critics) for Newton	Rajkummar Rao
		Best Director, Best Music Director, Best Editing, Best Lyrics and Best Background Score	Aamir Khan's Dangal
74.	Children's Peace Prize		Mohamad Al Jounde (Syria)
75.	Sahitya Akademi Awards 2017	For their work, The Black Hill, a novel, and Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar, a literary criticism	Authors Mamang Dai and Ramesh Kuntal Megh
76.	PETA's 'Person of the Year'		Anushka Sharma
77.	Top-grossing actor of 2017 by the Forbes	'The Fate of the Furious'	Vin Diesel
78.	'Harivarasanam' Award 2017		K S Chitra

RECENT SPORTS NEWS

❖ **Mahaveer Raghunathan** (263 points) became the **first Indian** to win a **European racing championship**.

❖ **Nine countries** have been **suspended** from weightlifting for a year by the **International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)**, The member federations identified as such are currently Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

❖ Team **India** has emerged as the **winner** of the 2017 **Enactus World Cup**.

❖ Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen** won the final edition of the **Malaysian Grand Prix**.

❖ **Pooja Kadian** created history as she bagged **India's first ever gold medal** at **Wushu World Championships in Russia**.

❖ **American Morgan Hurd** won the all-around title at the **gymnastics world championships** in **Montreal**.

❖ **Lewis Hamilton** wins **Japanese Grand Prix**.

❖ Indian **shuttler Samiya Imad Farooqui** clinched the **gold medal** at the **Under-15** women's singles competition after defeating Indonesia's **Widjaja Stephani** at the **Asian Junior Championship Yangon, Myanmar**.

❖ **China Open 2017:**

Category	Winner
Men's single title	Rafael Nadal
Women's single title	Caroline Garcia

❖ India's **Anupama Ramachandran** clinched the **World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship** title at **St. Petersburg in Russia**.

❖ **Iceland** becomes smallest nation ever to enter **FIFA World Cup**.

❖ Fifth seeded Indian pair of **Harmeet Desai** and **Soumajit Ghosh** lost to second seeds **Ho Kwan Kit** and Ng Pak Nam of Korea to settle for the silver medal at the **ITTF Challenge Polish Open in Czystochowa**.

❖ Commonwealth Games bronze medallist **RMV Gurusaidutt** clinched the men's singles title at the **Bulgarian International Future Series tournament**.

❖ Mixed pair of **Jemson Ningthoujam** and **Ankita Bhakat** clinched the **gold medals** from the **World Archery Youth Championship in Rosario, Argentina**.

❖ **FIFA** has decided to **suspend** the **Pakistan Football Federation (PFF)** with immediate effect.

❖ **Roger Federer** has defeated Rafael Nadal in straight sets to win the **Shanghai Masters** title.

❖ **Mohun Bagan** won the 37th **All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament** for the 10th time by defeating Partha Chakra by a narrow 1-0 margin.

- ❖ **Kavita Devi**, a former competitive powerlifter, has become the **first ever Indian woman** to be signed by the **World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)**.
- ❖ **Maria Sharapova** wins **Tianjin Open 2017**
- ❖ **Indian paddler Selena Selva kumar** wins gold in Egypt Junior and Cadet Table-Tennis Open title.
- ❖ **Park Ji-Sung** to be first South Korean to carry **Olympic Games flame**.
- ❖ The Third – **Youth International Championships Balkan Open 2017** was held at **Sofia, Bulgaria**, were **Indian** boxers have won **8 medals**, including **4 gold's**.
- ❖ **Two Indian's Mohit Dudeja, Kiran** bagged a **silver** and a **bronze** at the **global skill competition in Abu Dhabi**.
- ❖ **Cristiano Ronaldo** is the **richest sports personality in the world**, according to the latest Forbes' Rich List.
- ❖ **Mali** enters the Championship by defeating Ghana 2-1 in the **Quarter-final** match held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Guwahati.
- ❖ **Lewis Hamilton** wins the **United States Grand Prix**.
- ❖ **Marc Marquez** wins **Australian MotoGP**.
- ❖ **India** has crushed **Malaysia** 2-1 to win the **Hockey Asia Cup title** for the third time in Bangladesh.
- ❖ Indian skipper **Virat Kohli** became the **second batsman-ever** to score a hundred on his 200th ODI in the opening match against **New Zealand at the Wankhede**.
- ❖ **Divij Sharan** and **Scott Lipsky of US** clinched the double title in the **European Open tennis tournament in Antwerp, Belgium**.
- ❖ **Kidambi Srikanth** wins **Denmark Open badminton title**.
- ❖ **Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu** gave India their first gold medal of the **ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Gaganjeet Bhullar** Won **Macao Open Golf Title**.
- ❖ The **National Basketball Association (NBA)** announced **Scott Fleming**, former India men's national team head coach, has joined **NBA India as Head of Basketball Operations**.
- ❖ **Turkey** to host **World Rally Championship 2018**.
- ❖ **Virat Kohli**, Indian cricket team captain, has been ranked above the Argentinean and **Barcelona football legend Lionel Messi** as one of the **most valuable brands** among **sports athletes by Forbes**.
- ❖ **Gokul Natesan** becomes **second Indian-origin player** to be signed by **NBA G-League side**.

❖ **India's Sangram Dahiya won silver** in men's double trap and **Amanpreet Singh bronze in 50m free pistol** to give the hosts their **first individual medals** in the **ISSF World Cup Shooting Final** at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

❖ **England beat Spain** to Win First-ever **U-17 Title** at **Salt Lake Stadium** in Kolkata.

❖ **Commonwealth Shooting Championships 2017, Brisbane (Australia):**

India ended the **Commonwealth Shooting Championships** with a rich haul of 20 medals. The Indian squad won a total of **six gold, seven silvers** and seven bronze medals during the competition.

S.NO	CATEGORY	GOLD MEDAL	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL
1.	Women's 10m Air Pistol event	Heena Sidhu (India)	Elena Galiabovitch (Australia)	Kristy Gillman (Australia)
2.	Women's 25m pistol	L.Yaumleuskay (Australia)	E Galiabovitch (Australia)	Anu raj Singh (India)
3.	Women's 50m rifle Prone event	Jennifer McIntosh (Scotland)	Seonaid McIntosh (Scotland)	Anjum Moudgil (India)
4.	Double Trap (Women)	Emma Cox (Australia)	Shreyasi Singh (India)	Rachel Parish (England)
5.	Women's 10m air rifle event	Pooja Ghatkar (India)	Anjum Moudgil (India)	Martina Lindsay Veloso (Singapore)
6.	Men's 10m air pistol event	Shahzar Rizvi (India)	Omkar Singh (India)	Jitu Rai (India)
7.	Men's 10m air rifle event	Alex Hoberg (Australia)	Jack Rossiter (Australia)	Deepak Kumar (India)
8.	Men's 50m pistol event	Prakash Nanjappa (India)	Amanpreet Singh (India)	Jitu Rai (India)
9.	Men's 25m pistol event	Sergei Evglevski (Australia)	Anish Bhanwala (India)	Neeraj Kumar (India)
10.	Men's 50m rifle 3 position Event	Satyendra Singh (India)	Sanjeev Rajput (India)	Dane Sampson (Australia)
11.	Double Trap (Men)	Ankur Mittal (India)	Matthew French (England)	Nathan-Lee Xuereb (Malta)
12.	Men's 50m Rifle Prone	Dane Sampson (Australia)	Gagan Narang (India)	Swapnil Suresh Kusale (India)

- ❖ Indian fast bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** climbed to the **number one** spot in the latest **ICC T20 rankings**.
- ❖ **India's K Srikanth** achieves career-best **World No 2 ranking**.
- ❖ **India** won their **biggest title** in recent years as they completed a historic win over China in the **Women's Hockey Asia Cup**.
- ❖ **Young Indian golfer Aditi Ashok** made a triumphant return to the **Ladies European Tour** by clinching the **Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open**.
- ❖ **Shiv Kapur** Clinches **Panasonic Open Title**.
- ❖ India's **Achanta Sharath Kamal** and **G Sathiyam** won a **bronze medal** in doubles at the prestigious 2017 Challenge **Belgium Open Table Tennis tournament**.
- ❖ Assam famed **one-horned rhino** was unveiled as the **official mascot** of the **2017 AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship**. The **official mascot**, named **Guppy**. The **anthem "Make Some Noise"**.
- ❖ **Indian boxer MC Mary Kom** defeated **North Korea's Kim Hyang Mi** in the 48-kg category final of the **Asian Women's Boxing Championships** held in **Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City**.
- ❖ **Strike bowler Mitchell Starc** became the **first man** to take **two hat-tricks** in the same first-class game in Australia in the Ashes Test series against England.
- ❖ **H.S Prannoy** outwitted World No 2 and title favourite Kidambi Srikanth in a thrilling finale to claim the **men's singles title** at the **82nd Senior National Championship** in Nagpur.
- ❖ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** inaugurated his **first global cricket academy** in **UAE**.
- ❖ **Leander Paes and Purav Raja** lifted the **Knoxville Challenger title** in **Tennessee** in the finals of the men's doubles event.
- ❖ **Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani** clinched his 17th world title after he thrashed his arch-rival Mike Russell of England in the **IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha**.
- ❖ French's **Teddy Riner** won his **tenth World title** with a victory over Brazil's **David Moura** at the 2017 **Judo World Championships Open** in **Marrakesh**.
- ❖ Ferrari's **Sebastian Vettel** won the **Brazilian Grand Prix**.
- ❖ **Grigor Dimitrov** of Bulgaria has won the **ATP World Tour Finals**.
- ❖ **Afghanistan** clinched their maiden **Under-19 Asia Cup title** by defeating **Pakistan**. The match was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- ❖ **Amit Dhankar, Mausam Khatri** clinched **b** in **National Wrestling Championship**
- ❖ India's tennis player **Yuki Bhambri** clinched **ATP Pune Challenger Title**.

- ❖ Two-time Olympic-medallist **Sushil Kumar** (74kg), India's Olympic medal winner **Sakshi Malik** (62kg) and **Geeta Phogat** (59kg) won **gold medal** in their respective categories in the National Wrestling championship in Indore. **Pawan Kumar** (86kg) also won the gold medal in National Wrestling championship.
- ❖ **France** will host the **2023 Rugby World Cup**.
- ❖ The first Indian woman trap shooter to win an Olympic berth, **Shagun Chowdhary** bagged a National Champion Crown at the **61st National Shooting Championship in New Delhi**.
- ❖ India's middle-order batsmen Cheteshwar Pujara became third Indian and ninth in overall to bat across five days in a Test match. The record was achieved when India played against Sri Lanka.
- ❖ **Virat Kohli**, already is top-ranked in both ODIs and T20Is now got **5th rank ICC test ranking** for batsman.
- ❖ **Gopi Thonakal** became the **1st Indian** to win the **Asian Marathon Championship**.
- ❖ **India** clinched **10 medals**, including two Gold medals, 2 Silver medals and 6 Bronze medals at the Para Badminton World Championships at Ulsan in **South Korea**.
- ❖ **Lionel Messi** wins **Fourth European Golden Shoe Award**.
- ❖ **International Polo Tournament 2017** begins on the oldest ground **Mapal Kangjei bung** of Imphal. The participants are from **England, USA, Argentina and Morocco**.
- ❖ The **Indian football team** remains at **105th** in the latest FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) rankings.
- ❖ India wrestler **Ritu Phogat** (48kg) clinched a **silver medal** in the Under-23 **Senior World Wrestling Championship** in Poland.
- ❖ The **World Youth Women's Boxing Championship 2017** was inaugurated Md. Ayatullah Hockey Stadium in Bhetapara by Assam chief minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- ❖ **Basel** will become the **first city** to jointly host the **Badminton and Para-Badminton World Championships in 2019**, announced by Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- ❖ **ICC U19 World Cup 2018** launched in **New Zealand**.
- ❖ **Ankushita Boro** of Assam has clinched the '**Best Boxer**' title in World Youth Women's Boxing Championship held in **Guwahati**.
- ❖ **Shiva Keshavan** wins Gold in **Asian Luge Championships** held at **Altenberg, Germany**.
- ❖ **Indian archer Deepika Kumari** clinched bronze medal in **Indoor Archery World Cup** in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
- ❖ Indian cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** will be promoting a **UNICEF sports initiative for youngsters in South Asia**, which will also have the ICC's backing. Yuvraj launched the "**Power of Sports to Shape the Future of Adolescents**" campaign in South Asia.

- ❖ **Mujeeb Zadran** of Afghanistan has become the **first male cricket player** born in the 21st century **to play International cricket**.
- ❖ **Gurdeep Singh** created **three new senior national records** in **+105 Kilogram** weight category in IWF World Weightlifting Championships at Anaheim in USA.
- ❖ The 46th congress of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) **will be held in New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Ballon d'Or 2017: Cristiano Ronaldo** wins **prestigious award**.
- ❖ Visually impaired swimmer **Kanchanmala Pande** scripted history becoming the **first Indian to win gold** at the **World Para Swimming Championship** in Mexico.
- ❖ Australia beat Argentina in the final of the Hockey World League Final (HWLF) to **win gold at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar**. **India beat Germany to win bronze medal** in Hockey world League.
- ❖ **India bagged 21 medals** at the 10th Asian Championship 10m Rifle/Pistol **at Wako City Japan and also booked 4 Youth Olympic Games quotas**.
- ❖ **Shubhankar Sharma** wins in **Joburg Golf Open**.
- ❖ India become the first-ever team to register **300+ totals 100 times in ODIs**, after posting 392/4 against **Sri Lanka in Mohali**.
- ❖ India's men and women's hockey teams remained in the 6th and 10th positions respectively in the rankings revealed by the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)**.
- ❖ The **Board of Control for Cricket** in India (BCCI), announced that **India** will be hosting the ICC Cricket World Cup on 2023 and the ICC Champions Trophy in 2021.
- ❖ World Youth Champion **Sachin Siwach** was named the Asian Boxing Confederation's **Best Youth Boxer of the Year**.
- ❖ **2022 Beijing Winter Games Official Emblems** Unveiled. The emblems of the **Beijing 2022 Olympic** and **Paralympic Winter Games** have been named **"Winter Dream"** and **"Flight,"** respectively.
- ❖ Midfielder Christian Pulisic (19-year) has been named as the **U.S. male Player of the Year**.
- ❖ India clinched **10 golds at Commonwealth Wrestling Championship**, held in **Johannesburg, South Africa**.
- ❖ Double Olympic medallist **Sushil Kumar clinched a gold medal at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships in South Africa**.
- ❖ **PV Sindhu** defeated Akane Yamaguchi of Japan to clinch Silver medal in Dubai World Super Series 2017.
- ❖ **The former Milan and Real Madrid midfielder Kaka** announced his retirement as a player.

- ❖ India has won 10 medals that includes 5-Silver and 5-Bronze medals **in the first Wushu Sanda Asian Cup in Guangzhou, China.**
- ❖ India's top-ranked junior shuttler Aakarshi Kashyap won U-17 and U-19 singles titles at **42nd Badminton junior Nationals in Guwahati, Assam.**
- ❖ Lionel Messi, has received **La Liga's top scorer and best player awards for the 2016-2017 football season.**
- ❖ **India captain Mithali Raj** was named in the **ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year** while left-arm spinner **Ekta Bisht** was the lone cricketer to find a place in the both **the ODI and T20 Teams** of the year announced by the world body. **Harmanpreet Kaur** has found out a place in the **ICC Women's T20 Team of the Year.**
- ❖ **Vijender Singh** defended his **WBO Oriental and Asia Pacific super middleweight titles** against Ghana's Ernest Amuzu at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
- ❖ **IOC bans 11 Russians** for life over alleged Sochi Games doping violations.
- ❖ Indian boxers have claimed three gold, a silver, and a bronze medal at the Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament. The event was held in **Karaganda, Kazakhstan.** The Gold Medal winners were **K Shyam Kumar** in 49kg, **Naman Tanwar** in 91kg and **Satish Kumar** in the +91kg category claimed gold medals.
- ❖ **India** finished as runners-up in the **SAFF Under-15 Women's Championships.** India lost to Bangladesh 0-1 in the final at **Dhaka.**
- ❖ In Cricket, Team **India** has risen to the **second spot** in the latest ICC Twenty-20 rankings. **Pakistan** is at the top of the list. In the rankings for batsmen, Indian captain **Virat Kohli** slipped to **third.** The list is led by Aussie opener **Aaron Finch**, followed by West Indian **Evin Lewis.** Among the bowlers, **Jasprit Bumrah** has been pushed to the **third spot** behind Pakistan's Imad Wasim and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.
- ❖ **Saudi Arabia** is hosting the **World Chess Tournament** for the **first time.** Two years ago, the country's top cleric issued a religious order against playing the board game. The tournament has been named as the **King Salman World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships.**
- ❖ Haryana shooter **Anisa Sayyed** won the **women's 25m pistol gold** with a **new record at 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions (61st NSCC), in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.** She beat Shital Shivaji Thorat and Rahi Sarnobat who won silver and bronze respectively.
- ❖ The Indian men's football ended the year at **105th spot in the FIFA rankings.** India began the year at 129th spot and in July, broke into top **100 by occupying 96th.** **Iran (32)** are the highest ranked Asian team and are followed by **Australia and Japan.** Among Asian countries, the Indian team

is in the **15th spot**. World champions Germany ended on top to be **FIFA's 'Team of the Year'**, followed by Brazil, Portugal, Argentina.

❖ Delhi Sultans buy **Double Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar for Rs 55 lakh**, the highest bid in the history of the tournament during the **Pro Wrestling League auctions** in New Delhi. Sushil is now the most expensive player in the history of the tournament.

❖ Indian chess ace Viswanathan Anand has won the **World Rapid Chess Championship in Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia. In the final, Anand beat Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev to reclaim the title.

❖ Real Madrid star **Cristiano Ronaldo** has been named **Globe Soccer's Best Player for the second year** in a row and the fourth time overall. He also won his **fifth Ballon d'Or, the UEFA Best Player in Europe and FIFA's The Best Award** this year (2017).

❖ In Shooting, ace Indian marksman **Jitu Rai won the Men's 50-metre pistol national title at the 61st National Shooting Championships in Thiruvananthapuram**. Jitu's army teammate Jai Singh secured bronze with an effort of 198.4. **Arjun Singh Cheema** of Punjab won the junior men's 50-metre pistol event.

❖ Olympic bronze medallist **Sakshi Malik** was named in the Indian women's wrestling team for **2018 Commonwealth Games** in Gold Coast, Australia. Apart from Sakshi, who is in the 62kg category, other women grapplers who booked their berths for the 2018 Commonwealth Games are: **Vinesh Phogat** (50kg), **Babita Kumari** (54kg), **Pooja Dhanda** (57kg), **Divya Karan** (68 kg) and **Kiran** (76kg).

❖ Indian chess Grand master and five-time World Champion **Viswanathan Anand** bagged a bronze in the **World Blitz Chess Championship at Riyadh**, Saudi Arabia. World Champion **Magnus Carlsen** won the tournament and followed by Sergey Karjakin.

IMPORTANT DAYS CELEBRATED/ OBSERVED RECENTLY

S.no	DAYS	Celebrated / Observed	Theme of 2017
1.	October 1 st	International day of Older Persons	"Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society".
2.	October 1 st	World Vegetarian Day	
3.	October 2 nd	World Habitat Day	Housing Policies: Affordable Homes.
4.	October 3 rd	World Nature Day	
5.	October 5 th	World Teachers Day	"Empowering Teachers"
6.	October 8 th	85 th anniversary Air Force Day	

7.	October 9 th	World Post Day	
8.	October 10 th	World Mental Health Day	
9.	October 10 th – 14 th	5 th India Water Week 2017	"Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth"
10.	October 10 th	World Day Against Death Penalty	
11.	October 11 th	International Day of the Girl Child	"The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030"
12.	October 12 th	World Arthritis day	"It's In your Hands. Take Action"
13.	October 13 th	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	
14.	October 14 th	World Standards Day	"Standards make cities smarter"
15.	October 15 th	World Student Day	
16.	October 15 th	Global Hand Washing Day	"Our hands, our future!"
17.	October 15 th	International Day of Rural Women	"Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls"
18.	OCTOBER 16 th	World Food Day	"Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development"
19.	October 17 th	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	"Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies"
20.	October 20 th	World Statistics Day	
21.	October 24 th	United Nations Day	
22.	October 24 th	World Polio Day	
23.	October 24 th	World Development Information Day	
24.	October 27 th	Infantry Day	
25.	October 27 th	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	"Discover, remember and share"
26.	October 28 th	National Ayurveda Day	
27.	October 28 th	International Animation Day	
28.	November 1 st	World Vegan Day	

29.	November 6 th	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	
30.	November 8 th	World Radiology Day	"Emergency Radiology"
31.	November 10 th	World science day for peace & development	'Science for Global Understanding'
32.	November 11 th	National Education Day	
33.	November 12 th	Public Service Broadcasting Day	
34.	November 12 th	World Pneumonia Day	
35.	November 13 th	World Kindness Day	
36.	November 14 th	World Diabetes Day	"Women and diabetes – our right to a healthy future"
37.	November 16 th	National Press Day	
38.	November 19 th - 25 th	National Integration Week	
39.	November 12 th - 18 th	International Fraud Awareness week	
40.	November 20 th	Universal Children's Day	#KidsTakeOver
41.	November 26 th	National Law Day	
42.	November 26 th	National Milk Day	
43.	December 1 st	World AIDS Day	"Right to health"
44.	December 1 st - 7 th	Armed Forces Week	
45.	December 3 rd	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	"Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all"
46.	December 7 th	Armed Forces Flag Day or the Flag Day of India	
47.	December 10 th	World Human Rights Day	'Let's stand up for equality, justice, and human dignity'
48.	December 16 th	Vijay Diwas	
49.	December 18 th	International Migrants Day	"Safe Migration in a World on the Move"
50.	December 20 th	International Human Solidarity Day	

51.	December 23 rd	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)	
52.	December 25 th	Good Governance Day	

RECENT BOOKS & AUTHORS:

- Former **President Pranab Mukherjee** has released the third part of his memoir '**The Coalition Years: 1996-2012**.'
- **Hema Malini Biography Revealed** titled "**Beyond The Dream Girl**", penned by journalist **Ram Kamal Mukherjee**.
- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje** launched an **e-book** titled '**India 2017 Yearbook**', compiled by the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** and former Union home secretary **Rajiv Mehrishi**.
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** received the first copy of the book '**Journey of Women Law Reforms and The Law Commission of India Some Insights**', from the Author Former Joint Secretary, **Dr. Pavan Sharma**.
- '**Two**' First Novel in English by **Gulzar sahab** released. The novel was **originally written in "Urdu"** later it translated into the **English form**.
- The word '**populism**' has been announced as **Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2017**.
- **Book on Gauri Lankesh writings "The way i see It"** was launched and it is edited by **writer and sociologist Chandan Gowda**:

OBITUARIES

- **Writer and journalist H. M. Marathe** passed away in Pune at the age of 77.
- **Noted journalist Bismoy Kumar Mohanty** died at Puri.
- **Veteran director Kundan Shah**, best known for the dark comedy **Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro**, passed away.
- Former Union minister and socialist leader **Purushottam Lal Kaushik** died.
- **Shamsher Khan India's First Olympic Swimmer** Passed away.
- **British Actor Roy Dotrice**, best known for playing **Leopold Mozart** in the **Oscar-winning film Amadeus**, has died.
- Veteran **historian of medieval India** and noted educational administrator **Satish Chandra** passed away. He was the author of the **NCERT's medieval India textbook**.
- **French film legend Danielle Darrieux** dies aged 100.

- Noted **Malayalam filmmaker I.V. Sasi** passed away.
- Eminent classical singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Girija Devi** passed away.
- **Sahitya Akademi award winning Malayalam writer Punathil Kunjabdulla** passed away.
- **Writer and journalist Khadri Achyuthan** died at 71.
- Former MP **Baddam Narasimha Reddy** passes away.
- Former India Test Cricketer **A G Milkha Singh** passed away at 75.
- **Padma Shri awardee author Manu Sharma** passed away.
- **Former Nepal PM Kirti Nidhi Bista** passed away.
- **Veteran journalist Virendra Sanghi** passed away.
- **Veteran Hindustani vocalist Jagdish Mohan** passes away.
- **Legendary Poet Kunwar Narayan Passed Away.**
- Former Union Minister **Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi** passed away.
- Former Wimbledon Champion **Jana Novotna** Passed Away.
- Legendary Jazz singer **Jon Hendricks** passed away.
- Rajasthani folk singer **Mangi Bai Arya** passed away.
- **Sreerupa Mukherjee**, former woman cricketer passed away.
- **Kalabhavan Abi** Malayalam actor and Mimicry Artist passed away.
- Freedom Fighter **Saraswati Tripathy** passed away.
- Gwalior gharana exponent **Narayanrao Bodas** passed away.
- France's biggest rock star **Johnny Hallyday** died.
- **Lalji Singh**, 'father of DNA fingerprinting in India,' passed away.
- Veteran Journalist **Sukharanjan Sengupta** passed away.
- Actor and filmmaker **Neeraj Vora** passed away.
- **American Keely Smith**, the iconic jazz and pop vocalist passed away.
- Bengali Singer **Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay** passed away.
- **'Sound of Music' actor Heather Menzies-Urich** dies at 68.
- Bengali Film Actor **Partha Mukhopadhyay** passed away.
- Legendary **South African musician Robbie Malinga** passed away.
- Mystery writer **Sue Grafton** passed away.
- "Bugs Bunny" Creator **Bob Givens** passed away.